

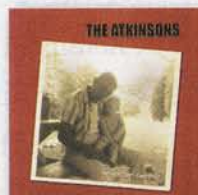


Abduction, deception, rejection and redemption frame the suspenseful tale of **Beast of Burden**, a locally produced film due out this month. Created and produced by local talent Mark Joy in association with Studio 108, it's the first episode in a short-story series being adapted for film. Look for a cast of Richmond actors and easy-to-spot locations, including the Pony Pasture and Penny Lane Pub. For release details, visit www.markjoyfilms.com.

Radar

BEAST OF BURDEN | OPEN FIRE | AMERICAN GOTHIC

Given that its name comes from a 1970s B-grade skin flick, Alabama Thunderpussy is the kind of band that's sure to trigger your mom's panic alarm — unless she happens to be a head-thrashin' metal freak. Lucky for her, if she is: The Richmond-based quintet is back, armed with a new vocalist for its latest album, **Open Fire**, released last month. Visit www.atprva.com for details. ▼



It's not as easy these days to find a sprawling country road that's not bisected by a major interstate. But if you can find that road, The Atkinsons' debut Americana album **American Gothic** may be a good traveling companion. The six-piece Richmond group blends country and rock, laced with mandolin and fiddle accents — as well as a bit of sawdust and whiskey thrown in for good measure. For details, visit www.theatkinsons.us.

TOP LEFT: BOB JONES PHOTO; TOP RIGHT: PHOTO COURTESY ATP; BOTTOM LEFT: ROBERT LLEWELLYN PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRICUS

17th-Century Flashbacks

Re-enactors at Henricus Historical Park in Chester



Democracy and Slavery

During the summer of 1619 in Jamestown, two far-reaching events occurred. On July 30, the General Assembly was established. It was the beginning of representative democracy in North America. But because of British custom, membership was limited to male landowners. Eng-

lish indentured servants received no voice, and many of them suffered cruel mistreatments.

Then, on Aug. 20, planter John Rolfe noted in his diary, "There came in a Dutch man-of-warre that sold us 20 negars." They weren't the first Africans in Virginia, though. And while their arrival heralded chattel

slavery, these Africans were indentured and allowed to buy land upon completion of their contract. Either way, it was a terrible life. Thus, the dynamic between master and slave, and between those who own property and those who don't, became part of the nation's sociopolitical DNA. —Harry Kollatz Jr.