

Grand Prize

Sponsored by MEC | \$4,000

NORTH OF THE SUN (NORDFOR SOLA)

(2012, Norway, 46 min), subtitled

Director: Inge Wegge

Producer: Anne Bergseng



From the film 'Nordfor Sola (North of the Sun)

Tucked between the cold Atlantic Ocean and the rocky slopes of a remote, arctic island, two young Norwegian adventurers discover their own private playground. They build themselves a cabin out of flotsam while clearing the beach of debris, then spend the long winter skiing and surfing in the haunting low light.

“If it’s possible to have a perfect adventure film, then this year’s Grand Prize Winner comes about as close as you can get. A highly original adventure that’s captured in a film planned to perfection: a wonderful story, engaging personalities, breathtaking camera work, and expertly edited. It should be no surprise then that this was the unanimous choice of the jury. It’s a great privilege to present this year’s Grand Prize to two people who not only followed their dream but made a film so full of joy that we can all share in their adventure. If you ever thought the people of Norway are just a bit different from the rest of us... you must see this film.”

— Richard Else

Award for Creative Excellence

Sponsored by Sole | \$2,000

THE SECRETS OF THE GLOM MOUNTAIN

(2013, Norway, 49 min), subtitled

Director: Tom Edvindsen

Producer: Terje Dale

Production Company: NRK



From the film 'The Secrets of the Glom Mountain'

Accompanied by his pouty teenage daughter, nature photographer Tom Edvindsen returns to the labyrinths and caverns of Glom where he hunted exotic beasts as a boy. While his daughter slumbers long into the day, he delights in the knowledge that coiled serpents and fanciful creatures still linger.

“At first glance, this appears to be essentially a geology film, but it is so much more. It truly takes us on a creative journey throughout the film, so much so that you will be planning your trip to this mountain after experiencing this film's charm, quirkiness and fresh new approach to mountain filmmaking.”

— Kerry Stauffer

Best Film — Exploration and Adventure

Sponsored Nemo | \$2,000

MAIDENTRIP

(2013, USA, 82 min)

Director: Jillian Schlesinger

Producers: Emily McAllister, Jillian Schlesinger



From the film 'Maidentrip'

14-year-old Laura Dekker sets out on a two-year voyage in pursuit of her dream to be the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone. In the wake of a year-long battle with Dutch authorities that sparked a global storm of media scrutiny, she finds herself far from land, family, and unwanted attention, exploring the world in search of freedom and adventure. Dekker's brave and defiant voice is amplified through a mix of her own video and voice recordings at sea — and intimate vérité footage from her remarkable journey.

“We watched Laura Dekker grow up and shared in her incredible around-the-world voyage. Laura generously shares her fun, her fear, her frustration, and her loneliness — alone for months at a time at sea. Finding the best moments from two years of footage and expertly using image, sound and music, we got to join Laura on her adventure.”

— Benjamin Oberman

Best Film — Mountain Culture

Sponsored by National Geographic | \$2,000

HIGH TENSION

(2013, USA, 37 min)

Director and Produced by: Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen, Zachary Barr, Josh Lowell

Production Company: Sender Films, Big UP Productions



From the film 'High Tension'

Flying fists, obscenities, and death threats at 23,000 feet? Is this the new Everest reality? This film takes a closer look at the 2013 incident at Camp II that made international headlines and had climbers Ueli Steck, Simone Moro, and Jonathan Griffith running for their lives.

“This film took what is now a well-known mountaineering incident and gave us a valuable insight into the many factors that underpinned it. Dramatic and gripping, but never sensational, probing but not voyeuristic, this film resisted the temptation to rush into judgment. Well-researched, structured and produced, it absolutely lived up to its title. It’s an incredibly important film for all of us who go onto the world’s highest mountains and who respect different cultures.”

— Richard Else

Best Film — Climbing

Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada | \$2,000

THE LAST GREAT CLIMB

(2013, UK, 60 min)

Director and Producer: Alastair Lee

Production Company: Posing Productions



From the film 'The Last Great Climb'

Are rock stars Leo Houlding, Sean "Stanley" Leary, and Jason Pickles up to their old tricks again? Maybe so, but they've brought along a few new friends and hopes of a bold new line on a remote spire in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica. They're going big again — the majestic unclimbed Ulvetanna Peak is their goal this time. But they're in the middle of nowhere, miserably cold, a bit delirious. Hopefully it's nothing a little adrenaline can't cure.

"This extremely experienced climbing film team offers the audience the vast wilderness of Queen Maud Land in the Antarctic. The veteran director Alastair Lee used his cameras to capture the climbers on the mountain face from every angle, providing an overall view of the extensiveness and sheer verticality of the mountain. The climbing team, with their humour and enjoyment, add a final polish to the film."

— Silvo Karo

Best Film — Mountain Sports

Sponsored by Live Out There | \$2,000

HEAVEN'S GATE

(2013, Finland, 48 min)

Director: Nic Good

Producer: Iiro Seppanen, Frank Yang

Production Company: Pan Pacific Entertainment



From the film *Heaven's Gate*

A group of wingsuit pilots gather at Tianmen Mountain in China, the birthplace of the dream of human flight, to attempt an intimidating feat — flying through the sacred site known as Heaven's Gate, an archway carved out of the mountain. As Jeb Corliss drops from a helicopter and soars toward the opening, nearly a half-billion people hold their breath.

"It's impossible not to get caught up in the contagious energy of one of our generation's most inspiring, fearless, and accomplished adventure athletes. This film is a real testament to the art of storytelling, as it weaves a truly captivating and nail-biting narrative of Jeb Corliss' phenomenal athletic achievement, and leaves viewers at the edge of their seats. Jeb's insatiable spirit and love for adventure takes mountain sport to stunning new places, and new heights."

— Maggie Rhodes

Best Film — Mountain Environment and Natural History

Sponsored by Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative | \$2,000

THE LAST ICE MERCHANT (EL ÚLTIMO HIELERO)

(2012, USA, 14 min), subtitled

Director: Sandy Patch

Producer: Jeremy Yaches



From the film *The Last Ice Merchant (El Último Hielero)*

When Baltazar Ushca dies, the long-lived tradition of harvesting glacial ice from the tallest mountain in Ecuador will die with him. Every action is tenderly portrayed as Baltazar steadfastly wraps his bounty in hay and loads it on his donkey for delivery to his loyal customers.

“The art of harvesting ice from the highest mountain in Ecuador is almost gone. When Baltazar Ushca dies, his craft will die with him, signaling the end of an era. I applaud the filmmakers on their discovery of this amazing man, his culture, and their ability to share this story with us, documenting and preserving an element of life that will soon be history.”

— Benjamin Oberman

Best Film — Mountain Wildlife

Sponsored by ExOfficio | \$2,000

COLD WARRIORS: WOLVES AND BUFFALO

(2012, Canada, 54 min)

Director: Jeff Turner

Producer: Jeff Turner, Sue Turner

Production Company: River Road Films in association with CBC, BBC, WNET Nature, PBS



From the film *Cold Warriors: Wolves and Buffalo*

The latest camera technology coupled with 25 years of expertise in tracking and understanding wolf behavior delivers some of the most intimate footage ever captured in the wild. Life in Wood Buffalo National Park is never an easy feat, but survival for these wolves depends on perfecting the hunt against the largest and most dangerous prey a wolf will ever face.

“This is wildlife filmmaking at its finest. From the powerful, expert cinematography to the stunning imagery of North America’s great wilderness to the masterfully crafted narrative about the relationship of these two majestic beasts and their fight for survival, the film was impressive from start to finish.”

— Maggie Rhodes

Best Short Mountain Film

Sponsored by The North Face | \$2,000

35

(2013, USA, 5 min)

Director: Nasa Koski, Austin Siadak, Matthe Van Biene

Producer: Fitz Cahall

Production Company: Duct Tape Then Beer



From the film 35

35 routes in one day to celebrate 35 years of life? Why not? Take the birthday challenge!

“In just five short minutes, this inspiring film captured the hearts of all the jury members and left us all grinning. One man's personal journey of fulfilling a climbing goal for his 35th birthday teaches us so eloquently about gratitude, following our dreams, how the ordinary can be amazing, and the importance of not missing the magic in life. Derek's story, conveyed in such a beautifully crafted visual style, was so inspiring, that after seeing this film, you just can't wait to get out there and write your own.”

— Maggie Rhodes

Best Feature-length Mountain Film

Sponsored by Town of Banff | \$2,000

THE SUMMIT

(2013, Ireland, 95 min)

Director and Producer: Nick Ryan

Production Company: Image Now Films



From the film *The Summit*

In August 2008, 18 climbers reached the summit of K2. Forty-eight hours later, 11 people were dead. What happened on that fateful day has never been fully resolved. *The Summit* uses found footage, realistic reenactments, and interviews with survivors, as it zigzags back and forth in time, interweaving multiple narrative threads to piece together one of the deadliest days in mountain-climbing history. Through breathtaking cinematography, director Nick Ryan creates a tension-filled experience that will have you on the edge of your seat.

“It will never be completely clear what happened at the beginning of August 2008 as climbers approached the summit of K2. Through brilliant, convincing photography, the director succeeds in creating a mosaic of scenes from the stories of those who survived, but there remains an empty space for the eleven stories swallowed up by the mountain.”

— Silvo Karo

People's Choice Award

Sponsored by Treksta | \$2,000

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People's Choice Award — Radical Reels

Sponsored by Bergans of Norway | \$2,000

THE SENSEI

(2013, USA, 26 min)

Director and Producer: Josh Lowell, Nick Rosen, Brett Lowell, Peter Mortimer

Production Company: Big UP Productions, Sender Films



From the film *The Sensei*

East meets West and old meets new. Twenty-something world class boulderer, Daniel Woods and 43-year-old climbing veteran, Yuji Hirayama team up for the expedition of a lifetime. But when Daniel-San travels to Japan to prove himself worthy of Hirayama's mentorship, the question becomes, who learns from whom?

Dolby Audio Award

Sponsored by Dolby | in-kind services at The Banff Centre \$10,000

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“Great audio tells a story. It puts us inside a scene, while poor audio can so easily break the spell. The directors of this year’s Dolby Audio Scholarship showed keen attention to the sound around them and took the extra time to capture it right. *North of the Sun*, directed by Inge Wegge and Jørn Ranum, features a restrained musical score and excellent use of natural sound to tell a better story.”

— John Loose

Special Jury Mention

A FINE LINE

(2012, Spain, 53 min), subtitled

Director: Sebastien Montaz-Rosset

Producer: Jordi Lorenzo

Production Company: Montaz-Rosset, Lymbus



From the film *A Fine Line*

Ultra-runner and extreme 'peak-bagger' Kilian Jornet's 4-year project, *Summits of My Life* emerged from his simple mountain lifestyle. He aims to reach the highest peaks on all continents in his uniquely minimalist, swift approach. *A Fine Line* portrays his initial challenge in breathtaking images from vertigo-inducing perspectives as he traverses Mont Blanc - not once, but twice.

"Kilian Jornet's astonishing athleticism and deep relationship with the mountains is showcased in this stunning film. With sweeping aerial footage of spectacular mountains, Kilian racing sure-footed up and down technical peaks moves, inspires, and expands my belief in what's possible, and captures the essence of Kilian's mountain running in ways that I will never forget."

— Benjamin Oberman

Special Jury Mention

KEEPER OF THE MOUNTAINS

(2013, USA, 24 min)

Director: Allison Otto

Producer: Scott McElroy

Production Company: Small Dog On The Go Productions



From the film *Keeper of the Mountains*

Elizabeth Hawley bucked the conventions of her time by settling alone in Kathmandu in 1960, where she began chronicling Himalayan expeditions for The Himalayan Database. Even as she turns 90, she continues to update these records with rigorous accuracy and dedication.

“This film is a delight. Full of personality and charm, filmmaker Allison Otto told the story of a one-of-a-kind woman whose contribution to Himalayan mountaineering is unmatched.”

— Kerry Stauffer