

FILM COMPETITION AND INTERNATIONAL JURY

The 2015 Banff Mountain Film Competition saw 350 films submitted from 34 countries. One of the most difficult jobs at any competitive festival is choosing the winners. This process starts with our pre-screening committee, who viewed ALL 350 films. From these, 89 finalists were selected. This year's Festival features over 50 World and North American premieres.

During the Festival, our international jury – selected to represent a range of knowledge and experience in film production, distribution, film criticism, and mountaineering and exploration – screens each finalist and determines the award winners.

A sincere thank you goes to each of them for helping us ensure that fine filmmaking is recognized and rewarded, and that our Festival programming continues to be of the finest quality. The awards are announced on Sunday evening, November 8, in the Eric Harvie Theatre. The winners will be announced online at banffmountainfestival.ca.

ALDO AUDISIO (ITA)

Also Audisio is the director of the Museo Nazionale della Montagna in Turin, Italy and the coordinator of the International Alliance for Mountain Film. The museum houses national and international exhibits linking the world's mountain ranges through a cultural focus. For more than 35 years, Audisio has promoted mountain film around the world, and has created the collection of the Museum's Cinema Documentation and Historical Film Library.

SARAH HUENIKEN (CAN)

Sarah Hueniken is passionate about climbing in all its forms. She is a leading guide in rock, ice and alpine climbing from Canmore, AB. Her guiding and courses focus on teaching women the skills necessary to be independent in the mountains and in alpine environments. She recently teamed up with Will Gadd for the first ascent of Niagara Falls, and she has numerous other first ascents on ice and mixed routes around the world.

DINA MUFTI (UK)

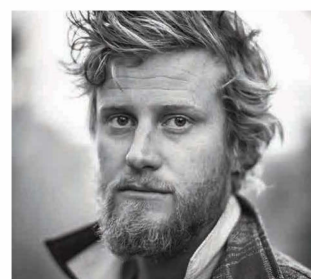
Dina Mufti is a full-time documentary director and some-time actor and photographer. She is best known for the BBC series' *Earth's Natural Wonders* and *Human Planet*, and observational pieces *What Do Artists Do All Day?* and *Trawlermen* – the UK version of the *Deadliest Catch*. Uniting this work is a strong eye for character which has earned her a BBC Director General award for creativity. She is currently working on a major BBC series exploring the culture and wildlife of the world's best known mountain ranges.

PETER POPALL (GER)

Peter Popall has worked for the Petzl Company for more than 30 years, working his way up through their sales, development, and marketing, technical information and communications departments and is now the director of brand management and Vice President. Over these years, Popall participated along with Paul Petzl and the Petzl team in the development of modern mountaineering equipment. He is also a certified mountain guide and ski instructor with a strong passion for mountaineering.

CORY RICHARDS (USA)

Cory Richards is renowned and respected for his soulful approach to alpinism, adventure and visual storytelling. Having traveled to the far reaches of the globe, Richards made a name for himself in 2011 when he climbed Pakistan's Gasherbrum II, making him the first American to summit an 8,000-meter peak during winter. He would go on to create a documentary about his experience and take home the coveted Grand Prize at the 2011 Banff Mountain Film & Book Festival for his film, *Cold*. Named National Geographic adventurer of the year in 2012, he has embarked on mountain explorations from Antarctica to the Himalayas, capturing stunning photographs that shed new light on people, places and cultures at the edges of the Earth.



Photos, top to bottom:
Aldo Audisio, Sarah Hueniken, Dina Mufti,
Peter Poppall, Cory Richards