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what we now think of as green sustainability practices. Eschewing rooftops in many cases, and separating rooms into individual buildings with specific energy designs for particular purposes, Charneco took what once seemed a radical—even crazy—idea and ran with it. Pasteurizing rainwater (thus keeping the minerals), installing solar panels to create electricity, using concrete and recycled local materials to build, and instantly turning human waste into fertilizer—all of these then-prescient ideas are now more commonly accepted, and Charneco's work is in great demand. And, as an added benefit, these buildings are visually appealing. A positive, exciting documentary that will make viewers optimistic about the possibilities of changing the way we create environments in which to live and work, *The Absent House* is presented in both a Spanish-language version and one with English subtitles. Extras include additional interviews. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P (T. Keogh)

The Queen's Garden ★★★1/2

(2014) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR). PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-223-0.

A lively documentary about the royal gardens at Buckingham Palace in London, filmmaker Martin Williams's PBS-aired *The Queen's Garden* offers a detailed look at a year in the life of a natural wonderland. Sitting on 39 acres (an area that remains from a larger tract seized and transformed by Henry VIII), the garden is actually comprised of several mutually beneficial ecosystems. With forest,

lawns, mews, an island, and a relatively wild area, Queen Elizabeth II's outdoor paradise is not only home to hundreds of species of plants and wildlife, but is also a living monument to history where rare flowers and other flora were created. Time-lapse photography reveals many beautiful flowers blossoming to full glory, while small cameras distributed around the grounds capture various critters in motion, and microphotography shows us the predatory world of garden insects. The human life in the garden is also covered, including summer parties and charity soccer games. A delightful tour full of wonderful sights, this is highly recommended. Aud: P (T. Keogh)

SPORTS, GAMES & RECREATION

9-Man ★★★1/2

(2014) 89 min. In English & Toisan w/English subtitles. DVD: \$25: individuals; \$350: institutions. 9-Man (avail. from www.9-man.com). PPR. Closed captioned.

Filmmaker Ursula Liang's documentary centers on a form of minority-group "streetball" practiced in grassroots fashion in urban lots in ethnic enclaves across North America. And, no, it's not pickup basketball. With roots in Toisan, China, 9-Man is a high-speed volleyball variation that uses nine players instead of six, a game that flourishes in the Chinatown neighborhoods of Boston, Toronto, Washington D.C., San Francisco, et al. 9-Man is so strongly a part of the oriental

tradition that, even in diversity-obsessed America, strict rules decree that all players must be males of Asian descent. *9-Man* follows several teams, including Toronto's Connex and the Boston Knights, as they compete on an established circuit for championship honors. "I have heard...that we are considered a cult," Toronto's Jeff Chung says with pride, although the sport's restrictions certainly also say something larger about the somewhat insular culture. Part cultural anthropology, part sports film, *9-Man*, which aired on PBS's *America ReFramed* series, is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

Mujeres con Pelotas (Goals for Girls)

★★★

(2013) 75 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. DVD: \$125: public libraries; \$250: colleges & universities. San Telmo Productions (avail. from www.goalsforgirlsthemovie.org). PPR.

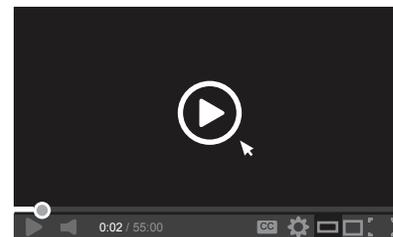
Co-directors Gabriel Balanovsky and Ginger Gentile's *Mujeres con Pelotas (Goals for Girls)* centers on women's soccer in Argentina. To sports commentator Víctor Hugo Morales, there's nothing unusual about women playing soccer. Sportswriter Gastón Recondo, however, begs to differ: "They aren't equal and they will never be equal due to genetic reasons." (The directors cleverly juxtapose Recondo's comments here with some fancy

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Print the Legend ★★★★★

(2014) 99 min. DVD: \$59.95 (\$249 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com). Passion River (avail. from www.midwesttape.com).

Filmmakers Luis Lopez and J. Clay Tweel's feature strongly recalls 2001's *Startup.com* (VL-9/01), with its portrait of young, optimistic tech entrepreneurs who lose their innocent idealism when confronted with the stark realities/pathologies of a big-stakes marketplace. Here, the business under the spotlight is stereolithography, aka three-dimensional printing. A few giant corporations manufacture industrial-grade 3D printers costing thousands of dollars, but smaller, maverick teams with an "open-source" ethic (committed to sharing processes freely for the common good) vie to bring 3D printers down to household affordability. Brooklyn-based MakerBot, fronted by quirky CEO Bre Pettis (who is determined to show that, unlike Steve Jobs, he is not a jerk—which proves difficult in practice), competes with Cambridge-based Formlabs, led by prickly genius Max Lobovsky, to bring mass-fabrication to the masses. Meanwhile, a furor is whipped up by Texas-based self-described anarchist (and, judging by his demeanor, aspiring B-movie villain) Cody Wilson, who fiercely backs 3D printing specifically for the making of plastic guns and firearms components, allowing anyone to become an arms manufacturer. Serving up a great cautionary business saga, as well as a tale of new technology's unintended consequences, this is highly recommended. **Editor's Choice.** Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)



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Gauchos del Mar: Surfing the American Pacific ★★★★★

(2012) 61 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles. DVD: \$39; public libraries & high schools; \$150; colleges & universities. DRA. Green Planet Films. PPR.

Like Bruce Brown in his seminal surf epic *The Endless Summer* (VL-1/11), Argentinean sibling filmmakers Julián and Joaquín Azulay—the “sea cowboys” of this documentary’s title—convey the notion that surfing is not only a sport and a recreational activity, but also a spiritual endeavor that offers a means of connecting with the awesome power of the ocean. In *Gauchos del Mar*, the brothers (sons of a 1960s surfing pioneer father) embark on a 403-day camping trip from Los Angeles to southern Chile, with a stop at every surfable break along the way, before returning to their home in Argentina. The pair meet a variety of people living and working along the coasts of the Americas (touching base in 13 countries altogether), including a family who takes them in for a week to wait out a storm, and a teen agrarian who takes his first-ever ride on the waves under the Azulays’ tutelage. Perhaps the spirit of the film can best be summed up with this quote: “Some preferred to stay in five-star hotels, while we preferred to sleep in the open under millions of them.” A multiple award winner, this is highly recommended. **Editor’s Choice.** [Note: the companion documentary *Tierra de Patagones* by the Gauchos del Mar is also available at the same price.] Aud: P. (C. Block)



female footwork.) Laura, who plays for the Las Aliadas team, knew from an early age that she wanted to be a soccer player, but almost gave up when she found out she would have to travel to a poor neighborhood (after only one day, however, Laura was hooked). Laura’s coach, Mónica Santino, complains that boys often try to interrupt their games, so she continually asks them to leave until they go away. Bettina Stagnères, who coaches the Estudiantes de la Plata team, also had to shoo boys away initially, until they got the message and moved elsewhere. Rosa, one of Bettina’s players, says that people think she’s rich because she plays soccer, but she has to also work part-time to make ends meet. Other women have chores, long commutes, and no access to dormitories like the male players. Money is a common theme here, especially since women’s soccer doesn’t generate the same degree of income and the players are less likely to turn pro. As one player notes, however, these females would go further if they received support earlier: it’s hard to compete with male players who started in grade school, when the girls had to wait until their teen years. Offering a reminder of the global nature of gender inequities in sports, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

CRAFTS, ARTS & HOBBIES

Sewing Essentials: The Perfect Blouse

★★★★1/2

(2015) 146 min. DVD: \$24.95. The Taunton Press (dist. by The AV Cafe). PPR. ISBN: 978-1-62710-978-9.

Any home sewer who can follow a pattern can make a blouse, but certain techniques will transform an ordinary garment into

a “perfect” one. The secret, as host Sandra Miller cheerfully and ably shows, lies in careful attention to detail. Miller, a frequent contributor to *Threads* magazine, guides viewers through the intricacies of topstitching, buttonhole placement, and turning a collar band in exactly the right way (she uses a specific pattern, but the equipment and techniques involved are universal). Aside from small missteps (Miller suggests serging raw edges without explaining what a serger is, or how to finish the edge if you don’t have one), this instructional guide is packed with tips that could also be useful in making other articles of clothing besides blouses. Placing emphasis on taking time and care to craft an item correctly, this program will be valuable for sewers at all levels. Highly recommended. Aud: P. (F. Gardner)

THE ARTS

The Dance Goodbye ★★★★★

(2014) 56 min. DVD: \$24.95. First Run Features (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Filmmakers Ron Steinman and Eileen Douglas’s documentary focuses on retired prima ballerina Merrill Ashley, who joined the New York City Ballet in 1967—becoming a soloist in 1974 and a principal in 1977—a dancer for whom choreographer George Balanchine created several of his last works. The filmmakers mix archival material with interviews to present a career overview, but are mostly concerned with Ashley’s life following her retirement in 1997, emphasizing how difficult life is for her without the exuberance derived from performance. Ashley underwent hip-replacement surgery to address problems caused by her 31-year NYCB

stint, and was reduced to taking on only a few secondary character parts that did not require much stage movement. Ultimately, she found a second calling: teaching the Balanchine repertoire to companies throughout the world and thereby helping to keep alive the work of the man she idolizes as her mentor. *The Dance Goodbye* is a tribute to one of America’s great performers, but even more so it’s a testimony to the effort it took for Ashley to manage the transition to a life offstage. Featuring extras including a photo gallery and text bios, this lovely appreciation of a dedicated artist is recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock and Roll ★★★★★1/2

(2014) 106 min. DVD: \$150; high schools & public libraries; \$300; colleges & universities. Argot Pictures. PPR.

Before the Khmer Rouge took over, Cambodian art and culture flourished. In John Pirozzi’s stirring documentary, speakers recall how music filled the air during the 1950s and 1960s—on the radio, at dances, and during live performances. Several stars were popular, including Sinn Sisamouth and Ros Serey Sothea, who became duet partners (when Ros left Phnom Penh after an ugly divorce, Sinn coaxed her back into performing). As war broke out in Vietnam, Cambodia strove to maintain neutrality, but as former U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean remembers, “We did get involved in bombing a neutral country.” The music continued with rock acts such as Yol Aularong and Drakkar, but once the Khmer Rouge came to power, the new era of long hair, free speech, and outside influences swiftly came to an end, as musicians joined the army, played state-sanctioned material, and hid their records (to do otherwise would risk destruction of property—or worse). As Prince Norodom Sirivudh notes, “If you want to eliminate values from past societies, you have to eliminate the artists, because artists are influential.” Following liberation in 1979, the survivors were free to make music again, although many had disappeared under mysterious circumstances (even those who managed to leave the country returned to find few family members left). Fortunately, Cambodian rock’s appealing combination of Western and Eastern influences has witnessed a resurgence. A powerful film about the enduring legacy of a culture’s music even in times of severe repression, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

Henry IV Parts I & II ★★★★★1/2

(2014) 336 min. DVD: 4 discs, \$54.99; Blu-ray: 2 discs, \$59.99. Opus Arte (dist. by Naxos of America).

Antony Sher’s masterful performance as Falstaff may be the most notable aspect of Gregory Doran’s 2014 mounting of Shakespeare’s conjoined history plays by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-