

EVA ILONA BRZESKI

films

“Sumptuous, intriguing work... aesthetically dazzling.”

— FILMMAKER MAGAZINE

LAST SEEN

24 Girls

This Unfamiliar Place

China Diary

www.evapix.com

**"OBSESSIVE, HAUNTED, BEAUTIFUL...
ECHOING HITCHCOCK, EGOYAN AND LYNCH...A MUST-SEE"**

- WILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL

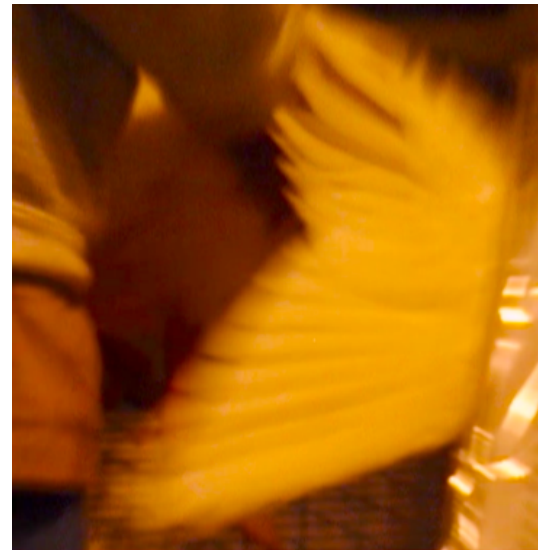


LAST SEEN

portrait of a vanishing

A FILM BY *EVA ILONA BRZESKI*

AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT IS TROUBLED BY GHOSTLY PRESENCES IN THIS INNOVATIVE PORTRAIT OF JENNIFER LANGSAM'S VANISHING, WHERE INTERVIEWS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND WITNESSES NESTLE UNEASILY WITH DREAM-LIKE VISIONS AND REENACTMENTS OF JENNY'S FINAL DAYS. DARKLY FUNNY, HAUNTING AND STRANGE.



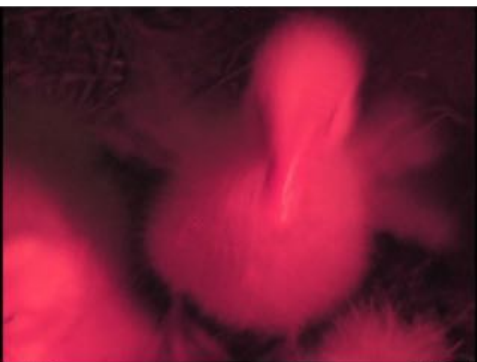
Eva Ilona Brzeski's lovely, evocative feature debut paints a sensitive portrait of Jennifer, a young woman who has willed herself to "simply pass from our sight without a trace." The girl's disappearance is explored through a prismatic lens, revealing multiple layers of meaning as her absence is experienced by those who knew her, and by those who never would. Brzeski's narrative weaves in and out of itself in wonderful ways, in places echoing Hitchcock, Egoyan and Lynch. Structured as a reportage-style inquiry into Jennifer's disappearance, the story unfolds as it follows an obsessive reporter who, plagued by his own dark angels, is haunted by strange sightings of the girl and driven deeper into the mysteries of his own painful past. Beautiful imagery and fine performances by the cast of young actors rates LAST SEEN a must-see, from the first scene to the last.



- Mill Valley Film Festival

LAST SEEN Synopsis

An investigative report is troubled by ghostly presences in this disturbing portrait of Jennifer Langsam's vanishing. Interviews with family, friends and witnesses nestle uneasily with visionary reenactments of Jenny's final days. Conflicting memories raise questions about the events leading up to her disappearance. Disputes emerge and relationships crumble as family secrets force their way into daylight. The reporter struggles to maintain objectivity as Jenny's lingering spirit revives ghosts from his own past. There are indications of mysticism, the hint of prophecy. There are suggestions that she knew she would be taken. Hovering in the netherworld between dream and document, **LAST SEEN** is a troubling and elusive journey of self-discovery, darkly funny, haunting and strange.



Produced & directed by **Eva Ilona Brzeski**

Written and co-produced by **Holiday Reinhorn**

(based on her short story "Last Seen")

Associate Producer and Creative Consultant: **Rainn Wilson**

Editor: **Eva Ilona Brzeski**

Photography: **Eva Ilona Brzeski, Michael Novak, Elisabeth M. Spencer**

Original Music: **Victor Zupanc**

Sound Design: **Dog Bark Sound, Inc.**

Narrative, 78 minutes, color

CAST:

MICHAEL TEZLA

JOE MINJARES

LEAH CURNEY

SALLY WINGERT

AMANDA DETMER

RICHARD OOMS

CLAUDIA WILKENS

JULIE BRISKMAN-HALL

CATHERINE EATON

DAVID MANN

ISABELL MONK

RICHARD IGLEWSKI

BARBARA JUNE PATTERSON

CATHY FULLER



"At last, here is a film that doesn't fetishize the little girl, but simply understands her and stands witness to human potential."

- MovieMaker Magazine



24 girls

An audition of young girls at the border of childhood.
The memory of one girl who died.

A Film By
Eva Ilona Brzeski

24 Girls

An audition of young girls on the border of childhood,

The memory of one girl who died,

The potential and mystery inherent in every life.



At last, here is a film that doesn't fetishize the little girl, but simply understands her and stands witness to human potential.

- MovieMaker Magazine

Brzeski deftly weaves together glimpses of these living girls and the memory of one who has passed away, and in the process makes a film that's quite stunning.

- Filmmaker Magazine

The film evokes what we have forgotten: the particular pitch of anxiety and loneliness at this time of life... This is a wonderful film.

- St. Louis Riverfront Times

Documentary, 29 minutes, color

24 Girls Synopsis

While auditioning young girls for a film project, the filmmaker remembers a childhood friend who died at the same age. Charming and awkward, poised and shy, one girl after another steps into the limelight to offer her singular voice and being for the camera, as if auditioning for her own future life.

Just below the surface lingers the memory of the girl who died. Elusive fragments evoke her imagined dreams and visions, her unknowable inner world. Each auditioning girl holds the promise of a life still unfolding, as we are drawn ever deeper into the hidden landscapes of the long-lost child.



Ann Arbor Film Festival Most Promising Filmmaker Award
Louisville Film Festival, Best of Festival
San Francisco International Film Festival New Visions Award
New Orleans Film Festival Lagniappe Award
Gold Plaque, Chicago International Film Festival
Women in the Director's Chair
New Zealand International Film Festival
Uppsala Short Film Festival
Semana de Cine Experimental de Madrid
Taos Talking Pictures Festival
Film Arts Festival
Sedona International Film Festival
Hamptons International Film Festival
Shorts International Film Festival
New York International Children's Film Festival
Camden Girls Film Festival
Florida Film & Video Festival
West Palm Beach Independent Film Festival
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis



"INTENSE, MOVING, SUGGESTIVE AND UNDERSTATED..."

- MICHAEL BERENBAUM, DIRECTOR, THE SHOAH FOUNDATION



THIS UNFAMILIAR PLACE

A FILM BY
EVA ILONA BRZESKI

THIS UNFAMILIAR PLACE Synopsis

A man refuses to speak about his past as a Hidden Child in Nazi-occupied Poland and the family that he lost during Hitler's evacuation of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Decades later, a natural disaster leads his daughter to ask him about the story he has guarded for so long. What results is a thoughtful exploration of the long shadow cast by war and genocide, and the imperfect healing of the human heart.

"...Intense, moving, suggestive and understated..."

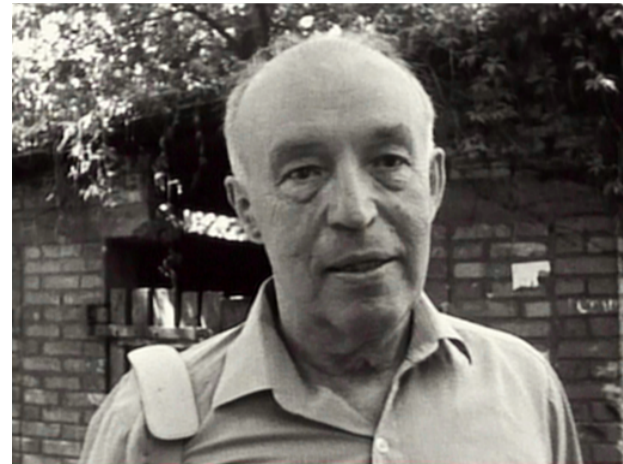
– **Michael Berenbaum, Director, The Shoah Foundation**

"A breathtakingly poignant and unique film that is sure to ignite discussion..."

– **Joshua Aronson, Ph.D., Steinhardt School of Culture Education & Human Development, New York University**

"...Says more about World War II, displacement and pain than many films ten times longer...Very sensitive, personal and moving."

– **Jonas Mekas, Anthology Film Archive**



"... A subtle film about the most poignant aspects of our humanity. It should be viewed and discussed in schools where in a maelstrom of information we have too few opportunities to educate the heart."

– **Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul***

Emmy Award Winner, Regional Division
Sundance Film Festival
International Documentary Association - Special Jury Award
Cleveland International Film Festival - Best of Festival &
Best Documentary Short Subject
Chicago International Film Festival - Gold Hugo
Utah Short Film & Video Festival - Best Documentary
Ann Arbor Film Festival - Award of Excellence
Atlanta Film & Video Festival Best Student Documentary
Louisville Film & Video Festival Merit Award
Cork International Film Festival Merit Award

Documentary, 10 minutes, color





China Diary (911)

A Film By
Eva Ilona Brzeski

China Diary Synopsis

China. September 11th, 2001.

The filmmaker watches from across the world as the Twin Towers fall less than a mile from her apartment in lower Manhattan. The global tragedy takes on a uniquely personal dimension as those buildings also represent the only link to a mysterious grandfather, long gone. Life in New York is shattered while life in China goes on.



Written Directed and Edited by Eva Ilona Brzeski

Documentary, 12 minutes, color

Walker Art Center
Women in the Director's Chair
Wisconsin Film Festival
Nashville Film Festival
Florida Film Festival
Facets Film Festival
Nantucket Film Festival
Maine International Film Festival
Institute of Contemporary Arts(ICA), London
SeNef Festival of New Media, Seoul Korea
Red Vic, San Francisco
Olympia Film Society, Olympia, WA
Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia, SC
Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver, BC
George Eastman Theatre, Rochester, NY
Cincinnati Film Society
Wexner Center, Columbus, OH
Woodstock Film Festival
United Nations Film Festival
Sao Paulo International Festival of Short Film, Brazil
San Francisco Cinematheque
San Francisco Artists Television Access
Rafael Film Center, San Rafael
The Roxie, San Francisco
Fine Arts Theatre, Berkeley, CA
University of California Irvine UN/Human Rights Festival





About the Filmmaker

Featured in Filmmaker Magazine, Eva Ilona Brzeski is the award-winning writer, director and editor of **This Unfamiliar Place**, **24 Girls** and **China Diary**, and the director and editor of the independent feature **LAST SEEN**. She edited the acclaimed documentaries **UNDER OUR SKIN**, **As She Is**, **Twitch** and was a co-editor on **Serenade for Haiti** as well many other documentary and narrative films & television series.

Eva's films have screened worldwide at such festivals as Sundance and Tribeca Film Festival, and have received numerous awards including the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Regional Emmy, Louisville Film & Video Festival Best of the Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival Best of Festival Short Subject and Best Documentary Short Subject, Ann Arbor Film Festival Most Promising Filmmaker Award and Award of Excellence, San Francisco International Film Festival New Visions Award, International Documentary Association Special Jury Award, Utah Short Film Festival Best Documentary, Chicago International Film Festival Gold Hugo, and New Orleans Film & Video Festival Lagniappe Award. Eva's films have also screened at South by Southwest, Women in the Director's Chair, Edinburgh Film Festival, Cinema du Reel, Shorts International Film Festival, Walker Art Center, Anthology Film Archive, Pacific Film Archive, American Cinematheque, LA Film Forum, SF Cinematheque, The Roxy Theater, The Fine Arts Theater, HBO and at numerous other venues.

Eva lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area where she is also a free-lance editor and studies and teaches Kadampa Buddhist meditation. She just completed a short film **Fellow American** and is currently developing a new project.

