



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL



where activism gets inspired

Feature Films '24 - '25



A Radical Thread

TRT: 71 MINUTES

The San Juan Ridge Community in the Sierra Foothills has survived countless threats during its 50-year history including mining, logging and arson. Established by artists and ecologists in the 1970's this thriving group now faces their most monumental challenge to date – wildfire and drought caused by climate change.

For seventeen years hundreds of volunteers stitched the stories of their struggles and celebrations into 12 tapestry panels that total 83 feet. A Radical Thread is a feature documentary film that chronicles the community's ethos of collectivism, play and sustainability as visualized in the making of the tapestry, and explores how the elders pass their values to the next generations who are confronting the threat of wildfire through their newest cooperative endeavor, Force of Nature Forestry.



Cactus Hotel

TRT: 56 MINUTES

In the desert of Arizona, the luxurious „Cactus Hotel“ is like a precious oasis for many wild guests. From the roots in the „basement“ to the flowery „rooftop bar“, this film tells entertaining stories about an old Saguaro cactus with its wild tourists, quirky residential communities and long-term tenants who manage to make this prickly fortress their home.



California's Watershed Healing

TRT: 57 MINUTES

California's forested ecosystems are facing tremendous threats. Forest managers, researchers, and policymakers contributed to the documentary, which profiles opportunities for restoration and sustainable management of Sierra Nevada forests. The production delves into equitable, multi-benefit solutions to environmental, economic, and national-security threats and impacts evolving due to the climate crisis and past management actions throughout the watershed.



Deep Rising

TRT: 85 MINUTES

Deep Rising is a gripping and up-to-the-minute tale of geopolitical, scientific, and corporate intrigue that exposes the destructive machinations of a secretive organization empowered to extract massive amounts of metals from the deep seafloor. Narrated by Jason Momoa, the film illuminates the vital relationship between the deep ocean and sustaining life on Earth.



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Flight of the Swans

TRT: 62 MINUTES

A female conservationist takes to the skies in a paramotor to follow Bewick's Swans on their annual migration in a bid to understand their dramatic decline; 7,000 kilometers, 11 countries, from Russia to England across tundra, forests, and industrial landscapes, where she encounters people just as passionate about saving and protecting these birds and their wetland homes. Narrated by Academy Award nominee Sophie Okonedo.



The Grand Salmon

TRT: 56 MINUTES

Following three women on a 78-day paddling expedition, The Grand Salmon explores the effects of four dams on the Lower Snake River and their impact throughout the watershed on rapidly dwindling wild salmon populations. For over 1,000 miles, these women navigate the same waterways wild salmon have for generations, connecting the source of the Salmon River to the Pacific Ocean. From high water to extreme temperatures, this team not only faces the same natural challenges the fish do each year, but brings viewers along to experience what the construction of these dams has done to our ecosystems and wildlife.



The Hard Part

TRT: 60 MINUTES

The Hard Part is a deeply personal story about what one farmer endures over the course of a year. Contained within her journey are the many issues that small farmers contend with: climate change, farming economics, and ultimately the struggle to survive. Divided into four seasonal chapters, we see what it takes for farmers to bring food to our tables, and are ultimately reminded that the fight for a sustainable future begins with those who live it every day.



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The Memory of Darkness, Light, and Ice

TRT: 56 MINUTES

If the ice sheet covering Greenland melts, global sea levels would rise 21 feet (7 meters), profoundly impacting our planet. How, why, and when could this happen? Scientists find lost sediment from a secret sub-ice Cold War base in the Arctic holding clues to the stability of the Greenland Ice Sheet and completely transforming our understanding of ice sheet collapse.



The Spirit Who Swims

TRT: 56 MINUTES

This film centers on the Indigenous practice of 'life as a ceremony'. We journey alongside the Salmon in the Fraser River during their annual migration, meeting individuals from Indigenous communities along the way. Each shares their personal bonds with the Spirit Who Swims and what they feel are the consequences if the Spirit were to disappear.



Valve Turners

TRT: 73 MINUTES

VALVE TURNERS chronicles a group of older, white Americans who push the limits of civil disobedience to protest the government's failure to address the climate emergency. In solidarity with Standing Rock, they carefully planned a bid to disrupt the entire flow of tar sands oil from Alberta into the United States. Reuters called it, "the biggest coordinated move on U.S. energy infrastructure ever undertaken by environmental protesters," an act that "shook the North American energy industry."