



MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

JANUARY 22, 23, 24 2019 • 5:30-7:30P

Different films each night

BEAR TOOTH THEATRE PUB, ANCHORAGE

JANUARY 22

A LETTER TO CONGRESS

2017 USA / 3 min / Directed by: Christopher Newman

Christopher Newman's short, lyrical visual poem was inspired by and is an homage to Wallace Stegner's 1960 "Letter to Congress," in which the writer advocated for the preservation of the wilderness that then remained. "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed," Stegner wrote. In hindsight, the 1960s were hopeful; today, the exhortation is more urgent than ever.

SKY MIGRATIONS

2017 USA / 15 min / Directed by: Charles Post, Forest Woodward, Max Lowe

Twice a year a river of raptors soars overhead between British Columbia and Argentina on their seasonal migrations. Ecologist Charles Post joins them for part of their journey south through the rugged sagebrush-covered canyons of Nevada's Goshute and New Mexico's Manzano mountains. Workers with Hawkwatch International have been counting, measuring, banding and marveling at Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles for the last 30 years. The birds' fierce eyes and powerful wingspans indicate they, as well as the animals they prey on, are doing well. But for conservation to succeed, there must be a global effort. It takes the entire Western Hemisphere to raise a hawk.

IMAGINATION: TOM WALLISCH

2017 Canada / 5 min / Directed by: Dave Moscop

From the boredom of the backseat of his parents' station wagon, a young skier imagines the passing front-yard snow piles and sloping roofs as suburban ski terrain. His daydream suddenly springs to life as freeskiier Tom Wallisch flies over Airstreams and garbage cans, and down the steps and rails of Nelson, British Columbia, sparks flying when his skis meet pavement. Imagination is an homage to the late Canadian freeskiier J.P. Auclair's iconic street segment from the film All.Can. (Mountainfilm 2011), which proves with a little snow and creativity anything is possible.

LOVED BY ALL: THE STORY OF APA SHERPA

2017 Canada / 14 min / Directed by: Eric Crosland

"I wouldn't wish this for anyone," says Apa Sherpa, who summited Everest 21 times, having started as a porter at the age of 12 following the death of his father. Eric Crosland's Loved By All leaves no doubt that for many Sherpa, the hard, dangerous work of hauling gear and guiding westerners on Everest is undertaken not for glory, but to provide for their families. Apa Sherpa is now devoted to providing educational opportunities to children of the Khumbu Valley, hoping to spare them his fate. "The true beauty of Nepal is not the mountains, but the people who live in their shadow," he says, calling into question the Everest industry, fueled by Sherpa labor.

INTERSECTION: MICAYLA GATTO

2017 Canada / 5 min / Directed by: Lacy Kemp

Professional mountain biker and artist Micayla Gatto recreates in her paintings the sweeping vistas of ridgelines she rides on her bike. Both cornering berms and putting paint brush to canvas allow Gatto to achieve that magical flow state where she exists completely and happily in the present moment. Intersection takes us inside the vibrant space where artist and athlete collide, as Gatto pedals through her artwork with a splash of color.

- JAN. 22 INTERMISSION -

FELIX

2018 USA / 6 min / Directed by: Allison Otto

Twice a month for the last 40 years, Felix Belmont has hosted a radio show on KVMF in the small town of Paonia, Colorado, spinning big band music of the '30s and '40s. Today, at 99 years old, he is believed to be the world's oldest public radio host. In this endearing short film, Belmont shares the ingredients to life well-lived: a great love affair, a rich relationship with music and just the right amount of top-shelf scotch.

THE MIRNAVATOR

2017 USA / 11 min / Directed by: Sarah Menzies

Teacher, blogger and mom Mirna Valerio is an endurance runner whose weekends are packed with marathons, 50Ks and other races. But she doesn't fit into the typical mold of ultra-runner; Mirna is black, and she's not stick thin. Which means that along with being a runner, she is a great stereotype exploder. It can be a harsh world of cruel internet trolls and insensitive competitors, but where others might relent, Mirna keeps her head up. She chooses to focus instead on the freedom, joy and feeling of accomplishment. As she puts it, "my body got this."

WHY NOT NOW: VIVIAN STANCI

2017 USA / 3 min / Directed by: Riley Hooper

Blind and afraid of water, Vivian Stancil learned to swim at 48. "I heard that blind people can't swim," Stancil says, followed by: "Oh, yes they can!" Two hundred and twenty-one medals later, at half her former body weight, Stencil is still at it.

HOW TO RUN 100 MILES

2018 USA / 28 min / Directed by: Brendan Leonard, Aidan Haley

In 2017, Brendan Leonard signed up to run a 100-mile race, despite not being much of a runner. Why? Because his longtime friend and hero, Jayson Sime, convinced him to. And part of him wanted to test out Sime's life philosophy, which is that you can do anything you dream up, so long as you put in the work and refuse to quit. It had worked so far for Sime, who grew up impoverished, one of six children without a father, and dyslexic. Together, they trained for endless hours, through tedium, exhaustion, joy and gluttony. And when they arrived at the starting line of the race — the notoriously challenging Run Rabbit Run 100 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado — what unfolded was about more than just a crazy dream. It was about one extraordinary friendship.

A NEW VIEW OF THE MOON

2018 USA / 4 min / Directed by: Wylie Overstreet

Wylie Overstreet was hanging out in his L.A. apartment one night and, out of boredom, decided to take his high-powered telescope out to the street to peer at the moon. Pretty soon people began wandering up and asking him what he was up to. When he showed them, they nearly fell over in awe. A New View of the Moon is just the reminder we need to keep looking up. Because as Galileo said, back in 1610, "it's a beautiful and wondrous sight to behold the body of the moon."

JANUARY 23

BROTHERS OF CLIMBING

2017 USA / 7 min / Directed by: Duncan Sullivan

Go to a typical climbing gym and you're not likely to see many people of color. But Brothers of Climbing co-founder Mikhail Martin says if young black people never see someone who looks like them, they will think a rock wall is no place for them. His organization aims to change that. With a mission of boosting minorities' involvement in outdoor activities, the group's positive energy is increasing diversity and challenging stereotypes in the climbing world.

CLIMBING OUT OF A DISASTER

2018 USA / 9 min / Directed by: Dominic Gill

Bryant Huffman spent his days deep water soloing, sport climbing and bouldering as founder of Climbing Puerto Rico. Then Hurricane Maria dropped a nuclear bomb of water and wind, which destroyed much of the island. With his work as a guide temporarily suspended, Huffman and his climbing buddies put their skills to good use by morphing into emergency arborists. And out of the devastation comes a glimmer of something positive. The hurricane peeled huge chunks of limestone from cliffs, creating scores of new routes. Climbing Out of a Disaster is about shifting your perspective to see the silver lining in calamity.

THE SPACE WITHIN

2017 USA / 6 min / Directed by: Frank Pickell

Picking through the tidepools of a deserted tropical beach, a young boy finds a mysterious treasure washed upon the rocks and is swiftly transported to a different world. This one is blanketed in snow, muffled by storms and home to skiers carving through shoulder-deep powder.

January 23 continued on reverse side

2.5 MILLION

2017 USA / 22 min / Directed by: Tyler Wilkinson-Ray

Aaron Rice was a couple years out of college, ski bumming through winters and scraping together work over summers, but getting sick of resort crowds and feeling a little aimless, like he needed to pick a direction. The direction he eventually settled on: Up. Rice set out to become the first person to ski 2.5 million human-powered vertical feet in a year, which is the equivalent of climbing from Everest Base Camp to the summit over 200 times. Through fatigue and injuries, excursions to South America and storms, he climbed and skied. Along the way, he learned a lot about self-determination, grit and what's possible if you set your mind to it.

ROGUE ELEMENTS: CORBET'S COULOIR SEGMENT

2017 USA / 4 min / Directed by: Todd Jones, Steve Jones

A right of passage for any Jackson Hole skier, Corbet's Couloir is conquered here not on two planks, but two wheels.

— JAN. 23 INTERMISSION —

THE WOLF PACK

2018 USA / 12 min / Directed by: Nick Waggoner, Zac Ramras

High in the San Juan Mountains above Silverton, Colorado, a pack of runners roams, jogging through meadows, hiking over mineral-stained peaks, ducking through forests and exploring the rugged landscape of their backyard. It's the Braford-Lefebvre family — mom, dad and three kids — who have used running both as a healing mechanism and a tool to help them experience life together. The Wolf Pack chronicles a family raised the right way — on fresh air, high peaks and the wonder of the outdoors.

INGRAINED

2018 USA / 8 min / Directed by: Jimmy Chin, David Cleeland, Wade Dunstan

Growing up as a ranch kid in tiny Ten Sleep, Wyoming, Mark Carter was raised on small-town realities like fixing a fence, branding cattle and herding steers across the sage-strewn acreage. Not exactly a typical candidate for a professional snowboarder. But once he made his first turns, he had discovered his passion. And he made it a reality. Today, Carter straddles two worlds — traveling the globe in search of epic lines before returning home to help out on the ranch. And he never loses sight of what his father instilled in him as the most important part of life: being a good, honest man.

BREAK ON THROUGH

2017 USA / 26 min / Directed by: Peter Mortimer, Nick Rosen, Matty Hong

In the world of climbing, the 5.15 grade is a rarefied realm reserved for only the strongest and most precise sport climbers. Most never achieve it, legends like Alex Honnold won't go near it and for women, it's long been out of reach. Until now. Meet Margo Hayes. This petite former-gymnast surprised the world in 2017 when she tackled Spain's La Rambla — a brutal 5.15 that features giant moves, tiny crimpers and a small chance of success — and sent it, shattering the glass ceiling. Instead of resting on her laurels though, this driven climber immediately set her sights on an even bigger objective.

SURF THE LINE

2012 France / 2 min / Directed by: Jérémy Frey

The Flying Frenchies are back, and this time they are surfing a 2,000-foot highline in the Vercors Mountains of France — hauling ass at 50 miles an hour and laughing hysterically the whole way.

JANUARY 24

ESCAPE

2018 Canada / 8 min / Directed by: Anjali Nayar

There is something gloriously incongruous — and almost incomprehensible — about a risk-averse, non-athletic, native Rwandan DJ finding the real meaning in his life by pedaling across Canada to its frozen Arctic Ocean shore in an attempt to break the record for the longest, continuous, fixed-gear bike ride. Through the course of this unlikely adventure, the protagonist, Jean-Aïme Bigirimana, also finds that the truth about escaping is not as black and white as, say, his spandex silhouette against the cold Canadian snowscape.

RICCARDA DE ECCHER: MONTAGNA

2017 USA / 7 min / Directed by: Dave Brown

Riccarda de Eccher is twice blessed: She found her passion as a climber when she was young; and, she discovered her passion as a painter when her climbing years were past. In the careful simplicity of her long braid, in the clarity of her gaze and in her poised presence on camera, we can feel the harmony that has come to Riccarda from realizing her two conjoined passions.

LIFE COACH

2017 USA / 13 min / Directed by: Renan Ozturk, Taylor Rees

Climber and filmmaker Renan Ozturk makes the pilgrimage to the toothy and harsh landscape of Alaska's Ruth Glacier every year. This time around, he and fellow climber Alex Honnold have their sights set on a beautiful route up Mount Dickey. But the weather is horrendous. So instead, they end up sitting in tents talking about their feelings. What unfolds is not your typical climbing film, but rather a touching examination into life's big questions.

RJ RIPPER

2018 Nepal / 16 min / Directed by: Joey Schuster, Aidan Haley

Rajesh Magar has been obsessed with bikes since he was a small child growing up in Kathmandu, Nepal. When the other kids were studying, he'd be dreaming about, designing and drawing bikes. As the son of a construction worker and housemaid, however, a bike wasn't easy to come by. Undeterred, he built one, a clunky Frankenstein, but a mountain bike nonetheless. He started racing, and his drive and raw talent got noticed, leading to a job as a mountain bike guide and a path to professional racing. Today, Nepal's National Champion is living proof that it pays to stick to your passion, no matter how implausible it seems.

HAYLEY: 90 SECONDS ON FEAR

2017 Sweden / 1 min / Directed by: Stian Smestad

"I must not fear. Fear is the mind killer. Fear is the little death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear." That's the mantra of Hayley Ashburn as she walks a 170-foot highline between outcroppings in the wintry Dolomites.

— JAN. 24 INTERMISSION —

FRONTIER OF FIRSTS

2018 USA / 12 min / Directed by: Tyler Allyn

True wilderness is hard found in an era of social media and geotagging. These kayakers won't settle for second descents, and with enough effort and determination, they're able to find a Frontier of Firsts.

RETURN FROM DESOLATION

2017 USA / 12 min / Directed by: Justin Clifton

Garrett Eaton just doesn't fit into a box. Which makes him a great subject for a short film. Especially for a filmmaker like Justin Clifton, who has a natural empathy for everyday heroes like Garrett and who knows how to let people — and places — tell their stories through his lens. The result: In the space of mere minutes we get to not only meet a man worth knowing but to become fully vested in his rich story.

FOLLOW THROUGH

2017 USA / 22 min / Directed by: Adam Clark

Haters gonna hate. Especially when you're Caroline Gleich in the social media age. Her ski mountaineering exploits garner attention, though not all of it positive. Follow Through chronicles the journey of Utah skiing's poster girl as she attempts an audacious goal: completing all 90 routes of the Chuting Gallery, a collection of the Wasatch Range's most classic and gnarly lines. In addition to the cruel words of her online tormentors, Gleich is also haunted by the deaths of her half-brother Martin and friend Liz Daley, both lost in avalanches. As she methodically checks off lines over four seasons, Gleich learns when you're committed to your dream, you don't need the acceptance or approval of anyone else.

THE COFFIN CLUB

2017 New Zealand / 4 min / Directed by: Briar March

Death is inevitable. And expensive. But it doesn't have to be boring. In New Zealand, a group of rebellious retirees are shunning black garb, dull funerals and mahogany caskets by creating a club where they construct their own coffins. The whimsical boxes are painted with shamrocks, beach scenes, cartoon chickens and pictures of Elvis, and reflect the colorful lives of their makers. The Coffin Club is a glittery, musical number that celebrates how these seniors will make a splash on their final day.

OUR SPONSORS



A fundraiser for the non-profit, The Alaska Film Group