

Grand Prize

Sponsored by Mountain Equipment Co-op

Death on Nanga Parbat (Tod am Nanga Parbat — Die Messner-Tragödie)

Germany, 2004, 44 minutes

Directed by Ludwig Ott

Produced by Jo Angerer

Production company: Westdeutscher Rundfunk



This documentary about the tragic death of Reinhold Messner's brother on Nanga Parbat features film material, photos taken in the extreme conditions of the ascent, and interviews with participants of previous expeditions who talk for the first time on camera about the tragic event, allowing this 1970 expedition to be seen in a new light. Included is unseen film shot by the cameraman, the only witness to spend the night with Messner's brother before the latter climbed the peak.

“For the Grand Prize, we looked to a film that transcends category,” says jury member Julie Tait. “In giving us fresh insight into a historic event and the cult of hero, *Death on Nanga Parbat* offers the viewer a depth of experience that underlines the power of the medium. It's a triumph of substance over style.”

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Short Mountain Film
Sponsored by Mountain Hardwear

The Western Lands — Hoy

UK, 2007, 9 minutes

Directed and produced by Grant Gee



Writer Jim Perrin's attempted climb of the Old Man of Hoy on his 60th birthday. A poetic documentary of love, loss and landscape under the dying of the light. Contains suggestive language.

"The filmmaker creates a rich and beautiful canvas on which this story is told," says jury member Julie Tait. "This is a sensual film with an experimental treatment, a story of life, love and loss." "It's sex mixed up with climbing," adds jury member Pat Morrow.

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Environment
Sponsored by Patagonia

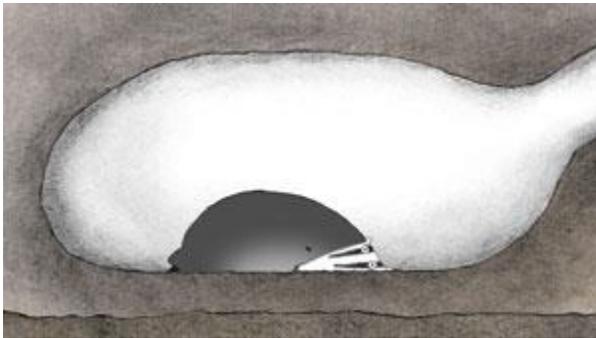
Badgered

UK, 2005, 7 minutes

Directed by Sharon Colman

Produced by Jamie Wolpert

Production company: National Film and Television School



The tale of a badger who just wants the world to let him sleep.

“Director Sharon Colman has given us a refreshing look at the resilience of the natural world in the face of human impact. She’s creatively delivered a serious subject in a light-hearted and humorous way,” says jury member Rob Frost.

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Climbing

Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada

King Lines

USA, 2007, 50 minutes

Directed and produced by Josh Lowell and Peter Mortimer

Production company: Sender Films



Filmed on location in France, California, Venezuela, Greece, Utah, and Mallorca, *King Lines* captures Chris Sharma's most outrageous ascents and visionary projects, and explores his fascinating lifestyle as a nomadic professional climber and global citizen.

"He has everything," says jury member Kerrie Long. "He's young, talented, beautiful and articulate. And yet, this is a gritty story of persistence and determination — he's always reaching for the route he might not be able to do."

Best Feature-length Mountain Film
Sponsored by Camper's Village

Loop

Norway, 2005, 75 minutes

Directed and produced by Sjur Paulsen

Production company: Sub Productions

Searching for extraordinary ski trails, an engineer and a fishing enthusiast travel from Narvik to the Lofoten Islands on a cutter. A marketing expert manages to climb one of Norway's most difficult routes all alone, just to BASE jump from the top. A paramedic takes time out from his exhausting job to monitor a large forest area and prevent outbreaks of fire. What unites these four men is a typical professional career on the one hand and the courage to defy conventions on the other. *Loop* tells us their stories and introduces us to 90-year-old Arne Næss, a philosopher and adventurer.

"It's very difficult to deal with the philosophical approach to life in the mountains, and do it visually, not just with words," says jury member Pat Morrow. "This film does that, with its strong synergy among visuals, narration and dialogue."

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Sports
Sponsored by Big Rock Brewery

People's Choice Award
Sponsored by Ortovox

20 Seconds of Joy

Germany, 2007, 60 minutes

Directed by Jens Hoffmann

Produced by Clenonice Comino

Production company: F24 Film GmbH



“I don’t want to die, I want to live. I’m pretty good at running away, and this is my escape!” This is how Karina Hollekim describes her dedication to BASE jumping. Documentary filmmaker Jens Hoffman first met the now 30-year-old Norwegian in 2002. He immediately started to film, accompanying her through many stages of her BASE-jumping career, until it comes to a sudden stop, changing all aspects of her life.

“We get to know the central character over time, and the film combines precipitous physical locations with insight into the deepest recesses of this athlete’s mind,” says jury member Pat Morrow. This film was also voted the favourite of 53 finalists by festival attendees

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Culture
Sponsored by Petzl

Nine Winters Old

USA, 2006, 63 minutes

Directed by Bill Heath

Produced by Rich Corbett

Production company: Rich Corbett Productions



A celebration of winter and its followers, as seen through the eyes of an acclaimed yet offbeat ski photographer. Stunning visuals and complementary music highlight stories of those, young and old, who come alive for wintertime.

“Mountain culture is not just about folkloric traditions,” says jury member Charlie Buffet. “It’s the way people live and dream their mountain experience. There was a sense of surprise, of playful curiosity, that carried me through this film.”

Special Jury Award

The Beckoning Silence

UK, 2007, 73 minutes

Directed and produced by Louise Osmond

Production company: Darlow Smithson Productions



Joe Simpson, whose battle for survival featured in *Touching the Void*, travels to the Eiger to tell the story of one of mountaineering's most epic tragedies. Toni Kurtz was a brilliant mountaineer who in 1936 tried to be the first to conquer the Eiger. The climb started well, but disaster struck and Kurtz's climbing colleagues were killed, leaving him alone and fighting for his life. *The Beckoning Silence* recounts Kurtz's heroic battle for survival but it also forces Simpson to confront some fundamental questions of his own. Why continue climbing when you have come so close to oblivion?

"High quality re-enactment, spectacular production values," says jury member Charlie Buffet.

Special Jury Award

Becoming a Woman in Zanskar

France, 2007, 87 minutes

Directed by Jean-Michel Corillion

Produced by Manuel Catteau

Production company: ZED



Becoming a Woman in Zanskar recounts the moving story of a friendship shattered by destiny, when two best friends have to part and leave their families forever. Tenzin will be married to a man she hasn't chosen, while Palkit will become a nun.

"Gives voices to two women from a remote and relatively closed culture," says jury member Kerrie Long. "It moved me to tears."

Special Jury Award

Into the Wild

USA, 2007, 140 minutes

Directed by Sean Penn

Produced by Art Linson, Sean Penn, and William Pohlad

Production company: Square One C.I.H./Linson Film



Into the Wild is based on a true story and the best-selling book by Jon Krakauer. After graduating from Emory University in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandons his possessions, gives his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity, and hitchhikes to Alaska to live in the wilderness. Along the way, Christopher encounters a series of characters that shape his life.

“Rarely does Hollywood treat a delicate story with this level of integrity,” says jury member Rob Frost. “We hope that Penn’s work will lead the way for other Hollywood directors, and develop a taste for truth in their audience.”

2007 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

People's Choice Award for Radical Reels
Sponsored by Fido

Trial & Error

Canada, 2006, 8 minutes

Directed by Bjørn Enga

Produced by Radical Films



Mountain biker Ryan Leech sets out to ride a very challenging trail in the coastal mountains of British Columbia. During his attempts at riding the trail, he reflects on what lessons the forestry industry could learn from mountain biking.

Voted most radical of the high adrenaline films screened at Radical Reels on Tuesday, October 30.