



VESTER MEDIA

Vester Media
(253) 350-2643
www.carlyvester.com

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Nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," the original Tacoma Narrows bridge is something of a legend for the way it moved in high winds, causing its ultimate well-documented collapse just four months after opening on November 7, 1940. These days, the wreckage is a diving wonder, and the bridge is often associated with folklore of a giant octopus.

The documentary film "700 Feet Down" chronicles the entire Galloping Gertie story: those who witnessed her build and ultimate collapse, those who have explored her wreckage, lured by adventure and a giant octopus; and those who have studied her history and physics. "700 Feet Down" is a deep dive exploration into how history influences the present, and the lessons we can learn along the way.

There are two versions of the film: a short 25-minute version released on the 80th anniversary date and a longer 45-minute feature documentary slated for release on larger platforms in 2021. The films are a collaboration between Vester Media (Producer) and Our World Films (Director).

Filming began in October 2019 and spanned three dives underneath the bridge. The first two dives were visually brought to life by local technical divers Jared Jensen, Mike Brickman, and Jonathan Saenz. The three divers brought extensive camera gear and underwater scooters with them to the depths, filming mangled steel pieces and broken chunks of roadway.

The third dive took place in the colorful shallows around the bridge, filmed by local diver Aaron Moser with assistance from Jared Jensen. Vester Media videographers Carly Vester and Tanner Keeling-Garcia accompanied the dives, filming the intensive prep on the boat for each dive, and Peter Bortel of Our World Films visualized and directed the film.

The shallows footage showcases the diversity of aquatic life in the Puget Sound and implores viewers to consider ocean health. The giant octopus legend is also discussed, with acknowledgement to the area's history of octopus wrestling and fascination of octopus.

The film also includes witness accounts of the bridge collapse from locals. From a gentleman who skipped school to see the bridge collapse, to a woman who recalls watching the build with her family on weekends, these colorful stories bring the historical footage of the bridge to life. Historical footage is sourced from local museums, libraries, and private collections to show a full look at the bridge in the 1940s, from build to collapse.

The short version of "700 Feet Down" won Best Cinematography at the Oregon Documentary Film Festival and screened at local museums in November 2020.



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For more information visit www.carlyvester.com/700-Feet-Down or www.ourworldfilms.net.

A promo of the film can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/461561853>. Media Reel and promotional stills are available upon request.