



# Views

Volume 2, Issue 2

July - September, 2006

## Our Features This Quarter...

Date	Feature
Friday July 21 @ 8 pm	WHO IS BOZO TEXINO?
Friday August 18 @ 8 pm	UNDER THE RAINBOW
Friday September 15 @ 8 pm	THE GENERAL

### A Ramblin' and a Hoboin'

by Warren Haack

In the 30's, Woody Guthrie rode the rails, as did thousands of other down-and-outers. Guthrie popularized several songs about his experiences riding the rails including "Hobo's Lullaby":



*Go to sleep you weary hobo  
Let the towns drift slowly by.  
Can't you hear the steel rails hummin'?  
That's the hobo's lullaby.*

A couple of years ago, I picked up an old copy of "Railroad Stories", dated September, 1936. This classic railroad pulp fiction had stories about wrecks and runaways, hobos and highballs, boomers and hogs. At that time in America, seemingly everyone was on the move. In the back is an article about Bozo Texino: "Inside a boxcar I saw Bozo's trademark. It made my feet itch so, that for two cents I'd jump my job running a tractor hoist and take to the road."

Apparently, Bozo Texino was a hogger (engineer) on the MoPac (Missouri Pacific RR), who scrawled his peculiar moniker -- a cowboy smoking a pipe -- on thousands of railroad cars. After he died, others continued the tradition.

The urge to ramble disconnected from society has kept hoboin' alive since the days when "ridin' the rails" meant balancing on the connecting rods underneath a boxcar. (These days, it entails trying to keep from freezing or cooking to death on the hurtling metal cars of today's highballs.)

Bill Daniel documents the contemporary hobo's way of life as only someone with a passion for living on life's edge can. There's nothing "wannabe" or phony about this film. Clearly, he was unafraid to get out there -- in camps and on trains.

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### President's Note

by Tom Borden

It was 120 degrees last week at Lake Mead along the Nevada/Arizona border. The only reason I noticed was because I was there, hiking around in the heat of the day with a friend of mine who was hitchhiking around the U.S. for six weeks shooting a documentary film about a particular story that I'm not at liberty to divulge.

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## Our programme for Friday, July 21, 2006 at 8 p.m.

**Short:** *FILTER*, a 12 min. film by JASON MITCHELL, a filmmaker at San Francisco State University. A surveillance video camera captures a shooting in a convenience store. Various TV newscasters broadcast conflicting and bizarre versions of the event according to their points of view.

**Short:** *BRITTON, SOUTH DAKOTA*, 8 min. film by VANESSA RENWICK, who describes herself as an UNdependent filmmaker. "It means you don't do something because someone with money says you have to." She uncovered haunting portraits of children standing in the streets of a desolate American town during the Great Depression. Their faces tell the stories of their lives even though no words are uttered. Music written by JOHNEE ESCHLEMAN brilliantly expresses the children's unspoken thoughts and feelings. The film won the Best Experimental Film award at the Northwest Film Festival, 2003.

**Feature:** *WHO IS BOZO TEXINO?* 56 min. If you've ever had the urge to "pack it in and hit the road, 'cuz you've jus' 'bout had it up to here", or are tired of sitting in a parade of traffic every day, or just wonder if there are still hobos out there, you're gonna loooooove this piece. For film historian Warren Haack's homage, see [A Ramblin' and a Hoboin'](#) on page 1.

## Our programme for Friday, August 18, 2006 at 8 p.m.

**Feature:** *UNDER THE RAINBOW Niji No Shita Ni*. 97 min. A film by J.R. HEFFELFINGER.

J.R. is a 25 year old filmmaker who managed to pull together \$7,000 dollars for his debut feature from savings as a school teacher as well as being a subject in a medical trial in Japan (yes he gave his body and blood to make this film). He even had a lucky break at the race-track. With no crew, save for the friend who was free that day to hold a boom mike and his actors, he single-handedly put this picture together. Despite the challenges and responsibilities of being, the writer, director, producer, cinematographer, editor even the location scout, craft services person, what have you... the young 25 year old emerged with a strange and beautiful dream that is completely his own; his soul, in "Niji No Shita Ni" [Under The Rainbow].



**Special guest:** Filmmaker J.R. HEFFELFINGER who is coming from Japan for our screening of his film.



## Our programme for Friday, September 15, 2006 at 8 p.m.

**Feature:** *THE GENERAL* 75 min. starring BUSTER KEATON with co-star MARION MACK. A classic comedy made in 1927 and considered one of the all-time funniest films ever made. The hero Johnnie loves his train ("The General") and Annabelle Lee. When the Civil War begins, he is turned down for service because he's more valuable as an engineer. Annabelle thinks it's because he's a coward. Union spies capture The General with Annabelle on board. Johnny must rescue both his loves.

Matt, age 16 :

*"THE GENERAL has started, the girl is kidnapped by some Union raiders on Keaton's train, and so begins the greatest (and funniest) chase ever filmed. For the next 75 minutes, the viewer is in Keaton's world. His gags, routines and amazing slapstick serve to make this the greatest screen comedy ever filmed."*

## Our Venue...

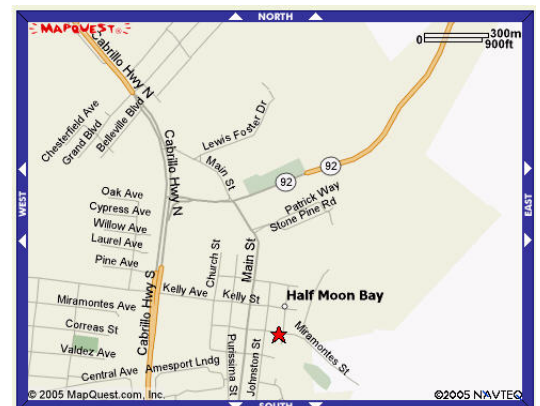
Our events take place at:

### Community United Methodist Church Sanctuary

777 Miramontes (corner of Johnston)

Half Moon Bay

Show time is at 8 p.m.



## A RAMBLIN' AND A HOBOIN', CONTINUED...

*... Do not worry about tomorrow  
Let tomorrow come and go  
Tonight you've got a nice warm boxcar  
Safe from all the rain and snow.*

Thousands of hobos still ride the rails; people shot up in wars, dissatisfied with society, those who just never quite fit in. Bill followed and interviewed many, aboard boxcars and flatcars, in snow and heat, in railyards and hobo jungles, at campfires, under bridges. For 10 years he followed hobos and trains, photographed hobo markings and recorded their stories. He rode through 14 western states from LA to Kansas City, Seattle to Houston. He took 30 trips in all before he began editing.

This film is a diamond in the rough, as rough around the edges as the people whom it portrays. Grainy, shaky, scratched and faded films uncover the raw edges of hobo life in the US today; a metaphor for its subject.

*I know your clothes are torn and ragged  
And your hair is turnin' grey  
Lift your head and smile at trouble  
You'll find peace and rest someday.*

Although you might want to hit the rails after seeing this piece, Bill doesn't recommend it, unless you don't mind spending a night or two in the jail, freezing, starving, risking dismemberment, or death. I can attest to the danger. I took a trip across California and Nevada myself once. One hot afternoon, I dozed off in a boxcar going about 60 miles an hour. I woke up to find that the rocking of the car had slid me so that I hung partway out the door. Later, I saw an old hobo so tired he could just barely pull himself up the ladder. Seconds later, the train roared into a tunnel. Had he still been hanging, he would have been dashed onto the roadbed. At day's end, the railroad cops in Elko hauled my friend and me into the hoosgow where we spent the night behind bars.

*I know the police cause you trouble  
They cause trouble everywhere  
When you die and go to heaven  
You'll find no policemen there.*

Bill will be there in person on July 21 2006 to discuss the film and answer your questions.

**WHO IS BOZO TEXINO? is our featured film on Friday, July 21.**

Many thanks to **Music Hut** for its support!



**The Music Hut**  
"Your Independent Music Store"

329 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
(650) 72 Music (6-8742)

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE, CONTINUED

A kindly park ranger informed us that no one with any common sense hikes around in the heat of 120-degree day at Lake Mead. Which, in hindsight -- after suffering mild dehydration -- made very good sense to us. What also made very good sense to us were the air-conditioned craft services (catering) trailers, shade tents and coolers full of cold drinks that we stumbled upon near the end of our hike. Turns out a Hollywood film crew was there shooting a scene for a fictionalized feature version of precisely the same story that my friend was documenting in his film. The details of that bizarre coincidence are best left for another time, but the run-in did highlight some interesting contracts in the filmmaking world.

On one extreme is a fully outfitted crew of about 40-50 industry professionals, and probably at least another 10-15 off location dealing with the logistics and business of making their film. Cameras, cranes, dollies, booms, mixers, artificial lighting, and that luscious craft services trailer. On the other side, is a single filmmaker carrying his camera, tripod and shotgun mic, and a friend shouldering a daypack with water and trail mix. Both "crews" shooting the same exact story. And, from my perspective, both films have an equal opportunity to be compelling, provocative, and most importantly, completed. This may sound like a new phenomenon, where the digital age has allowed solo filmmakers to make feature-length films that may someday make it to the big screen or DVD. But while it is easier to do this than it once was, the history of groundbreaking documentary film is filled with heroes that made films on their own, without the luxuries of a big budget (or even a small budget) and the crew, equipment and support that comes with it. Pioneers like the Maysles Brothers, Ricky Leacock, Jean Rouch, Fred Wiseman, DA Pennebaker, and Ross McElwee. All of these filmmakers have produced remarkable works of film that provide a personal intimacy and poignance that would have likely been impossible if not for their bare bones production styles. Most shot on location with two or three people max, and some shot solo. If you haven't seen any of their films, you should.

Our next two Coastside Film Nights feature independent films produced by extremely talented bare bones filmmakers whose names fill almost all of the spots in their end credits. Bill Daniel shot "Who is Bozo Texino?" almost entirely on his own over a sixteen-year period, operating a 16mm camera and sync sound system with virtually no assistance. He also produced, directed and edited the film. And it is one of the best documentaries I have seen in a long while, and certainly one of the most beautiful.

On our August slate, JR Heffelfinger is credited as writer, producer, director, editor, and director of photography of his narrative film "Under the Rainbow", his first feature effort. He produced the film with \$20,000 that he won gambling in a Tokyo casino and even composed some of the soundtrack to boot. It's a wonderful film with an inspiring backstory of a young filmmaker who made his film almost entirely on his own.

So what of the industry model of big names, big budgets and big sets? There's nothing at all wrong with it.

In fact, that cold water and grape PowerAde drink they gave us when we stumbled into their camp in Lake Mead couldn't have made me a bigger fan. I look forward to seeing their film.



Coastside Film Society Contacts	
Tom Borden	President
Luanne Paul King	Vice President & Corresponding Secretary
Jean Slinger	Recording Secretary
Joe Devlin	Information Director
Warren Haack	At-large
Emily Berk	Webmaster, Newsletter Editor

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

*The Coastside Film Society gratefully acknowledges the volunteers who have helped us with:*

- Bookkeeping
- Getting word out about our events
- Placing signs
- Serving as ushers at our events
- Performing administrative tasks (such as data entry). Our current administrative offices are small, but if you have special skills, expertise or interests that you would like to put to work for CFS as a volunteer, let us know.

Can you help? If so, please send email to: [volunteer at hmbfilm.org](mailto:volunteer@hmbfilm.org), or contact us at our website: <http://www.hmbfilm.org/index.php?thePage=Volunteer>

## FOCUS ON A VOLUNTEER...: Juan Maya

*“I am a student and consider myself an artist. I have used charcoal, pastel, oil painting. I am studying computer animation which I love doing as well as entertainment design for movies. In my free time I enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, rock climbing, and getting to know different places. One of my true passions is dancing Salsa.*

*As a volunteer for the Coastside Film Society, I am helping to redesign their logo and film trailer format.”*



**DID YOU ENJOY ONE OF OUR FILMS?  
IF SO, OR IF NOT, LET YOUR OPINION  
BE HEARD.  
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO  
THE COASTSIDE FILM SOCIETY BLOG:  
[HTTP://WWW.HMBFILM.ORG/BLOG](http://www.hmbfilm.org/blog)**

This newsletter was produced by:



## The Coastside Film Society is looking for a few good board members...

The Board of Directors of the Coastside Film Society is the group that brings you film nights each month. The board evaluates films, publicizes our events, schedules the venues, and much, much more. It is a great deal of work, but also a great deal of fun.

We are looking for at least two motion picture fans to join us. If you are good with numbers and would be willing to serve as our **Treasurer**, or if you are good with people and would be willing to serve as our **Membership Coordinator**, or if you can help us in other ways, please let us know by contacting one of the board members at a Coastside Film Society event, or by sending email from Contact page on the Coastside Film Society’s website:

<http://www.hmbfilm.org/index.php?thePage=Contact>

## The Coastside Film Society has launched its membership drive.

Members receive \$2 off each admission or buy-one-get-one-free for each event.

Please join and help us to continue bringing the best of independent film to the San Mateo Coast!

### Please join us!

<i>Membership Type</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Yearly donation</i>
Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Membership card good for 11 free admissions (may be shared)</li><li>• Member rate for special events</li><li>• Reception with artists</li><li>• Priority mailing of newsletter (either as emailed PDF or as physical mail document)</li><li>• Acknowledgement in Newsletter (unless you ask to be unlisted)</li></ul>	\$45
Business	Same benefits as Basic Membership  <i>Plus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 additional membership card, good for 11 free admissions <i>or</i> get 22 single-admission tickets that can be passed on to customers.</li><li>• Ad in one edition of the newsletter</li><li>• Link or logo listed on the membership page of <a href="http://www.HMBFilm.org">www.HMBFilm.org</a></li><li>• Spotlight on new Business Members at film screenings &amp; in newsletter</li></ul>	\$300

### To join the Coastside Film Society:

1. Print this form
2. Fill it out
3. Enclose a check, made out to **Coastside Film Society**

Mail it to:  
Coastside Film Society  
700 MILL STREET , SUITE 1  
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019

Yes! I want to join the Coastside Film Society!

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street): \_\_\_\_\_

mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



