DANGEROUSLY 2,000 FEET above ground with camera in hand, Trevor Povah (REC '04) captures the dizzying descent of three base jumpers as they step off a rocky cliff.

Without all his usual safety and climbing equipment, Povah admitted to feeling a little anxious that day in central China. But that's all part of the thrill for the action sports enthusiast and videographer who makes his living photographing daredevils on land, in water, and hurtling through thin air.

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When he approached the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration Department about creating a business plan for his own videography company as his senior project, he got the green light. “It was sort of an unusual set-up, but they approved it,” Povah said.

That was the first step in the creation of Red Potion Productions. Povah’s action sports photography company that allows him to work and play at the same time.

His latest venture, “Lost in the Middle,” is a 30-minute film capturing top local surfers riding waves from Point Conception to Big Sur. Povah’s love of surfing is evident in the film, which shows the sport and the athletes to great advantage. Povah is pleased with the way things have come together, and he encourages students to follow his lead. “Tell students to be creative. Do something different. Approach your department with a new plan. That’s what Cal Poly wants – for you to go for it.”

Povah remains true to his philosophy. He is creative. He trusts his instincts. He follows a different path. Is there anything this thrill-seeker wouldn’t photograph?

“Weddings,” he said. “I don’t do weddings. They’re way too stressful.”

When filming white-water kayakers, he uses a waterproof case for his equipment, sets it in his lap, and takes off ahead of the kayakers he wants to photograph. Shooting the rapids and underwater, Povah’s photographs give the more-timid viewer a glimpse of life in the fast lane.

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