

Everything Strange and New			Afghan Star			China's Wild West				
US Narrative Feature Films U.S.A. 2009, 84 mins, color			International Documentary Feature Films Afghanistan/United Kingdom, 2008 mins., color 87			Intl Documentary Short United Kingdom, 2008, 10 mins., color				
	<p><b>CAST</b> Jerry McDaniel, Beth Lisick, Luis Saguar, Rigo Chacon Jr.</p> <p><b>Director(s):</b> Frazer Bradshaw</p> <p><b>Screenwriter(s):</b> Frazer Bradshaw</p> <p><b>Executive Producers:</b> Stephen Bannatyne, Marcia Carver, Willie Mae Webb</p> <p><b>Producers:</b> Laura Techera Francia, A.D. Liano</p> <p><b>Cinematographer:</b> Frazer Bradshaw</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Frazer Bradshaw, Jesse Spencer</p> <p><b>Music:</b> Dan Plonsey, Kent Sparling</p> <p><b>Sound Designer:</b> Kent Sparling</p>			<p><b>Director(s):</b> Havana Marking</p> <p><b>Executive Producers:</b> Mike Lerner, Martin Herring, Saad Mohseni, Jahid Mohseni</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> Havana Marking</p> <p><b>Associate Producers:</b> Sandra Whipham, Maxyne Franklin</p> <p><b>Cinematographer:</b> Phil Stebbing</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Ash Jenkins</p>			<p><b>Director(s):</b> Urszula Pontikos</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> Michael Riley</p> <p><b>Cinematographer:</b> Urszula Pontikos</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Maya Maffioli</p> <p><b>Composer:</b> Gareth Lockrane</p> <p><b>Sound:</b> Gunnar Oskarsson</p>			
	First Thursday. September 3 2009. 7pm			First Thursday. November 5 2009. 7pm			First Thursday. November 5 2009. 7pm			
<p>Wayne has a job, a wife, two kids, and a house. He's living the American Dream. There's a fine line, however, between a dream and nightmare, and Wayne finds himself at odds with the life he has and preoccupied by the life he thinks he wants. He floats passively in a swirling sea inhabited by his emotionally unpredictable wife, his out-of-control young children, and his embattled friends, who have demons of their own. As things change for others, Wayne's life takes emotional turns, which are sometimes subtle and sometimes violent but never enough to shake him off the track he doesn't remember choosing. Writer/director Frazer Bradshaw shows us an exquisitely rendered, but challengingly bleak, examination of daily life. He focuses the story in unique ways that draw attention more intently to the emotional and psychological interplay of ideas, rather than following a narrative arc. Bradshaw, an established cinematographer, frames the world in beautifully composed shots that emphasize Wayne's trapped existence. To underline the moral anomie of the disturbingly familiar universe, he utilizes a jarring, dissonant score at times and moments of silence in others.</p> <p>Everything Strange and New is the kind of transcendent filmmaking that develops a cinematic language all its own, and in doing so opens viewers up to themselves.</p>			<p>After 30 years of Taliban and wartime rule, pop culture is creeping back into Afghanistan. Director Havana Marking has captured it in this inspired documentary, Afghan Star. An American Idol-type contest set in Afghanistan? What moreintriguing inroad into a region usually represented in our news media by death and violence? To understand the magnitude of this film, we must look at the facts—2,000 contestants compete for a chance to be the next Afghan pop idol. Three of them are women. In an unheard-of precedent, all genders, ethnic groups, and age sectors are equal. More than one-third of the country watches the show and votes with text messages. For many this represents their first encounter with any kind of democratic process. Marking follows the dramatic stories of four of the contestants over three months, from regional auditions to the finals in Kabul. All is not safe for her subjects because they must actually risk their lives to sing. In a larger sense, we get a glimpse into the ongoing struggle of a country trying to segue into the modern world and the dangerous underpinnings its citizens must navigate. Though moving and inspiring, what is really brilliant about Afghan Star is that by observing a people's relationship to pop culture, we get a different, if not more human, look at this troubled part of the world.</p> <p>Recipient of the World Cinema Directing Award: Documentary.</p>			<p>This part-observational, part-impressionistic study of a day in the life of a Muslim community illustrates their hopeful efforts to discover jade in a dried-up riverbed in a remote town on the Silk Road in western China.</p>				
Frazer Bradshaw			Havana Marking			Urszula Pontikos				
	<p><b>Bio</b> Frazer Bradshaw came to film through studies of sculpture, photography, and experimental music. His early films were primarily experimental, but as his work matured, Bradshaw began exploring narratives and introduced richly developed characters. Everything Strange and New (2009) is his first feature film as a writer and director. Bradshaw makes his living as a cinematographer. In his spare time, he restores vintage BMX bikes.</p>			<p><b>Bio</b> Afghan Star is Havana Marking's first feature documentary, shot over four months in Kabul, Afghanistan. In 2007 she directed The Crippendales, a 30-minute television film featuring the first troupe of disabled strippers; it won Great Britain's Channel-4 award for new talent. In 2005 she made The Great Relativity Show, an animated presentation of Einstein's theory of relativity.</p>			<p><b>Bio</b> Urszula Pontikos - A recent graduate of the National Film and Television School in England, Urszula Pontikos is a Polish-born, London-based cinematographer/director and still photographer. She does much of her work abroad, including recent projects in Germany, Sicily, and China. She works in both dramatic and documentary genres and is currently developing a feature-length documentary that expands the themes in China's Wild West across several continents.</p>			

The VCUQatar Annual Film Nights are a venue for featuring talented emerging film makers in the middle east as well as a showcase for important cinematic works from around the world. These evening events feature short and feature length films, lectures, workshops and discussions.

Unless otherwise specified, all events are held on the VCUQatar campus in the main atrium.

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Nights 2009

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**VCU Qatar**  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
A Decade of Design 1998–2008

Horizontal Boundaries



US Short Films  
U.S.A., 2008, 23 mins., color

Director(s):  
Pat O'Neill  
Picture Editor/Sound Editor:  
Pat O'Neill

First Thursday. April 1 2010. 7pm

Horizontal Boundaries looks at certain aspects of the geography of California as the basis for cinematic disruption and restatement. The ““boundaries”” in question turn out to be frame lines, the divisions between images. Pat O’Neill integrates the lines into the compositional language of the piece, a dynamic repositioning that causes image combinations to be generated unpredictably. The result is a tapestry of exquisite contradiction.

Pat O'Neill



**Bio**  
Pat O'Neill - Born in Los Angeles in 1939, Pat O'Neill is a visual artist who makes film, sculpture, and projected video installations. Some film titles include 7362 (1968); Water and Power, which received the Sundance Grand Jury Prize for documentary in 1990, and The Decay of Fiction (2002). He was the subject of a one-person exhibition of video installations and sculpture at the Rosamund Felsen Gallery in Los Angeles in June 2008. O'Neill was also involved in creating visual effects for commercial projects for more than 20 years and taught at Cal Arts in the early 1970s.

For more information visit our website: [www.qatar.vcu.edu/film](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu/film)