

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival 2022-2023 World Tour Films



ALTA

(2022, Switzerland, 4:37 minutes)

Director: Etienne Mérel
Producer: Tim Harty
Production Company: The Faction Collective
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: A team of high-performance riders travels to Alta, Utah for a spring freeskiing session that delivers all styles and conditions of skiing.

A BAFFIN VACATION

(2022, Canada, 12:06 minutes)

Director: Sarah McNair-Landry, Erik Boomer
Producer: Rush Sturges, Erik Boomer, Sarah McNair-Landry
Production Company: River Roots
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: Erik Boomer and Sarah McNair-Landry set off on a bold multi-sport 45-day expedition traveling through the remote landscape of Baffin Island in search of stunning cliffs to climb and unexplored rivers to whitewater kayak.

BALKAN EXPRESS

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: ***Best Film: Snow Sports***

(2022, Germany, 40:13 minutes)

Director: Jochen Mesle, Max Kroneck, Johannes Müller, Philipp Becker
Producer: Philipp Becker
Production Company: El Flamingo GmbH
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: German mountaineers Max Kroneck and Jochen Mesle book a one-way train ticket from Munich to Thessaloniki – and start their 2500-kilometre journey back home by bike and ski. They explore the mountains of the Balkans, looking for the most beautiful ski runs and sharing good times with locals along the way.

BEFORE THEY FALL

(2021, Canada, 40:07 minutes)

Director: Cam MacArthur
Producer: Momme Halbe
Production Company: Ecologyst Films
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: A decades-long battle to protect the remaining old-growth forests of British Columbia escalates when conservation groups, First Nations, scientists, and land defenders block a logging company from accessing the last unprotected ancient watershed on southern Vancouver Island.

CLEAN MOUNTAINS

(2021, Netherlands, 18:30 minutes)

Director: Geertjan Lassche
Producer: Jos de Putter
Production Company: Dieptescherpte BV
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Due to the pandemic there are no climbers in the Himalaya. A famous sherpa family, one brother and three sisters, decides to climb Mount Everest to clean the garbage and thus restore the holiness of the mountains, and calm the gods.

COLORS OF MEXICO

(2021, France, 4:39 minutes)

Director: Pierre Henni, Kilian Bron
Production Company: Commencal
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Discover Mexico and its magnificent mix of backdrops with Kilian Bron and his team.

CONTINUUM

(2021, Canada, 2:07 minutes)

Director: Harrison Mendel
Producer: Harrison Mendel
Production Company: Harrison Mendel Inc
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Everything is connected. Each ride is an extension of the one before and each reentry is a transition to the next launch. Each experience builds on one another toward a flow state of endless progression.

CREATION THEORY

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: ***Creative Excellence Award***

(2022, USA, 22:04 minutes)

Director: Ben Sturgulewski
Producer: Ben Moon, Justin Sweeney
Production Company: SturgeFilm
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: In Creation Theory, nature's raw elements converge in the Westfjords of Iceland, taking us on a journey from the interstellar birth of gravity and rhythm to their ultimate human creative expression: surfer on wave, snowboarder on peak, and musician on stage.

Do A Wheelie

(2021, UK, 5:44 minutes)

Director: Jonny Ashworth
Producer: Lisa Annette
Production Company: Cut Media
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Join Danny MacAskill and a host of friends as he pushes the boundaries of the humble wheelie and learns a thing or two from friends old and new.

DOO SAR: A KARAKORAM SKI EXPEDITION FILM (TOUR EDIT)

(2021, Poland, 20:34 minutes)

Director: Jakub Gzela
Producer: Andrzej Bargiel
Production Company: Andrzej Bargiel Sport Promotion
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Andrzej Bargiel and Jędrrek Baranowski set off to the Karakorum to an adventure full of passion and love for the mountains, amounting to freeride at over 6,000 m above sea level!

ECO-HACK!

(2022, USA, 16:39 minutes)

Director: Josh Izenberg, Brett Marty
Producer: Brett Marty, Josh Izenberg
Production Company: Speculative Films
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: Biologist Tim Shields has watched desert tortoise populations in the Mojave Desert plummet since the 1990s. The latest threat? Ballooning populations of ravens, thanks to increased human activity in the desert. Tired of taking notes on a quiet catastrophe, Tim quits traditional observational biology in exchange for direct intervention.

FABRIC: A DOCUMENTARY SERIES, EP 4 HERITAGE (TOUR EDIT)

(2021, Canada, 10:11 minutes)

Director: Robin Van Gyn, Justin Taylor Smith
Producer: Robin Van Gyn, Justin Taylor Smith, Yulin Olliver
Production Company: FBRC Media Ltd, Happy Okay Pictures
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Embracing identity and tradition to empower future generations of Indigenous youth, Hawaiian surfer Mainei Kinimaka preserves ancestral tradition through stewardship of language and tradition.

FALL THEORY (TOUR EDIT)

(2021, UK, 29:47 minutes)

Director: Alastair Lee
Producer: Alastair Lee
Production Company: Posing Productions
Advisory: "Behavioral acts resulting in harm or having the potential for harm; this may include fighting, weapons, torture, suicide and violent sports";
coarse language

Film Synopsis: Fall Theory follows the notorious Franco Cookson on his latest journey to climb a dangerous line where the weight of previous successes hangs heavily on his mind – that, and the laughable protection combined with moves he can't yet do. Madman or genius? Decide for yourself with this enthralling watch; spare trousers recommended.

THE FASTEST GIRL IN THE VILLAGE

(2021, UK, 6:14 minutes)

Director: Fraser Byrne
Producer: Tyrone Bradley
Production Company: Yeow!
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: As a girl growing up in Lesotho, Khothlang Leuta never imagined she could become a bike racer. From teaching herself how to ride a bike to becoming "faster than the boys", see what can be accomplished when opportunity is provided.

FLOW WITH SAM FAVRET

(2021, France, 4:39 minutes)

Director: Maxime Moulin
Producer: Sam Favret, Maxime Moulin
Production Company: Maxime Moulin Filmmaker
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Flow is an aerial and symphonic journey with skier Sam Favret, in the heart of a closed resort during the winter of 2021 and is a dose of unreality, serenity and Sam's powerful skiing. But above all the pleasure of rediscovering a playground back to its wild state.

FREE TO RUN

(2022, USA, 31:04 minutes)

Director: Carrie Highman, Tim Highman
Producer: Carrie Highman, Tim Highman
Production Company: Dream Lens Media LLC
Advisory: Coarse language;
mature subject matter with regard to the Taliban takeover

Film Synopsis: When the Taliban takes over Afghanistan threatening the basic human rights of women across the country, UN human rights attorney and mountain runner, Stephanie Case, must fight to find a way forward for the Afghan women of her NGO, Free to Run, in the midst of taking on the longest and hardest ultra-trail race of her life.

Joy

(2022, Spain, 22:27 minutes)

Director: Aner Etxebarria Moral
Producer: Aner Etxebarria Moral
Production Company: Katz Estudio
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: In the extreme South-West of Uganda is Mgahinga Gorilla National Park – a wild ecosystem drawn by the orography of three sleeping giants, the Muhavura, Gahinga and Sabinyo volcanoes, which mark the border between Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC. Joy is a female ranger and a mother who dedicates her days to protect the National Park and more specifically to watch over the only family of mountain gorillas that lives in its forests.

KUMARI: A FATHER'S DREAM (TOUR EDIT)

(2022, USA, 16:48 minutes)

Director: Sean O'Connor
Producer: Andy McDonough
Production Company: Story Gorge
Advisory: "Behavioural acts resulting in harm or having the potential for harm; this may include fighting, weapons, torture, suicide and violent sports"

Film Synopsis: Deep in rural Nepal, Jagat Lama is driven by a promise he made to his dying father to bring medical care to the village. Along with a group of childhood friends from low-caste families, he starts a trekking guide social enterprise that transforms their home community of Kumari.

LAPPORTEN SKYLINE (TOUR EDIT)

(2022, Sweden, 18:47 minutes)

Director: Emil Sergel
Producer: Emil Sergel
Production Company: Pinewood Productions
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: During the summer 2021 some of the best highliners in the world head for the iconic Lapporten Gap just outside Abisko in Northern Sweden. The plan is to put up a two-kilometer long highline 600 meters above the deck and then walk across. If they succeed it will be a new world record.

LIL' BUDDHA

(2020, USA, 9:17 minutes)

Director: Lindsey Hagen
Producer: Lindsey Hagen
Production Company: Gnarly Bay
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Lo Phong has hiked over 77,000 kilometers since age 19. He attributes his motivation and drive to his Hmong lineage, a family of survivors who've historically persevered and celebrated their freedom since their removal from Southeast Asia by the US military in 1976. Lo Phong's story chronicles the journey of a refugee on a quest for freedom and a sense of home.

THE NINE WHEELS

(2022, UK, 21:46 minutes)

Director: Santiago Burin des Roziers
Producer: Santiago Burin des Roziers
Production Company: Burning Feet Films
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: The film tells the story of the Schneeberger family aka The Nine Wheels. This film explores what it is like to live with a disability, brotherly love, the devotion of parents and ultimately, what it is like to live life one day at a time.

NORTH SHORE BETTY

(2021, USA, 12:17 minutes)

Director: Travis Rummel, Darcy Hennessey Turenne
Producer: Travis Rummel, Darcy Hennessey Turenne
Production Company: Felt Soul Media, Well Travelled Collective
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: The misty forests above North Vancouver, British Columbia are hallowed ground for mountain biking, a place so harrowing it's influenced every aspect of the sport for over 30 years. It's also where Betty Birrell, at age 45, picked up mountain biking after a career as a mountaineer and professional windsurfer.

NUISANCE BEAR

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: ***Best Film: Environment***

(2021, Canada, 14:01 minutes)

Director: Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden
Producer: Will Miller, Jack Weisman
Production Company: Documist
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: Churchill, Manitoba, is famous as an international destination for photographing polar bears. We've seen the majestic images and classic wildlife series captured here, but what do these bears see of us? Through a shift in perspective Nuisance Bear reveals an obstacle course of tourist paparazzi and wildlife officers whom bears must navigate during their annual migration.

THE PROCESS

(2021, UK, 15:17 minutes)

Director: Matt Pycroft, Matt Hardy
Producer: Matt Hardy
Production Company: Coldhouse Collective
Advisory: Coarse language
Focus: Climbing, running

Film Synopsis: Tom Randall is a rock climber known for his commitment to training and the courageous and, at times, outrageous challenges he sets himself. This time, Tom has set his mind on becoming proficient and efficient in the sport of fell running and he has a madcap idea to try and complete the previously un-attempted Lakes Classic Rock Challenge and a Bob Graham link-up in 24 hours.

REEL ROCK 16: BRIDGE BOYS

(2022, USA, 28:05 minutes)

Director: Nick Rosen, Peter Mortimer
Producer: Zachary Barr
Production Company: Reel Rock
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: A horizontal big-wall adventure on the longest, most ridiculous crack climb ever attempted.

REEL ROCK 16: CENOTE

(2022, USA, 9:27 minutes)

Director: Reed Rickert, Zachary Barr
Producer: Reed Rickert
Production Company: Reel Rock
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: A young papaya farmer discovers the pure joy of climbing in the crystalline limestone sinkholes of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula.

Saving Glaciers

(2022, Slovenia, 8:38 minutes)

Director: Ciril Jazbec
Producer: Ciril Jazbec
Production Company: TENT Film
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: A scientist and his team on a mission to save the inevitable melting of glaciers in the Alps. Determined that the melting and eventual disappearance of the glaciers in the Alps can be averted, Dr. Felix Keller, a Swiss glaciologist, and his team set out to develop a complex snow cabling system, recycling glacial meltwater into snow. Unlike others, their solution can be scaled up enough to save an entire Morteratsch glacier. Enthusiasm, resilience, and love for the Alps reflect in these locals' efforts to save the winter for future generations.

Sheri (Tour Edit)

(2022, USA, 18:42 minutes)

Director: James 'Q' Martin
Producer: Emily L. Doig
Production Company: Q Stories
Advisory: Coarse language

Film Synopsis: Sheri Tingey's 60-year career as a woman who has defied the odds by starting a company at age 50 that has revolutionized the outdoor industry. The film is a story about the hurdles she overcame to launch the company, about the ways she hid from view so that people would judge the boats, not her role in creating them.

SINNER FIELDS (TOUR EDIT)

(2022, Austria, 14:37 minutes)

Director: Bernhard Braun
Producer: Bernhard Braun
Advisory: Coarse language
Focus: Skiing

Film Synopsis: A Bavarian story of living in a camper van as a full-time skier.

My 2022 winter season split in three segments (Sun, Snow and season final Kaunertal) combined with a special kind of humor. Also, there is a segment of a blessing 10-day trip to East Tyrol in January 2021 sneaked in. Entirely filmed in the Austrian alps.

Between the skiing segments, I gave my own comedy a try. Playing with bad accent, acting as the lonely camping-wolf and joking in a self-ironic way. A very specific type of humor I would say but despite the bad English, not too far from the truth and therefore very personal.

TEMPO II. MOVEMENTS IN JUNGLE

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: **Best Film: Mountain Sports**

(2022, USA, 6:08 minutes)

Director: Thomas Woodson
Producer: Kyle Richardson
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: A conceptual exploration of the shared feelings between music and mountains — Tempo II. Movements in Jungle is set in the world's largest urban jungle, exploring styles of Brazilian drumming and trail running.

TO THE HILLS & BACK - KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

(2022, Canada, 46:00 minutes)

Director: Mike Quigley
Producer: Malcolm Sangster, Gabriella Dufour-Léonard
Production Company: Sherpas Cinema, Utah Avalanche Center
Advisory: Coarse language;
"Behavioral acts resulting in harm or having the potential for harm; this may include fighting, weapons, torture, suicide and violent sports";
'Traumatic' disclaimer

Film Synopsis: At a remote backcountry cabin, a veteran mountain guide and his daughter connect and reflect upon a lifetime in the mountains. A torch is being passed within their family's legacy of guides and they discuss the history of those that have come and gone, some too soon. Stories unfold, from the early pioneers to modern day hard charging enthusiasts, and we hear from several characters including those with life shattering events.

WALKING ON CLOUDS

(2021, Brazil, 6:49 minutes)

Director: Renan Kamizi
Producer: João Juchem
Production Company: GO Visuals
Advisory: None

Film Synopsis: In the city of Praia Grande, Santa Catarina, Brazil, Rafael Bridi attempts the highest highline record in the world by setting his line above the clouds.

WILD WATERS (TOUR EDIT)

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: ***Audience Choice Award***

(2022, Switzerland, 45:05 minutes)

Director: David Arnaud
Production Company: Red Bull Media House, MOVIO
Advisory: "Behavioral acts resulting in harm or having the potential for harm; this may include fighting, weapons, torture, suicide and violent sports";
coarse language

Film Synopsis: Adventurer, competitor, daughter, friend, pioneer, hero, and badass human are all words used to describe French kayaker, Nouria Newman. In *Wild Waters*, we follow Nouria as she prepares to become the first female to run a 100-foot (30 m) waterfall; we watch her grow from a young, keen Olympic hopeful to one of the greatest kayakers of all times - male or female.

However, running some of the world's hardest whitewater isn't Nouria's biggest life challenge. Realizing that the expectations placed upon her as both an athlete and as a woman weight heavily on her decisions and ambitions, she pushes back to make her own path.

It is this central aspect of her life – this refusal to conform to others' expectations – where Nouria is able to use kayaking as a way to transform into her truest self and become a once-in-a-generation kayaker.

WOOD HOOD

2022 Banff Mountain Film Competition: ***Best Short Film***

(2021, USA, 16:32 minutes)

Director: Alexander Cullen
Producer: Alexander Cullen, Andy Isaacson, Manny Almonte
Production Company: Resonant Pictures
Advisory: "Behavioral acts resulting in harm or having the potential for harm; this may include fighting, weapons, torture, suicide and violent sports"

Film Synopsis: DeVaughn is a 15-year-old kid from New York City who loves skateboarding and craves a "quiet place" to escape the chaos of his home, the city, and kids that steal from him. The film follows a weekend-long group camping trip, and as we weave between the city and the woods, a place that is unfamiliar and historically inaccessible to many, we witness the joy and growth that is possible when kids have an opportunity to find that "quiet place".