FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009
7 PM: Competition Program One: Love/Songs

People In Order #3: Love
Lenka Clayton and James Price
2006, 03:00, UK, miniDV

48 couples arranged by length of relationship (in descending order).

Gravity
Nicolas Provost
2007, 06:33, Belgium, miniDV

The reassuring world of multiplied cinematographic kisses is shattered by a stroboscopic effect that plunges and looses us into the dizzying vertigo of the embrace where, as often in Provost's cinema, love becomes a passionate battle in which monsters are finally unmasked.

How to Conduct a Love Affair
David Gatten
2007, 08:00, USA, 16mm

This is a Valentine and this is a fragment: for the one who mends my rips, from the next installment of the Byrd project Secret History of the Dividing Line, a true account in nine parts.

Folk Songs
LeAnn Erickson
2007, 12:20, USA, miniDV

In 1913 Sophia and Dimitry Makedonsky were teenagers when they left the Ukraine for the United States. Growing up in the Midwest, filmmaker LeAnn Erickson often heard stories of 'the old country' her grandparents had left behind. As Erickson travels to Russia, the search for a sense of 'place' sparks a re-examination of her family's immigrant past. Her own return to America sets in motion an interior journey that leads her to discover a new vision of an 'old country.' Through immigrant memories, real and imagined, *Folk Songs* explores issues of personal identity and their connection to land, language and belonging.

Songs of Praise for the Heart Beyond Cure
Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby
2007, 17:00, Canada, miniDV

Songs of Praise for the Heart Beyond Cure marks Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby return to the episodic structure of their earlier works *Rapt and Happy*, *Being Fucked Up* and *Bad Ideas for Paradise*. As with earlier works, *Songs of Praise* takes on difficult, often painful subject matter. Themes of addiction, violence, the destruction of the natural world and the agonies of adolescence are woven through the work, but as Sarah Milroy writes for the Globe and Mail, the work is "anything but depressing... [it is founded in] a sense of wonder at the endearing weirdness of life and all the vulnerable, furry little creatures immersed in it (especially us)."

Intermittent Delight
Akosua Adoma Owusu
2007, 05:00, USA/Ghana, miniDV

Intermittent Delight explores sexist mores of textile production in Ghana in parallel with a mid-1960s Westinghouse television commercial—aimed to instruct women on the how-to of refrigerator decoration in a stunning and humorous way.

Yard Work is Hard Work
Jodie Mack
2008, 28:00, USA, 16mm

Yard Work is Hard Work is the best kind of wonderful. It depicts the travails of being in a relationship through sincerity and song, with a dash of social commentary and lots of wit.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009
9 PM: Competition Program Two: Spacey Space

Energie!
Thorsten Fleisch
2007, 05:07, Germany, miniDV

From a more technical point of view, the TV/video screen comes alive by a controlled beam of electrons in the cathode ray tube. For *Energie!* an uncontrolled high voltage discharge of approximately 30,000 volts exposes photographic paper which is then arranged in time to create new visual systems of electron organization.

Observando El Cielo
Jeanne Liotta
2007, 19:00, USA, 16mm

Seven years of celestial field recordings gathered from the chaos of the cosmos and inscribed onto 16mm film from various locations upon this turning tripod Earth. This work is neither a metaphor nor a symbol, but is feeling towards a fact in the midst of perception, which time flows through. Natural VLF radio recordings of the magnetosphere in action allow the universe to speak for itself. The Sublime is Now. Amor Fati!

Wax and Wane
Cassandra C. Jones
2007, 04:00, USA, BetaSP

A Snap Motion Re-Animation. 900 found photographs placed in order to re-create the cycles of the moon.

The photographs that are included came from around the world and are taken by different photographers, mostly amateur. The filmmaker collects them from friends, family, colleagues, acquaintances, strangers, image banks, photo exchanges, thrift stores, libraries, private collections, want adds, eBay, and the public domain archives of the US Army, NOAA, and NASA.

Distorted Areas
Manuel Knapp
2008, 04:00, USA, DVD

"The material was created with the aid of a real-time program. Both the programming of the textures and parameters and scanning with the camera took place in the border areas of software and electronics. This resulted in a large amount of distortion, interference and alterations of the originally 3D effects. The sound, on the other hand, is based on analog noise (input/no input) created by the sound of reel-to-reel tape recorders. Randomness plays a role, just as in my earlier works." –Manuel Knapp

All Through the Night
Michael Robinson
2008, 04:00, USA, miniDV

A charred visitation with an icy language of control; there is no room for love.

Phantogram
Kerry Laitala
2008, 06:00, USA, 16mm

A communication between the maker pure light and the shadow-graphic spirits of cinema.

It Will Die Out in the Mind
Deborah Stratman
2006, 03:50, USA, miniDV

A short meditation on the possibility of spiritual existence and the paranormal in our information age. Texts are lifted from Andrei Tarkovsky's film *Stalker* in which the Stalker's daughter redeems his otherwise doomed spiritual journey. She offers him something more expansive and less explicable than logic or technology as the conceptual pillar of the human spirit.

The title is taken from a passage about time from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *The Possessed*:

> *Stavrogin*: ….in the Apocalypse the angel swears that there'll be no more time.
>
> *Kirillov*: I know. It's quite true, it's said very clearly and exactly. When the whole of man has achieved happiness, there won't be any time, because it won't be needed. It's perfectly true.
>
> *Stavrogin:* Where will they put it then?
>
> *Kirillov:* They won't put it anywhere. Time isn't a thing, it's an idea. It'll die out in the mind.

Space Ghost
Laurie Jo Reynolds
2007, 26:00, USA, miniDV

Space Ghost compares the experiences of astronauts and prisoners, using popular depictions of space travel to illustrate the physical and existential aspects of incarceration: sensory deprivation, the perception of time as chaotic and indistinguishable, the displacement of losing face-to-face contact, and the sense of existing in a different buy parallel universe with family and loved-ones.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009
4:30 PM: Competition Program Three: People?

Home

Kevin Everson
2008, 01:32, USA, miniDV

A static shot of a scoreboard during the last moments of a football game with the accompanying soundtrack of the crowd. A playful look at the dissemination of information and the anticipation, heartache, and joy experienced during a sporting event.

Between the Sheets
Warren Cockerham
2008, 06:15, USA, miniDV

Part rollercoaster ride, part Marxist critique. Dedicated to those few of you who still guiltily shop at Wal-Mart.

Thanks Anyway
Mischa Leinkauf
2006, 06:30, Germany, Digibeta

Armed with only a pail of water and a squeegee, one man tries to take on the overly bureaucratic mindset of the city workers of Berlin in this vérité-style documentary.

The Eternal Quarter Inch
Jesse McLean
2008, 09:00, USA, miniDV

Rising fundamentalism and a government that cites faith to defend war actions have helped grow a desperate society. Dipping between ecstasy and despair, transcendence and absurdity, this movie journeys to a hidden space where you can lose your way, lose yourself in the moment, lose your faith in a belief system. An exhausted and expectant crowd waits on this narrow span. It is not a wide stretch, but it can last forever.

B&W Trypps #3
Ben Russell
2007, 12:00, USA, 35mm

This film documents the rhythmic freak-out and the ecstatic gesticulations of the audience at a gig of the Rhode Island noise act Lightning Bolt.

Smells Like Teen Spirit

Jem Cohen
2007, 07:37, USA, miniDV

"Patti Smith asked if I would do a short film to accompany her version of Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*. As neither of us are fans of the music video format or industry, we approached the project as a short film, with no lip sync, that would simply try to get at the heart of her version of the song. I shot in Super 8 film and pulled a few things from my archive." --Jem Cohen

Shiny Things
Salise Hughes
2007, 05:10, USA, miniDV

A surreal rendition of a bank heist, along with a jazz band backed by a singer made of sky, performing a torch version of Neil Young's *Heart of Gold*.

Sittin' On a Million
Penny Lane and Annmarie Lanesey
2008, 26:30, USA, miniDV

Everyone past the age of retirement in Troy, New York has a story—funny, sordid, unbelievable—about Mame Faye, who ran a world famous house of prostitution for almost forty years (c. 1906-1941). Mame's story offers a rare view into sex, money, politics, and women's place in society in the early 20th century. Filmmakers Penny Lane and Annmarie Lanesey present these stories in all their contradictory glory, alongside vintage erotica, reenactments, and street performance.

People In Order #1: Age
Lenka Clayton and James Price
2006, 03:00, UK, DVD

100 people ages 1 to 100 (in ascending order).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009
7 PM: Program Four: Politics as (un)Usual

Portrait #2: Trojan
Vanessa Renwick
2007, 05:00, USA, miniDV

The Portrait Series is part of an ongoing series of filmed places, stories and histories of Cascadia with scores by musicians living in the Pacific Northwest. PORTRAIT #2: TROJAN is an arresting examination of the dynamics between industrialization and nature.

Conversation
Lenka Clayton and James Price
2006, 08:00, UK, miniDV

A two-screen installation that explores the hidden split-second judgments we form of other people. Filmed with 30 strangers over two days in Dalston, East London.

Dirty Pictures
John Smith
2007, 14:00, UK, miniDV

Palestine, April 15th/16th 2007

With characteristic charm, the filmmaker moves from one hotel in Bethlehem to another in East Jerusalem, encountering a series of problems involving a ceiling, a video camera and the Israeli occupation of Palestine with characteristic charm.

Playing Dead
Kevin Everson
2008, 01:30, USA, miniDV

"A short film about lying still to stay alive." – K.J.E.

For Ilse
Lauren Cook
2007, 03:40, USA, 16mm

Hand-processed footage of an anti-gay protest outside a high-school graduation (in part honoring Ilse Bendorf, a recipient of the Matthew Shepard scholarship) is combined with images of rubble and wreckage to reflect an inner landscape.

Don't Kill the Weatherman!
Martha Colburn
2007, 05:00, USA, miniDV

Using scans of an apocalyptic 15th-century French manuscript mixed with gas-guzzling, eco-destroying 21st-century imagery, Martha Colburn blurs history. Her point is that apocalypse then (floods, famines, plagues, earthquakes, fires) is much like apocalypse now. The difference is then they thought God unleashed the plagues, while now we know we're largely doing it ourselves.

Fragments from an Endless War
Georg Koszulinski
2008, 05:34, USA, miniDV

This film, along with "America in Pictures," examines 20th century American culture through found film and original scores. Using public domain footage, an original design and various sound creation techniques, a unique and unsettling view quickly emerges. Each viewing provides new detail and insight. This is one of a series of small films created during the fall of 2008.

I Covered My Eyes
Paul Turano
2008, 29:53, USA, miniDV

"A visual essay reconsidering television newscasts I witnessed as a child in the 1970s and early 1980s with an eye toward understanding their effect on my sense of personal and political identity in an increasingly vulnerable world." –Paul Turano

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009
9 PM: Competition Program Five: The Adult Party

Lezzieflick
Nana Swiczinsky
2008, 07:00, Austria, miniDV

Lezzieflick is a deconstructive remix of stereotypical representations of lesbian sex in hetero porn. The body forms become fluid, continually changing, and the women no longer appear to be available as the passive object of voyeuristic desire. The content of the image as well as the usual position of the subject are shifted. The material of the film appears to dissolve in satisfaction. Is there such thing as beautiful 'hardcore' camera work?

Sunbeam Hunter
Jonathan Schwartz
2006, 03:00, USA, 16mm

Innocent boy scout images slowly begin to suggest something else (more sinister, more sexy). From the 33 1/3 series.

The Presentation Theme
Jim Trainor
2008, 14:00, USA, 16mm

The story of a Peruvian POW outmaneuvered by a hematophagous priestess

Speechless
Scott Stark
2008, 13:00, USA, 16mm

Medical 3D photographs of vaginal tracts are interwoven with surfaces and textures in natural and human-made environments.

Contains sexually explicit material; viewer discretion advised.

To Be Regained
Zachary Iannazzi
2008, 10:00, USA, 16mm

An exploration in wilderness authenticity, the images seen are of an unintended intersection between natural and artificial landscapes where restoration efforts now attempt to return what was once lost.

The film approaches the subject of humanity's attempts to correct its imprint on nature, more specifically, interventions with anadromous fish reproductive and migratory cycles on dammed-up and polluted rivers. Mixing found footage, reprinted and hand processed film over a soundtrack of interviews and observations by folks up and down the Connecticut River, the short is a beautiful and unsettling look at the ways we interact with the natural environment.

Lovely Andrea
Hito Steyerl
2007, 30:00, Germany, miniDV

Lovely Andrea relates to the search for a photography taken in Tokyo around 1987. The photo shows the artist half naked and tied up, a bondage picture in the nawa-shibari style, characterised by women bound and suspended in the air. Today Japanese bondage is a subgenre of pornography. But it developed from the martial arts, hojojutsu being the act of using of a rope to capture, transport and torture

criminals. An aestetic act from the start, only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries did it acquire a sensual and erotic dimension.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009
2:30 PM: Competition Program Six: The Country and the City

Bumblebee
Eric Ostrowski
2007, 02:00, USA, 16mm

Buzzzz Buzzzzz BUZZZZZZ!

Ichthyopolis
André Silva
2008, 09:22, USA, miniDV

Ichthyopolis, a short psychedelic technomation, occupies a realm where high-camp, the absurd and the esoteric intersect.

Blue Tide, Black Water
Eve Gordon and Sam Hamilton
2008, 09:20, New Zealand, 35mm

Amid an ocean of wax one might chance upon a garden of flowering chemicals, where filmmakers Sam Hamilton and Even Gordon circumnavigate microscopic reactions, creating an epic in miniature.

Sphinx on the Seine
Paul Clipson
2008, 09:00, USA, Super 8mm

Sphinx on the Seine is a film poem, experimenting with the contemplative relationship of sound, a drone by artist Jefre Cantu-Ledesma, with a series of brief, but enigmative images from around the world. These images follow one after the other, but geographically span thousands of miles and years between each cut.

DIG
Robert Todd
2007, 02:30, USA, 16mm

A constricted frame in agitation, the sweet music of jackhammers raging throughout - with Intermission. After nearly seven years of constant construction on my street, the road in front of my house was ripped up once again early one summer morning.

A few days after they'd paved over the damage, Dig-Safe Marks magically appeared, signaling the start of yet another round of terror for the neighborhood, here vividly brought to life in unsparing terms.

Lampang Bouquet
Tony Balko
2007, 03:00, USA, 16mm

Lampang Bouquet was shot over the course of the summer of 2007 in Lampang, Thailand on a single 100' length of Kodachrome. The film was made entirely in-camera, and is comprised of flowers indigenous to northern Thailand.

The Night Wood
Kang Min Kim
2008, 03:49, South Korea, miniDV

Firework awakes a forest at night, and the night wood invites us to a beautiful place where wood, owl, stream, and giraffe form a wonderful sight. Later, the sun comes up and the night disappears.

America in Pictures
Georg Koszulinski
2007, 06:00, USA, miniDV

Comprising footage shot during travels across the American landscape, this film is anything but your typical travelogue. Utilizing various unconventional film-developing and light exposure methods, the end result is a mixture of strange and frenetic visual effects with some recognizable imagery throughout.

Nook and Cranny
Francien van Everdingen
2007, 03:00, Netherlands, 16mm

A disarmingly straightforward film whose luminosity and embroidered craft raises what has become commonplace in the digital back into a realm of aesthetic pleasure.

Kalendar
Naomi Uman
2007, 10:00, USA, 16mm

Part of a series of work collectively called *The Ukrainian Time Machine*, *Kalendar* is comprised of a series of seemingly banal moments—the threshing of a field, the

making of tea, etc.—presented according to a corresponding month of the year, creating a portrait of a time and place that transcends the everyday moments that coalesce to make it.

Autumnal
Scott Nyerges
2008, 06:00, USA, miniDV

A world in autumn; a requiem for lands not yet departed. This video was made with hand-painted 35mm filmstrips, acrylic ink and solvents.

Sunshine State (Extended Forecast)
Christopher Harris
2007, 08:00, USA, 16mm

Utilizing a pinhole camera, *Sunshine State (Extended Forecast)* collapses the banal moments of a lazy afternoon in central Florida with the cosmic consequences of the sun's collapse.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009
7 PM: Competition Program Seven: Looking

Quiero Ver
Adele Horne
2008, 06:00, USA, Digibeta

On the 13th of each month, hundreds of people gather at a site in the Mojave Desert to see visions of the Virgin Mary appear in the sun. They point Polaroid, cell phone, and video cameras at the sun, and compare interpretations of the resulting images.

You Will Be Outdated Soon
Scott Ross
2008, 03:24, USA, miniDV

On the occasion of the full "Milk Moon" of May 2008, a condemned barn in rural Florida replays its history.

The Sequent of Hannah Ave.
Sami van Ingen
2006, 05:00, Canada, 35mm

By combining found footage, hand processing and hi-end digital technology, the filmmaker proposes to elevate a few mundane gestures to a new perceptible wholeness, and give some small fingers and a c-cassette tape all the attention, grace and drama they somehow deserve.

The Death of Natural Language
Clint Enns
2007, 02:54, Canada, DVD

The Death of Natural Language is an ascii animation of a plane crashing into the ground which provides the poetic illustration of how people have lost the ability to express themselves eloquently. Furthermore, the abstracted image mediated by ascii text parallels modern human communication; meaning is often lost or misinterpreted by the process.

Faux Movements
Pip Chodorov
2007, 12:00, France, 16mm

This film follows research started in my previous film *Charlemagne 2: Piltzer* which concentrated on the perception of color and the creation of phantom colors not present on the film strip through flickering. In *Faux Movements*, forward and backward motions occur together, movement in different directions is combined. We perceive motion in images that are in fact still. We can also see references to the spiral of the film reel, and the negative and positive of the film proess.

The music is by Gerard Pape, then director of the Iannis Xenakis music creation school in Paris. Using granular synthesis he attempts to achieve the same goal for the ears as I have for the eyes: the illusion of spatial spiral motion.

The film was made at L'Abominable—the Paris do-it-yourself film lab. I myself shot, hand-processed, printed, edited, cut negative and made the final prints. No computers were used! It could have been made 50 years ago with the same equipment.

In the Mix
Jan Machacek
2008, 04:00, Austrian, miniDV

Jan Machacek's spinning black-and-white pictures take us back to the days before special effects were perfected. The performance artist requires neither a stuntman nor a computer to defy gravity and perception in his video. Based on the way a mixer works, he makes no attempt to conceal the film tricks or make them invisible. (Christa Benzer)

Millimeters
Lori Felker
2008, 03:10, USA, 16mm

The first part of a three part larger body of work, *Millimeters* is the documentation of a "found" film object, a strange, untitled, unprojectable 32mm test film, reshot/animated so it could be watched and studied.

16-18-4
Tomonari Nishikawa
2008, 02:30, Japan, 35mm

16-18-4 was shot by a still camera with 16 lenses, which takes a series of 16 pictures within 1.5 seconds, fitting onto 2 normal frame areas. The film shows the sense of the event at Tokyo Racecourse, when it was holding the biggest race of the year, Japanese Derby (Tokyo Yushun). The excitement of each race lasts 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

All That Rises
Daïchi Saïto
2007, 07:00, Canada, 16mm

Juxtaposition of seeing and sounding, sky and stone and all that's in between. A short walk in an alleyway, to hear vision sounding images, blessed with light and darkness.

Things to Remember
Ryan Garrett
2008, 21:14, USA, miniDV

Things to Remember is a video essay on Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the "Secret City" constructed by the US government for the enrichment of Uranium-235 for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Weaving together documentary, the essayistic, and the imaginary, the video pieces together accounts of life in the city during WWII, testimony on the attempts to photograph the bombs' effects, and the dreams of those who lived under absolute secrecy, *Things to Remember* examines the document's ability to evoke a history rooted in invisibility, trauma, and disaster.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009
9 PM: Competiion Program Eight: Dysfunction Junction, funny and not

People In Order #4: Home
Lenka Clayton and James Price
2006, 03:00, UK, miniDV

73 households arranged in order by income.

Utopia Sighs
Heidi Schwegler and Scott Tebeau
2007, 05:00, USA, miniDV

Utopia Sighs is a suite of thematically linked sculptures, video, live performance and sound. In this video, renowned artisan Kelvin Chun creates his most challenging work to date: a seemingly endless mass of twisted balloons, which culminates with an apocalyptic moment in which the balloons are destroyed. This performance speaks of the delight, chaos and inescable trauma of the toddler's party. Assisting Mr. Chun are two employees from the family, food and entertainment industry.

Paul and the Badger – Episode 3
Paul Tarragó
2006, 14:00, UK, miniDV

A sudden dilemma, a plummet of spirits and the necessity of rallying round—existential drama with Mr. Paul and his woodland friends.

Hallelujah! Gorilla Revival
Jason Keener and Jeremiah Ledbetter
2008, 05:00, USA, miniDV

A woman pushing a lawnmower while being pushed in a wheelchair by her husband, a brown recluse trapped in a jar, an elderly lady blowing bubbles in a bathtub….these are only some of the disparate moments caught on tape in this random, confusing, and hilarious cinematic experience.

She Used to See Him Most Weekends
Penny Lane
2007, 04:00, USA, miniDV

A short story about growing up, a certain love song, and the apocryphal memories of childhood. Simple animations create a picture book whose story is scrambled by time and loss.

Testing the Undertow
Jennifer Proctor
2007, 13:00, USA, miniDV

Testing the Undertow is a personal examination of class, pride, and identity as it has played out on the landscape of Marin County, California from the 1980s to the present. Shot on 16mm and completed on digital video, the film presents a personal family history of financial struggles and triumphs during the '80s and '90s in juxtaposition with the county's current economic cultural topography.

False Friends
Sylvia Schedelbauer
2007, 04:45, Germany, BetaSP

A montage of mid-century found footage: mysterious strands are obsessively braided to create a poetic reflection about an anxious interplay of memory and projection.

I Am So Proud Of You
Don Hertzfeldt
2008, 22:00, USA, 35mm

Like all of Don Hertzfeldt's films, *I am so proud of you* was single-handedly animated and photographed without the use of computers or digital effects. The short was shot entirely on an antique 35mm animation stand, one of the last remaining cameras of its kind left in America. Though sixty years old, the camera was pivotal in composing images that would have otherwise been impossible to create. The movie's special effects were also created directly on film, using traditional double exposures, in-camera mattes, and new experimental techniques. The 22 minute short took just under two years to complete.

People In Order #2: Birth
Lenka Clayton and James Price
2006, 03:00, UK, miniDV

34 women arranged by stage of pregnancy.

<u>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009</u>

7 PM: The Juche Idea
Jim Finn
2008, 62:00, USA, BetaSP

In the late 1960's Kim Jong Il guaranteed his succession as the Dear Leader of North Korea by adapting his father's Juche (pronounced choo-CHAY) philosophy to propaganda, film and art. Translated as self-reliance, Juche is a hybrid of Confucian and authoritarian Stalinist pseudo-socialism. The film is about a South Korean video artist who comes to a North Korean art residency to help bring Juche cinema into the 21st century. Inspired by the real-life story of the South Korean director kidnapped in the 70's to invigorate the North Korean film industry, the film follows Yoon Jung Lee, a young video artist invited to work at a Juche art residency on a North Korean collective farm. The story is told through the films she made at the residency as well as interviews with a Bulgarian filmmaker and even a brief sci-fi movie.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009
9 PM: Silent Films/Loud Music
various artists
approximately 120 minutes

A return of FLEX's popular series where local bands score silent films. More info on films and performers coming soon.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009
4:30 PM: O'er the Land
Deborah Stratman
2008, 52:00, USA, 16mm

O'er the Land is Deborah Stratman's meditation on freedom and technological approaches to manifest destiny. She captures the marching-band battle cries of the country with a strong, controlled tone that proves its point but is extremely playful, too. Stratman documents the wild, wild worlds of gun shows—ones where you can fire machine guns in the forest and literally blow stuff up—reenactments of famous battles with historically accurate weapons and clothes (golf carts and Pepsi trucks in the wings), border disputes, and the organized frenzy of cheerleaders and motor homes. All are framed by the incredible experiences of Colonel William Rankin, who, in 1959, was forced to eject from his F8-U fighter jet at 48,000 feet without a pressure suit, only to get trapped for 45 minutes in the up-and-down drafts of a massive thunderstorm. The scale of practicing war as a game is colossal and hard to grasp at times. Stratman captures the events she depicts with wonder rather than disdain. Her thoughtful framing of images and meticulous editing help us understand the absurdity in this dark path.

playing with

A Film Far Beyond a God
Waël Noureddine
2008, 41:00, France, miniDV

A Film Far Beyond God is a documentary in the form of a visual poem about Hubal, a kind of pilgrimage where cultural rites are revived by the act of filming. The film intends to lift the veil on Hubal, Mecca's first god, before the birth of Islam, and to do so in such a way as to make a fragment of history accessible to a large number of spectators and allow them to question it.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009
7 PM: The Exiles
Kent Mackenzie
1961, 72:00, USA, 35mm

The Exiles chronicles one night in the lives of young Native American men and women living in the Bunker Hill district of Los Angeles. Based entirely on interviews with the participants and their friends, the film follows a group of exiles — transplants from Southwest reservations — as they flirt, drink, party, fight, and dance. This legendary, long-lost vérité slice-of-life masterpiece is presented in a newly restored 35mm print that Jonathan Rosenbaum of the *Village Voice* called "just about the most gorgeous restoration of an American independent film I've ever seen."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009
9 PM: Small Change Presents ACTION NEWS
various artists
2008, 85:00, USA, miniDV

Fantastical deteriorating video narratives, metaphysical workout videos, music videos, and experimental animations and documentaries by Philadelphia artists including: Ryan Trecartin, Ted Passon, Sarah Christman, David Dunn, Andrew Jeffrey Wright, Chris Ward, Michael Robinson, and Clare Rojas.

Curated by the members of the Small Change film screening series you can expect the full range of emotions from sensory overloading trance-party-inducing visuals, deeply personal life-affirming introspection, Wu-Tang, and TGIF television nostalgia.

The Small Change film screening series has spent the last five years bringing the best experimental work from around the world to Philadelphia and now is hitting the road to bring the best experimental work from Philadelphia to the rest of the world.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009
7 PM: The Pool

Chris Smith
2008, 98:00, USA, 35mm

The latest feature film from Chris Smith (*American Movie*, *The Yes Men*) seems superficially to be a departure from his well-known documentary work, but at a deeper level it shares both the politics and the human connection that are his signature in those documentaries. *The Pool* is the story of Venkatesh, a "room boy" working at a hotel in Panjim, Goa, who sees from his perch in a mango tree a luxuriant garden and shimmering pool hidden behind a wall. In making whatever efforts he can to better himself, Venkatesh offers his services to the wealthy owner of the home. Not content to simply dream about a different life, Venkatesh is inquisitive about the home's inhabitants-indeed about the world around him-and his curiosity changes the shape of his future.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009
9 PM: Best of Festival Program
various artists
90-120 minutes

FLEX represents the films that received awards in the competitive programs for those who missed them or for those who want to watch them one more time.