



## Locally produced surf film an inspirational journey

By Bill Thompson  
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An A-Frame of a film, "Finding Pura Vida" is a locally produced documentary on surfing community's penchant for cause travel, which is to say sojourns to surfing destinations with more than just exhilaration in mind.

Set in Costa Rica, the film premieres Saturday as part of the inaugural Charleston International Film Festival. It will be screened 4-6 p.m. at the Terrace Theater.

The project is the latest from Organic Process Productions, co-produced by Fuzzco, a Charleston-based creative studio. The documentary also sports an original score from local musicians Bill Carson and Ron Wiltrout.

"Finding Pura Vida" follows surfers who pooled their resources to undertake a one-day surf clinic for a group of orphaned children from San Jose, Costa Rica. Seven years on, volunteer and pro surfers from around the United States and Costa Rica travel annually for the event, called the Pura Vida No Pro. Since the inception of the event, organizers have purchased a building and founded a transitional home for orphaned teenage boys.

Accompanying the film is a book, presented as a photo-journal, which melds the photos of professional photographers with the photos of children who were given disposable waterproof cameras and charged with capturing their favorite moments.

Proceeds from the sales of both the DVD and book will go to provide additional financial support to the Hospicio de Huerfanos orphanage in San Jose.

The event's media director and avid surfer, Tim McManus of Peninsula Media of Charleston, says he determined to take on the project in hopes of inspiring other surfers to reach out to local communities when they travel. Nearly two dozen Charleston surfers now make the trip to Costa Rica each year to volunteer, he says, and have developed a special relationship with the local community and its children.

"It has really been amazing to see how the involvement of the Charleston surf community has organically grown over the years," he says. "What we get as volunteers is just way beyond anything we could get from a standard surf trip."

Go ahead, carve a wave.

### **Jumpin' at Juilliard**

Filmmaker and novelist Nick Smith of Charleston is at the helm of the documentary "Kids Go to the City," in which 12 Charleston-area students in the "Summer in the City" program