

MOUNTAINFILM

2021 FILM LINEUP

Here it is – your personal guide to the complete 2021 film lineup.

Films are listed in order of appearance by program. You can find an alphabetical listing and download a complete Mountainfilm in Telluride festival schedule at mountainfilm.org.

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FEATURES

/ AFTER ANTARCTICA

A Very Short Guide to Union Glacier Camp

Temujin Doran

If you're considering an expedition to Antarctica, here is a jaunty preview of your likely base camp. Looks like fun! Not to mention beautiful and energetically staffed. —SC
(UK, 2020, 5 min.)

After Antarctica

Tasha Van Zandt

In 1989, lifelong explorer Will Steger and five other men set out on a seven-month-long expedition to traverse 4,000 miles across the continent of Antarctica. Together, they were six men from six different countries on a mission to defend and protect Antarctica from the exploitation it faced. Almost 30 years later, Steger is still exploring. At 75, he sets out on a solo expedition to the Arctic Circle, where two stories unfold in parallel. One of a man seeking to preserve the human race by protecting the ice of Antarctica and another of a man married to the North, engaging in a love affair with the sky — seeking calm, rhythm, awareness, discipline and chasing inspiration once again. —SD
(USA, 2021, 106 min.)

/ AMERICAN GADFLY

American Gadfly

Skye Wallin

In 2019, a group of ambitious teens hatched a perfect scheme, one in which they would awaken former Alaskan Senator Mike Gravel from his political slumber and encourage him to run for president in 2020. He would not be running to win, but to raise awareness — a true gadfly by definition, a nuisance, a provocative and persistent stimulus. Described as a Bernie, who's more Bernie than Bernie, Gravel is an eccentric politician who stays true to himself to a fault — a Forrest Gump with civic duties who shows up at just the right time. With an agenda to end forever wars, address the climate crisis and grant Medicare for all, Gravel and the teens forge toward direct democracy by tweeting themselves toward the democratic debate stage, laser beam memes and all. —SD
(USA, 2021, 95 min.)

/ THE ANTS & THE GRASSHOPPER

Joseba Cruz

Aleix Vilardebó

On a mission to catch the smell of rain and fresh-cut grass, culinary artist Joseba Cruz is constantly looking for the most that nature has to offer. Bringing the woods to a plate is his attempt at connecting to the place where he is. Raised by his grandparents and great-grandparents, Cruz attributes his career to his French cousin Oliver, a fly-fishing champion who taught him the physical and mental attrition of dedicating oneself to the earth. Leaving behind three-star restaurants, Cruz competes with himself to make Michelin one-star food from his mobile creation space using gas-fuelled camp stoves and a zest for fresh like no other. —SD
(Spain, 2020, 8 min.)

Bug Farm

Lydia Cornett

A self-proclaimed roach mom, a mother of crickets and worm caretakers demonstrate their love for bugs in the small town of LaBelle, Florida. With true Southern hospitality, the ladies provide that little extra so the bugs can be happy and healthy before they are packaged up and sent off to local bait shops, zoos and pet stores. —SD

(USA, 2020, 14 min.)

The Ants & The Grasshopper

Raj Patel, Zak Piper

Anita Chitaya is transforming her village in Malawi with new farming and cooking methods even as drought looms. Chitaya and her mentor, Esther Lupafya, decide to embark on a journey through the U.S. in an effort to convince Americans that climate change is real. Along the way, they visit Midwest farms and urban food cooperatives, witnessing national divisions in their quest to save their home from drought. —TI

(USA, UK, Malawi, 2021, 74 min.)

/ BEAR-LIKE

Bear-Like

Roman Droux

Is a peaceful coexistence between humans and wild animals possible? Considering this question, filmmaker Roman Droux heads to the remote wilds of Alaska with bear researcher David Bittner in pursuit of a better understanding of the powerful animal that captured his childhood dreams. Together, they spend a summer with the grizzlies, often in extremely close proximity. What unveils is a beautiful personal story of connection to wilderness, and an intimate portrait of these unique creatures. —AB

(Switzerland, 2019, 92 min.)

/ THE BIG SCARY "S" WORD

God \$ Green: An Unholy Alliance

Jeanine Butler

This spunky, hard-hitting documentary from the Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab at the University of Virginia asks the question, "When did climate change go from a scientific metric to a political hot potato, and what does God have to do with it?" The film uncovers decades of religious polarization, political propaganda, racism and corporate deal-making while exploring the tension between science and religion. Influenced by oil money for decades, the evangelical movement has seemingly ditched the idea of creation stewardship to promote the idea that environmentalism is a threat to the Christian worldview. —AM

(USA, 2020, 20 min.)

The Big Scary "S" Word

Yael Bridge

Capitalism is synonymous with America. So is democracy. But as obscene wealth increases for those at the top, working people burdened by debt find it increasingly hard to make a living, raising the question of whether these two founding principles of our country can co-exist. *The Big Scary "S" Word* offers a history of socialist movements in America, from labor union strikes to the first municipally sponsored public housing project and debunks the outdated Cold War propaganda. The film follows a former Marine and a

school teacher as they work to prove that working people helping to shape institutions for the betterment of all and holding those institutions accountable to the public is as American as apple pie. —*HS*
(USA, 2020, 82 min.)

/ BURIED

Buried

Jared Drake, Steven Siig

The combination of steep terrain, fluctuating temperatures and howling winds make Alpine Meadows one of the most avalanche prone ski resorts in the U.S. By March 1982, the resort had developed a rigorous avalanche safety protocol that was in many ways ahead of its time. But then a monster storm moved in, bringing relentless snow and fierce winds and creating conditions ripe for disaster. In this film, a taut autopsy of that fateful event, key players dig through the painful memories to relive what happens when nature overwhelms. —*KK*
(USA, 2021, 100 min.)

/ DUTY FREE

Smelly Little Town

Zach Neumeyer

Madonna was born in the Rust Belt community of Bay City, Michigan, making her its most famous native by several orders of magnitude. Some see enormous opportunity for the struggling city to capitalize on its hometown hero. And yet ... a myopic mayor flubbed a chance in 1985 to harbor goodwill with the rising pop icon, and matters weren't made better when the newspaper took her description of the city out of context. What ensued was a small-town saga for the ages. —*KK*
(USA, 2021, 26 min.)

Duty Free

Sian-Pierre Regis

As awareness grows of the many prejudices that exist in our time, there is a pervasive bias that is sometimes overlooked: ageism. When Sian-Pierre Regis' proud and vibrant mother, Rebecca, suddenly loses a job that she has been faithfully dedicated to for decades, she learns that finding work at age 75 will not be easy. Faced with economic insecurity and an uncertain future, Rebecca tries to put on her best face as she painstakingly learns to job hunt in an unfamiliar digital age. Just when things are looking hopeless, Regis is able to dream up a uniquely creative solution to not only lift his mother's spirits, but to repay her for a lifetime of sacrifice. This poignant tribute feels like a personal love letter from a son, while also shining light on the elders being left behind. —*AM*
(USA, 2020, 71 min.)

/ GODSPEED, LOS POLACOS!

A Conversation

Phil Hessler

Ugandan-born professional snowboarder Brolin Mawejeje has set lofty goals for himself: representing his home country in the winter Olympics and going to medical school. Mawejeje sits down with climber, skier

and filmmaker Jimmy Chin for an intimate conversation about their unique career paths as minorities in the outdoor industry and how they've struggled with pressure, both familial and internal. —*HS*
(USA, 2021, 7 min.)

Godspeed, Los Polacos!

Adam Nawrot

This epic adventure film takes place during the Cold War. A handful of brazen, and perhaps naive, university students concoct a harebrained plan to escape Soviet-era Poland to paddle their janky, homemade kayaks in some “real” whitewater. Though they have little to no paddling skills, these unwitting adventurers are obviously charmed with the sport. Against all odds, they connive their way out from behind the Iron Curtain, eventually finding themselves in South America, where they embark on a kayaking mission that seems doomed. Hang on to your hat for the neverending drama of this largely unknown expedition.

—*AM*

(USA, 2020, 88 min.)

/ JACINTA

Jacinta

Jessica Earnshaw

Like the mother who gave birth to her at 17, Jacinta struggles with addiction. Perhaps it's no accident that they wind up doing time together. Given extraordinarily intimate access over a period of three-and-a-half years, filmmaker Jessica Earnshaw turns her unblinking camera on Jacinta, her mother, her father, her brothers, her grandparents and the daughter she gave birth to at 16 — revealing deep codependency and multiple layers of trauma. This film poses the vexing question: Can the patterns of addiction and prison, rehab, relapse and perpetual disappointment — handed down from one generation to the next — be broken? These are chaotic lives where unconditional love is frequently rendered but is of limited utility to heal. —*SC*

(USA, 2020, 106 min.)

/ THE LAST OUT (CINE DE LAS MONTAÑAS)

Añay Kachi: The Salt Workers of the Peruvian Andes

Cristóbal Ruiz, Thomas Silcock, Toto Thots

At 3,300 meters above sea level in the Peruvian Andes, 65-year-old Laurita has harvested salt by hand since she was 13. In this film, Laurita lovingly shares the salt-mining heritage of the Indigenous people who have lived by the salt pools on the mountain terraces for more than 600 years. After enduring unfair working conditions, the workers finally gained ownership of the area's 4,000 salt pools in 1981, and today, 1,000 families manage the salt production as a cooperative. —*TI*

(Canada, Chile, 2020, 13 min.)

Since you arrived, my heart stopped belonging to me

Erin Semine Kökdil

Walking the streets of Mexico, futilely searching for lost loved ones, these Central American mothers hold a pain that has no remedy. With desolation evident in their eyes and devastation present in their posture, this caravan of mothers sets out in search of their missing migrant children each year. Each child had their own

story and reason for leaving home, and now, large photos of them hang around the necks of women as they shuffle from person to person with the aching question: “Have you seen them?” —SD
(USA, 2021, 21 min.)

The Last Out

Sami Khan, Michael Gassert

Due to the 1963 U.S. embargo on Cuban trade, Major League Baseball teams still cannot hire players directly from Cuba. If Cuban baseball players hope to get signed by U.S. teams, they must establish residency in other countries. This documentary follows three Cuban athletes who live together in Costa Rica, following dreams fueled by a Los Angeles-based sports agent and Costa Rican contractors. —TI
(USA, Dominican Republic, 2020, 87 min.)

/ LOS HERMANOS/THE BROTHERS

Piano Craftman

Scott Ruderman

Zinovy Pritsker has been tuning pianos for 45 years, including the instruments of high-profile musicians. This short offers a glimpse into the quirky, sometimes cranky New York City piano tuner as he plies a fading trade. —KK
(USA, 2020, 5 min.)

Los Hermanos/The Brothers

Marcia Jarmel, Ken Schneider

Fate split Afro-Cuban brothers Ilmar and Aldo apart, and now the virtuosic musicians live on either side of a geopolitical divide, one in Cuba and one in New York. Music, blood and shared history bound them together, and in this film, they reunite for a performance they’ve long dreamt of. *Los Hermanos/The Brothers* offers a view of estranged nations through the lens of music and family. —KK
(USA, 2020, 84 min.)

/ MISSING IN BROOKS COUNTY

Status Pending

Priscilla González Sainz

While waiting to obtain legal status, immigrants can spend more than two decades negotiating the muddled mess of the U.S. immigration system. Starting the process as single, young adults, some might be grandparents before they finally recite the Pledge of Allegiance at their naturalization ceremony. Already arduous to navigate, the process became shockingly more difficult during the Trump administration. How do the passionate, selfless immigration lawyers cope with incessant defeat, heartbreak and the constant strain of negotiating policies that can change daily? In *Status Pending*, we meet five frontline Mexican-American attorneys who are doing their best to avoid burnout by aiding and supporting each other. —AM
(USA, 2020, 27 min.)

Missing in Brooks County

Lisa Molomot, Jeff Bemiss

You’ve heard stories of immigrant arrests and detentions, but what about the people who cross our border and are never heard from again? The unforgiving desert landscape of Brooks County, Texas has been the

site of more than 2,000 migrant deaths since 2008, the result of a U.S. Border Patrol policy that diverts immigrants into treacherous crossing areas where they often succumb to dehydration and exposure. This film introduces us to many of the families who are desperately seeking lost loved ones, the individuals and organizations assisting them and the “build the wall” supporters who attempt to thwart their efforts. —JJ (USA, 2020, 81 min.)

/ PLAYING WITH SHARKS

The Captain

Greg Kohs

At 27 years old, Sadie Samuels is the youngest and only female lobster boat captain in the Rockport, Maine harbor. Despite the long hours and manual labor of hauling traps, Samuels is in love — obsessed even — with what she calls the most beautiful, magical place on the planet. Her love for lobster fishing was imparted early in her childhood by her dad Matt, who has been her mentor and inspiration since she was a little girl in yellow fishing boots.

(USA, 2020, 7 min.)

Playing With Sharks

Sally Aitken

Sharks have long been feared by humans, who see the underwater creatures as bloodthirsty and merciless — but that’s not the experience of Valerie Taylor. Taylor is a living legend in the underwater world who spent most of her life swimming with, filming and learning to understand sharks. From her early days as a champion spearfisher and open-water shark diver, to her involvement in the film *Jaws* and its deadly effect on shark populations around the globe, we watch as Taylor transitions from shark diver to passionate shark protector. Through it all, she proves that the maligned creatures should not be feared — just understood.

—EC

(Australia, 2021, 95 min.)

/ REEL ROCK 15: BLACK ICE

On Falling

Josephine Anderson

Serious risk is inherent in extreme sports. So why do people do them? Director Josephine Anderson, in a director’s statement, allows that she is too afraid to ride a mountain bike — so, who better to closely observe three female pro mountain bikers and ask the question: Why do they do it? This is a tough movie about the tough subject of human toughness, and vulnerability, and accomplishment. —SC

(Canada, 2020, 14 min.)

Running the Roof

Alexis Tymon, Ben Crocker

On a bet made between friends, a globe is spun and where a finger lands will determine the destination for a multi-day run. Tajikistan. Bonded by their love of running, and now committed to seeing their bet through, the friends pull out a map and plot their route through the Bartang valley, taking them over 300 miles (500 kilometers) across the country from the border of Afghanistan to the border of China. Surrounded by enormous mountains in what the locals call “the roof of the world,” they run over a marathon a day for a week, discovering a wild landscape and what they are capable of when pushed to their limits. —AB

(UK, 2020, 52 min.)

Reel Rock 15: Black Ice

Peter Mortimer, Zachary Barr

Since 2017, Memphis Rox, “a community center disguised as a climbing gym,” has brought the camaraderie of climbing and its generative sense of personal accomplishment to a Memphis inner-city neighborhood. In the winter of 2020, legendary climber Conrad Anker invited a crew from Memphis Rox to tackle ice climbing outside Bozeman, Montana. For some of the Black climbers, including filmmaker Malik Martin, the expedition was their first trip outside Memphis. “Montana is so white, it makes your eyes hurt,” one of them observes. The restorative values of outdoor recreation have never been so needed as they are today — a subject *Black Ice* addresses head on. —SC

(USA, 2020, 45 min.)

/ THE RIVER RUNNER

The River Runner

Rush Sturges

The story of Scott Lindgren’s 20-year quest to be the first person to paddle the four great rivers that originate from Tibet’s sacred Mount Kailash is more than a gripping whitewater flick. It is also an intimate chronicle of an emotionally stunted athlete who’s having a breakthrough after a life crisis. As a highly accomplished expedition kayaker and whitewater filmmaker, Lindgren always forbade any sign of emotional vulnerability on the river; he saw it as a weakness that might jeopardize the fortitude needed for extreme waters. It takes a life-changing diagnosis, followed by a dark night of the soul, for him to finally learn how to show up with an open heart. —AM

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, 2021, 86 min.)

/ SPACESHIP EARTH

Spaceship Earth

Matt Wolf

When a group of freethinkers came together in the mid-’60s, they put their collective energy toward projects that challenged the norm and made a difference. They started a theater company and learned to live off the Earth. They built a boat and sailed around the world. And, when faced with the devastating effect of human ignorance on planet Earth, they started their biggest project yet: Biosphere 2, an enclosed ecological system set in Arizona. Within it, various biomes, animals, insects and humans lived for two years — showcasing the delicate relationship between man and environment on a worldwide stage. The result of the project, and the events following, foretell of a battle we face in the world today — man’s scramble for power and money, while Earth hangs in the balance. —EC

(USA, 2020, 115 min.)

/ TRY HARDER!

When We Were Bullies

Jay Rosenblatt

A 5th grade memory that pops up 25 years later, triggers a 25-year investigation — presumably undertaken in fits and starts — by filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt. The result is an engrossing story about childhood cruelty and memory. The story is remarkable and it is skillfully rendered in a film that combines reminiscence,

whimsy, insane legwork, persistence, deep reflection and more than a few twists and turns. What is remembered of the bullying incident referenced by the film's title, and by whom? How, why and with what degree of accuracy? And how does any one incident, or coincidence, shape lives? After all, we were all 5th graders once. —SC

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, Germany, 2021, 36 min.)

Try Harder!

Debbie Lum

Welcome to Lowell High School, San Francisco's highest-ranking public high school, where nerds rule the hallways, high-achieving is the norm and seniors in the majority Asian-American student body vie for the top prize: admission into their dream college. In the hyper-competitive and increasingly selective college admission world though, being whip smart, incredibly dedicated and decorated with extra-curriculars might not be enough. —KK

(USA, 2021, 85 min.)

/ WALL OF SHADOWS

Chuj Boys of Summer

Max Walker-Silverman

Yakin speaks neither English nor Spanish, just his native language of Chuj. He shares a crowded apartment with other young men from his village, working as a janitor at Telluride High School while yearning to attend classes there instead. On their time off, the Chuj boys play basketball at the town park and hike the high country, where they ponder ghost structures left by earlier generations of immigrants, who also sought a livelihood far from home. —SC

(USA, Guatemala, 2020, 16 min.)

Wall of Shadows

Eliza Kubarska

Despite their misgivings, a Sherpa family prepares to guide a trio of Western climbers up Kumbhakarna, a mountain so sacred they are forbidden to climb it. Tensions mount between the guides, who want to avoid risks but desperately need the money they will earn from completing the trip, and the stubborn westerners who push the group on even though the weather grows dangerous. *Wall of Shadows* flips the traditional mountain climbing narrative and offers a glimpse inside a Nepali family struggling to make ends meet and the difficult choices they must make when their reputation is on the line. —HS

(Poland, Germany, Switzerland, 2020, 94 min.)

/ WE ARE AS GODS

We Are As Gods

Jason Sussberg, David Alvarado

Stewart Brand's Whole Earth Catalog ("access to tools") captured the ethos of the '60s counterculture, arguably anticipating the internet. Brand's current excursion into "de-extinction" is far less widely accepted as a paradigm for how the human species might thrive, or merely survive, its own destructiveness — but it comes from the same protean personality. In *We Are As Gods* the phenomenon of Brand — technologist, environmentalist, culture maven — emerges as a lifeforce, a God, in a way, as he works to bring the woolly mammoth, the passenger pigeon and the American chestnut back from extinction. This project, Brand

imagines, can lead to the restoration of the planet, putting the most advanced biological technology at the service of nature by reestablishing keystone species, even arresting climate change. Perhaps God is indeed an intellectual gadfly, a hacker and a merry prankster inspired by LSD; and creation is the providence of mad, fearless, nonconforming, irrepressible genius. —SC
(USA, 2021, 94 min.)

/ WEED & WINE

God's Plant

Jeremy Seifert, Malek Asfeer

Kentucky farmer Scott Essex calls hemp “God’s plant” because it produces CBD (cannabidiol), an extract that can relieve pain, depression and anxiety. The way he sees it, when hemp was illegal, his family and friends suffered. Now, after its legalization, Essex is partnering with a product manufacturer to experiment with plant breeds and organic growing methods. Through this film, he introduces us to the promise as well as challenges of his farming venture. —TI
(USA, 2021, 16 min.)

Weed & Wine

Rebecca Richman Cohen

Two farming families — one in France and one in California — navigate the burden of history and the inevitability of change as one generation prepares to pass the farm onto the next. Drawing parallels between France’s long-held winemaking traditions and the up-and-coming legal cannabis industry, this film transcends language and culture in its depiction of two multi-generational families. They may be worlds apart, but they find themselves on common ground — navigating family tension and the tightrope walk between tradition and reinvention. —EC

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, 2020, 89 min.)

/ WRITING WITH FIRE

Writing With Fire

Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh

In 2002, a group of Dalit women in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh started the newspaper *Khabar Lahariya*. Challenged by deep prejudice against their caste, oppressive patriarchy and religious extremism, the courageous reporters do their work at great personal risk — including domestic violence and threats from corrupt officials and the mafia. Their work has led to government action in formerly neglected neighborhoods: roads were fixed, medical services provided, canals filled with water and electricity connected. —TI

Screening in Telluride only

(India, 2021, 94 min.)

/ YES I AM - THE RIC WEILAND STORY

The Beauty President

Whitney Skauge

Not many are aware of a piece of history that was made in the 1992 U.S. presidential race. A Black, openly queer drag queen named Joan Jett Blakk, ran a campaign as a write-in candidate. “If a bad actor can be elected president, why not a good drag queen?” was one of Blakk’s campaign slogans and she promised to make America “more fabulous, more fruitful and more glamorous.” Thirty years later, the male activist behind the persona, Terence Alan Smith, reflects back on this audacious bid to draw attention to LGBTQ+ rights and the AIDS crisis. —AM

(USA, 2021, 10 min.)

Yes I Am - The Ric Weiland Story

Aaron Bear

Ric Weiland was one of the first employees at Microsoft and had a brilliant and creative mind. A champion of gay rights, Weiland came out in the 1970s and used his wealth to create social change, donating more than 20 million dollars to fund more than 60 nonprofit organizations. Those efforts to establish representation and resources for the LGBTQ+ community continue to have a profound impact today, shaping the future of equality. *Yes I Am - The Ric Weiland Story* speaks to Weiland’s life and legacy, but also his mental struggles and personal demons, pulling back the curtain on the self-doubt and impostor-syndrome that weighed on a man who gave so much to the world around him. —AB

(USA, 2021, 61 min.)

/ YOUTH V GOV

Youth v Gov

Christi Cooper

Twenty-one young Americans take on the world’s most powerful government in a revolutionary lawsuit that claims that over six decades of presidential administrations have continued to actively abuse their most vulnerable citizens by willingly contributing to the climate crisis. The plaintiffs are not in search of monetary retribution, but a plan and commitment to stop climate change. In fighting for their constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, these young people, if successful, will not only make history, but change the trajectory and future of our planet. In what is considered “the greatest dereliction of civic responsibility in the history of the republic,” *Youth v Gov* offers the opportunity for heroism within the judicial system. —SD

(USA, 2020, 110 min.)

SHORTS PROGRAMS

/ CINE DE LAS MONTAÑAS

Añay Kachi: The Salt Workers of the Peruvian Andes

Cristóbal Ruiz, Thomas Silcock, Toto Thots

At 3,300 meters above sea level in the Peruvian Andes, 65-year-old Laurita has harvested salt by hand since she was 13. In this film, Laurita lovingly shares the salt-mining heritage of the Indigenous people who have lived by the salt pools on the mountain terraces for more than 600 years. After enduring unfair working conditions, the workers finally gained ownership of the area's 4,000 salt pools in 1981, and today, 1,000 families manage the salt production as a cooperative. —*TI*

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Walking the streets of Mexico, futilely searching for lost loved ones, these Central American mothers hold a pain that has no remedy. With desolation evident in their eyes and devastation present in their posture, this caravan of mothers sets out in search of their missing migrant children each year. Each child had their own story and reason for leaving home, and now, large photos of them hang around the necks of women as they shuffle from person to person with the aching question: "Have you seen them?" —*SD*

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The Last Out

Sami Khan, Michael Gassert

Due to the 1963 U.S. embargo on Cuban trade, Major League Baseball teams still cannot hire players directly from Cuba. If Cuban baseball players hope to get signed by U.S. teams, they must establish residency in other countries. This documentary follows three Cuban athletes who live together in Costa Rica, following dreams fueled by a Los Angeles-based sports agent and Costa Rican contractors. —*TI*

(USA, Dominican Republic, 2020, 87 min.)

/ DIRT & ROCK SHORTS

Silk's Balance

Elise Lorthiois

Five women. Four ropes. Two-hundred-and-twenty meters of webbing. Ninety kilograms of equipment. A one hour and thirty minute hike. Six hours of installation. Three hours of disassembly. All over three days. Finding inner calm and balance while highlining thousands of feet off the ground, these women demonstrate their fierce ability to control the mind and body, overcome fear and doubt, forge unbreakable bonds and laugh amidst it all. —*SD*

(France, 2020, 4 min.)

Little Rock Cities

Josh Greenwood

A group of climbers of color make the 13-hour road trip from Brooklyn to return to the climbing playground of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The group is seeking redemption on tricky bouldering problems that have bested them in the past. We hear from three of the friends about their individual approaches to mentally preparing for a climb by channeling confidence, focus and trust. —*HS*

(USA, 2020, 11 min.)

Reel Rock 15: Action Directe

Zachary Barr, Josh Lowell

When French powerhouse climber Méliissa Le Nevé retired from indoor competition climbing, it was to focus her efforts outdoors. Intrigued by one of the most revered sport routes, Action Directe in Frankenjura, Germany, she was told that it was not an attainable goal for a woman. Instead of conceding to this universally held opinion, she turned it into an inspiration and personal challenge. Consumed with this landmark project for more than six years, Le Nevé finds herself falling in love with the process of trying to solve this famously difficult puzzle. —*AM*

(USA, 2020, 16 min.)

Born From Junk

Mike Horn, Galin Foley

Perhaps it is unsurprising that the sport, industry and obsession of mountain biking was at least partially invented by mountain town pioneers riding “klunker” bikes down mountain passes between Crested Butte and Aspen. The sports’ inventors had no clue — they were, one recalls, “just a bunch of outlaws with too much time on our hands and a couple million acres of wild country to explore.” Tinkering with klunkers led to bike innovations; impromptu partying turned into organized events; cow paths were linked together into single track networks. Filmmakers Mike Horn and Galin Foley intercut archival footage, interviews with Crested Butte old-timers and reenactments to tell the story of the Butte’s Grubstake Gang and the outdoor adventure sport they helped launch. —*SC*

(USA, 2020, 15 min.)

Lock Down Rock Up

Nico Hambleton

Jerome Mowat is a paramedic during a global pandemic and has not seen his family in over five months. In the gruesome mundanity of working in an emergency vehicle, Mowat finds solace in the fundamental and elemental characteristics of rock climbing. When his mind can become so occupied by something as irrelevant as a piece of rock, that is when he is able to completely remove himself, not only physically, but mentally, from the heartbreak of his work. In the juxtaposition of climbing and being a paramedic, we are able to catch a glimpse of coping at its finest. —*SD*

(UK, 2020, 10 min.)

Ten Thousand Bolts

Duncan Sullivan, Alex Levin, Ashley Benzwie

Toni Arbones has always followed his passion — bolting climbing routes to the top of a remote and winding six-kilometer road in Siurana, Spain, where he built his paradise. The limestone cliffs of the world-renowned climbing area now boast 1,700 routes thanks to the relentless work of Arbones’ drill and glue gun. Arbones is a self-proclaimed bolting addict, who has raised the painstaking task to an art form. —*HS*

(Spain, 2020, 17 min.)

Confessions of a Runner

Bachar Khattar

American ultra runner Patrick Vaughan attempts the fastest known time for the rugged 470-kilometer (290-mile) Lebanon Mountain Trail. But Vaughan, like the country itself, is torn and scarred. The film toggles back and forth between his struggles with heat, exhaustion and route finding over more than six days on the steep and rocky terrain, and the raw, confessional-style telling of his addiction to painkillers and the downward spiral that followed. No longer numb to his pain, Vaughan uses it to forge a deeper connection

to the country and push himself toward his goal. —HC
(USA, Lebanon, 2020, 29 min.)

Spellbound

Richard Sidey

Spellbound offers a poetic and haunting take on wingsuit BASE jumping — the antidote to the usual narrative of the thrill-seeking adrenaline rush. Waterfalls, granite spires and mountain lakes flash under wing as the bird people of New Zealand soar past, ethereally defying the laws of nature. This meditation on the concepts of light and dark is a breathtaking ode to flight. —HS
(New Zealand, 2020, 5 min.)

/ GUEST DIRECTOR SHORTS

The Lost Tribe of the Wicklow Mountains

Dylan Ladds, Ryan Scura

With a dose of the unknown and the poetry of a landscape, *The Lost Tribe of the Wicklow Mountains* aims to capture a sense of people and place, adventure and mystery, wildness and history. A companion piece to the film *Coming Home - Ag Teacht Abhaile* by the same directors, it is inspired by a song and a poem, an homage to the spirit of a place. —AB
(USA, Ireland, 2020, 3 min.)

Coming Home - Ag Teacht Abhaile

Ryan Scura, Dylan Ladds

Ultra runner Paddy O'Leary grew up in Wexford, Ireland but eventually landed in San Francisco. It was there that he first discovered his love of trail running, but while he thrived in his community, it still wasn't home. A grueling running adventure calls him back, and he commits to attempting the fastest-known time on the self-navigated 115 kilometer Wicklow Round. Here, in the rugged mountains of Ireland, on a course with 26 summits, he rediscovers a sense of place and people. —AB
(USA, Ireland, 2019, 24 min.)

The Artist

Mike Call

As a young man unable to keep up with his best friend and supremely talented climber Boone Speed, Mike Call found himself — on their expeditions together — “using the camera as much as I used my climbing shoes.” The result was a boost to both of their careers and the well-documented life stories are presented here. What has their journey been about? In the succinct words of their friend and fellow climber, Sam Elias: “photos, notoriety ... art, actually.” —SC
(USA, 2020, 22 min.)

Motherload

Zoya Lynch

Here's a loving tribute to all of the indefatigable ski moms who somehow manage gear and tears, not to mention the stresses of survival and the high toll exacted on marriages in ski country. It all pays off when skis are finally attached to little feet and the family achieves grace, gliding together downhill. —SC
(Canada, 2020, 14 min.)

An Imperfect Advocate

Jim Aikman

Graham Zimmerman studied glaciology at university before becoming a professional alpinist, and in the high mountains he's seen firsthand the effects of climate change. And he's worried about it. But as a jet-setting athlete who travels the world and uses plenty of gear, he's also complicit in it. So, he joins an advocacy group and begins a new adventure — this one as an imperfect advocate. —*KK*

(USA, 2020, 21 min.)

You And The Thing That You Love

Nicholas Maher

Nick Mullins was a teenage skate punk on the brink of turning pro when a benign-seeming accident led to catastrophic illness. He survived, but went blind in the process. And just like that, he lost everything. This is the incredible story of how he fought like hell to get it back. —*KK*

(USA, 2020, 12 min.)

Facets

Mike Quigley

What does it take for a female athlete to reach their sport's highest level? Luck, timing, persistence and skill are part of the mix — but, as we follow The North Face's professional snowboarding team we see that camaraderie and learning from those who paved the way might be the most rewarding path of all. —*WF*

(USA, 2020, 11 min.)

/ INDOMITABLE SPIRIT SHORTS

A Concerto Is a Conversation

Ben Proudfoot, Kris Bowers

Tackling themes of race, family and belonging, *A Concerto Is a Conversation* is a poetic conversation between Emmy-winning composer Kris Bowers and his 91-year-old grandfather. The emotional and touching connection between the two bridges a generational divide, and tracks their family's lineage from Jim Crow-era Florida to the Walt Disney Concert Hall. —*AB*

(USA, 2020, 14 min.)

Moving Meditation

Joseph Fletcher, Eric Johnson

Eric Johnson is a professional skateboarder who infuses his passion and talent into an app he created to bring skaters together across the world. To him, skating is a moving meditation and impromptu problem solving, a gladiator sport that helps you learn from every mistake. Skating teaches you to be accountable for every false move you make and then do it better. After being racially profiled in a subway station, nearly spending 13 years of life in prison and losing all his savings, Johnson radiates hope and ambition in his entrepreneurial efforts to bring people together through SK8SPT, a virtual community that normalizes, informs and empowers skateboarders globally. —*SD*

(USA, 2021, 10 min.)

Lion on the Mat

Asali Echols

Vietnamese-American Mai Nguyen is a single mother with a painful past. But when she steps on the jiu-jitsu mat, all her troubles melt away. "When I fight with people, I don't feel the pain," she says. This film follows

Nguyen as she pours herself into training, juggling responsibilities and understanding herself through martial arts. —*KK*
(USA, 2021, 17 min.)

Mighty Waters

Shannon Vandivier

Bahamian sport fishing legend Ansil Saunders guided Martin Luther King, Jr. through the mangroves on a fishing trip just days before King was assassinated in 1968. Even though King went to the Bahamas to relax and write, he left an indelible mark on the country and Saunders. Now 88 years old, Saunders reflects on how King inspired his interest in politics as he helped lead the island nation's subsequent fight for independence and desegregation. —*HS*

(Bahamas, 2021, 17 min.)

From My Window

Frank Pickell

In the ableist world of outdoor adventurism there is a deep-seated resistance to expect that those with a disability might also want to challenge themselves in the rugged and risky outdoors. Erik Weihenmayer, a blind adventurer, knows that this belief is tragic on several levels. A person with disabilities might internalize this perceived limitation and begin to underestimate their potential. And the world misses out on witnessing these athletes' true life force being unleashed during those cathartic breakthrough moments that can only happen by pushing oneself to the absolute limit in the wild. Mentored by Weihenmayer, Melissa Simpson sets out to conquer something greater than the Colorado peaks she has seen from her window her whole life. —*AM*

(USA, 2020, 19 min.)

The Seeker

Lance Edmands

A man in his late teens finds himself so enchanted with the Amish way of life that he sells his truck, buys a team of horses and switches faiths — from his Pentecostal upbringing to a new existence. In rural Maine, he raises a family, works the land and builds furniture by hand, but he finds himself with more questions than answers. The poetic nature of *The Seeker* opens us all up to questions of faith, family, community, purpose and human good. —*AB*

(USA, 2020, 18 min.)

You And The Thing That You Love

Nicholas Maher

Nick Mullins was a teenage skate punk on the brink of turning pro when a benign-seeming accident led to catastrophic illness. He survived, but went blind in the process. And just like that, he lost everything. This is the incredible story of how he fought like hell to get it back. —*KK*

(USA, 2020, 12 min.)

/ KIDZ KINO (ONLINE ONLY)

Around the Block

Jonnie Lewis

Sometimes the world around us is the best blank canvas. Join artist David Zinn's chalk-based characters as they jump out from their urban environment, putting fun and color into everyday life. —*Sadie Steinberg, age 16*

(UK, 2020, 3 min.)

Golden Age Karate

Sindhya Agha

Karate is an interesting sport that combines physical and mental toughness. This short film illustrates how passion can bring someone into a leadership position. Jeff Wall Jr. becomes a teacher at a nursing home and gains respect and love from the elders he teaches. —*Arabella Galbo, age 18*

(USA, 2021, 5 min.)

199 Little Heroes: Jesús from Mexico

Lina Luzyte

Eleven-year-old Jesús does what most kids his age do — he wakes up, goes to school and takes care of his little sister. He also lives on a very polluted canal in Mexico City's Floating Gardens of Xochimilco and deals with heavy issues that many of us never need to think about. And he is really concerned. —*Sadie Steinberg, age 16*

(Germany, 2018, 11 min.)

(Note: This film deals with kidnapping, death and murder and may be triggering for some.)

Rim 2 Rim 2 Rim: Quarantine Ultra Run

Kip Pastor, Sam Pastor

Exercise is essential, especially exercising outside. *Rim 2 Rim 2 Rim: Quarantine Ultra Run* provides the perfect example of how exhilarating and fun running outside can be, but remember, always stay safe!

—*Arabella Galbo, age 18*

(USA, 2020, 1 min.)

Invisible Beauty

Milo Zanecchia, Sarah Ziegler

A girl who adores nature explores the beauty of small insects in every way imaginable. —*Caroline Merritt, age 11*

(Germany, 2021, 6 min.)

Africa Riding: Karim, Rwanda

Liz Gomis, Aurelien Biette

After Karim left his home country due to violence, he went to a new country called Rwanda and brought the sport of rollerblading with him. In a place where activities do not come easily due to widespread poverty, he gave encouragement to the children and young adults to follow his path and take lessons from him.

Karim gave back to the community by giving equipment to kids who could not afford it and even sent some of the kids to school. —*Joseph Galbo, age 15*

(France, 2018, 8 min.)

Why I Ride

Catherine Aeppel

Jenny Phillips is new to dirt biking. According to her, she “absolutely sucks.” She also says, “but I don’t care. I’m having fun, and that’s all that matters.” In this stunning desert-y film, Jenny proves that there’s no reason to be afraid of learning new things, developing new skills and most importantly, having fun. —*Lilah Lerner, age 16*

(USA, 2021, 2 min.)

Grab My Hand: A Letter to My Dad

Camrus Johnson, Pedro Piccinini

Anybody can be a superhero. This poignant homage to a beloved uncle forces us to address mortality, lifelong friendship, sadness and recovery — or in other words, real life. —*Lilah Lerner, age 16*

(USA, 2019, 6 min.)

(Note: May not be appropriate for kids under the age of 10.)

24 Leeches

Aaron Peterson

24 Leeches is a heart-warming and relatable story that not only describes the struggles and intensity of camping, but the joys and lifelong experiences and memories that come with it. This film spreads hope and is inspiring to people of all ages. —*Ruby Ciecuch, age 11*

(USA, 2020, 10 min.)

Maneuvers

Sämi Ortlieb

This film features exciting animations with skiing that will keep you on the edge of your seat. —*Townes Merritt, age 14*

(Switzerland, USA, 2019, 5 min.)

My Last Day of Summer

Kristina Wayte, Luke Allen Humphrey

My Last Day of Summer is a beautifully created short film that follows an inspiring young mountain biker named Julia Lofqvist Traum. With live filming as well as animation, this film is full of anticipation, action and kindness that will appeal to audiences of all ages. Not only does it showcase epic mountain bike scenes, but it also dives into the issue of man-made wildfires and their devastating repercussions. Thanks to a wonderfully intertwined storyline, this film will leave you itching to jump on your bike and explore the magic of the forest that lies just past your back door. —*Jula Ciecuch, age 13*

(USA, 2019, 9 min.)

Whales Without Walls

Charles Vinick, Dr. Lori Marino

A film about the damage captivity does to whales and dolphins, and a proposed solution for this captivity crisis. —*Henry Martin, age 17*

(USA, 2019, 6 min.)

Xavi SK8

Peter Mortimer

Practice, practice, practice is what makes this rad skateboarder improve every day! —*Jake Martin, age 16*

(USA, 2021, 8 min.)

Wild Child

George Karbus

It's cool to see how kids who live by the ocean have fun swimming with ocean creatures and surfing. I want to learn to surf with dolphins! —*Zoe Cooper, age 9*
(Ireland, 2019, 4 min.)

/ LOCAL LEGENDS & STEEP THRILLS

Sibling Rivalry

Aurélie Slegers

Sparks fly and a showdown unfolds between siblings and professional mountain bikers Becky and Ryan Gardner on the trails of Telluride. This film reminds us that any victory, no matter how minor, is that much sweeter when your opponent is your brother or sister. —*WF*
(USA, 2020, 5 min.)

Tilted Perspectives

Amon Barker

One of the most accomplished slopestyle skiers in a generation sets his sights on the backcountry of Jackson Hole, showcasing his unique bag of tricks. What ensues is a commanding display of style in the deep snow of the Tetons. —*WF*
(USA, 2020, 7 min.)

Blackberry Swirl

Henry Miles

Mountain bike pros Corinne Prevot and Ella McAndrew enjoy summertime in Vermont as they zig-zag down flowy trails and leaf peep through the incredible forests of their home state. —*WF*
(USA, 2020, 4 min.)

Charge 2

Anthony Bonello

In British Columbia's Monashee Mountains the powder is consistent and sought after. Five freeskiers — Stan Rey, Leah Evans, Alexi Godbout, Josh Daiek, Drew Petersen and Jordan Temkin — head to book cat skiing with only one operative: charge as hard as you can every day. The result is the pure joy and exaltation found in powder. —*AB*
(Canada, 2020, 4 min.)

One World: 1029 Turns

Alexander Adrian, Lance Violette

A smooth and sweet segment from the film *One World*, this short features Danny Davis, Red Gerard and Julia Marino. These three pros make snow surfing look so fun the rest of us might be foolish enough to think we can ride as well as they do. —*NS*

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, 2020, 4 min.)

MTB Bridge Stunt Ride

Antoni Villoni

Professional mountain biker Antoni Villoni elevates the bike lane to new, dizzying heights in this daring clip.

—WF

(USA, 2021, 1 min.)

Freedom of Flow

Jo Anna Edmison

Lorenzo Chatman has been finding freedom and flow on wheels his whole life. From skateboards to roller skates, *Freedom of Flow* finds peace in movement. —NS

(USA, 2021, 9 min.)

At Home Off Piste

Cedar Palmer

What parent wouldn't hope that their children would one day share their passions? Himay Palmer, a true local legend, shares his experience in the backcountry with son and filmmaker Cedar Palmer. Also featured in the film is Palmer's mother Melanie Kent, a talented and ambitious skier. —NS

(USA, 2021, 4 min.)

Postman Jim

Keith Hill

What does it mean to feel community? After working at the post office in Telluride for 20 years Jim Looney bids farewell in this touching tribute. —WF

(USA, 2020, 17 min.)

One World: 0 Makes

Alexander Adrian, Lance Violette

Everyone loves a good crash real and this segment from *One World* delivers. It serves as a not-so-gentle reminder that even the very best wipe out. —NS

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, 2020, 4 min.)

Girls Gotta Eat Dirt

Elliott Wilkinson-Ray

Fast laps and deep laughs are the foundation for this group of talented riders who are exploring the trails of Silverton in their jorts. Catch them if you can or eat their dust.

Screening online only

(USA, 2021, 6 min.)

/ THE LONG & SHORT OF IT

Negros

Dorian Emerson Munroe

"Being Black in Miami, sometimes it feels like the odds are against you." Those are the words of James, a 14-year-old community clean-up organizer from the Miami neighborhood of Liberty City. This hybrid film tells the story of a kid coming of age in a world shaped by climate gentrification, racism and violence, where racial reckoning and pandemic roil the city in 2020. —KK

(USA, 2021, 20 min.)

Meltdown in Dixie

Emily Harrold

It was Tommy Daras' misfortune to purchase a building for his ice cream store in Orangeburg, South Carolina from a proud racist who had deeded a corner of the property to the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) for a monument. Daras had never thought deeply about the confederate flag, but after the 2015 Charleston church shooting in which nine African Americans were killed by a white supremacist who had proudly posed with the flag, Daras was deeply offended when the SCV responded by flying a much bigger confederate flag in front of his business. A native of Orangeburg, director Emily Harrold listens closely to both sides of the ensuing controversy, finding no middle ground between those who proudly view the confederacy as their honorable heritage and those who see the memorials only as symbols of historic and ongoing oppression. —SC

(USA, 2021, 40 min.)

We the Power

David Garrett Byars

People are at the root of revolution, and a movement is often sparked by a small group before it grows into a force to be reckoned with. *We the Power* investigates what it takes to create a revolution by focusing on the people who are forming local cooperatives to tackle the traditional energy and power system — from deep in Germany's Black Forest to the streets of ancient Girona in Spain and the urban rooftops of London. As the individuals band together, they push back against some of the damage humanity has caused as they work to create a future of clean electricity and healthier, more financially stable communities. —AB

(Belgium, Spain, UK, Netherlands, Germany, 2021, 38 min.)

/ ORIGINALS SHORTS

Ark of the Apocalypse

Jeremy Seifert

The Bible teaches that God washed clean the evil, corruption and violence of the Earth with a global flood, but spared the lives of Noah, his family and the animals in a great ark. In northern Kentucky lies Ark Encounter, a life-size homage to all 510 feet of Noah's Ark. It serves as a teaching aid for the Old Testament as well as a marvel of modern workmanship. Inside the dramatic ark, even nonbelievers are tempted to see an omen in the recent natural disasters of fire and flood, which could portend a sign of a coming apocalypse. —HS

(USA, 2021, 13 min.)

Death and Her Compass

Annie Munger

This allegorical, introspective look at what a death doula might do to prepare clients for the end of their lives, speaks to the unknowing that surrounds the very idea of mortality. Molly "Bones" Nelson is charmed by the natural world and its animal remnants. Her examination of found skulls and carcasses of woodland creatures is revealed to be an honoring of the past lives they represent. As she contemplates the prospect of death with her rugged and wise clients, the talk of loss is set against a harsh Maine landscape that seems to mimic the heavy questions themselves. Molly reminds us, "There is no death, just movement."

—AM

(USA, 2020, 16 min.)

Crux

Casey Dubois, Zac Hoffman

The physical and emotional benefits of rock climbing are explored on the amazing granite surfaces of British Columbia. Harvey is a 32-year-old barber, DJ and band member, who opens up about his struggles with depression and addiction, while welcoming us on his climbing adventures. Harvey's pre-film life is illustrated with a mix of personal photos and an animated dramatization, which are replaced by up-close and wide-angle videography of his life's ups and downs on and off the climbing rope. His private challenges, both anguished and joyful, provide an intimate look at the human condition. —*TI*
(Canada, 2021, 34 min.)

The Spiritual Exercises

Lloyd Kramer, Scott Chestnut

Terry is an artist and professor who falls madly in love with a woman named Therese. But there's a problem: Terry is also a Jesuit priest who's bound by faith and celibacy to the Catholic church. Until he meets Therese, a woman who works at the Metropolitan Opera and gives him a deep sense of peace, he was never tempted to break his vows. In *The Spiritual Exercises*, Terry and Therese share their story, explaining what they decided to do and how it impacted their lives. —*TI*
(USA, 2020, 18 min.)

When I'm Her

Emily Schuman

Ballet is a beautiful artform — bodies in movement, finding joy in each step. But it can also be a demanding and critical world. Young ballet prodigy Michael Cusumano has the promise of a stellar career, but abandons his assumed path and transforms into his alter ego: a Russian ballet instructor named Madame Olga. In the transformation, he embraces his creative roots and reconciles with his trauma, ensuring that he can bring the joy of the craft to others. —*AB*
(USA, 2021, 15 min.)

Slim Pickins

Justin Michael Jeffers

The city of Stephenville, Texas is better known for rebel flags and cowboys than diversity. But Jahmichah Dawes, owner of SlimPickins Outfitters, the first Black-owned outdoor gear shop in the country, is changing that. Dawes, along with his wife, Heather, and basset hound mascot, Bill Murray, is working to diversify the outdoors and infuse some chill into Stephenville. As the COVID-19 pandemic worsens, the shop experiences economic hardship and Dawes struggles with depression, but he still hopes one day he can pass his business and the outdoor community he has built down to his kids. —*HS*
(USA, 2020, 15 min.)

/ TERRA SHORTS

Life Below Water

Brian Schulz

With the inimitable Morgan Freeman's narration providing the ironic bona fides, this "nature" documentary "celebrates" the resilience, diversity and deadliness of the ocean's most prolific species: plastics. —*SC*
(USA, 2020, 3 min.)

Resilience

Tim Kressin

Outdoor recreation is not a privilege, but a cornerstone of mental health, joy and resilience. Lesford Duncan of the San Diego-based nonprofit Outdoor Outreach, whose mission is to “connect youth to the transformative power of the outdoors,” offers himself as a case study in the healing that comes from being outside. —SC

(USA, 2020, 12 min.)

The Both of Me

Brandon Lavoie

The Both of Me unfolds like a eulogy — memorializing a way of life, a trade and the Appalachian communities whose death came at the hands of the coal industry. Told largely through Chuck Nelson, a third-generation miner who toiled underground for more than 20 years, it lays bare how the industry leaves behind scarred land and bereft people. —KK

(USA, 2020, 18 min.)

Izembek

Gerrit Vyn

For nearly four decades, there has been pressure to build a road through Alaska’s Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, a wild and remote landscape populated by grizzly bears and salmon runs, walrus, volcanoes and glaciers. Photographer Gerrit Vyn explores this untrammelled landscape to document its spectacular wildlife — and capture what’s at stake. —KK

(USA, 2020, 14 min.)

Voice Above Water

Dana Frankoff

Indonesian fisherman Wayan Nyo, 90, has spent his life on the ocean, listening to the waves, reading the weather, tracking fish and learning the rhythms of the sea. These days though, he is occupied with another task: removing what appear to be endless boatloads of plastics from the water. His story reminds us of how rapidly — and starkly — humans have changed the planet. —KK

(USA, 2020, 12 min.)

The Linesman

Dominic Gill

Years of logging has destroyed Myanmar’s forests, home to the Asian elephant. The deforestation, along with poaching, has driven these potentially dangerous animals into nearby farms where they destroy crops and terrorize villagers. One conservationist has made it his life’s work to install electric fences around the settlements and sugar cane fields to keep the elephants out. It’s not a permanent solution to the underlying problem of habitat destruction, but it’s a small step toward minimizing conflict and protecting both species.

—HS

(USA, 2020, 26 min.)

Aguilucho: Dance of the Harpy Eagle

Daniel Byers

In a remote rainforest in southern Panama — Darién Gap — the harpy eagle isn’t just an animal, but a token of fortitude and an environmental beacon of hope in a land that is threatened by loggers and cattle ranchers. Deforestation is imminent in many of these sacred places, but the people of Darién Gap have created a conservation and education project to protect the harpy eagle and along with it, their home. The

women of Darién Gap dance daily to the *aguilucho* (the young eagle), representing the bird in themselves. And as the eagle's presence draws tourism, the natives are able to continue their work saving this threatened species and the boundaries of their homeland. —SD
(USA, 2021, 21 min.)

One Star Reviews: National Parks

Alex Massey

Classic American stereotypes come to life in one star reviews. For real. In a world where everyone's a critic, the magic of our national parks is downplayed by couch potato tourists turned outdoor aficionados. Brief, beautiful and truly comical, award-winning director Alex Massey brings to light cringeworthy Yelp reactions to some of the most stunning natural wonders in America. —SD
(USA, 2020, 2 min.)

/ WATER & ICE SHORTS

Dry Refuge

Ruben Crespo

Confined to his apartment by the virus, a kayaker can only cast his mind back to previous whitewater adventures as he looks forward to the end of his tedious isolation. The stark contrast between the two intensifies the jolt of adrenaline footage. —SC
(Spain, 2020, 5 min.)

Can't Beat This Place For Fun

Dawn Kish

Can a person be bewitched by a boat? The answer might be yes if that boat is a wooden, whitewater dory with an overabundance of personality and history. Martin Litton, a legend in the conservation world, dreamed up this elegant, sexy boat that was also responsive, nimble, graceful and could handle the rapids of the Grand Canyon while carrying supplies for a multi-week trip. What other boat could be destroyed, resurrected and grace the river another day? Brad Dimock, who once worked for Litton, carries on the tradition of crafting dories by hand in Flagstaff, Arizona alongside a crew who has also fallen prey to the siren lure of the dory. —AM
(USA, 2020, 14 min.)

The Mystery

Tommy Penick, Forest Woodward

In the '90s, there existed this very nerdy, goofy and cool subset of kayaking called "squirt boating." At the time, thousands called it their hobby, but now, there are less than 200. In squirt boating, boats are custom-sized, like getting fit for a tuxedo and "the mystery move" was the claim to fame. These days, the hobby itself has pulled a mystery move — disappearing from the kayaking sect, leaving everyone wondering, what happened to those sparkly squirt boats of yore? —SD
(USA, 2020, 11 min.)

The Chairlift

Mike Douglas

The chairlift is at the heart of ski culture and has been used by many, but often goes entirely overlooked. Shuttling skiers up mountains, the chairlift is both transportation and a place of congregation — a central

pillar of the ski experience, a thing that brings lovers of snow together. This homage to the chairlift is a celebration of ski culture and the conversations and experiences that happen along the way. —AB
(Canada, 2020, 12 min.)

Made in the Mitten

Zeppelin Zeerip

While it's most often thought of as a mountain sport, modern-day snowboarding began on the shores of Lake Michigan. Housebound in a snowstorm, and in need of an activity to get his kids outside, Sherman Poppn fastened two of his daughter's skis together and stood sideways on the hill in his backyard. And with that, the snurfer was born, creating a magical way to surf the snow. The snowboard industry has come a long way since then, but *Made in the Mitten* is an homage to the sport's original roots: the pure joy of riding a skinny piece of wood in the snowy backyards of the Midwest. —AB

(USA, 2020, 7 min.)

The Afghan Champ (Work in Progress Cut)

Ben Sturgulewski

In the remote mountains of Afghanistan, boys grow up farming, raising animals and learning the religious dictates of their families. When the snow falls, they "play ski," gliding through the powder on setups that are often handmade. This is the story of one village's top competitors in the annual ski challenge — two teenage boys caught between ethnic tensions and on the brink of adulthood, for whom skiing taps into something transcendent. —KK

Screening in Telluride only

(USA, Afghanistan, 2021, 40 min.)

A Few Steps From Home

Johannes Müller, Philipp Becker

Embarking on a pilgrimage to ski some epic lines might conjure up thoughts of a long and arduous journey. But, sometimes you can find an unexplored playground right outside your back door. In Europe, the self-catering huts that are used by hikers in the summer are all but forgotten in the winter. A mountain hut, a warm stove and three friends for a long weekend might be all you need. Who cares if the city is just right over there? —AM

(Germany, 2020, 7 min.)

All Jokes Aside

RC Cone

Eeland Stribling is a wildlife biologist, stand-up comedian and fly fisherman who uses @blacksteveirwin as an Instagram handle. All his interests and talents merge in the great outdoors where he comes up with some apropos stand-up comedy. Part stand-up routine and part documentary, this film is punctuated by the synchronicity of protecting Bristol Bay and recognizing Black Lives Matter. Joining Stribling on the riverbanks and in the water feels like a special chance to hang out with an entertaining fishing buddy. —TI

(USA, 2021, 6 min.)

/ WILD SHORTS

How to Count a Wolf

Benjamin Drummond, Sara Joy Steele

Monitoring wolf populations to determine the extent that they are repopulating places where they have been long absent is no easy feat and entails risks to both wildlife biologists who do the counting and to the wolves they try to count. But, perhaps the survival of the wildest of species depends on human management. —SC

(USA, 2020, 8 min.)

The Last English Poacher

Emma Crome, Peter Emery

Brian Tovey lives in a rural village in England where he continues the poaching tradition handed down to him by his father and grandfather. As the village develops around him, filling with people living modern lifestyles, Tovey puts food on the table by illegally hunting for game on the large, private estates of the wealthy. He takes us on his illicit hunts, telling us how they will continue on at the risk of imprisonment. —TI

(UK, 2021, 16 min.)

Tabira

Aner Etxebarria Moral

Veterinarian Alfonso Bañeres has recovered hundreds of birds of prey and other wild animals throughout his career, but none quite like Tabira, a young Harris' Hawk. The chick that nobody wanted becomes a cherished member of the family in this heartwarming story of love, loss and overcoming fear. Tabira is a daughter, a sister and a lesson in persistence as the family attempts to train her to be unafraid of the kite — paragliding turned parahawking — for an adventure not to be missed. —SD

(Spain, 2020, 16 min.)

The Tracker

Sarah Menzies

Arrested every year for over a decade, Mutinda thought poaching was great, simply because he learned it from his father. Never knowing the value of the animals, Mutinda was collecting elephant tusks by the tons when his wife delivered an ultimatum: she would leave him should he not seek alternative options of employment. With a renewed outlook, Mutinda discovered that he can use his knowledge and skills for good — spending the last 18 years as a ranger with Richard Bonham's Big Life Foundation, Mutinda has a new mission: stopping poachers. —SD

(USA, 2020, 9 min.)

American Ocelot

Ben Masters

For more than three decades, researchers have studied how to save the fewer than 80 ocelots that live in the southern tip of Texas. And time is not on their side. Habitat fragmentation, vehicle collisions and a lack of genetic diversity in the two remaining breeding populations increase the likelihood that the cat will go extinct. Using stunning camera trap footage, *American Ocelot* showcases this beautiful and elusive species, and hopefully sparks the passion needed to help them recover. —HS

(USA, 2020, 33 min.)

Eric and the Bees

Erin Brethauer, Tim Hussin

After 20 years in the U.S. military, Eric returns home and finds himself struggling with PTSD from combat. As he tries to make sense of what he did and saw, there is only one place where he finds solace — among his bees. In caring for his hives, he's able to calm his mind and nurture several colonies — and invites other veterans and first responders to join him in experiencing the healing power of beekeeping. —*EC*
(USA, 2020, 9 min.)

Snowy

Kaitlyn Schwalje, Alexander Wolf Lewis

There is an opportunity for redemption in every family, even if one of your family members has been exiled to the basement for a couple of decades. Snowy is a box turtle living in a small tank in Uncle Larry's basement, which begs the question: Is mere survival proof that a pet is thriving? As we try to guess what Snowy might be feeling, with help from a veterinarian, a pet psychic and an expert in reptile cognition, Uncle Larry's perspective begins to evolve as he starts seeing Snowy as more than just a chore. —*AM*
(USA, 2020, 13 min.)

/ WORLD FOCUS SHORTS I

The Bitter Root

Chad Clendinen

David Ocitti was among the tens of thousands of children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and inducted into their brutal army over the last three decades. He escaped after six months only to be greeted with deep skepticism by his village on the assumption that he was a rapist and killer. In the years since, he has worked to reunite other deeply traumatized escaped abductees with their equally traumatized families. Redemption for those who were forced to commit atrocities does not come easily. —*SC*

(USA, 2020, 20 min.)

Hunger Ward

Skye Fitzgerald

Fueled by years of war that seems to be forgotten by the international community, the people of Yemen suffer as they sit on the brink of an unfathomable famine and humanitarian catastrophe. With unprecedented access, Oscar-nominated director Skye Fitzgerald takes us into the heart of two of the most active therapeutic feeding centers in Yemen. Here, two healthcare workers, Dr. Aida Alsadeeq and nurse Mekkia Mahdi, provide care to malnourished and hunger-stricken children in the throes of need. The third film in Fitzgerald's refugee trilogy, *Hunger Ward* challenges us to absorb this heart-wrenching and intimate portrait of the bravery and courage required in the face of deep human suffering. The result is a work that paints the true realities of war — which is so often unseen and overlooked — and asks us to not look away. —*AB*

(USA, 2020, 40 min.)

/ WORLD FOCUS SHORTS II

Comeback Girls

Isaac Seigel-Boettner, Jacob Seigel Brielle

For some, cycling invokes the notion of sport, adrenaline and technique. For Malawi teen mothers Maggie and Febby, a bicycle can mean the difference between staying in school or not. Knowing that education equals a brighter future, for them and their daughters, these young mothers strive to finish their schooling despite an almost two-hour walk to school. The gift of two wheels might be the perfect answer. —AM
(USA, 2020, 7 min.)

Now Is the Time

Christopher Auchter

After totem poles were denigrated as pagan by Christian missionaries and the cultural practices of Indigenous people were outlawed by the Canadian government, the Haida village of Masset, British Columbia, lost its traditional artform. Until a young man named Robert Davidson decided to revive the woodcarvers' art, first making a totem pole and then orchestrating a potlatch, the ceremonial raising of a totem pole, in 1969 — the first in living memory. This is an inspiring documentation of a community's spiritual restoration and a reflection on cultural vulnerability and resilience. —SC
(Canada, 2019, 16 min.)

Solastalgia

Gabrielé Urbonaitė

Much like nostalgia, solastalgia is a form of emotional distress, only it's caused by a change in environment, a longing for one's homeland. This short film depicts the condition in a man named Serap, a Sherpa from the Khumbu region of the Himalaya who transplanted his family to New York City. As he drives an Uber through the dense metropolis, he loses himself in memories of guiding people up the highest summits of the world. —KK
(USA, 2021, 14 min.)

Irakli's Lantern

Ben Page

Irakli Khvedaguridze, at 78, is the last year-round resident of one of Europe's highest settlements, in the Georgian Caucasus. The population decline of Georgia's Tusheti region, after 2,000 years of habitation, "is so sad, I could cry," Irakli, the last of a breed, laments. —SC
(UK, 2020, 17 min.)

Águilas

Kristy Guevara-Flanagan, Maite Zubiaurre

Migrants from Central and South America cross the Mexico/United States border in search of a better life, but often, amidst rising political repression and cartel violence, and the eternal difficulties of travel in the Sonoran Desert, they meet a different fate. In the scorching and desolate landscape of the southern desert border in Arizona, it is estimated that for every migrant body found, there are another five that the desert will never give back. The volunteers of Águilas del Desierto set out to find the remains for loved ones, fielding phone calls and receiving messages by word of mouth. They trek through the desert not in the hopes of recovering lives, but to help honor those that are lost. —AB
(USA, 2021, 14 min.)

Durga: Forging a New Trail

Emily Hopcian

The first mountain guide from her village in northern Nepal, 34-year-old Durga Rawal was always on the lookout for a path to independence. While the girls around her were left to grow up working on family farms and in their homes, Rawal pursued another direction — changing not only the societal and familial expectations of herself, but for future generations. *Durga: Forging a New Trail* is an intimate story of what female empowerment and gender equality looks like on the ground, and what an independent path just might lead to. —*AB*

(USA, 2021, 21 min.)

Way of Life

Giridhar Nayak

This documentary beautifully captures the daily life of the dhīvaraḥ — Sanskrit for a fisherman — of Malpe Harbour, Karnataka, India, as they face the impacts of overfishing. Former Fishermen’s Association President Satish Kunder talks about the joy as well as the difficulties of traditional, small-scale fishermen, like himself. The film offers a glimmer of hope for the future due to efforts to promote sustainable fishing and eating practices that can preserve both aquatic life and local livelihoods. —*TI*

(India, USA, 2020, 13 min.)

Sky Aelans

Georgianna Lepping, Jeremy Gwao, Regina Lepping, Zahiyy Namo, Junior Patrick Makau, Manner Lévo, Neil Nuia, Daniel Kakadi, Edward Manuga

A mountainous expanse of the Solomon Islands, known as Sky Aelans, hides in the clouds. Here, there is a chorus of animals, every tree has a story and every drop of water carries a memory. But despite a 2018 pledge to protect mountain regions above 400 meters, this land is being threatened and the Indigenous communities who live in these mountain forests are the last protectors of these high sacred places. They are not simply seeking to save themselves and the land they love, but the creatures who inhabit this pristine island in the clouds. —*SD*

(Solomon Islands, USA, 2019, 6 min.)

PROGRAM CHECKLIST

FEATURES

- After Antarctica
- American Gadfly
- The Ants & The Grasshopper
- Bear-Like
- The Big Scary "S" Word
- Buried
- Duty Free
- Godspeed, Los Polacos!
- Jacinta
- The Last Out
- Los Hermanos/The Brothers
- Missing in Brooks County
- Playing With Sharks
- Reel Rock 15: Black Ice
- The River Runner
- Running the Roof
- Spaceship Earth
- Try Harder!
- Wall of Shadows
- We Are As Gods
- Weed & Wine
- Writing With Fire
- Yes I Am - The Ric Weiland Story
- Youth v Gov

SHORTS PROGRAMS

- Cine de las Montañas
- Dirt & Rock Shorts
- Guest Director Shorts
- Indomitable Spirit Shorts
- Kidz Kino (Online Only)
- Local Legends & Steep Thrills
- The Long & Short of It
- Originals Shorts
- Terra Shorts
- Water & Ice Shorts
- Wild Shorts
- World Focus Shorts I
- World Focus Shorts II