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'Endings' with Paulo Costanzo

Paulo Costanzo is a New York man now. Having previously made his home in L.A., Costanzo relocated to New York for his USA show, "Royal Pains," in which he plays a quirky accountant. The series will start its new season on June 29.

"The show is very fun," he says. "It's a very happy-ending show, which is one of the reasons that it's fun to make."

But things were not so sunny in the plot of Costanzo's latest film, "A Beginner's Guide to Endings," in which he plays the uptight son of a departed, no-good dad whose will in-

forms his sons that they are due to die soon, because of some pharmaceutical testing pop put them through as children in order to score extra cash.

Given that they have only weeks or days to live, the boys embark on some crazy wish-fulfillment adventures. If he was in that predicament, Costanzo himself wouldn't be quite so brash.

"I've already gone sky-diving," the 32-year-old actor says. "If I was a single dude whose parents were dead, then I'd have a whole other thing. But I've come to the conclusion in my life that really, if things go bad, the things that matter most are my wife and family."

● METRO/HP



Paulo Costanzo stars in "A Beginner's Guide to Endings," which opens the GenArt festival tonight.

TV time

How long will we be feeling "Royal Pains"?

▶ "As long as the [ratings] stay what they have been, I think it will go for

as long as the numbers stay that way," says Costanzo. "I do see it going on for a couple more seasons. It's going incredibly well — better than I ever would've imagined."

Gen Art keeps it hip

▶ The 16th-annual festival opens tonight with 'A Beginner's Guide to Endings' ▶ How the top-flight event picks its cutting-edge films



▶ Scott Caan stars in "A Beginner's Guide to Endings," which opens the festival tonight. For more info on how to get tickets, visit www.genart.org.

Docs represent

"The kind of documentaries we like to show are dramatic personal stories," Abramson explains. "You're not going to come to the Gen Art film festival to see a documentary that's an intellectualized portrait of war in a third world."

"Gold's Gold," the documentary screening at the fest this year, tells the story of a geophysicist who goes looking for gold once he realizes that melting glaciers have exposed untouched land for prospecting.

Seven films, seven shorts, seven parties, seven nights. That's the straightforward set up of the Gen Art film festival, which kicks off its 16th year in business tonight. Catering to young trendsetters, the fest, sponsored in part by Metro, has devoted itself to selecting undiscovered gems for its NYC premiere.

"This audience is used to being ahead of the curve in everything that they do, so we want to give them sneak peaks of films that

"This audience is used to being ahead of the curve."

JEFF ABRAMSON

we think will go on to be bigger releases, or that the filmmakers themselves are going to have long careers and the audience will be able to say that they supported them first," explains Jeff Abramson, co-president of Gen Art.

This year's selections feature films that are

bound to garner further buzz at the festival's famous after-parties. When asked to name his favorite movies that will be shown, Abramson demurs, saying they are like his own children — he couldn't pick a favorite. But he does mention that one of the films, "The Pill," is bound to spark interesting results following screenings.

"This movie is spot-on perfect for the Gen Art demographic — looking for love but ending up in the

beds of people we barely knew the day before," he says. "It's a comedic romp that explores what could happen if you're not careful and how people will find themselves entangled after a one-night stand. I think our audience will find it very relatable. It will be interesting to see at the after-party that night — if it will create more mingling or less mingling."

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