



Search mvtimes.com



Photo by Susan Safford

- NEWS
- CALENDAR
- REAL ESTATE
- CLASSIFIEDS
- OBITUARIES
- OPINION
- DIRECTORIES
- AS YOU SEE IT
- BUY PHOTOS
- STORE
- ARCHIVES

Chasing surfboard dreams

By Brooks Robards
Published: April 23, 2009

- Reader Comments
- Print-friendly version
- Share, Save or Email

Reviving a tradition popular in the 1960s and 1970s before the surfing craze hit full throttle, Thomas Campbell, a California-based director and surfer, is taking his new documentary, "The Present," on a nationwide tour. The tour will allow audiences to watch stunning, retro-style surf footage, featuring various styles, including high-performance tri-fin shortboarding. The film succeeds in capturing both the exhilaration and tradition of the sport.

The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival (MVFF) is sponsoring the only Massachusetts screening of the film on Sunday, April 26, at the Capawock Theatre in Vineyard Haven. Live music by The Mattson 2 jazz duo will precede the film, and a hand-shaped Alaia surfboard will be raffled off.



Surfer flick "The Present" will be shown at the Capawock Theatre this Sunday at 7 pm. Photo courtesy of jessicalouise.com

"The Present," which features surfing locales in West Africa, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, California, and Hawaii, also looks at sustainable surfboard construction and the revival of 1,000-year-old Hawaiian Alaia boards. Shot on Super 16mm film, which features a wider frame than conventional 16mm, the film emphasizes the breathtaking scenery that surrounds the sport, in addition to the gripping wave-riding sequences. Down-tempo background music, hallmark of the

director's style, accompanies much of the footage.

"Doing a tour is a long-time tradition in our culture," said Mr. Campbell, whose tour focuses on coastal cities where enclaves of surfers exist. "It's also the most surefire way of bringing the film to the surf community directly, and people love it...It's a really nice exchange." His last film, "Sprout," explored a variety of surfing equipment and toured 30 cities in 2004.

According to Steve Pezman, publisher of The Surfer's Journal, "Until the advent of surf films in the late '50s by guys like Bud Browne, Greg Noll, Jon Severson, and Bruce Browne, the cross-pollination of information and new ideas between surfers was limited to the odd road trip, beach party, or surf competition. The films gave us input on what surfing was, how it was done by the best guys and what exotic places like Hawaii were like...They gave us dreams to chase."

Before the advent of live web cams and online surf reports, surfers had to read the ocean's weather patterns and do surf checks. Surfboards were built by hand instead of mass-produced overseas, as they are now.

The Mattson 2, who will perform Sunday night, consists of identical twins Jared and Jonathan Mattson, a California twosome who were nominated for Best Jazz Band in San Diego by City Beat Magazine. In a recent interview, drummer Jonathan described their music as inspired by traditional and modern jazz, along with the Chicago post-rock scene. The group has toured worldwide, most recently in Brazil, and has a large following in Japan.

VIEW AS SINGLE PAGE 1 | 2 NEXT >

Martha's Vnyrd Car Rental

4 offices - Near Ferries & Airport New Cars-Great Prices-Fast Service

Martha's Vineyard Homes

Over 300+ Martha's Vineyard Homes for Sale and Rent.

AbbyCoastal

Reader Comments

0 comments · Post your own · Sort: Newest First - Oldest First

2009 MARTHA'S VINEYARD EVENTS

On Sale Now

FIND IT ALL ON **Tickets MV**.com

Your one-stop source for what's happening on Martha's Vineyard.

It's not too late.

COLDWELL BANKER
LANDMARKS REAL ESTATE

Great rentals still available.
(508) 693-6866

MARTHA'S VINEYARD
FAST FERRY

vineyardfastferry.com

Vineyard Sky
BEAD DESIGN

LATEST DESIGNS · SHOW SCHEDULE · CLASSES
CUSTOM WORK · REPAIR & RECYCLE YOUR FAVORITES

VINEARDSKY.COM

NEW LOCATION 2ND FLOOR · 13 BEACH STREET EXT
FIVE CORNERS · VINEYARD HAVEN

Leave your comment:

Name:	Email:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Town:	Phone: <i>(including area code)</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Comments:

All fields are required. **Your email address and phone number will not be posted online.**

If you believe a comment violates our [terms of use](#), please notify us by clicking on the "Report this post" link next to it.



Security Code:

Please enter the security code above.

[News](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Directories](#) | [As You See It](#) | [Buy Photos](#) | [Submissions](#) | [Publications](#) | [Store](#)
[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Advertising](#)

mvtimes.com : The Martha's Vineyard Times is a weekly newspaper published on Martha's Vineyard