

Unfettering the Falcons

[the possibility of a performance enhancing makeover]



A short documentary by Niklas Sven Vollmer and Laura Kissel

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 8 MINUTES / SHOOTING FORMAT: DVCAM /
RELEASE DATE: APRIL 2007

SCREENINGS / AWARDS:

2007 HOTDOCS (Canada)

2007 International Documentary Challenge (IDC) – **IDC Original Vision Award & Best Sports Genre**

2007 ACE / SILVERDOCS Documentary Grant – Semi-Finalist (Top 10 out of 100 grant)

2007 Dokufest (Kosovo)

2007 International Documentary Challenge Showcase – sponsored by SILVERDOCS at the AFI Silver Theater

2008 Northwest Film Forum IDC Showcase, Seattle, WA

2008 Big Sky Documentary Festival, Missoula, MT

2008 EarthVision Environmental Film Festival, Santa Cruz, CA – **Katherine Knight Award**

2008 Atlanta Film Festival

2008 Nashville Film Festival

2008 Indie Grits Film Festival, Columbia, SC

SYNOPSIS: Part road movie, part nature documentary, *Unfettering the Falcons* questions the false gender identity of the Atlanta Falcons football team via identical twin bird of prey experts who spark a quirky courtship between an American Kestrel (falcon) and a has-been 1991 Toyota Tercel (the “falcon” is a female bird a third stronger and larger than its male counterpart, the “tercel”).

BIOS:

Niklas Sven Vollmer is an interdisciplinary artist who teaches film/video production at Georgia State University. Niklas received an MFA in Visual Art from the University of California, San Diego, and has been nominated for a *Rockefeller Multimedia/Film/Video Fellowship*, and was a *Finalist* for the Southern Humanities Media Fund and a *Semi-Finalist* for the 2007 ACE/SILVERDOCS Grant. His work has screened in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia; and at AFI, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, California Museum of Photography, and the Directors Guild of Los Angeles. Past distinctions include: *Best Sports Documentary* and the *Original Vision Award* at the International Documentary Challenge premiered at HOTDOCS, *Experimental Faculty Juror Award* from the University Film and Video Association, *Best Short* from United States Super 8 Film & Digital Video Festival, *1st Place Documentary* at the Southern Fried Film Festival, *Experimental Cinematography*

Award from the Trenton Film Festival, *Experimental Runner Up* at the Great Lakes Independent Film Festival, *Director's Choice* at the Atlanta Film & Video Festival, *2nd Place Documentary* at the Savannah International Film Festival, *Best Experimental* at the San Diego Film & Video Makers Showcase, *Finalist* at the USA Film Festival, and *2nd Place Experimental* at AFI's Vision of US Competition. Niklas is a current Board Member of the University Film & Video Association (UFVA). Before academia, he was an editor at KPBS, San Diego's primary Public Television station.

Laura Kissel is a documentary filmmaker, Associate Professor of Media Arts at the University of South Carolina and co-founder of the Orphan Film Symposium, a symposia series dedicated to the research, preservation and exhibition of orphan films. Kissel's documentary work explores issues surrounding landscape use and meaning, the representation of history, and the use of orphan films. Her latest nonfiction work, *Cabin Field*, has been honored with three festival awards including the *Juried Citation Award* at the 2006 Black Maria Film and Video Festival. Kissel has received many fellowships and grants for her work, including: the *South Carolina Media Arts Fellowship* (2008); a *MacDowell Fellowship* (2006); a residency with *Working Films* at MASS MOCA (2005); and funding from the *South Carolina Humanities Council*. Kissel is currently in production on *Disability Is Us*, a documentary about the representation of disability, eugenics and disability civil rights and also working as Director of Photography on *Open Secret*, a documentary about family secrets in a small, Kansas town. Kissel received her MFA in Radio-TV-Film from Northwestern University in 1999.

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