

ROOFTOP FILMS 2005 FILMMAKERS' FUND GRANTS AWARDED

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L to R: *Long Haul* by Erin Hudson; *Best Kept Secret* by PJ Raval & Jay Hodges; *Padre Francisco* by Fabio Wuytack.
NOT PICTURED: *Glory At Sea* by Benjamin Zeitlin (currently in pre-production)

LONG HAUL by ERIN HUDSON

Erin directed the film *Rotation*, a lovely documentary about wind farmers, shown at last summer's "Hi-Lo Film Fest" show. Erin is currently shooting *Long Haul*, a short documentary about three female truck drivers, which offers a unique perspective into the world of trucking. In Erin's words, "*Long Haul* captures a myriad of survival strategies amidst a culture of girl-silhouetted mud-flaps, trash-talking CB chatter, and prostitute-riddled truck stops." The funds from Rooftop will help Erin travel around the country with her subjects.

BEST KEPT SECRET by PJ RAVAL & JAY HODGES

PJ is an Austin filmmaker who screened his film *Clean* at Rooftop in 2002, and has also worked on numerous other films shown at Rooftop. As PJ described his new film, "*Best Kept Secret* will explore the many identities of Trinidad, Colorado, a former coal-mining/ranching town that since the early 1970s has been known as the 'sex change capital of the world.' Whereas most transsexual-themed documentaries exploit, even sensationalize, the physical transition of individuals from birth gender to desired gender by examining the microcosm of Trinidad, it is our intention to reveal the commonalities and tensions that arise between Trinidad's transsexual and non-transsexual communities." Rooftop Films will be helping cover post-production costs.

PADRE FRANCISCO by FABIO WUYTACK

Fabio directed *Two Hands*, a tragic but hopeful documentary about a Palestinian heart surgeon (shown at Rooftop's "Caught in Between" program in 2005), and *Made in Italy* (shown at Rooftop's "Undocumented" program in 2005), an inventive documentary which tied a long-lost Lumiere Brothers' film to Fabio's family history. *Padre Francisco* is a documentary about Fabio's father, a Belgian missionary who became deeply involved as a human rights fighter in the slums of Venezuela in the 1970s, before eventually being captured by the government, tortured, and exiled. On his return to Europe, Frans Wuytack became an internationally renowned sculptor and poet. Money from Rooftop Films will help pay for Fabio to travel from his native Belgium to shoot his father's long-awaited return to Venezuela, a country in transformation.

GLORY AT SEA by BENJAMIN ZEITLIN

Ben is the creator of *Egg*, a dazzlingly bizarre mixture of live-action and animation featuring human chickens and an animated Captain Ahab, shown at Rooftop a few times in 2005, including on Governors Island and on our boat show. His new project is a live-action melee, a naval battle between warring sailboats, mermaids, and "human manatees." Ben will be shooting in Ios, Greece, where he has received support from the Athens Film Festival, and working under the advisement of the staff of legendary Czech animator Jan Svankmajer. The Rooftop Films grant will help Ben build an underwater springboard, among other special effects items, for this visually astonishing film.