

2009 Banff Mountain Film Competition Award Winners

## **Grand Prize**

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

### ***Finding Farley***

Canada, 2009, 63 minutes

Directed by Leanne Allison

Produced by Tracey Friesen

Production company: National Film Board of Canada



When filmmakers Karsten Heuer and Leanne Allison, along with their two-year-old son Zev and indomitable dog Willow, set out to retrace the literary footsteps of Farley Mowat, they meant it literally. Their 5000-kilometre trip — trekking, sailing, portaging, and paddling from the Prairies to the Maritimes — is captured in this film. The family's arrival at their final destination (Mowat's Nova Scotian summer home) is, as Heuer says, "an affirmation of what the land and animals had already told us."

"It's a sincere adventure that winds through the very heart and fabric of Canada," says Banff Mountain Film Festival jury member Don Bowie. "The film cleverly unfolds with an undeniable magic."

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## **Best Film on Climbing**

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

### ***Committed 2: The Walk of Life***

UK, 2008, 21 minutes

Directed by Dave Brown

Produced by Paul Diffley

Production company: Hot Aches Productions



James Pearson climbs a 48-metre death E12 in North Devon.

“This film is about a very British climbing ethic,” says jury member Daniel du Lac. “The photography and music unpretentiously maintain tension without being manipulative, making it an outstanding film about the climbing community.”

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

## ***A Little Bit Mongolian***

Australia, 2009, 55 minutes

Directed and produced by Michael Dillon



Angus, 12, is from Australia. On a visit to Mongolia, he saw children his age racing cross-country in long distance horse races. He vowed he would one day join them. In this heartwarming film, Angus returns to Mongolia, intent on training so that he too can compete in the big Naadam Festival horse races.

“This film shows that the essence of Mongolian life is horses,” says jury member Michael Pause. “And it shows two cultures coming together.”

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**Best Film on Mountain Environment**

Sponsored by Yellowstone To Yukon Conservation Initiative (\$2000)

***Natural World: Snow Leopard — Beyond the Myth***

UK, 2007, 49 minutes

Directed by Jeff Wilson

Produced by Vanessa Berlowitz, Jeff Wilson

Production companies: BBC/Animal Planet



In 2004, a team from the BBC's *Planet Earth* series captured the first ever film of a wild snow leopard in the mountains of Pakistan. For Nisar Malik, who led the expedition, those images sparked a passion that compelled him to return. With cameraman Mark Smith, he spent two years documenting the snow leopard's daily life, finally lifting the veil on the most elusive of all cats.

"There's a message of political hope in this film," says jury member Kristi Denton Cohen.

**Best Feature-length Mountain Film**  
Sponsored by Sole (\$2000)

***Beyond the Summits***

France, 2008, 73 minutes

Directed and produced by Rémy Tezier

Production company: Tec Tec Production



Catherine Destivelle is an ambassador for the French Alps and is well known in France and abroad. In *Beyond the Summits*, viewers will feel like they are climbing up the mountain with her. The film shows three classic Chamonix routes with three different climbing partners. Each partner was chosen because they had a profound impact on her life. The camera captures the magnificent scenery, as well as frank and intimate moments during the ascents.

“This is one of the most evocative alpine climbing films we’ve ever seen,” says jury member Lindsay Griffin, citing its spectacular photography and technical prowess. “Through narrative, character, and image, the film exemplifies the special connections made in mountaineering.”

## Best Film on Mountain Sports

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

### ***Solo***

Australia, 2008, 58 minutes

Directed by David Michôd, Jennifer Peedom

Produced by Jennifer Peedom

Production company: Essential Media and Entertainment



On

January 11, 2007, Andrew McAuley set out on his quest to become the first person to kayak from Australia to New Zealand across 1600 kilometres of one of the wildest and loneliest stretches of ocean on Earth. Thirty days later, New Zealand maritime authorities received his distress call. Contains some coarse language.

“This intense film was made in a truly authentic spirit,” says jury member Daniel du Lac. “You think about it for days afterward.”

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

## ***Mont-Blanc Speed Flying***

France, 2008, 10 minutes  
Directed and produced by Didier Lafond  
Production company: Vision Films



Six speed riders fly from the upper slopes of Mont Blanc down to Chamonix in one continuous 10-minute shot, filmed in Cineflex.

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## Special Jury Mention

### ***Project Megawoosh***

Germany, 2009, 4 minutes

Directed by Minh Duong

Produced by Nikolas Hannack

Production company: Ohi Films



Bruno Kammerll, a German engineer, works to perfect the world's tallest human water slide.

## Special Jury Mention

### ***Take a Seat***

UK, 2009, 47 minutes

Directed by Ed Stobart, Dominic Gill

Produced by Lucy Wilcox

Production company: Ginger Productions



Dominic Gill's mission is to cycle the 32,000 kilometres from the north coast of Alaska to the southern tip of South America, on a tandem push bike, picking up strangers on the way. His journey will take him through some of the toughest landscapes on Earth, with unpredictability and danger always lurking. The film is a gripping worm's-eye view of two years and two continents, full of extraordinary characters and incidents. Has Gill got what it takes to go all the way?

"We were drawn in by the charisma of the main character in this film," jury member Lindsay Griffin says. "It proves that you can have a superb adventure without having to be particularly macho."

## Special Jury Mention

### ***Yellowstone: Winter***

USA, 2009, 59 minutes

Produced by Andrew Murray

Production companies: BBC/Animal Planet



In winter, Yellowstone is frozen solid — locked in snow as deep as a house. The film charts the fortunes of Yellowstone’s wildlife in their finely balanced fight to survive. Bison use their powerful heads to dig through some of the country’s deepest snow in order to reach the grass beneath. A red fox listens for mice scurrying far below the surface before diving headfirst to snap up its prey, while otters seek out any remaining open water where they can fish.

“Incredible images captured in near-impossible circumstances,” says jury member Kristi Denton Cohen.

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

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**Audio Post-Production Scholarship**  
Sponsored by Music & Sound at The Banff Centre

## ***Autour de Babel (Around Babel)***

France, 2008, 20 minutes  
Directed by Fred Ripert  
Production company: Locamescope



French climbers Arnaud Petit and Stéphanie Bodet go to Morocco with two friends to put up a new free-climbing route at Taghia, in the Atlas Mountains. In addition to taking on the challenges of opening up an 800-metre route in a strict ethical style, they have the opportunity to develop warm friendships with the locals in the nearby village.

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## **People's Choice Award for Radical Reels**

**Sponsored by Mountain Culture and Environment at The Banff Centre (\$350 plus a selection of prizes)**

### ***Kranked — Revolve***

Canada, 2009, 24 minutes

Directed and produced by Bjørn Enga

Production company: Radical Films



The coolest human-powered adrenaline tool ever invented – the mountain bike? Revolve blasts from the French Alps to the lush coast of B.C., incorporating dirt jump, trail, freeride, slopestyle, and downhill.