

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER®

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TV reviews

THE VANISHING LINE

(KCET) 10 p.m. Tuesday

Physician-filmmaker Maren Monsen's philosophical discourse on the medical response to death, this week's installment in public television's "P.O.V." series explores a difficult subject with depth, substance and, given Monsen's coolly detached style, surprising compassion.

With the help of hospice social



Death watchers: Maren Monsen, Jim Brigham on "Vanishing Line."

worker Jim Brigham, whose wife died from multiple sclerosis, Monsen chronicles her own coming-of-age as a doctor beginning in complete innocence and ending with profound insights into the nature of death and the proper role of the healer.

Using a highly articulate documentary technique laced with an imaginative use of pop culture images and sounds, and effectively narrating the 60-minute film from a straightforward script by her and Olivia Crawford, Monsen creates a vivid and illuminating revelation of how those who are dying might be better served.

Laurence Vittes

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