

Grand Prize

Sponsored by MEC | \$4,000

VALLEY UPRISING

(USA, 2014, 90 min)

Director: Nick Rosen, Peter Mortimer, Josh Lowell

Producer: Zachary Barr

Production Company: Sender Films



From the film *Valley Uprising*

The greatest untold story of American counterculture is that of the Yosemite Valley rock climbers. For 50 years, Yosemite's cliffs have drawn explorers to venture on the high, lonesome granite. Climbing greats like Royal Robbins, Yvon Chouinard and Tom Frost not only set new standards for climbing hard routes, they pioneered the “dirtbag” lifestyle. Part fact and part attitude, *Valley Uprising* takes us on a journey through the history of Yosemite right up to the present and shows why the big walls of this amazing place are still as coveted today as they were 50 years ago.

“The mountain culture in which so many of us here are a part of; we are pretty good at telling our stories to each other. We watch some sick action – and get totally stoked. However, sometimes we are less effective telling our stories to the rest of the world. This film tells an epic tale, giving us larger than life characters whose lives play out on a vast stage. The result is a work that will inspire not just climbers but the world at large.”

— Nicolas Brown, jury member.

Creative Excellence Award

Sponsored by Sole | \$2,000

EL SENDERO LUMINOSO

(USA, 2014, 7 min)

Director: Renan Ozturk

Producer: Aimee Tetreault

Production Company: Camp4 Collective



From the film *El Sendero Luminoso*

Free solo climber Alex Honnold is at it again, defying the laws of gravity, high and alone on a massive wall above the Mexican plains. Cedar Wright doesn't know if he should talk some sense into his friend, or encourage him to do what he does best.

"This is a film that took us to a place both physically and emotionally where we entered the world of a free soloist, and for a few brief moments, shared in what must be one of the most sublime experiences possible for a human being. *El Sendero Luminoso* is a beautiful, poetic film with a soft touch that perfectly illustrates the age-old axiom that less is more."

— Mark Synnott, jury member

Best Film — Exploration and Adventure

Sponsored MSR | \$2,000

AND THEN WE SWAM

(UK, 2013, 37 min)

Director: Ben Finney

Producer: Robb Ellender



From the film *And Then We Swam*

Most adventurers who set out to cross the Indian Ocean have some rowing experience. For two blokes from the UK, that seemed like a minor detail, not a death wish.

“*And Then We Swam* is a film about true adventure – the voyage of a Ship of Fools where the outcome, and even life or death, was unknown right down to the last possible minute. With complete irreverence and a total disregard for their own well-being, these two hugely likable characters proved that there is true greatness inside all of us, if we can just find the courage to go find it.”

— Mark Synnott, jury member.

Best Film — Mountain Culture

Sponsored by Helly Hansen | \$2,000

TASHI AND THE MONK

(England, 2014, 40 min), subtitled

Director: Andrew Hinton, Johnny Burke

Production Company: Pilgrim Films



From the film *Tashi and the Monk*

There's a brave social experiment taking place on a remote mountaintop in the foothills of the Himalaya. A former Buddhist monk is seeking to transform the lives of abandoned children through love and compassion. Tashi is especially vulnerable as she struggles to make friends, and learns that love can help heal even the saddest memories.

"Mountains can be brutal places to live. Perhaps this goes some way towards explaining how Tibetan buddhism has developed such a keen sense of compassion for all beings. Many westerners may have heard of these profound ideals, but in this film we are able to witness compassion in action. The experience is both surprising and humbling."

— Nicolas Brown, jury member.

Best Film — Climbing

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

CERRO TORRE: A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL

(Austria, 2013, 103 min), subtitled

Director: Thomas Dirnhofer

Producer: Philipp Manderla*

Production Company: Red Bull Media House GmbH



From the film *Cerro Torre: A Snowball's Chance in Hell*

Storms are expected in Patagonia, but the drama that ensued during the big-budget filming of Lama's quest brought a new level of scandal to the quiet little town at Torre's base. The film's director created a stir when he brought helicopters, bolts, fixed ropes and a camera crew to capture Lama's first attempt in 2009, creating what some called a 'circus'. When Lama finally reached the top in 2012, the filming of that effort became almost as challenging as the climb itself.

"Intimate, controversial, honest, awe inspiring and dedicated. These words paint the story of a climber, his team, and the filmmaking team, that take us on an epic climb that literally took years to accomplish. The film contains powerful storytelling and impressive filmmaking and never shies away from showing us the friction on and off the mountain and the deep disappointment everyone experiences."

— Shirley Vercruysse, jury member.

Best Film — Mountain Sports

Sponsored by Live Out There | \$2,000

LITTLE RED BUS

(France, 2013, 33 min), subtitled

Director and Producer: Sébastien Montaz-Rosset

Production Company: Montaz-Rosset Film



From the film *Little Red Bus*

Hold onto your hats, get ready, and buckle up for a wild ride packed full of thrills and spills. All aboard the Little Red Bus!

“This film puts art in the mountain and mountain in the art. Sometimes absurd, but always poetic, this film was made with huge commitment and a touch of wonderful French madness.”

— Benoît Aymon, jury member.

Best Film — Snow Sports

Sponsored by Oboz Footwear | \$2,000

THE CRASH REEL

(USA, 2013, 109 min)

Director: Lucy Walker

Producer: Julian Cautherley

Production Company: KP Rides Again LLC



From the film *The Crash Reel*

An escalating rivalry between snowboarder Kevin Pearce and his nemesis Shaun White in the run-up to the 2010 Olympics leaves Shaun on top of the Olympic podium and Kevin in a coma following a training accident in Park City, Utah. Kevin's tight-knit Vermont family flies to his side and helps him rebuild his life as a brain injury survivor. But when he insists he wants to return to the sport he still loves, his family intervenes. Will Kevin defy them and insist on pursuing his passion? How much risk is too much?

"Intense intimacy graces this film, as a close-knit family comes to grips with a catastrophic event while they negotiate its aftermath. This film touches deeply, but also helps us to understand – and may well spur us to take action within our own lives."

— Joni Cooper, jury member.

Best Film — Mountain Environment and Natural History

Sponsored by Film Festival Flix | \$2,000

NATURE: TOUCHING THE WILD

(USA, 2014, 53 min)

Director and Producer: David Allen

Production Company: Passion Planet, THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET



From the film *Nature: Touching the Wild*

Being accepted into a community of wild mule deer living on the sage grass steppe of Wyoming is no easy task. Naturalist Joe Hutto embarked on a seven-year project to do just that.

“A scientist takes seven years to get to know a whole herd of new friends. Through patience, rigour and compassion he creates profound personal relationships. The film challenges the commonly held belief that we are the only species with feelings.”

— Shirley Vercruysse, jury member.

Best Short Mountain Film

Sponsored by The North Face | \$2,000

DELTA DAWN

(USA, 2014, 16 min)

Director and Producer: Peter McBride*

Production Company: Peter McBride Productions



From the film *Delta Dawn*

During an experimental pulse flow in the spring of 2014, filmmaker Peter McBride packed up his stand-up paddle board and headed to the Colorado River Delta to investigate how we use and abuse Western water – and how restoration is possible.

“This film demonstrates how adventure can help expose the choices we make in our daily lives. Through stark images and playfulness, it leads us to ask important questions and shows us the power of a river.”

— Joni Cooper, jury member.

Best Feature-length Mountain Film

Sponsored by Town of Banff | \$2,000

MARMATO

(USA, 2014, 88 min), subtitled

Director: Mark Grieco

Producer: Stuart Reid

Production Company: Calle Films



From the film *Marmato*

A peaceful gold-mining town in rural Colombia confronts destruction by a Canadian multinational mining company. Greed, environmental devastation and danger are around every turn. What will it take for the people of Marmato to maintain their pride in the 500-year tradition of mining that has sustained them thus far?

“The challenge of a feature film is to be fascinating from beginning to end. With this film you really feel involved and close to the people. Mixing humour and tenderness the filmmaker illustrates dramatic social impact. This film opens our eyes on a mountain community struggling for its future.”

— Benoît Aymon, jury member.

People's Choice Award

Sponsored by Treksta | \$2,000

MENDING THE LINE

(USA, 2014, 48 min), some subtitles

Director: Steve Engman

Producer: John Waller*

Production Company: Uncage the Soul Productions



From the film *Mending the Line*

In 1944, 20-year-old Frank Moore landed on the beaches of Normandy. Now, at the age of 90, he returns with his wife and son to heal the wounds of his past by fly-fishing the streams he once helped free.

This film was selected by the Festival audience.

People's Choice Award — Radical Reels

Sponsored by Deuter | \$2,000

SUFFERFEST 2: DESERT ALPINE

(USA, 2014 27 min)

Director and Producer: Cedar Wright*



From the film *Sufferfest 2: Desert Alpine*

Cedar Wright and Alex Honnold are back! This time, a month riding their bikes and climbing desert towers in the American Southwest should be a piece of cake for these fast friends. Or will it?

This film was selected by the audience at Radical Reels via the applause-o-metre.

Special Jury Mention

JUNGWA, THE BROKEN BALANCE

(France, 2012, 53 min), subtitled

Director: Stanzin Dorjai Gya, Christiane Mordelet

Producer: Barra Muriel

Production Company: Lato Senu Productions



From the film *Jungwa, the Broken Balance*

In 2010, severe rain induced by climate change devastated a remote area of Ladakh. A few years later, Stanzin Dorjai, a local filmmaker, returns to the affected areas to interview people and to talk about how global warming has changed their lives.

“Film is a cultural conversation. Unfortunately not all voices are present at this table. In this film we are treated to a fresh voice that is both honest and original, and deserves to be heard. The filmmaker grapples with intimate personal tragedy as well as vast global change, and through it all remains positive, offering us both pragmatic and philosophical solutions. Remarkably, he even reminds us of the value of filmmaking itself.”

— Nicolas Brown, jury member.