



Contact:

Cynthia Lopez, clopez@pov.org, Cathy Fisher, cfisher@pov.org, 212-989-7425

Emergency contact: 646-729-4748

POV online pressroom: www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

Deserted Mega-malls, Invasion of the Squirrels, Rise of the Cranes, the Female Body Beautiful (and Plastic) Explored in Short Films on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009, on PBS' POV Series

"Utopia, Part 3: The World's Largest Shopping Mall," "Nutkin's Last Stand," "34 x 25 x 36" and "City of Cranes" in a Special Short-Film Program

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Air

Date: The **POV Shorts** program airs on **Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009**, at 10 p.m. on PBS during the 22nd season of **POV (Point of View)**. (Check local listings.)

Summary: Features aren't the only game in documentary filmmaking. PBS' POV documentary series showcases four award-winning short films that demonstrate the punch and poetry of short-form filmmaking. **Utopia, Part 3: The World's Largest Shopping Mall, Nutkin's Last Stand, 34 x 25 x 36** and **City of Cranes** have their national broadcast premieres on POV. American television's longest-running independent documentary series, POV is the recipient of a Special Emmy for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking. The series continues on Tuesdays through Sept. 22 and returns with two specials on Nov. 11 and Dec. 30.

Length: 56:46

Descriptions: **Utopia, Part 3: The World's Largest Shopping Mall** by Sam Green and Carrie Lozano
If you thought Minnesota's Mall of America was the world's biggest shopping center, think again. South China Mall is a Vegas-like spectacle built in 2005 that now sits almost entirely empty. In the current economic climate, could this be the shape of things to come?

Nutkin's Last Stand by Nicholas Berger

Something is rotten in England. A plague of North American grey squirrels threatens the beloved native red squirrel. The English are up in arms, and a band of patriots — including lords, priests, artists and farmers — has come together to fight back against the grey menace.

34 x 25 x 36 by Jesse Epstein

This latest installment in a trilogy about body image shows the inner workings of the Patina V Mannequin Factory outside Los Angeles and the musings of the people who decide what the perfect female body should look like.

City of Cranes by Eva Weber

Cranes dominate our skylines, yet few people ever notice them or the men and women who operate these machines. Take a journey high up in the sky and look at the world through the eyes and words of crane operators. A must-see for anybody who has ever wondered what it is like to work hundreds of feet above the ground, surrounded only by a small metal cage.

Filmmaker
Statements:

Nicholas Berger, Director/Editor, *Nutkin's Last Stand*

"I have always been attracted to documentary subjects that have such strong characters, visual coherence and metaphorical structures that they feel scripted. These subjects attract me because I am more interested in making morality tales than in making informational pieces. *Nutkin's Last Stand* provides a bit of information on the ecological issue of an invasive species, but its real focus is on patriotism and morality. Like any good morality tale it reflects on the big questions: Under what circumstances is it okay to kill one thing to save another? What does it mean to be native/alien? Why do we tolerate some kinds of violence and not others? What does it mean to be a patriot?"

Jesse Epstein, Director/Producer, *34 x 25 x 36*

"In making this film, I wanted not just to shoot, but really to explore visually with the camera. The goal was to experiment with the sense of time and to look at everyday objects in new ways. *34 x 25 x 36* is one in my series of short films that explore physical perfection from a variety of perspectives. My aim is to open up and ask questions and to look at the ways we are affected by physical ideals on a daily basis. What does it mean to strive to attain an unattainable ideal or image? Will we ever truly be satisfied with ourselves? And do we want to be? My goal is for as many teachers as possible to use this and the other films in my series to start discussions about media, body image and self-esteem."

Eva Weber, Director, *City of Cranes*

"I am fascinated by the fact that there is almost another world above London, yet most of us never look up to notice cranes or their drivers. They in turn can see everything going on around them, yet their only way to connect with the world below is by watching it from a distance. My objective in making 'City of Cranes' was to take the viewer high up into the sky to experience first-hand what it is like to work hundreds of feet above the ground, only surrounded by a small metal cage. Each chapter gives the viewer an insight into a different aspect of their lives and experiences, from the role they play in the way London is changing to their relationship with the machines they operate to the impact their solitary existence has on their outlook on life."

Filmmaker
Bios:

Utopia, Part 3: The World's Largest Shopping Mall

Sam Green, Director/Producer/Editor

Sam Green is a San Francisco-based documentary filmmaker whose credits include the Academy Award®-nominated "The Weather Underground" and the award-winning documentaries "The Rainbow Man/John 3:16," "Lot 63, grave c," "N-Judah 5:30" and "Pie Fight '69." He teaches at the University of San Francisco and the San Francisco Art Institute. He has been a resident at the MacDowell Colony, the Bellagio Study and Conference Center, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Marin Headlands Center for the Arts. Green received his master's degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied documentary film with Marlon Riggs.

Carrie Lozano, Director/Producer

Carrie Lozano is a journalist and documentary filmmaker. She produced and directed an award-winning film about journalist Randy Shilts, "Reporter Zero," and produced "The Weather Underground." She is currently a post-graduate fellow at the Investigative Reporting Program at the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, where she contributed to PBS *Frontline's* "Black Money" and is working on a series of stories about the United States' chemical weapons stockpiles.

Nutkin's Last Stand

Nicholas Berger, Director/Editor

Nicholas Berger was born in San Francisco and has lived in San Diego, New York and Berlin. He attended Brown University where he received a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He subsequently spent two years working on documentaries for PBS and the History Channel before attending Stanford University's Documentary Film program where

he recently received a master of fine arts degree. Berger's credits include "The Legend of Rosalie" and "The Man with the Electric Boots."

34 x 25 x 36

Jesse Epstein, Director/Producer

Jesse Epstein is a filmmaker and youth-media educator. She received a master's degree in documentary film from New York University and was recently named "One of 25 Filmmakers to Watch" by *Filmmaker* magazine.

City of Cranes

Eva Weber, Director

Originally from Germany, Eva Weber is a London-based filmmaker working in both documentary and fiction. Her short documentary "The Intimacy of Strangers" received the President's Award at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. **City of Cranes**, which premiered on England's Channel 4 and was shown at The Museum of Modern Art in New York, has won numerous awards, including Best Documentary Short at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Jury Award for Best Short at Full Frame. "The Solitary Life of Cranes" premiered at last year's Britdoc Film Festival, where it won the Best Short Documentary Award. In 2005, Weber set up her own production company, Odd Girl Out Productions, with Samantha Zarzosa. Weber is currently developing a number of feature-length projects, including the documentary "LA Storage" and the fiction feature "Ghost Wives."

POV Web: The companion website for the **POV Shorts** program, <http://www.pbs.org/pov/shorts>, offers viewers the opportunity to re-watch the shorts online, a video interview with each filmmaker, a list of related websites, organizations and books and classroom activities.

Outreach: POV works with public television stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in the film. For a list of upcoming screening and discussion events for **POV Shorts**, go to: http://www.amdoc.org/outreach_news.php

POV collaborated with Cari Ladd to produce a lesson plan for teachers interested in using the **POV Shorts** program as a teaching tool. The plan includes learning objectives; streaming video clips; an outline of the national standards met by the plans; a list of necessary tools and materials; a notation regarding the total time needed to complete the individual lessons; suggested clips (streaming online), teaching strategies and additional activity suggestions.

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: 2009 marks an unprecedented year for POV with 10 News & Documentary Emmy Award nominations. POV is produced by American Documentary. Please see our Emmy announcement at <http://www.amdoc.org/pressroom.php>.

For more information and for a list of our major funders please visit: www.pbs.org/pov/.