



## Study Guide



The Banff Centre

# BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

## WORLD TOUR

As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! offers a variety of performances at venues across the Appalachian State University campus that feature university-based artists as well as local, regional and world-renowned professional artists. These affordable performances offer access to a wide variety of art disciplines for K-12 students. The series also offers the opportunity for students from the Reich College of Education to view a field trip in action without having to leave campus.

Among the 2013-2014 series performers, you will find those who will also be featured in the [Performing Arts Series](#) along with professional artists chosen specifically for our student audience as well as performances by campus groups. All shows in the 2013-2014 series are performed at the newly renovated Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts.



This performance has been made available through a generous gift from Footsloggers!

## Before you arrive. . .



Familiarize your students with what it means to be a great audience member by introducing these theatre etiquette basics:

- Arrive early enough to find your seats and settle in before the show begins (20-30 minutes).
- Remember to turn your electronic devices OFF so they do not disturb the performers or other audience members.
- Remember to sit appropriately and to stay quiet so that the audience members around you can enjoy the show too.



### PLEASE NOTE:

**\*THIS EVENT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST 90 MINUTES. 10:30am – 12 noon**

**\*All audience members arriving by car should plan to park in the Rivers Street Parking Deck. There is a small charge for parking in the deck. Buses should plan to park along Rivers Street – Please indicate to the Parking and Traffic Officer when you plan to move your bus (i.e. right after the show, or after lunch) so that they can help keep everyone safe.**

**\*Adults meeting a school group at the show will be asked to sign in at the lobby and wait to be escorted to their group by a security guard.**

## About the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour:

The Banff Centre, located in Banff, Alberta, Canada, hosts the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival each fall to celebrate mountain life and culture. Over the course of the nine day festival, several mountain films are screened. Many of those films receive awards and are then made available on the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCzggIm\\_Ofg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCzggIm_Ofg&feature=player_embedded)

Appalachian State University's Outdoor Programs has been host for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour for over 18 years. The public screenings have built a reputation for the best mountain adventure, culture and environmental interest films. The Schaefer Center, which holds over 1680 people, is regularly sold out weeks in advance of the screenings to an enthusiastic mountain community.

This year, through a generous gift from Footsloggers – and through the continuing efforts of Appalachian's Outdoor Programs, the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is made available to a student audience. We are so glad that you are able to participate!

Outdoor Programs also collaborates with the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts to host the Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition. The AMPC is juried right here at Appalachian and the work is on display at the Turchin Center through June 7, 2014. <http://tcva.org/exhibitions/1167>

## About the Films you will see:

The films that were selected for the student showing of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour highlight a variety of themes from adrenalin pumping adventure to thought provoking environmental concerns. They capture the essence of mountain culture throughout the world and will give viewers a virtual tour of the world as they travel from remote Antarctica to Dubai to other locations in North and South America. The following films have been selected by the staff at Appalachian State University's Outdoor Programs Department with assistance from the Banff Centre staff. Films are subject to change.

### **Cascada** (2012, USA, 8 min)

Filmmakers: Anson Fogel, Skip Armstrong, Shannon Ethridge (Camp4 Collective)

Website: [www.camp4collective.com](http://www.camp4collective.com)

Focus: Culture, adventure, whitewater kayaking in Mexico

Paddler and cinematographer alike explore a world beyond the unexpected ... and find perfection

### **The Last Great Climb** (special edit) (2013, UK, 26 min)

Best Film — Climbing—Sponsored by the Alpine Club of Canada

Filmmaker: Alastair Lee

Website: [www.thelastgreatclimb.com](http://www.thelastgreatclimb.com)

Focus: Rock climbing, expedition, adventure

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

### **Return to the Tepuis** (2013, USA, 9 min)

Filmmakers: Joe Riis and Jenny Nichols, Pongo Media

Website: [www.pongomediaproductions.com](http://www.pongomediaproductions.com)

Focus: Environmental, adventure

A wee pebble toad living in the crevices of the tepuis of South America is the missing link to understanding the age of the species as well as the age of the tepuis themselves.

**I AM RED** (2013, USA, 4 min)

Filmmaker: Peter McBride

Website: [www.petemcbride.com](http://www.petemcbride.com)

Focus: Environmental

A visual poem of the Colorado River delivers a simple yet powerful message.

**Stand** (special edit) (2013, Canada, 23 min)

Filmmakers: Anthony Bonello and Nicolas Teichrob

Website: [www.standfilm.com](http://www.standfilm.com)

Focus: Standup Paddleboard paddling, environmental, wildlife, culture (features school age characters in the film)

With a pipeline proposal always comes talk of what will be gained – but shouldn't we be asking, 'What do we stand to lose?' A hauntingly beautiful examination of the people and culture of the Great Bear Rainforest, on the Pacific coast of Canada– and the lives of those committed to defending its fragile ecosystems and fjords, one paddle stroke at a time.

**Dubai - A Skier's Journey** (2012, Canada, 10 min)

Filmmaker: Jordan Manley and Danny Irvine

Website: [www.jordanmanley.com](http://www.jordanmanley.com)

Focus: Skiing, culture

In the midst of a city dizzy with ambition, a dedicated community of desert-dwellers embraces the local ski hill.

## **After the Screening:**

Spend some time thinking about the films you saw today.

Which films interested you most? Why?

Is it worth it for the filmmakers to go to such great efforts to find these places and make these types of films? Why or why not?

What about the films appealed to you? What did not appeal to you? Why?

If you were given the opportunity to travel anywhere in the world to make a film, where would you go? What would your film be about?

What are a few images that stand out from the films you saw?

Appalachian State University's Outdoor Programs invites you to write an essay reflecting on your overall experience at the special school screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival. You can also choose to write an essay on one of the films you saw at the student screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Camp UREC Adventure Week organizers will choose one person to invite to participate in a week with Outdoor Programs Adventure Week, all expenses paid, based on the quality and thought of their submitted essay. Adventure Week - a part of Camp UREC - takes young people on a week of adventures including ropes courses, rock climbing, caving, hiking, and a river trip. Please send your essay: to Appalachian State University Outdoor Programs, ATTN Rich Campbell, Student Recreation Center, 150 Bodenheimer Drive, Boone, NC 28608. Essays should be between 300 and 1,000 words. Essays can also be emailed in a Word Document or PDF format to [campblrh@appstate.edu](mailto:campblrh@appstate.edu). Due date for essay is April 11, 2014.

## Banff Film Festival Study Guide Appendix

### Film Specific Questions for Students

#### **Cascada**

- Anson Fogel shot *Cascada* during a short trip to Mexico with some of his best friends, who also happen to be world-class whitewater kayakers. They encounter treacherous conditions in the jungle just to get to these amazing rivers and waterfalls.
- Is it worth it to go to such great effort to find these places make these types of films? Why or why not?
- What about *Cascada* appealed to you?
- Both the kayakers and filmmakers put themselves at great risk to just to capture the images found in the film. What drives athletes to go to such great lengths to pursue their adventure sports? Is it the same kind of drive that pushes people like Anson Fogel to make these films?
- If you were given the opportunity to travel anywhere to make a film, where would you go and what would the film be about?
- What are a few images that stand out from *Cascada*?

#### **The Last Great Climb**

- In the film *The Last Great Climb* the expedition saw Leo and the team spend a month on the ice of Antarctica, followed by a week on the wall, often having to deal with high winds and temperatures that dipped to -35C.
- After reaching the summit, the team then spent two days descending the peak – before finally taking on the three mile trek to their base camp.
- What other famous expeditions have occurred on the continent of Antarctica?
- Why do you think it is important to travel to and understand a place like Antarctica?
- What major issue is our world facing today that may have a particular and devastating impact on Antarctica?
- Antarctica is managed through a cooperative treaty agreed upon by a number of different nations. Describe this treaty and do you think it is beneficial to manage this continent in this way? Why or why not?

#### **Return to the Tepuis**

- Tepuis are high sandstone mesas that erupt from surrounding rain forest in southern Venezuela and part of adjacent Guyana and Brazil. They have captivated scientists for centuries. Remote, ancient outcrops that soar up to 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) high, tepuis have long been thought of as crucibles of evolution. Recent research confirms their biological importance, but also shatters the most romantic notions about them.
- Can you identify on a map of South America where tepuis are located?
- Sometimes, tepuis are described as “Islands in the Sky”. Is this an accurate description?
- Why are these “Islands in the Sky” considered to be biologically important?
- Oftentimes, scientists have to endure harsh conditions and travel to remote locations to learn more what they are studying. Is there a topic that you would like to study, or a location on our planet that you would like to travel to that would be potentially difficult and/or challenging? If so, describe.

#### **I AM RED**

- This film *I AM RED* is a ‘visual poem’ about the Colorado River. Does it evoke any emotion in you? Is the format of a ‘visual poem’ successful in terms of capturing your attention and sharing information?
- Did you learn anything surprising about the Colorado River through this film? If so, what?
- Does the filmmaker Pete McBride make an effective statement about the Colorado River, and other rivers in general? Describe.

#### **Stand**

- The film *Stand* is about communities in the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia, Canada. Can you find the Great Bear Rainforest on a map of British Columbia?

- One of the central themes of the film describes a proposed oil pipeline that would run from the Great Tar Sands of Alberta to the coast of British Columbia. Do you think communities that are in the path of these projects should have a say in whether or not the projects can move forward? Why or why not?
- The school students featured in the film learn how to design and build standup paddle boards. Afterwards, they learn how to paddle them in the bays found within their community on the Pacific Ocean. How does this sequence of learning how to paddleboard tie into the overall theme of the film?
- Do you participate and enjoy activities that are unique to your home here in the High Country? If so, what are those activities?

***Dubai – A Skier’s Journey***

- Dubai is a city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Can you find the UAE on a map?
- Dubai has worked very hard to manufacture a ski slope in a desert. How have they managed to do this?
- Where does the water to create the snow in this artificial environment come from?
- Ultimately this film was made to explore a different kind of skiing, and hopefully it would lead to the question, “what is skiing?” Why do we love it? What are the elements (community? the physical motion of it? your environment?) that make it special and real to each of us?
- The world of skiing is filled with not only extremes but contradictions. The not-so-great ecological story of Dubai is well known & documented. At the same time and in spite of this, in the midst of this, there seemed to be a real skiing community here. This contradiction, the fact that both of these things might be true made us uncomfortable. Can something be real and good, even if it is predicated on so much that is not?