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# SEATTLEWEEKLY

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NEWS SIFF 2007

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**Buzzer Beater**  
SEATTLE SPORTS  
(but mostly just basketball)



*Photo courtesy of SIFF.*

**American Shopper**

**When:** 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** Harvard Exit, 807 East Roy St.

**Cost:** \$10

**Rating:** Not Rated

**More Info:** [www.seattlefilm.org](http://www.seattlefilm.org)

Nothing I've seen thus far at SIFF has been funnier. Or as misleading. Do with that information what you will, then try to figure out the catch in the final credits. But you know what? It's a world premiere documentary, and I'm not giving any spoilers. A persistent, implacable insurance agent in Columbia, Missouri creates what he calls the National Aisling League, then sets out to recruit local townsfolk to compete in the first championship event. Which entails decorating one's shopping cart, devising costume and choreography, then being scored by judges while artfully retrieving items from an assigned list. Among the citizen contestants are a formerly homeless

actor, a likeable redneck who equips his cart with a marshmallow cannon, an aging hippie chick fond of freeform interpretive dance, and a husband-and-wife pair of cutthroat, Type-A competitors, each determined to beat the other. "I'm a win-aholic," says the perky wife, an ex-beauty queen whose husband goes with a *Star Trek* theme complete with laptop mounted on cart. It's all quite Christopher Guest-worthy, for reasons more than one. BRIAN MILLER

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**Week Three: Picks & Pans**

Posted June 6 at 1:56 pm by Chris Kornelis

**Alive**

Russia's been producing some interesting movies about its disastrous military intervention in Chechnya (as we'll soon be doing about Iraq), but this isn't one of them. Young veteran Sergei (Andrei Chadov) returns home to the provinces missing half a leg following an ambush we never see. As he reacquaints himself with his mother and girlfriend, periodic flashbacks to the snowy Caucasus introduce his platoon buddies—and, again, we're not quite sure what became of them. Until, that is, two fellow soldiers show up as ghosts and begin following Sergei through his uneasy homecoming. Why does Sergei flip out into violence when receiving his discharge pay? What does it mean when he's hit by a car, not once, but twice? And what does the third-act appearance of a priest portend? A spiritual journey, of course; and despite the baffling gaps in its story, *Alive* follows an utterly predictable path. (NR) BRIAN MILLER *Lincoln Square: 7 p.m.*

*Thurs., June 7. Neptune: 3:45 p.m. Sat., June 9.*

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**Wednesday's SIFF Pick: *White Palms***

Posted June 5 at 3:52 pm by T.J. Tranchell