

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour Films 2015/16

55 Hours in Mexico

(2015, USA, 9 min)

Filmmakers: Joey Schusler, Karl Thompson, Thomas Woodson

Website: www.joeyschusler.com

Film Synopsis: Fly to Veracruz on a Friday, rent a car, climb the third-highest peak in North America, ski down and return to your desk Monday. How hard could it be?

Bluehue

(2015, UK, 5 min)

Filmmaker: Natasha Brooks

Website: www.tashbrooks.com

Film Synopsis: Natasha Brooks swims naked year-round in the cold mountain lakes of Snowdonia, Wales. Through this she finds solitude, grounding and a deep connection to the natural environment. Winner of the British Mountaineering Council's 2014 Women in Adventure Film Competition.

Builder (special edit)

(2015, Canada, 9 min)

Filmmakers: Julian Coffey, Scott Secco

Website: www.pinkbike.com/builder

Film Synopsis: Some people grow up and leave childish things behind. Others just take their childhood dreams and turn them up to 11 as they age. Building trails and tricks for your mountain bike never gets old, no matter your age.

Chasing Niagara (special edit)

Best Film – Mountain Sports – sponsored by Sea & Summit

(2015, USA, 31 min)

Filmmakers: Red Bull Media House GmbH, Rush Sturges

Website: www.River-Roots.com

Film Synopsis: When pro kayaker Rafa Ortiz decides to paddle over Niagara Falls, he sets in motion a series of events leading his team on a remarkable two-year journey from Mexican rainforest rivers to the waterfalls of the U.S. Northwest before coming to a heart-stopping climax at the iconic falls.

Climbing Ice: The Iceland Trifecta

(2015, USA, 17 min)

Filmmakers: Chris MacAskill, Anton Lorimer

Website: www.Smugmug.com

Film Synopsis: Join award-winning photographer Tim Kemple and ice climbers Klemen Premrl and Rahel Schelb for an expedition to Iceland's Vatnajökull Glacier to discover new ways to push the boundaries of climbing ice.

Curiosity

(2014, USA, 13 min)

Filmmaker: Aimee Tetreault, Renan Ozturk, Tim Kemple

Website: www.camp4collective.com

Film Synopsis: How does curiosity inspire ultra-marathoners Rory Bosio, Timothy Olson and Hal Koerner as they prepare for the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc? Their artistry gives them lots in common with local artist Andy Parkin.

Darklight (special edit)

(2015, USA, 5 min)

Filmmaker: Rachel Franks, Matt O'Connor, Zac Ramras, Mike Brown

Website: www.sweetgrass-productions.com

Film Synopsis: In 2014, the award winning film Afterglow followed skiers down impossibly lit, virgin powder slopes in the dead of night. Get ready for the sequel, this time on two wheels.

Denali

(2015, USA, 8 min)

Filmmakers: Ben Moon, Ben Knight

Website: www.benmoon.com

Film Synopsis: There's no easy way to say goodbye to a friend, especially when they've supported you through your darkest times. A collaboration between Ben Knight, Skip Armstrong and Ben Moon.

Eclipse

Best Film – Snow Sports – sponsored by Bergans of Norway

(2015, Canada, 31 min)

Filmmaker: Anthony Bonello, Switchback Entertainment

Website: www.switchbackentertainment.com

Film Synopsis: The odds are low, the risks are high – photographer Reuben Krabbe is determined to capture a photo of a skier in front of the 2015 solar eclipse in Svalbard. But the weather's bad, the guide is sketchy, the pressure is massive and the skiers just want to ski.

The Important Places

Best Short Mountain Film – sponsored by The North Face

(2015, USA, 9 min)

Filmmaker: Gnarly Bay, Forest Woodward

Website: www.gnarlybay.com

Film Synopsis: Using a mix of old 16mm footage and new visuals, a son rediscovers the necessity of returning to and protecting “the important places” in our lives.

Kroger’s Canteen

(2015, South Africa, 8 min)

Filmmakers: Greg Fell, Dean Leslie

Website: www.theafricanattachment.com

Film Synopsis: In 2014, Kilian Jornet won the Hardrock 100 mile race through the San Juan’s of Colorado. Along the way he stopped at Kroger’s Canteen – an aid station perched on a tiny ledge, 13,100ft above sea level. This is a story about that aid station, about the people who make it happen, and about the spirit one can only find at the Hardrock 100.

The Last Dragons

(2014, USA, 10 min)

Filmmakers: Jeremy Monroe, David Herasimtschuk

Website: www.freshwatersillustrated.org

Film Synopsis: An intimate glimpse at North America’s Eastern Hellbender, an ancient salamander as mythical as it is real. And in many waters, myths are all that remain of these sentinel stream-dwellers.

Living Rivers - Surf

(2015, USA, 3 min)

Filmmaker: Max Lowe

Website: www.maxlowemedia.com

Film Synopsis: There is a new and emerging river surfing scene in Montana.

Nature Rx

(2015, USA, 1 min)

Filmmaker: Justin Bogardus

Website: www.nature-rx.org

Film Synopsis: Is life a little too mundane or overwhelming? Feeling tired, irritable or stressed out? Maybe Nature Rx is just the ticket.

Operation Moffat
Special Jury Mention

(2015, UK, 20 min)

Filmmakers: Jen Randall, Claire Carter, Alex Messenger

Website: www.lightshedpictures.com

Film Synopsis: Operation Moffat takes inspiration and wit from the colorful climbing life of Britain's first female mountain guide Gwen Moffat. Writer Claire Carter and filmmaker Jen Randall scramble, swim and barefoot climb through Gwen's landscapes, grappling with her preference for mountains over people, adventure over security and wilderness over tick lists.

Paddle for the North (special edit)

(2015, New Zealand, 27 min)

Filmmaker: Alexander Behse, Simon Lucas

Website: www.paddleforthenorth.org

Film Synopsis: On an adventure of a lifetime, six young guys paddle to some of the most remote rivers in North America. It's a 1,500 km, 63- day mission to truly discover the secrets of the north and to show the world why some places are worth preserving before they are changed forever.

Paradise Waits (special edit)

(2015, USA, 7 min)

Filmmakers: Teton Gravity Research

Website: www.tetongravity.com

Film Synopsis: How do you celebrate winter when snow finally falls? Freeskier Tim Durtschi takes tram laps at Jackson Hole and big mountain skier Angel Collinson rips up some Alaskan lines.

Pretty Faces (special edit)

(2014, USA, 11 min)

Filmmaker: Lynsey Dyer

Website: www.unicornpicnic.com

Film Synopsis: Celebrate women who thrive in the snow! Follow her as she chases snow, from the time she needs to be lifted onto the chairlift to her first Alaskan dream line and beyond.

Project Mina (special edit)

(2014, UK, 17 min)

Filmmaker: Jen Randall

Website: www.lightshedpictures.com

Film Synopsis: A rare, intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the life of pro climber Mina Leslie-Wujastyk during a season on the world cup bouldering circuit.

Redemption: The James Pearson Story (special edit)

(2014, UK, 26min)

Filmmaker: Paul Diffley

Website: www.hotaches.com

Film Synopsis: James Pearson is one of the UK's most famous climbers. When the grading of his routes is questioned, controversy haunts him and Pearson has to face his demons to fight for his place back in the climbing community.

REEL ROCK 10: A Line Across the Sky

Best Film – Climbing – sponsored by Alpine Club of Canada

(2015, USA, 40 min)

Filmmakers: Peter Mortimer, Josh Lowell

Website: www.senderfilms.com; www.bigupproductions.com

Film Synopsis: The Fitz Traverse has fueled the imaginations of climbers in Patagonia for decades. It spans four miles and 13,000 feet across snow and ice-covered rock. Seizing their chance, Tommy Caldwell and Alex Honnold went big and completed the first ascent in a five-day push.

The Rocky Mountains Traverse (special edit)

(2015, Canada, 25 min)

Filmmakers: Bryan Smith, David Pearson

Website: www.reelwaterproductions.com

Film Synopsis: When Will Gadd and Gavin McGlurg decided they wanted to define a bold new style in paragliding, they could not have picked a more vegetated, convoluted and downright burly route to test their concept. With one simple rule of only being able to make forward progress in the air, they set off on a 700-kilometer traverse of the Canadian Rockies.

Salween Spring

(2015, USA, 9 min)

Filmmaker: Will Stauffer-Norris

Website: www.willstauffernorris.com

Film Synopsis: Travis Winn has been running rivers in China for 15 years. He's explored first descents, but also watched rivers disappear behind dams. Now he's founded a rafting company to bring Chinese to see their rivers before they're gone.

The Search for Freedom (special edit)

(2015, Canada, 44 min)

Filmmakers: Jon Long, Laura Zeman

Website: www.jonlongfilms.com

Film Synopsis: The Search for Freedom is the story of the human desire to live in the moment and do what makes you feel the most alive.

Sounds of Paragliding

(2014, France, 4 min)

Filmmaker: Shams

Website: www.shams.fr

Film Synopsis: Listen to nature's harmony while aerobatic paragliding pilot Théo de Blic dances to the sounds of the sky.

Unbranded (special edit)

People's Choice Award – sponsored by Osprey

(2015, USA, 46 min)

Filmmakers: Dennis Aig, Phillip Baribeau

Website: www.unbrandedthefilm.com

Film Synopsis: Four men and 16 wild mustangs set off on a 5000 kilometre journey across the American West from Mexico to Canada. But can the journey help save the plight of the wild horses roaming on public lands?

unReal (special edit)

(2015, USA, 12min)

Filmmaker: Teton Gravity Research

Website: www.tetongravity.com

Film Synopsis: Imagine a world where you ride the perfect trail perfectly, and sometime snow isn't the only stuff that falls from the sky. When you spend all of your time at work dreaming about mountain biking, which life is real?

Voyagers Without Trace (special edit)

(2015, USA, 46 min)

Filmmaker: Ian McCluskey

Website: www.nwdocumentary.org

Film Synopsis: In 1938, three Parisians pushed off from a Wyoming riverbank to attempt the first kayak exploration of the notoriously wild Green and Colorado rivers—and they recorded their journey, creating the first colour adventure film. The reels went unseen for 75 years, until now.

The Warmth of Winter

(2015, USA, 6 min)

Filmmakers: Ben Sturgulewski, Philip Drake, Erme Catino, Stephan Drake

Website: www.sturgefilm.com

Film Synopsis: Outside, the snow flies and the wind roars. But here, quiet and safe in the candlelight, the warmth and the wood wrap around you like a blanket, and the mind melts into reflections of days gone by. There is no warmth like a warmth found in winter.

Women's Speed Ascent

(2015, USA, 4 min)

Filmmakers: Keith Ladzinski, Chris Alstrin

Website: www.3stringspro.com

Film Synopsis: Mayan Smith-Gobat and Libby Sauter knew that the women's speed record for the ascent of The Nose on El Cap was theirs for the taking. Crushing the old record after just a few days of attempts, Mayan and Libby put their names in the record book of the infamous route in the Yosemite National Park.