An Island Calling: A Coup, a Murder, the Pacific. color. 75 min. Annie Goldson, dist. by Icarus Films, 2009.

An Island Calling examines the murders of John Scott and his life partner, Greg Scrivener, on the seemingly idyllic island of Fiji. The film is based on the 2004 book Deep Beyond the Reef by John's brother Owen. Murders in Fiji are rare enough, but John came from a family who had lived on Fiji for four generations and whose great-grandfather had been revered and admired by native Fijians. Ironically, that patriarch had come to Fiji bringing Christianity and the Bible, which may have contributed to John's and Greg's murders. In addition to Owen's narration, the documentary includes fluid scenes of those who knew John and press conferences held throughout the investigation. Director Goldson weaves and untangles the larger issues facing not just Fiji but also a postcolonial world and juxtaposes them with the horror and shock of the killings. In doing so, An Island Calling transcends the mystery surrounding a gay couple and confronts shifting cultural stigmas and taboos in a fascinating manner. All viewers will appreciate the artistic accomplishment Goldson achieves. Highly recommended.

By Gerald A. Notaro, Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg