

# DISNEY FILMS NEW SERIES AT CONTROVERSIAL LOCATION WHERE EMPLOYEE'S CHILD WAS KILLED

*The Entertainment Giant Refuses to Apologize or Move the Production Despite Conflict of Interest*

LOS ANGELES, CA, USA, February 15, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Walt Disney Company is filming a streaming television series at a summer camp where the child of a long-time Disney employee Elena Matyas died in 2019 under suspicious circumstances.

According to Key Assistant Location Manager Lucian Unruh, the series – working title “Homerom” – is about “children at a camp.” Disney is filming at Summerkids in Altadena, an actual children’s camp where Roxie Forbes suffered a dubious death at just six years old.



Disney builds elaborate set at Summerkids where Roxie Forbes was killed

According to media reports, [court documents](#) and admissions, Summerkids owner Cara DiMassa and her American Red Cross instructor certified counselors as lifeguards without affording requisite training or any testing. Roxie subsequently drowned in the small Summerkids pool while in the care of fraudulently certified counselors.

“

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*Elena Matyas*

DiMassa and her Red Cross representative apparently orchestrated the scheme to save money. She also reopened Summerkids during the pandemic, despite the California Attorney General and Department of Social Services [suing her for operating an illegal child care facility](#).

DiMassa's former assistant camp director admitted that her boss sent at least 8-10 children to the hospital in recent years, including another 6-year-old who suffered a serious injury only weeks after Roxie drowned.

Disney's own media property, ABC7 Los Angeles, joined multiple major networks and newspapers in [reporting Roxie's death](#), her parents' subsequent advocacy and the ensuing lawsuits. In the face of this widespread publicity, Disney nonetheless decided to secure a contractual agreement with DiMassa to film at her camp property.

Disney Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Geoff Morrell said, "I am brand new to the company and still learning my way around, but I think I have the right people looking into this matter. We are gathering details."

One of those people that Morrell contacted is Vice President of Corporate Communications Charissa Gilmore who has worked with Matyas on a number of major Disney initiatives. Gilmore said Disney had no intention of pulling the production from the Summerkids location. "I don't think we have any additional information to add," she said in an email.

"I am heartbroken and suffering more than ever," said Matyas. "I have poured my heart and soul into my work at Disney for 17 years, yet my company is now paying off the very people that killed my child. This is barbaric, indefensible."

Disney has not yet disclosed the sum of location rental fees it agreed to pay DiMassa. According to multiple industry sources, location fees range from \$2,500/day at private houses to \$25,000/day under more elaborate circumstances. Unruh said this production is scheduled to run from February-April, roughly 70 days.



Roxie Forbes, age 6, before she was killed at Summerkids



Elena Matyas and Doug Forbes at an event for their camp safety nonprofit Meow Meow Foundation

“Cara DiMassa full well knows that my wife is a veteran Disney employee,” said Roxie’s father Doug Forbes. “She relishes the opportunity to be enriched at Elena’s emotional expense. She’s the same person who wrote to parents shortly after Roxie drowned to tell them they were not allowed to pick up their traumatized children because she wanted ‘to keep the day as normal as possible,’ which tells you everything you need to know about Cara DiMassa.”

Forbes said that DiMassa’s attorneys, Peggy Holm and Sheryl Rosenberg of Tyson & Mendes should resoundingly admonish DiMassa if not demand that she nullify the contract and refund the money Disney paid her. DiMassa is not only aware of the glaring conflict of interest, but she is also engaged in a lawsuit with the couple, he said.

Forbes and Matyas launched the nation’s only camp safety foundation “to honor Roxie in her death as they did in her life.” The couple is currently instituting unprecedented camp safety measures in Los Angeles county and working on similar legislation for the state and nation, especially since millions of children attend tens of thousands of unregulated camps each year.

Forbes said Los Angeles County's actions are "barbaric" for affording Disney a permit to film at Summerkids, considering the relentless advocacy work he has done with top county officials. He said that he and Matyas could have sued the county for being complicit in the negligence that contributed to Roxie’s death, but the couple chose to take a higher road.

Paul Audley is president of FilmLA, the county’s official film permitting office. Audley said he “does not have the authority to reject or deny applications.” That decision, he said, is left to county departments. He did not identify those departments or articulate whether the Board of Supervisors plays a role.

“Regarding FilmLA’s due diligence, we have within our database all properties that have been assigned special conditions or ‘no film’ directives from our various municipal departments. When an application is in process, our system brings forward such directives for inclusion in the review and permit conditions.”

Audley did not mention any such directives regarding Summerkids, despite the fact that officials from police, fire, EMS, the Department of Public Health, Board of Supervisors and even Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti knew about health and safety issues at the camp.

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