

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Films 2007/2008

20 Seconds of Joy

Best Film on Mountain Sport and People's Choice Award

Germany, 2007, 60 minutes

Directed by Jens Hoffman

Produced by Cleonice Comino

Website: www.f24film.com

"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, planning to follow Karina over a long period, trying to understand why a young woman would challenge herself mentally and physically in such an extreme sport. Jens accompanies her through many stages of her BASE-jumping career, until it comes to a sudden stop and changes all aspects of her life.

24 Solo

USA, 2007, 55 minutes

Directed by Jason Berry

Produced by Ken Bell

Website: www.grippedfilms.com

"24 Solo" follows the gut-wrenching story of Chris Eatough on his quest for a seventh world title in the unforgiving discipline of 24-hour solo mountain-bike racing. In the face of increased pressure from sponsors, new competitors to the sport, and a pregnant wife, Chris focuses his entire season on one race. Dark horse Craig Gordon, who is the Australian national champion, challenges Chris to a level of intensity and exhaustion which leaves one rider with severe blood poisoning.

Aerialist

USA, 2007, 27 minutes

Directed by Brad Lynch, Jim Hurst

Produced By Brad Lynch

Website: www.aerialistmovie.com

Dean Potter is obsessed with being attached to the world by as little as possible. He began his journey as a free-soloist on rock, but his refusal to be confined has pushed him to the outer edge of the climbing world and into the realms of high-lining, BASE jumping and "bird-manning". Possessed by the idea that anything is possible, Dean maniacally pursues the most natural yet bizarre dream of man: to fly.

Ain't Got No Friends on a Powder Day

Switzerland, 2007, 5 minutes

Directed and Produced by Nicolas Falquet and Loris Falquet

Website: www.huckandchuck.com

Loris is a "classic" freerider. Jean-Yves, however, has a more or less "accidental" style. This film draws a parallel between two styles and two approaches to the same mountain, which are otherwise worlds apart.

Badgered

Best Film on Mountain Environment

UK, 2005, 7 minutes

Directed by Sharon Colman

Produced by Jamie Wolpert

Website: www.nftsfilm-tv.ac.uk

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

Balance

Canada, 2007, 11 minutes

Directed and Produced by Paul Cotton

Website: www.PaulCottonFilms.com

Balance profiles the rapidly growing world of new-school skiing, looking at all aspects of the sport: big mountain lines, terrain parks and half-pipes, and jibbing. This film captures the athletes' desires to push the edge of their abilities while facing the obvious safety risks associated with high caliber skiing. With high-energy footage cut to an upbeat soundtrack, the audience is challenged to judge whether these athletes are crazy or just extremely talented, or maybe both.

Climber

Canada, 2007, 2 minutes

Directed by Carlos Villarreal-Kwasek

Produced by Vancouver Film School

Website: www.vfs.com

A climber attempts an icy mountain climb and faces his inner demon in this animated short.

Committed: To Grit

UK, 2007, 7 minutes

Directed and Produced by Paul Diffley, Dave Brown

Website: www.hotaches.com

Held in awe by climbers around the world, the hard trad scene in Britain commands both respect and bewilderment. This segment of *Committed* follows James Pearson and Katherine Shirmmacher on gritstone routes in England's Peak District.

Cross-Country with the Snakes

USA, 2007, 7 minutes

Directed and Produced by Hansi Johnson

Website: universalklister.blogspot.com

Cross-country with the Snakes is a short film about a nordic-skiing punk band. It documents a tour with the Black-eyed Snakes as they ski all day and play rock at night. Nordic skiing, long portrayed as serene and classical, is cast in a new light as exciting and dynamic through the lens of punk/blues rock and fast-action photography.

Crossing the Himalaya

Produced by John Murray, Crossing the Line Films

Ireland, 2007, 50 minutes

Website: www.ctlfilms.com

This documentary follows a clan of Buddhist yak herders on a breathtaking journey unmatched anywhere on the planet. Starting from the nomads' tiny village close to the Tibetan border, the film shadows the group through a soaring landscape, traversing some of the highest mountain passes in the world, until the exhausted caravaneers eventually reach their destination – the lowland valleys of southern Nepal.

Entropy

Norway, 2006, 11 minutes

Directed and Produced by Morten Gjerstad

Website: www.snowkitefilm.com

Entropy documents the most progressive season in snowkiting so far. Join a couple of the world's best riders as they search for the ultimate snow and wind conditions. Along the way, they reinvent snowkiting by taking a new-school approach and pushing the limit of 'wake style' maneuvers.

Great Day for Climbing

USA, 2007, 7 minutes

Directed and Produced by Stephen Burgess

Website: www.williswall.com

A sleepy climber has trouble distinguishing dream from reality as his climbing buddy bursts into song at the most inopportune moments. Who are those guys dancing in his driveway? How did his dog end up above him on the route? Where is that music coming from?

Higher Ground: Mountain Photographer

USA, 2007, 8 minutes

Directed by Chris Alstrin and Alexander Lavigne

Produced by Chris Alstrin

Website: www.hg-productions.com

Andrew Querner, a professional photographer from Canmore, Alberta, explains what drives his quest for the perfect climbing photograph. Difficulty and challenge are climbing's chief attractions, but the objective hazards climbing presents tap deep sources of fear as well. Andrew Querner's photography feeds on that, and explores the relationship between climbers and the mountain environment.

Ice Mines

Canada, 2007, 30 minutes

Directed and Produced by Will Gadd

Website: www.gravsports.com

What's an ice climber to do in the age of global warming? Go underground. Deep underground. Five years ago Will Gadd heard rumours of ice hidden in the blackness of abandoned mines in Sweden. Gadd and his friend Andreas Spak explore the mines, finding challenge, danger, and amazing ice formations.

In- Flux

France, 2005, 17 minutes

Directed and Produced by David Arnaud

Website: www.thinkliquid.net

In-Flux is about the true meaning of paddling - the perpetual need to go and travel the globe with your kayak in search of the magic something you can find only on the river. Shot in Italy, Canada, Norway, and the Reunion islands, the film combines adrenaline-driven action and remarkable natural wonders.

Inner Balance

Canada, 2007, 5 minutes

Directed and Produced by Brian MacKenzie

Website: www.balanceproductions.ca

Inner Balance features some of the top riders in their respective riding styles from Canada, USA, New Zealand, and Australia. Riders take unicycling to the next level with amazing drops and trials riding in a massive indoor bike park. You won't believe what's possible on a unicycle.

It's Fantastic

USA, 2007, 19 minutes

Directed and Produced by Matt Sheridan

Website: www.team13.com

As the first documentary on the new sport of speedflying, this film explains the origins of the sport and shows how quickly the sport is evolving. From the ski slopes of Europe to the volcanic island of El Hierro, some of the world's best speedfliers risk their lives to find the limits of their abilities and their equipment.

King Lines

USA, 2007, 50 minutes

Directed and Produced by Josh Lowell and Peter Mortimer

Website: www.senderfilms.com, www.bigupproductions.com

Filmed on location in France, California, Venezuela, Greece, Utah and Mallorca, Spain, *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.

King Lines: Es Pontas

USA, 2007, 13 minutes

Directed and Produced by Josh Lowell and Peter Mortimer

Website: www.senderfilms.com, www.bigupproductions.com

A segment from *King Lines*, filmed on location in Mallorca, Spain. This spectacular segment captures Chris Sharma's challenging ascent of the Es Pontas arch. Deep water soloing at its best.

La Ventana

Venezuela, 2007, 21 minutes

Directed and Produced by Federico Pisani

Website: N/A

The landscape in Patagonia is breathtaking, and so is its bad weather. In this film, a group of Venezuelans are determined to write their own story on Cerro Torre and St. Exupéry, beautiful and icy giants of granite. But only the winds decide when. Patience and motivation are essential in order to endure the harsh conditions. Sometimes, the mountains show themselves in their best light and allow us to visit this vertical and forbidden world.

Respect

USA, 2006, 17 minutes

Directed and Produced by Jason Winkler

Website: www.winkincproductions.com

Skiers from around the world have one thing in common: respect. Respect for different cultures, different lifestyles and their environments. Their proving ground is unpredictable and can change from a pristine mountain face to a death trap in an instant. This instability keeps them pushing the envelope. The path they choose is addicting yet dangerous. Spend time inside the heads of these athletes as they chase the perfect moment with *RESPECT*.

Searching for the Coast Wolves

Germany, 2006, 52 minutes

Directed by Richard Matthews

Produced by Heinz von Matthey

Website: www.zdf.de

Gudrun Pflueger is an ex-world champion cross-country skier and long-distance runner. For the last six years, she has been studying wolves in the wilds of Canada, collecting field data, hair, droppings and other evidence for use in scientific projects on wolves. She goes in search of the mysterious coast wolves of British Columbia, a quest that culminates with a dramatic and powerful encounter.

The Endless Knot

USA, 2007, 52 minutes

Directed by Michael Brown

Produced by David D'Angelo

Website: www.seracfilms.com

In 1999, best friends Alex Lowe and Conrad Anker were overcome by an avalanche while climbing in the Tibetan Himalaya. Alex died and Conrad survived. In comforting one another after the tragedy, Conrad and Alex's widow, Jennifer, unexpectedly found love. Now they must see if their love can survive and if Alex's three boys can accept Conrad as a new father. To honour Alex's name, Conrad and Jennifer try to find meaning beyond tragedy with a mountaineering safety school for Sherpas.

The Western Lands - Hoy
Best Short Mountain Film

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.

Trial & Error

People's Choice Award (Radical Reels night voting)

Canada, 2006, 8 minutes

Directed and Produced by Bjørn Enga

Website: www.radical-films.com

Mountain biker Ryan Leech sets out to ride an incredibly difficult trail in the coastal mountains of British Columbia. With the valley slated for clearcut logging, *Trial & Error* combines Ryan's extraordinary riding with his thoughts about the very special location.

Wings on Your Feet

Switzerland, 2006, 25 minutes

Directed and Produced by Fulvio Mariani

Website: www.siachen.ch

John Falkiner and Paolo Tassi - two charming characters, powder hunters and free heel telemark interpreters - tell us about their dreams and why they have chosen skiing as their true lifestyle. Whooshing through Fulvio Mariani's camera shots, they guide us on journeys of discovery and friendship in magnificent landscapes around the world.

Radical Reels Tour Films 2007/2008

Ephemere

Switzerland, 2007, 6 minutes

Directed and Produced by Produced by Nicolas Falquet, Loris Falquet

Website: www.huckandchuck.com

Focus: Multi-sport

The challenge: film and edit a five minute film by following five people performing their outdoor sports during five days. Action, humour, lifestyle – the script is totally open. In *Ephemere*, the athletes encounter a mysterious woman who can control time.

Light in Liquid

USA, 2007, 15 minutes

Directed and Produced by Adrian Matthew Glasenapp

Website: www.creativeuv.com

Focus: Kayaking

The film, in which Matthew and fellow producers Leif Embertson and Dan Woolley aimed to “push the creative edge in the whitewater film genre,” succeeds in that goal, and does so without sacrificing the requisite paddling porn that make these films so visually enticing.

Lost and Found (Teton Gravity Research)

USA, 2007, 23 minutes

Directed and Produced by Todd Jones. Dirk Collins, Steve Jones, Corey Gavitt

Website: www.tetongravity.com

Focus: Skiing/Snowboarding

LOST AND FOUND is the story of the extraordinary season of 2007 as seen through the eyes of world-class skiers and snowboarders.

With global drought persisting and ski resorts closing around the globe, athletes are forced to follow the snow, sending them deep into the uncharted north country of Alaska and Canada. Filmed almost entirely in North America, LOST AND FOUND is a testament to the terrain and conditions that only exist in the Western Hemisphere.

Rock Wings

France, 2007, 3 minutes

Directed by Dominique Janiszewski

Produced by Patrice Janet

Website: www.ridetheplanets.com

Focus: Speedflying

3 professional wingsuit flyers, 2 mythical summits for 1 powerful 3 minute clip. From the eiger and the Jungfrau in Switzerland the Soul Flyers Loic Jean Albert Julian Bouille and Ueli Gegenschatz has performed to show for the first time ever the closest flight to the ground on a patrol formation...

Sevenvision

USA, 2007, 18 minutes

Directed by Don Hampton, Aaron Chase

Produced by Don Hampton

Website: www.dh-productions.com

Focus: Mountain Biking

SEVENVISION follows the first season of the CUT. The CUT is an international collection of seven of the most progressive and creative mountain bike freeriders and downhill racers in the world. The viewer rides shotgun with the boys and follows their inaugural season as they jet set the globe, all for the sake of having fun on their bikes.

Swedish Meatballs

Sweden, 2007, 12 minutes

Directed and Produced by Shawn Boye

Website: www.tielma.com

Focus: Bouldering

Swedish Meatballs features classic lines and first ascents as Dylan and Kalle spend a month on the road meeting up with the boulderers who shaped the Swedish scene.

Trial & Air

USA, 2006, 6 minutes

Directed and Produced by Darrell Miller

Website: www.stormshow.com

Focus: Paragliding/Skiing

The film opens with some long board footage—a few of the local stars cruising down Teton Pass—and then changes scenes to a typewriter writing rejection letters for sponsorship. Storm Show isn't your typical film company. There are no helicopters, no flashy stars and they film strictly in Jackson Hole. Which is why the locals showed up in such force.

Yamabushi

Canada, 2006, 13 minutes

Directed and Produced by Will Gadd

Website: www.gravsports.com

Focus: Climbing

Leading Canadian climber Will Gadd has put up Yamabushi, a major new line on Mt Yamnuska, one of the most famous cliffs of the Canadian Rockies. It is an eight pitch alpine sport climb on the last major unclimbed buttress. The project, conceived and started in 1999 with Raphael Slawinski, launches up a steeply overhanging face with multiple roofs and a distinct lack of cracks.