

Growing Up Without Television . . . Trials and Tribulations of Developing Visual Media in a Culture of Oral Tradition

A talk by Catherine Pancake

**Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Marshall University Graduate College
South Charleston
Room 319**

Pancake will speak about the conceptual and socioeconomic barriers to developing visual media as a native Appalachian from a very rural area—the honest truth about growing up in West Virginia and struggling to become a visual/media artist covering your home and its context. A reception will follow. Free and open to the public.

Growing up in Romney and Summersville, WV, Pancake is a filmmaker and musician, whose cultural action is closely tied into her work with radical representation. Based in Baltimore, Maryland, since 1993, Pancake co-founded the Red Room Collective (<http://www.redroom.org/>) and High Zero Foundation (a festival of Improvised, Experimental music), became a self-trained improvising percussionist, and began making films, which ranged from short, experimental meditations to feature-length narratives and documentaries. She also is a founding member of the Charm City Kitty Club (GLBT Performance Series) and the Transmodern Festival (Live.Art.Action.) (<http://www.transmodernfestival.org/2009/about>).

Extra

Come see Pancake's film *Black Diamonds* – March 4, 7 p.m. – Room 319 – free and open to the public

Pancake's award-winning feature documentary, *Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the Fight for Coalfield Justice* (Bull Frog Films, 2006), explores radical community resistance to the explosive rise of mountaintop removal coal mines in Appalachian states. The film illustrates in graphic detail the destructive effects of mountaintop removal seen through the eyes of local citizens, as well as national experts. The film's choice to place citizen's dramatic stories at the forefront in the on-going battle over Appalachia's mountains lead the Village Voice to call the film "Searing." For more information see: <http://www.blackdiamondsmovie.com/>.

A Project of Dr. Chris Green and his "Documenting Appalachia" Graduate Humanities Seminar
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