

Subject: [CFVA News] CFVA eBulletin for December 26, 2007  
From: Colorado Film and Video Association <news@cfva.com>  
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To: bob@citysedg.tv



Colorado Film and Video Association

eBulletin

The Electronic Newsletter of the  
Colorado Film and Video Association

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### On the Set in Colorado... Making Soap at A-Basin

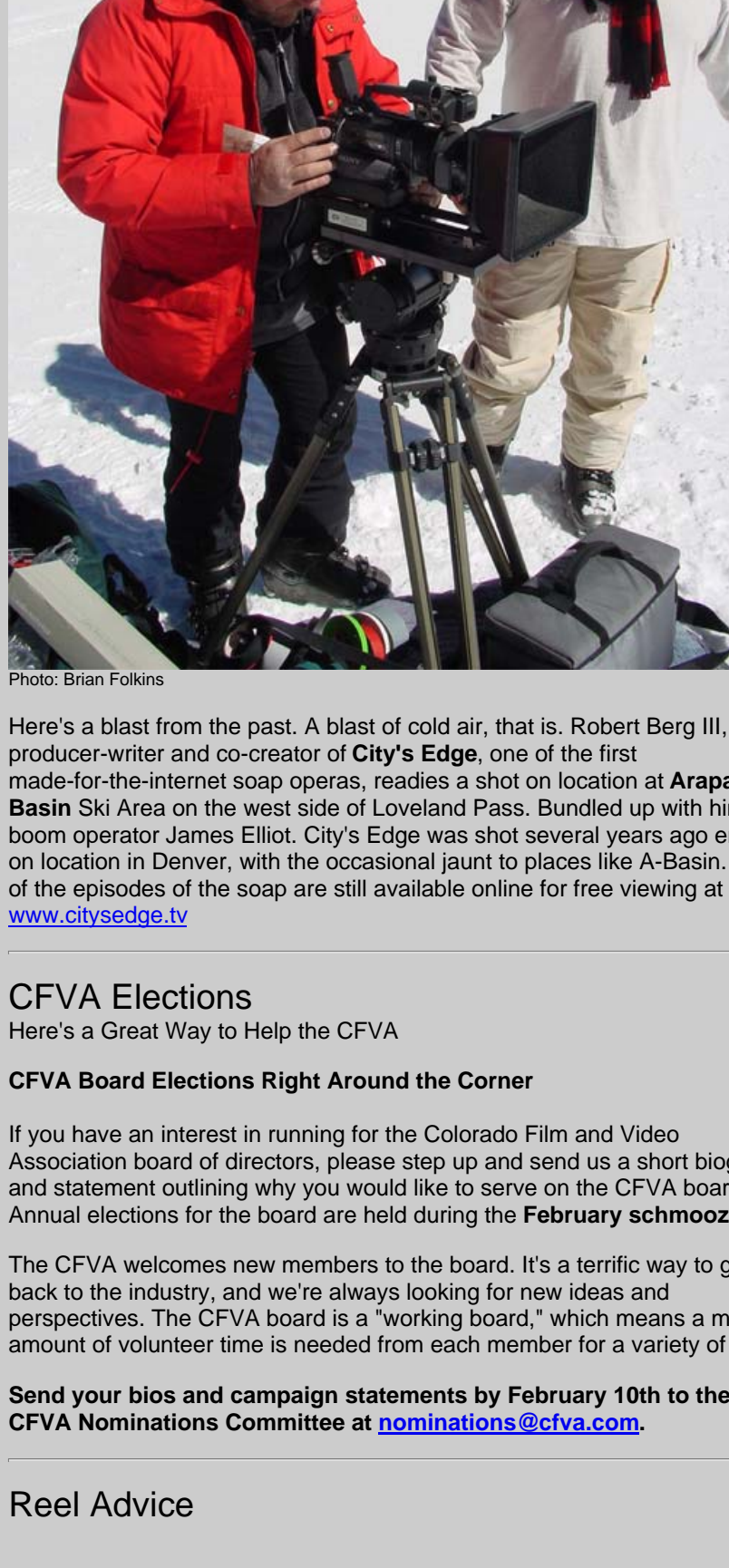


Photo: Brian Folkins

Here's a blast from the past. A blast of cold air, that is. Robert Berg III, producer-writer and co-creator of **City's Edge**, one of the first made-for-the-internet soap operas, readies a shot on location at **Arapahoe Basin** Ski Area on the west side of Loveland Pass. Bundled up with him is boom operator James Elliot. City's Edge was shot several years ago entirely on location in Denver, with the occasional jaunt to places like A-Basin. All 26 of the episodes of the soap are still available online for free viewing at [www.citysedg.tv](http://www.citysedg.tv)

### CFVA Elections

Here's a Great Way to Help the CFVA

#### CFVA Board Elections Right Around the Corner

If you have an interest in running for the Colorado Film and Video Association board of directors, please step up and send us a short biography and statement outlining why you would like to serve on the CFVA board. Annual elections for the board are held during the **February schmoozer**.

The CFVA welcomes new members to the board. It's a terrific way to give back to the industry, and we're always looking for new ideas and perspectives. The CFVA board is a "working board," which means a modest amount of volunteer time is needed from each member for a variety of tasks.

Send your bios and campaign statements by **February 10th** to the CFVA Nominations Committee at [nominations@cfva.com](mailto:nominations@cfva.com).

### Reel Advice

#### Dear Reel Advice:

**I have received my final cut for my first short film and want to submit it to film festivals. What is the number one piece of advice you could offer before I start to submit it?**

-Short Filmmaker/Denver (i.e., maker of short films)

Dear Short Filmmaker:

Reel Advice tracked down a veteran film festival programmer to answer your question, and you may not believe your "ears" when you "see" the answer.

The number one problem in first films submitted to festivals is bad audio. I often tell filmmakers that people hear before they see," our festival programmer told us. "Out of focus shots, shaky and rough looking shots and other visual problems are much easier to overlook than bad audio."

Our veteran festival programmer gave Reel Advice a few points to pass along:

First, get a number of uninvolved viewers to watch the film. Make sure they are extremely critical of the technical aspect of the audio quality. Forget your crew, friends and family. They won't give you an unbiased opinion. And don't do it yourself. You're too close to the project to have an "objective" ear. You need reviewers who have never seen - or heard - your film before.

Second, keep separate music and effects (M & E) channels for any required audio clean up or to use for dubbing. Short films are greatly appreciated in Europe and Asia. Be sure to submit to foreign festivals, because they have a tendency to be more open to shorts than many domestic festivals. But be prepared for them to ask for dubbed or subtitled versions.

Third, don't submit to every festival in the world. Pick and choose those that you really feel strongly about. Focus on festivals with some sort of "theme" that relates to your film. For example, send your Save the World Ecosystem Now film to an environmental film festival, or one that focuses on nature or outdoor recreation. By matching your film to the festival theme, you'll increase your chances of getting accepted. Leave no stone unturned. There are many web sites to help with your research.

Finally, don't be discouraged if your first film doesn't make it into a festival. Many great filmmakers never got their first film into a festival, but they kept on trying and ended up being very successful. Also, feel free to ask any festival programmer why your film wasn't accepted. Most are happy to provide constructive feedback - often the best advice you can get. Remember, persistence, flexibility and tenacity are not just luxuries in the film business. They are necessities.

-RA

*Reel Advice is a column for our members - our version of "Ask Abby", with a CFVA twist. Whether you're a student, new to the film and video business, or a seasoned veteran, questions come up all the time. So send us your queries. Reel Advice will talk to the experts to find the answer.*

Send us your questions via the [CFVA website here!](mailto:cfva_website@cfva.com) Fill out the form and include the words "Reel Advice" somewhere in your message.

### Technique

#### Remote Follow Focus: Not just for Steadicam anymore

by Bob Berg, Berg Imaging Inc.

Say you're shooting a low budget film using one of the smaller HD or SD video cameras and pinching production pennies everywhere possible. You need the production value of a moving camera with a look more refined than hand-held, but you don't have the time or budget to manhandle a PeeWee, track, and seating for two around all of your locations.

To get your shots, you opt for an inexpensive dolly with a tripod and a small jib, fully expecting that you may sometimes be moving things under your own power - without a dolly grip.

But how do you and your 1st A/C fit around the camera without climbing on top of each other and physically interfering with all but the simplest of camera moves? One solution might be to rent a **Fox Remote Follow Focus Controller**.

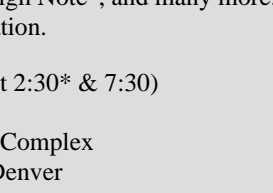
The Fox is a radio-controlled servo-remote follow focus transmitter/receiver pair that can be adapted to almost any camera with a focus gear and lightweight support rods. It has surprisingly good servo accuracy, and comes with its own ring for focus marks, as well as various position-return functions and gear controls. Even though most small cameras don't come with focus gears out-of-the-box, they are available for the Panasonic AG-HVX200, the Sony HVR-Z1U, PD-170, and the DVX-100B from [Vocas Systems](http://www.vocas.com).

The priceless thing the Fox does for you is let you put your 1st A/C anywhere other than in your face while you're trying to make a shot. If your 1st A/C doesn't need to see your dolly move, he or she can be 10-feet away watching pre-set focus marks, or sitting at the production monitor pulling focus well out of the path of wheels, cables, and you!

RESOURCES: Fox Remote Follow Focus - Available for rental from Film/Video Equipment Service Co. in Denver (<http://www.fvesco.com>) Focus Controllers - Vocas Systems (<http://www.vocas.com>).

Bob Berg is a Denver-area producer and filmmaker who has worked in the local production community since 1987.

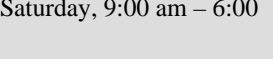
*Technique features technical and non-technical tips for the Colorado film and video industry. Send us your techniques and tips for making life in this exciting business just a little bit easier.*



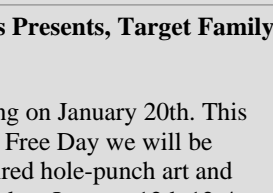
Happy New Year!

from your

Colorado Film and Video Association!



Come to the January Schmoozer and collect your own, shiny, new CFVA "Film in Colorado" bumpersticker, FREE! More information about the January Schmoozer in the next eBulletin on January 10th!



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### Job Listings

There are no job listings at this time.



### News and Events

#### CSO Presents Bugs Bunny on Broadway

BUGS BUNNY ON BROADWAY

"WHAT'S UP DOC?" Cartoon classics on three (3) screens featuring "What's Opera, Doc?", "The Rabbit of Seville", "Comedy Concerto", "Baton Bunny", "Long-Haired Hare", "High Note", and many more. A Warner Bros. Presentation.

January 4-5 (Fri 7:30, Sat 2:30\* & 7:30)  
Boettcher Concert Hall  
Denver Performing Arts Complex  
14th & Curtis Streets - Denver

20% off all adult tickets and 50% off all student/children's tickets!!

Call (303) 623-7876 and mention the promo code BBFILM, or visit the CSO Box Office at Boettcher Concert Hall, Monday - Saturday, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

- Pre-concert activities for children begin at 1:00 p.m.

#### Museo de Las Americas Presents, Target Family Free Day

The exhibit will be closing on January 20th. This month for Target Family Free Day we will be creating Vik Muniz inspired hole-punch art and Mapuche jewelry. Saturday, January 12th 12-4pm @ the Museo. Free admission.

Call 303-571-4401 for more information. [museo.org](http://museo.org)

861 Santa Fe Dr. Denver, CO 80204

#### Dandy Kids Documentary private screening and auction

Film It Productions and The Dandy Walker Alliance cordially invite you to attend a private screening of **Dandy Kids** and Auction to benefit **The Dandy-Walker Alliance**

Thursday January 17th 5:30 pm  
Denver Starz Film Center  
900 Auraria Pkwy, Denver

5:30-6:30 Silent Auction, Food and Beverages  
6:30-7:30 Dandy Kids Screening  
7:30-7:50 Q&A with Director Darla Rae  
7:50-8:30 Live Auction with Jennifer Wilde, and Producer Mikey from Alice 105.9

(with Special Surprise Guests)

Please RSVP 720-620-0536

Auction items include autographed sports, movie memorabilia, custom designed jewelry, and many other wonderful items.

A \$25 donation is suggested at the door  
<http://www.dandykidsdocumentary.com>