

### Pasatiempo Movies Calendar

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### 16th annual Santa Fe Film Festival

## Reviews of select festival films

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Posted: Friday, December 9, 2016 5:00 am



### Pasa staff

**ART OF THE PRANK**, documentary, 82 minutes, not rated, 3.5 chiles

Branded as the godfather of the media hoax, artist and activist Joey Skaggs satirizes social convention, often with hilarious results. *Art of the Prank* is a laugh-out-loud documentary with a pertinent message for our times, when fake and exaggerated news stories proliferate and people readily believe what they're told instead of investigating and engaging in critical thinking. Written and directed by Andrea Marini, the feature details Skaggs' previous fictions: a celebrity sperm bank, a mobile confessional called a "portofess," a set of proposed rules for walking, and a brothel for dogs that led to Skaggs getting a subpoena from the New York attorney general after the story raised concerns at the NYPD, the mayor's office, and the ASPCA. Journalists at ABC News and

### A new wave: The Santa Fe Film Festival expands its offerings

Today, many New Mexicans make a living working on film and television crews, and the Santa Fe Film Festival is an annual late-fall tradition. In addition to the slate of feature films, documentaries, and short programs curated for the festival's 16th incarnation, there are numerous panels, workshops, and parties, as well as Tune-Up, a three-day event designed to help aspiring actors and others who want to work in film learn how to break into the business. > READ STORY

elsewhere ran the story as fact.

But all of this is background. Skaggs is an artist whose medium is the ruse, and his hoaxes are a commentary on the state of the media, given to sensationalism at the expense of good journalism. This is borne out by the fact that *The Village Voice*, the Huffington Post, and CNN, among many other news outlets, have been taken in by his scams. Skaggs chose the route of the prankster, turning performance art into spectacles of absurdity involving multiple participants and relying on the tacit acceptance of people who don't seem to know any better — along with, of course, the power of the media. However, this portrait shows that Skaggs isn't just pulling your chain but also making you think — and the film provides insight into his working method, which is often a collaborative effort. — Michael Abatemarco

**Center for Contemporary Arts, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10; Skaggs and Marini are in attendance at the screening**

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#### Opening this Week more...

- |  |                              |       |
|--|------------------------------|-------|
|  | 1. The Bounce Back           | n/a   |
|  | 2. Miss Sloane               | n/a   |
|  | 3. Office Christmas Party    | n/a   |
|  | 4. Nocturnal Animals         | n/a   |
|  | 5. Rogue One: A Star Wars... | PG-13 |

#### Now Playing more...

- |  |                          |       |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
|  | 1. Moana                 | PG    |
|  | 2. Allied                | R     |
|  | 3. Arrival               | PG-13 |
|  | 4. Manchester by the Sea | R     |
|  | 5. Doctor Strange        | PG-13 |

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