



"89 GATOR MINE"

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Directed by Josh Slates; screens with *Goliath*

Local filmmaker Josh Slates hearts the '80s in his latest short (executive produced by erstwhile *City Paper* contributor Benn Ray and shot by *CP* contributor Evan Guilfoyle; *CP* art director Joe MacLeod is listed toward the end of the credits as a "producer" as well). "89 Gator Mine" centers on young Rhett (Nicolette Le Faye) and her adventures slugging cough syrup, chugging booze, going to see bands, and bullshitting about the strange state of the world in the title year. It's clear that Rhett is a little more thoughtful than her burnout peer group, but the short's full potential as a narrative/character study is hobbled by its eight-minute run time. What survives best, then, is a poke at the things Americans worried about then—nuclear war, nuclear disaster, Libya—and what we were incapable of imagining would come to pass. (Lee Gardner)

### AMERICAN TEEN

Directed by Nanette Burstein  
This much buzzed-about documentary follows four teenagers in a small Indiana town through a year of, um, being teenagers.

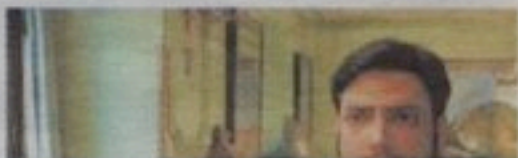
### LA AMERICANA \*

Directed by Nicholas Bruckman

There are many ways to cinematically dissect hot-button national issues, from sweeping epics to small, personal case studies. *La Americana* opts for the latter, documenting the illegal immigrant Carmen's painful struggle to care from afar for her paraplegic daughter living back home in Bolivia. Torn between staying in New York to earn money for her daughter's medical expenses and going home to parent her, Carmen finally decides to leave her boyfriend and multiple jobs to return home to her family. But her bittersweet homecoming merely reinforces what she already knew: Her daughter needed to join her in New York, not vice versa. This surprisingly poignant and affecting documentary quietly condemns a government so embroiled in its own bickering that it can no longer properly govern, as Carmen tearfully laments: "The American dream is just a theory, it never really existed." (G. Brian Davis)

### AROUND THE WORLD SHORTS \*

"Around the World" proves fitting not only geographically, but in style and subject for seven vastly diverse short films. The program opens with *Ciro Altabas' "Made in Japan,"* a flighty, flitting little movie that



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