

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Grand Prize

Sponsored by Mountain Equipment Co-op (\$4000)

The Last Nomads

Canada, 2008, 53 minutes

Directed and produced by Andrew Gregg

Production company: 90th Parallel Film & Television Productions Ltd.



Every year, Ian Mackenzie treks through the shredded remnants of the Borneo rain forest, looking for the last of the nomadic Penan. In *The Last Nomads*, Ian goes back to Borneo with filmmaker Andrew Gregg to document the search for the only remaining hunting and gathering Penan. Ian travels through a series of Penan settlements, moving closer and closer to the last reported nomadic camp, where it is said that the chief has been driven mad by logging and where Ian fears he will see his final glimpse of a vulnerable and ancient people he has come to care about deeply.

“This is beautifully and sensitively crafted film that delivers a strong message without being evangelical, weaving Mackenzie’s views with a look at a disappearing world on the edge of an insatiably encroaching world,” says jury member Brian Hall.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Climbing

Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada (\$2000)

Committed 2: Grit Kids

UK, 2008, 22 minutes

Directed by Paul Diffley

Produced by Dave Brown

Production company: Hot Aches Productions



Teenagers Pete and Katy Whittaker burst onto the U.K. climbing scene with a series of spectacular ascents on gritstone. One evening after school, with his whole family assembled to watch, Pete attempts a terrifying and truly iconic line at Burbage South.

“Even for a jaded climber like me, the film made my palms sweat. It’s always difficult for a filmmaker to make a climb look as difficult as we know it is, but this film pulled it off,” says jury member Jim Donini.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Culture
Sponsored by Petzl (\$2000)

Tracking the White Reindeer

France, 2008, 50 minutes

Directed by Hamid Sardar

Produced by Manuel Catteau

Production company: ZED



In the remote plains of northern Mongolia, the Tsaatan nomads are a proud people who live off hunting and gathering. They travel on the backs of reindeer, on which they completely depend to survive. Quizilol, 18, and the beautiful Solongo are in love. But Solongo's father believes that Quizilol is not mature enough to marry his daughter. Only if Quizilol shows that he is capable of raising a herd of reindeer by himself will he marry Solongo.

"Beautifully shot and edited, this film takes us into the lives of a group of people who are little known to the outside world," says jury member Patrick McCloskey.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Environment
Sponsored by Patagonia (\$2000)

The Meadow

Germany, 2006, 45 minutes

Directed by Jan Haft

Produced by Tom Synnatzschke

Production company: Nautilusfilm GmbH



A flower meadow's ocean of colours and fragile shapes offers a genuine paradise to countless species of animals. Some live underground, some among the blades of grass; still others populate the colourful "canopy." Shot in high definition with special lenses, luxurious time lapse, and animations, the film shows the development of a meadow from the ice ages until today. It is a magical trip full of surprises.

"This beautifully crafted film shows the origin of a meadow following the last ice age, its evolution through the present day, and the impending threat of present agricultural practice," says jury member Jim Donini. "Great cinematography has the power to take the commonplace meadow and bring to life the exquisite and dynamic diversity of its flora and fauna."

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Feature-length Mountain Film
Sponsored by Camper's Village (\$2000)

Stranded — I've Come from a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains...

France, 2007, 127 minutes

Directed by Gonzalo Arijón

Produced by Marc Silvera

Production company: Ethan Productions/La Realidad/ARTE France/The ITVS — International Media Development Fund; IMDF/Morocho Films/Alea Docs & Films/Sylicone



If you attended the 2006 Banff Mountain Film Festival, you would remember the riveting presentation by Nando Parrado, survivor of the 1972 Andean plane crash that made headlines around the world. In *Stranded*, one of the greatest survival stories of all time is finally told by the survivors themselves, brilliantly crafted by their childhood friend, master filmmaker Gonzalo Arijón. Arijón goes beyond the lurid tale of cannibalism that swept the media to discover the essence of this extraordinary human drama. Exceptional reenactments set the stage for an experiential journey that unlocks the truth of this amazing story. Thirty-five years later, the survivors and their children revisit the crash site. *Stranded* is a profound parable of the human condition, as hauntingly powerful as it is true. (Mature theme)

Jury member Christian Trommsdorff calls the film “completely authentic.”

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Film on Mountain Sports

Sponsored by Western State College of Colorado (\$2000)

Journey to the Center

USA, 2007, 55 minutes

Directed by Jens Hoffmann

Produced by Iiro Seppanen, Jeb Corliss

Production company: Ground Impact Inc.



Journey with three world-renowned BASE jumpers as they travel 10,000 miles by airplane, river boat, and 4x4 truck to confront the mist and mystery of an old cave, an ancient culture, and their own demons at the center of their dangerous mission: Tian Keng, the Heavenly Pit. Millions of years old, half-mile deep, Tian Keng has waited for eons to test the endurance, skill, and courage of the men who dare to parachute into her heart.

“This film conveyed what it is really like to participate in an extreme sport, and the real emotions of athletes, without exaggerating,” says jury member Christian Trommsdorff. “It shows that they’re human. It’s not just a film about an ego trip.”

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Best Short Mountain Film
Sponsored by Mountain Hardwear (\$2000)

If You're Not Falling

UK, 2008, 8 minutes

Directed by Dave Brown

Produced by Paul Diffley

Production company: Hot Aches Productions



Canadian rock legend Sonnie Trotter heads to Scotland to do battle on another “hardest rock climb in the world.” As each day passes, he collects more and more air time: 50-foot falls from the steep rock buttress that plunges down beneath a historic castle. “Well, if you’re not falling, you’re not trying,” observes Trotter.

Pared away to the essential elements of the climb, the film manages to tell a whole story of desire, failure, and ultimate triumph in eight minutes.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Special Jury Award *Saving Luna*

Canada, 2008, 92 minutes

Directed by Suzanne Chisholm, Michael Parfit

Produced by Suzanne Chisholm

Production company: Mountainside Films Ltd.



Luna, a wild baby killer whale, gets separated from his family and seeks friendship from people; but when officials try to stop him, his life becomes a saga of conflict, loneliness, sorrow, and love.

“Every now and then you see a film in which you are so impressed by the sheer dedication of the filmmakers to getting their story out,” says jury member Patrick McCloskey.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Special Jury Award *Seasons*

Canada, 2008, 60 minutes

Produced by Jamie Houssian

Production company: The Collective



Seasons follows seven of the world's top mountain bikers through four seasons of one year. The film explores what it means to be a full-time rider, as told through the lives of downhill racers, slopestyle competitors, and big-mountain freeriders.

"Fantastic footage of a fast-moving sport," says jury member Brian Hall.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Special Jury Award
Psyche: Patagonian Winter

UK, 2007, 31 minutes

Directed and produced by Alastair Lee

Production company: Posing Productions



Andy Kirkpatrick is a pioneer of winter climbing in Patagonia, with many hair-raising ascents to his name. This hilarious film documents his latest Patagonian horror show: an attempt at the first winter ascent of Torre Egger with alpinist Ian Parnell. (Contains suggestive language.)

Awarded for the sheer endurance needed to complete the film in what the jury describes as “appalling conditions.”

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

People's Choice Award
Sponsored by Timex (\$2000)

Red Gold

USA, 2008, 54 minutes

Directed by Ben Knight, Travis Rummel

Co-produced by Travis Rummel and Lauren Oakes

Production company: Felt Soul Media



At the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak rivers in Bristol Bay, Alaska — the two largest remaining sockeye salmon runs on the planet — mining companies have proposed to extract what may be the richest deposit of gold and copper in the world. This film documents the growing unrest among native, commercial, and sport fishermen who oppose the proposed Pebble Mine, as well as giving mine officials a chance to argue their case. *Red Gold* is a portrait of a unique way of life that would not exist if the salmon didn't return with Bristol Bay's tide.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

People's Choice Award for Radical Reels
Sponsored by Fido (\$350 plus a selection of prizes)

Crux

Canada, 2007, 31 minutes

Directed by Alexander Lavigne

Produced by Ryan Leech

Production company: Alias Productions



“Crux” defined: a particular point of difficulty. This singular word precisely describes the riding formula of the film. Each and every line ridden by the featured athletes — Ryan Leech, Dylan Korba, and Thomas Ohler — has a crux. These three riders, aggressively pursuing Leech’s Manifesto style, execute mind-bending feats of bike mastery. Combining sheer difficulty with an elegant and creative style, this film redefines technical riding standards.

2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Audio Post-Production Award
Sponsored by The Banff Centre

Committed 2: Grit Kids

UK, 2008, 22 minutes

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Produced by Dave Brown

Production company: Hot Aches Productions



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2008 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

Audio Post-Production Award — Special Recognition
Sponsored by The Banff Centre

The Meadow

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Production company: Nautilusfilm GmbH



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