



Site Search

Search input field

Enter search term

Advanced Search

- REAL ESTATE
RENTALS
CAREERS
AUTO
CLASSIFIEDS

News

Sports

- Raiders
A's
Warriors
49ers
Giants
Sharks
Turn2

Health

- Women's Health
Men's Health
Senior Health

Business News

Op-Ed

- Opinions/Editorials

Bay Area Living

- Food
InsideOut
Travel
Movie Listings
TV Listings
Horoscopes
Soap Opera Recaps

Community

- Almanac
Bay Area Best

Education

- STAR Scores
Teacher Support
Great Schools

Services

- Link To Article
Print Article
Email Article

Article Last Updated: 01/28/2005 03:41:17 AM

Local filmmakers stretch out at Sundance Film Festival

By Michelle Meyers, STAFF WRITER

PARK CITY, UTAH

ABALLET TROUPE, an exiled politician, a cult musician, a suicide icon, mariachi singers — such were the inspirations for local filmmakers shining bright at this year's annual Sundance Film Festival.

The Bay Area has a strong presence at the 10-day event, which runs through Sunday. Local filmmakers created eight of the 202 films screening.

Look for these diverse offerings from local filmmakers in theaters — a few are bound to be bought by distributors.

"The Fall of Fujimori" could lead to the rise of San Francisco filmmaker Ellen Perry.

Perry's documentary on the former Peruvian president is an objective portrayal of Alberto Fujimori as both a popular politician who won a civil war on terrorism and a fugitive of justice.

Perry, a Georgia native who moved to the Bay Area more than a decade ago, was producing her first film when she stumbled upon CNN footage of Fujimori. It was 1997, and his commandos had just stormed the Japanese Embassy in Peru, freeing all but one hostage and ending a four-month crisis.

"I thought, who is this charismatic man, what just happened and what is the story?" Perry says.

When Fujimori ended up fleeing to Japan in disgrace — wanted by Interpol for crimes of murder and kidnapping, — it only furthered Perry's vision of Fujimori's story as an "epic Shakespearean drama," she says.

After years of working to earn the respect and trust of sources, Perry eventually convinced Fujimori to participate in her project, which illustrates "the fine line between terrorism and state-sponsored terrorism," she says.

San Francisco filmmaker Jenni Olson takes viewers on a contemplative tour of her home town through her first feature, "The Joy of Life." The eclectic but engaging film starts off a first-person narrative in the voice of a butch-lesbian searching for intimacy.

In the second half, she uses her friend's suicide jump off the Golden Gate Bridge to document the role of public entities in making the bridge one of the world's suicide icons.

Inspiration for the film, in part, was the suicide of Olson's own friend, who jumped off the bridge 10 years ago. She says she sees the film as a way to advocate for some physical alterations to the bridge to prevent continued suicides.

Officials are listening. On her way to Park City, Olson got a phone call from San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who had just met with Mayor Gavin Newsom. He said "they were proud of me for making the movie," Olson recaps, and plan to do something about the bridge.

Dan Geller and Dayna Goldfine's new documentary is about dance, first and foremost. But the San Francisco husband-wife team's "Ballet Russes" is also a colorful story of passion, personality and history.

Never heard of the Ballet Russes? Don't worry — neither had the filmmakers until

Related Articles

- It's news to her
Modern art meets baseball in 'Sweetest Swing'
Acoustic music extravaganza with Lyle, Guy, Joe and John Puccini triple header scores in Berkeley
Ex-lovers reunite for a lukewarm 'Night' at Playhouse West
Count on KCSM's 'Basie Blowout' to be a hit
Come out, come out, whoever you are on 'The Simpsons'
Black History Month concerts at Allen Temple
Article depicts Eid al-Adha well
Oscar attention boosts screenings of nominees
Talk to the animals
Answer is: Deer Valley senior Wes Kovarik of Antioch
Time to start putting off tax time
Home gyms are a great way to exercise your options
Playing in the snow



CARS JOBS HOMES

San Leandro Apt (HOMES) Click for Details

HAYWARD (HOMES) Click for Details

BELMONT TO SAN MATEO (HOMES) Click for Details

HAYWARD (HOMES) Click for Details

San Bruno Home For Rent (HOMES) Click for Details

OAKLAND APT. (HOMES) Click for Details

HAYWARD (HOMES) Click for Details

Apt. for Rent (HOMES) Click for Details

ALL LISTINGS

**About Us**

Contact Us

Feedback

Place a Classified Ad

**Archives**

someone pitched the idea to them.

The Ballet Russes evolved from a small group of Russian refugees into two rival ballet troupes that fought in the "ballet battles" that consumed London society before World War II. They toured the world with elaborate costumes and sets and enlightened the United States with a new kind of dance.

Geller and Goldfine learned of the Ballet Russes just before a reunion of the dancers about five years ago. Their film incorporates images from the reunion with historical footage and modern-day interviews with the still-beautiful dancers.

"The Devil and Daniel Johnston" is an artful documentary by San Francisco-based producer Henry Rosenthal about the life of a cult figure-artist-songwriter and his failed attempts at mainstream stardom due to manic depression.

Johnston, the youngest in his fundamentalist Christian family, showed early signs of creative genius as a teenager who made Super-8 films and comic-book style drawings. But his parents wished he would get a job, help out around their West Virginia house or find a productive way to contribute to society.

Eventually, Johnston left home and managed to make his mark on the Austin, Texas, music scene, even finding his way onto an MTV show. But that's also when he started battling with his inner demons.

The film is about genius and madness going hand in hand. While it focuses on Johnston, and might leave you aching for his music, it also gets you thinking about other mentally disturbed artists who came close to slipping away.

"Romantico," by Mark Becker, is a documentary shot largely in San Francisco's Mission District about two undocumented Mexican musicians who support their families in Mexico by going from restaurant to restaurant playing "romantica" music for tips. Not reviewed for this story because of a scheduling conflict, it created buzz on the Park City streets.

Stanford film school student Katherine Leggett's seven-minute short film, "Small Town Secrets," gives viewers insight into her life growing up in a small Wisconsin town with two gay parents who married as high-school sweethearts.

The film is uniquely shot through conversations via Web camera. Leggett got the idea for her technique from her husband, who uses a Web camera to keep in touch with his parents in Romania, she says. The film was shot in 11 weeks.

On a lighter note, San Francisco filmmaker Bryan Boyce's four-minute short, "America's Biggest Dick," cinematically alters the vice president's Republican National Convention speech by inserting the mouth and words of Al Pacino acting in the move "Scarface." Boyce assured the audience that despite the film's name, it's not pornography. He adds, "But I feel Dick Cheney is kind of pornographic, in a way."

The lone Oakland filmmaker, Eric Escobar, screened his insightful 11-minute short, "One Weekend a Month," about a single mother whose routine is broken when she learns that she's being deployed to Baghdad as a member of the National Guard. Most of the conversation takes place over the telephone, and reveals her dilemma in finding someone she trusts to take care of her kids.

Escobar, whose parents are Vietnam veterans, says his intention in making the film was illustrating the cost of war. He says he purposely focused on a single mom to show what he considers "a poverty draft."

 [RETURN TO TOP](#)

**Sponsored Links**

<a href="#">Business Intelligence</a>	<a href="#">Las vegas hotels</a>	<a href="#">Fundraisers &amp; Fundraising Ideas</a>	<a href="#">Matthew Lesko</a>
<a href="#">Customer Satisfaction Survey</a>	<a href="#">Vacations</a>	<a href="#">Cheap Auto Insurance</a>	<a href="#">Find aupairs &amp; nanny search</a>
<a href="#">Plantronics headsets, head sets</a>	<a href="#">Flights To Almeria</a>	<a href="#">Online college guide</a>	<a href="#">Thermal Paper Rolls</a>
<a href="#">Music &amp; band t-shirts</a>	<a href="#">Condoms uk Condom</a>	<a href="#">Car Insurance</a>	<a href="#">Interior Decorating schools</a>

[InsideBayArea.com home](#)

[The Oakland Tribune](#) | [Alameda Times-Star](#) | [The Argus](#) | [The Daily Review](#) | [Marin Independent Journal](#)  
[San Mateo County Times](#) | [Tri-Valley Herald](#) | [Vallejo Times-Herald](#) | [Milpitas Post](#) | [Pacifica Tribune](#)

[Business](#) [Sports](#) [Shop](#) [Cars](#) [Homes](#) [Jobs](#) [Community](#)

[ANG Newspapers](#) | [Job Opportunities](#) | [Home Delivery](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© 2001-2005 ANG Newspapers