

L A U N C H

Brian Doyle ©2007 24 min.



synopsis

Launch imagines a world deserted by humans as a swelling hurricane takes over the planet. Set in a seemingly abandoned space center, this quasi-fictionalized documentary records the escape of a rocket carrying the last humans off the planet. An artistic impression of America's space program, *Launch* culminates with coverage of the space shuttle's return to flight. It is a meditation on the end of an era and a reflection on mankind's existence on earth as just a passing storm.

Filmed with the generous cooperation of NASA and the Kennedy Space Center in 2005, *Launch* records hurricane Ophelia lingering off the Florida coast (just following Katrina's destruction weeks earlier). The film documents the impact of the hurricane during the most widespread and ruinous Atlantic hurricane season in recorded history and the launch of space shuttle Discovery, STS-114, the anxiously awaited return to space following the Columbia disaster of 2003.

director's statement

Launch considers the complex relationship between mankind and Earth. Scientists, documentarians, and an increasing number of people worldwide are calling out for the reduction of the damaging human impact on our planet's environment. As the space shuttle program is phased out over the next three years, new plans for the moon and beyond are being formed even though a new fleet of spacecraft is not due until 2014. Meanwhile, critics continue to debate the causes of climate change as well as the direction and importance of costly space programs. Difficult decisions about how we intend to live on earth and how technology should be used must be made.

Launch takes a stark look at the ultimate underlying goal of any space program – our survival in the universe. The film imagines the day when humankind must face the overwhelming force of nature and attempt to escape it. It is a meditation on the end of an era and the beginning of a drastically different and unpredictable future.

credits

Director/Camera/Editing/Sound – Brian Doyle

Producer – Sue Butler

Additional Camera – Mic Knight

Editing assistance – Ry Russo-Young

Production assistance – Scott Corley, Mic Knight, John Schneider

Graphics support – Ya-Hsuan Huang

Original Music – Kurt Brondo, Tianna Kennedy, Chad Laird, Hannah Marcus, Jeffrey McCord

Locations – Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force Base, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, and Titusville (all in Florida)

trailer

A one and half minute trailer is available at:

http://www.doylestudio.com/launch/launch_trailer.html

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artist's biography

Brian Doyle is an experimental filmmaker and visual artist. His work questions the notion of the common experience by revealing the subtleties and strangeness found within the collision of cultural and natural phenomena.

Doyle's award winning artwork has been shown on television, in film festivals, and in museums around the world. He graduated with a BFA from Florida State University and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Sculpture Department. He lives and works in New York.

Screenings include the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid), Reel New York (WNET New York, Channel Thirteen, PBS), the International Film Festival Rotterdam (The Netherlands), and Slamdance (Park City, Utah). His video *The Light* is in the permanent collection of the Australian Center for the Moving Image, Melbourne.

Launch awards and info

Launch was awarded the Rooftop Films 2004 Filmmakers' Fund Grant and the Experimental Television Center's Finishing Funds 2006 award. It was nominated for the International Film Festival Rotterdam's Tiger Award for Short Film. Production notes, a collection of stills, and a trailer are available on the artist's website at <http://www.doylestudio.com/launch/launch.html> Information on Brian Doyle's other video artworks *The Light*, *Current*, *Yestermorrow*, etc. and Doyle's photography is also available here.

film/videography

Current (Reprise), (in development), 2010
Launch, 24 min., 2007
The Light, 10:18 min., 2003
Bowling for Schauburg, 1:45 min., 2003
Current, 6 min., May 2001
Yestermorrow, 5 min., 2000

installations

Launch, multi channel video and sculptural environment, (in development), 2008
Current, video loop and sculptural environment, 2001
Yestermorrow, video loop and sculptural environment, 2000
FLT 346 with option to pause, interactive video and sculptural environment, 1998
Raise, video loop and sculptural environment, 1998

web projects

<http://www.doylestudio.com>

Brian Doyle's homepage

<http://www.suitcasemagazine.com>

Online magazine featuring the video *Yestermorrow* and photographs in Vol. I, Issue II, Amusement

<http://depthome.sunysuffolk.edu/selden/fleckergallery/celebration.htm>

Celebration (from the yestermorrow project), web project for Flecker Gallery

<http://www.eyeshot.net/doyle.html>

Brian Doyle Shoots Celebration, web project collaboration with novelist Lee Klein

<http://www.fwfd.org>

Current (preview version) in an online exhibition of artist's films, presented by Red Leader Industries

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**curriculum vitae**

Born Lakeland, FL, 1973

Bachelor of Fine Arts, summa cum laude, Florida State University, 1995

Master of Fine Arts, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1998

Lives and works in New York

selected exhibitions / screenings / awards for all artwork

- 2010 Souvenirs from Earth television, France and Germany
- 2009 Forum des Images, "Courts metrages sur le 11 Septembre", Paris, France
- 2008 Tribeca Film Festival, NY
TVE Television, "Metropolis", Spain
Sarasota Film Festival, FL
International Film Festival Rotterdam, Holland, **Launch - nominated for Tiger Award for Short Film**
Contemporary Art Screen Zuidas, Amsterdam, Holland
Documentair Film Platform ZONE, Antwerp, Gent, and Kortrijk, Belgium
European Media Art Festival, Osnabrueck, Germany
Graph-CMI, Centre de l'Image Contemporaine, Château de Malves en Minervois, France
VIDEOEX Experimental Film & Video Festival, Zurich, Switzerland
Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival, Lausanne, Switzerland
Chicago Underground Film Festival, Chicago, IL
- 2007 Pulse Art Fair, Pulse Play > Shot, Counter Shot, curated by Christopher Eamon, Miami, FL
"Little Rituals", Westpac Place, Sydney, Australia
Rooftop Films, "The Show Must Go On", Westbeth Artist's Community, New York, NY
Henry Art Gallery, guest artist in Artists' Cinema, Seattle, WA
IFC.com, 100 best films from Rooftop Films Summer Series featured online
An Earnest Cut and Sew Project Room, "Inside Job", New York, NY
- 2006 ARTE Television, Court-Circuit #292 (Le Magazine), "11 Setembre", Belgium, France, Germany
Collectivo La Pinta, "Te lo puedo decir sin palabras", Centro de Historia de Zaragoza, Spain
Launch - Experimental Television Center's Finishing Funds 2006 Award
Rooftop TV, Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Episode 10: New York Non-Fiction
suitcase magazine, www.suitcasemagazine.com, volume I, issue II, "Amusement"
- 2005 US Express, single channel video art spanning from the early 70's to present day, worldwide tour through U.S. Department of State, 2005-2008
Arborescence Festival, Aix-en-Provence, France
L'espace Landowski, "I Live Tomorrow", Boulogne-Billancourt, Paris, France
MoCA Cleveland and 20,000 Leagues Under the Industry, "Fever Dreams", Cleveland, OH
Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, "Terra Infirma", Castelló, Spain
Australian Center for the Moving Image, "World Without End", Melbourne, Australia – **The Light acquired by the museum**
Annexia, "The Best of Festivals", José Cabanis Multimedia Center, Toulouse, France - **featured artist**
San Francisco Independent Film Festival
- 2004 **Launch - Rooftop Films 2004 Filmmaker's Fund Grant**
Rooftop Films and Clamor Magazine, "Independent Media For A New Democracy," US tour
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin
Impakt Festival, Utrecht, the Netherlands

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**selected exhibitions / screenings / awards continued**

- 2004 20,000 Leagues Under The Industry Film Festival, Cleveland, OH
 Idaho International Film Festival, Boise, ID
 Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
 Eyebeam, Panorama "Reagan Babies: Born in the USA", New York, NY
 Seoul Net & Film Festival (SeNef), "A Portrait of the City", Seoul, South Korea
 Rooftop Films, "New York Non-Fiction", Old American Can Factory, Brooklyn, NY
 Reel New York, television screening on WNET New York, Channel Thirteen, PBS
 Biennale Bonn, Germany
 Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
 COURTisane Festival for Short Film, Video & New Media, Ghent, Belgium
 European Media Arts Festival, Osnabrück, Germany
 Ybor Festival of the Moving Image, Tampa, FL
 New York Underground Film Festival
 International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands
 Microcinema I'ntl, "Power Corruption & Lies 2004", Axiom Theater, Houston, TX
- 2003 Vox Populi, Philadelphia, solo show, installation version *Current*
 Bandits-Mages Multi-Media Arts Festival, Bourges, France
 Kasseler Dokumentarfilm & Videofest, "Transporterraum", Kassel, Germany,
The Light - nominated for the Werkleitz Project Grant 2003
 L'Alternativa Independent Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain
 Ocularis, "The Skyline at Work", Brooklyn, NY
 Toquefest, Vancouver, Canada
 Lausanne Underground Film Festival, Switzerland
 Microcinema International, Independent Exposure "Autumnal Edition", world tour
 "To Free the Cinema", Festival do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 Chicago Underground Film Festival, ***The Light - Best Experimental Film***
 Lighthouse Museum of Architecture & Design, "Mobile Cinema Exhibition", Glasgow, UK
 Moscow International Film Festival, Media Forum
 Impakt Festival, Utrecht, The Netherlands
 VideoEx Experimental Film & Video Festival, Zurich
 COURTisane Short Film Festival, Ghent, Belgium
 CITYZOOMS, on the Übersee-Museum square in Bremen, Germany
 European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany
 Black Maria Film Festival, U.S. tour, ***Current - Juror's Citation Award***
 International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands
 Slamdance, Park City, UT
- 2002 ARTE and RTBF Television, "MIC MAC #8" Belgium, France, Germany
 Kinofilm International Short Film Festival, Manchester, England
 L'Alternativa Independent Film Festival, Barcelona, Spain
 20,000 Leagues Under the Industry Film Festival, Cleveland
 "Fw:Fwd," group exhibition & online show, Deluxe Gallery, London
 Curzon Theater, London
 Lausanne Underground Film Festival, Switzerland, ***Current - Best Experimental Short Film***
 Ocularis, "Reports from the Global Village", Brooklyn, NY

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selected exhibitions / screenings / awards continued

- 2002 Anthology Film Archives, Fresh Film, NY
 Suffolk County Community College, NY, solo exhibition, M. N. Flecker Memorial Gallery
 New York Underground Film Festival, **Current - Special Jury Prize for New York City**
 San Francisco Independent Film Festival
- 2001 Artscape, Baltimore, MD
 Chicago Underground Film Festival
- 2000 "Showview" Internationales Video Programm, Galerie 5020, Salzburg, Austria
 Chicago Underground Film Festival

recent press on Brian Doyle

The Ledger, 'Launch' tells of Humans' Escape: Lakeland native brings new movie to Sarasota Film Festival, by Gary White, April 4, 2008

Brian Doyle is a denizen of Manhattan, not Hollywood, a player in the Chelsea art scene rather than the realm of motion pictures. Yet the Lakeland native's experimental video work is inching increasingly toward the kind of narrative filmmaking that draws audiences to the multiplexes.

Doyle's 24-minute film "Launch" will screen twice at the annual Sarasota Film Festival, a 10-day event laden with feature films starring the likes of Charlize Theron, Meg Ryan and William H. Macy. "Launch," a vaguely apocalyptic story shot at Kennedy Space Center, appeared earlier at the Rotterdam Film Festival and has been accepted into New York's Tribeca Film Festival, opening later this month...

...Doyle said he seeks to blur the line between documentary and fiction. "Launch" is not a traditional narrative, but it comes closer than his previous works.

"The trajectory of all these projects has been gradually pushing narrative a little bit more in each one," Doyle said. "I try not to be too forceful with the context because it is kind of an experiential film, and I wanted people to be able to take away more than just a rigid interpretation. I want them to be in the storm and project their own fears or hopes into it and put themselves in that rocket going up."

"Launch" was a nominee for the Tiger Award for short films at the Rotterdam festival. It screens in the documentary shorts category at Sarasota, and Doyle plans to attend the April 13 showing.

Doyle said he will continue creating works intended more for galleries than cineplexes, but he doesn't rule out commercial filmmaking.

"I'll see what kind of opportunities come up and go from there," he said, "at the same time continuing with my art career and pushing my art work and films in that realm."

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recent press on Brian Doyle continued

The Stranger, "Recommended film listing", June 14, 2007

Film program curated by Brian Doyle: * Glassing the Landscape - Experimental filmmaker Brian Doyle screens his latest "quasi-fictionalized documentary," *Launch* (about a space center under the onslaught of a hurricane), along with films by Portland filmmaker Matt McCormick, New York-based filmmaker Jem Cohen, and more. Henry Art Gallery.

Notes to U.S. Express

"Lighting the night, the video [*The Light*] is an exquisitely photographed, crisply edited, amazingly detailed study of artificial lights (with an incidental homage to the WTC towers of light) that also extends our understanding of video light emanating from the screen." - Skip Blumberg

ABC, Blanco y Negro Cultural, Arte, Video, "11-S, Las Peliculas de las hechos", September 18, 2004

The Light, by Brian Doyle, collects spurts of light, the work lights that illuminate the clean up of Ground Zero. Those luminous shots, at the end, in a curious optical effect, seem to capture a ghost - the skyscrapers of the World Trade Center - as if they are frustrated roads in the darkness of an inevitable night. - Laura Revuelta [translated from Spanish]

24/7, PBS finds "Reel New York" in Brooklyn: Focus on Homegrown Filmmakers, June 7, 2004

"...featured during this week is Brian Doyle's "The Light", which is already accumulating kudos wherever it is shown, according to [series Producer Garrison Botts]. Fourth in the 30-year-old Williamsburg resident's series on phenomenon, "The Light" works to challenge the original perception of the Tribute in Light... The majestic and heavenly shots, which were technically difficult to shoot, were matched with ambient sound that was a "minimalist expression to support the light"... - by Christy Goodman

Film Threat, *Slamdance reviews*, ★★★★★ (of 5)

"A very simple event becomes an eerie omen of destruction in **Brian Doyle's "Current."**

Paper, riding the wind, invades New York City. Helicopters fly above the skyscrapers as if inspecting the scene. The amount of paper grows, tangling in tree branches, gliding against buildings. Sheets of it fall like snow. Perhaps it's a celebration, but where is that smoke coming from?

What first appears to be a parade of some sort quickly begins to look like the aftermath of 9/11, but what Doyle really filmed was the 2000 ticker tape parade for the Yankees, which was in the heart of New York City. Almost a year later the World Trade Center went down and produced similar results. Frankly, it's all kind of creepy, especially when the audience isn't told what it is seeing. (I learned all the information from the press release that accompanied the film.)

Viewers will take what they want from this nearly silent display of nature and man, and therein lies the film's strength. I went from thinking that it looked like the end of the world, to it looking like a parade of some sort and then back again, making this perhaps the most haunting six minutes of film I've seen in a long time. Simply superb." - Doug Brunell

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recent press on Brian Doyle continued

New York Independent Film & Video Monitor, *New York Underground Film Festival*

“...the judges wisely awarded a Special Jury Prize For New York City to **Brian Doyle’s CURRENT**, an experimental video documentary whose bleak and sweeping downtown paper storm strikes remarkable notes about 9/11 and the nature of information and visual context. If that sounds vague, see the movie and ask Doyle how he completed it last August.” – Peter Hall

Senses of Cinema, *How We Talk about Things: Report on the 32nd International Film Festival Rotterdam*

“With **Current** (2001), a short video and installation piece by **Brian Doyle**, history is likewise re-registered, though in this case it appears as a prefiguration. Shot during the 2000 Yankee ticker-tape parade in New York City, the film features a flurry of paper caught in a storm in lower Manhattan: toilet paper caught on skeletal tree branches, cyclones of paper funneling up to the sky, no people whatsoever. Though the film was shot a year prior, the eerie, desolate images of **Current** fix themselves within the context of our memories of 9/11. **Current** resists being understood as anything other than the uncanny echo of an event yet to unfold.” – Genevieve Yue

Indiewire, *FESTIVAL: Uncomfortable, Stupid, or Fascinating: NY Underground Film Fest Runs The Gamut*

“The very poignant collection of September 11 inspired pieces, “**Six Months Later**” covers the gamut of emotions that our country has gone through since the tragedy. Everything from the angry, rambling old man in Monroe Bardot’s “A Message to Bin Laden,” to the corporate suspicion of Ashley Hunt’s “Lockdowns Up,” to the wind-blown trash and vacant urban valleys of **Brian Doyle’s “Current**” uncovers a sliver of our new national psyche...

This collection best demonstrates that the greatest strength of the New York Underground Film Festival is the same as the New York spirit, its constant unpredictability and a scrappy, visceral celebration of human creativity.” – Tim LaTorre

Cinemad, *The Chicago Underground Film Festival*

“There were some strong experimental image/edit works, capturing childhood fascinations very nicely... **CURRENT (2001, Brian Doyle)** shifts, turns and catches you in a dream of floating scraps of paper in a huge city.” – Mike Plante

BBC News Online, *Online art to look forward to*

“With the medium of internet video-on-demand continuing to fall short of its full potential, FW:Fwd (www.fwfwfwd.org) presents an online exhibition of video art that succeeds by keeping things simple and not striving beyond its resources...**Brian Doyle’s Current** comprises simple shots of tape from a baseball parade, blowing in front of the World Trade Center a year before its destruction...for anyone interested in the possibilities of video art, this is more than worth a browse.” – James Bregman