

**March 16, 2016**  
**Student Screening Study Guide**



The Banff Centre

**BANFF**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
**WORLD TOUR**

As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! matinees offer 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 2015-2016 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.

## 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**. 10:00am – 11:30am

\*Audience members arriving by car should plan to park in the Rivers Street Parking Deck. There is a small charge for parking. 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, only a quarter of the 400 mountain films submitted to the competition are screened. From those films, about 30 films make it on the World Tour. We have picked 8 films from that selection of films to screen to you today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHnqUQ1c6yc>

Appalachian State University's Outdoor Programs has been host for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour for twenty years. The public screenings have built a reputation

for the best mountain adventure, culture and environmental interest films. The Schaefer Center, which holds over 1600 people, is regularly sold out weeks in advance of the screenings to an enthusiastic mountain community.

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 March 4 through June 4, 2016. <http://tcva.org/exhibitions/1797>

### **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 China to rivers and streams in our own backyard. 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.



### **unReal (special edit)**

(2015, USA, 12min)

Filmmaker: Teton Gravity Research

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

Classification: General; no advisory

### **Film Synopsis:**

Imagine a world where you ride the perfect trail perfectly, and sometime snow isn't the only stuff that falls from the sky. When you spend all of your time at work dreaming about mountain biking, which life is real?

### **Questions for later:**

#### **unReal**

- The filmmakers create a film that tries to capture a pursuit that people are passionate about – Mountain Biking – and love so much that they often find themselves dreaming about it, all the time.
- Do you have something in your life that you think about and dream about often? What is that activity? What is it that drives people to dream about things so frequently and oftentimes so passionately?
- Are the filmmakers successful in creating a film that blurs the line between reality and dreams? If so, how did they do it?



### **Denali**

(2015, USA, 8 min)

Filmmakers: Ben Moon, Ben Knight

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

Classification: General, no advisory

#### **Film Synopsis:**

There's no easy way to say goodbye to a friend, especially when they've supported you through your darkest times. A collaboration between Ben Knight, Skip Armstrong and Ben Moon.

#### **Questions for later:**

##### **Denali**

- This is a film about a dog owner, Ben, and his dog, Denali. It is a very moving film about the strong connection between humans and animals. Have you ever had a really close connection with an animal? If so, describe.
- Part of the charm of this film is the perspective from which the film is narrated. Do you think the film has more impact by telling the story through this perspective? Why or why not?
- Describe what creates such a strong connection between humans and animals?
- Sometimes adversity, such as what Ben faced with his medical situation, creates even stronger bonds. Have you ever faced some kind of adversity that brought you closer to family, friends, or even pets? If so, describe.



### **Salween Spring**

(2015, USA, 9 min)

Filmmaker: Will Stauffer-Norris

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

Classification: General; no advisory

#### **Film Synopsis:**

Travis Winn has been running rivers in China for 15 years. He's explored first descents, but also watched rivers disappear behind dams. Now he's founded a rafting company to bring Chinese to see their rivers before they're gone. Salween Spring is Travis's meditation on change, personal struggle, and kayaking along China's frontier.

#### **Questions for later:**

##### **Salween Spring**

- Salween Spring is a film about an individual who wants to show the young Chinese their rivers before many of them get dammed.
- If a river is on the verge of being dammed, do you think it matters or is important for people to see it before the river is submerged from the dam? Why or why not?
- Damming rivers is often used as a way to generate electricity for a growing population. What kind of environmental impacts are created when you dam an entire river system?
- Are there other ways to generate electricity that have less of an impact on the environment? Describe.
- Why is it important for young people to understand the environment in which they live and how humans impact it?



### **Curiosity**

(2014, USA, 13 min)

Filmmaker: Aimee Tetreault, Renan Ozturk, Tim Kemple

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

Classification: General; no advisory

#### **Film Synopsis:**

How does curiosity inspire ultra-marathoners Rory Bosio, Timothy Olson and Hal Koerner as they prepare for the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc? Their artistry gives them lots in common with local artist Andy Parkin.

#### **Questions for later:**

##### **Curiosity**

- Curiosity is a film about trail running. The Ultra Marathon that these athletes run, around Mount Blanc, is over 100 miles. It is an incredible feat for humans. Does this inspire you to do incredible things (even if it is not running 100 miles at a time)? If so, what kinds of things would you like to do one day?
- One poignant story from an athlete featured in the film, Timothy Olsen, was not about running but showed a more personal side about his past life. Do you think this storyline helped to make the film a stronger one? If so, why?
- The athletes talked about running at times being spiritual. Can a sport or pursuit such as trail running be spiritual?
- Which of the three athletes featured resonated with you the most? Why?
- What three countries will these athletes enter during the Mt. Blanc Ultra? In which country is Mt. Blanc found? Locate Mt. Blanc on a map.



## **Sounds of Paragliding**

(2014, France, 4 min)

Filmmaker: Shams

Website: [www.shams.fr](http://www.shams.fr)

Classification: General; no advisory

### **Film Synopsis:**

Listen to nature's harmony while aerobatic paragliding pilot Théo de Blic dances to the sounds of the sky.

### **Questions for later:**

#### **Sounds of Paragliding**

- Paragliding provides a beautiful perspective of the European Alps. Have you ever seen anyone paraglide?
- Do you think you would ever want to paraglide?
- How do paragliders, or wings in general, work? How do they keep you aloft?
- The filmmaker emphasized sounds in this film, despite the very visual nature of paragliding against a backdrop of the stunning European Alps. Do you think this is effective in this film? Why?



### **The Last Dragons**

(2014, USA, 10 min)

Filmmakers: Jeremy Monroe, David Herasimtschuk

Website: [www.freshwatersillustrated.org](http://www.freshwatersillustrated.org)

Classification: General; no advisory

#### **Film Synopsis:**

An intimate glimpse at North America's Eastern Hellbender, an ancient salamander as mythical as it is real. And in many waters, myths are all that remain of these sentinel stream-dwellers.

#### **Questions for later:**

##### **The Last Dragons**

- This film features the Giant Hellbender, an ancient salamander that, despite being threatened in many places, is still alive and well in many of our creeks and streams here in the High Country. Have you ever heard of the Giant Hellbender? Have you ever seen a Giant Hellbender?
- Have any of you ever walked in a small mountain stream or tubed in any of the rivers in the High Country? If so, chances are you were in the very habitat of these Hellbenders.
- What is something you can do to help protect and preserve this ancient species of salamander?
- What is one of the primary threats to the Hellbender that the Forest Service personnel and researchers talked about in the film? How can you mitigate that threat to our waterways?
- The Banff Film Festival features films from mountain communities from all over the world. How do you feel about a film that features mountain landscapes that are found literally in our own backyard being included in this prestigious film festival?
- Why is it important to preserve the Hellbender and other similar species?



**Pretty Faces (special edit)**

(2014, USA, 11 min)

Filmmaker: Lynsey Dyer

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

Classification: General; no advisory

**Film Synopsis:**

Celebrate women who thrive in the snow! Follow her as she chases snow, from the time she needs to be lifted onto the chairlift to her first Alaskan dream line and beyond.

**Questions for later:**

**Pretty Faces**

- Oftentimes, adventure athletes tend to be dominated by males. What do you think of an adventure film that features all female athletes?
- What aspects of Lynsey's life featured in the film inspired you?



### **Darklight (special edit)**

(2015, USA, 5 min)

Filmmaker: Rachel Franks, Matt O'Connor, Zac Ramras, Mike Brown

Website: [www.sweetgrass-productions.com](http://www.sweetgrass-productions.com)

Classification: General; no advisory

#### **Film Synopsis:**

In 2014, the award winning film *Afterglow* followed skiers down impossibly lit, virgin powder slopes in the dead of night. Get ready for the sequel, this time on two wheels.

#### **Questions for later:**

##### **Darklight**

- The filmmakers filmed *Darklight* in a remote corner of the desert, at night. They had to encounter difficult and rugged conditions to get the images you saw on the screen. They had to haul all of their camera and lighting equipment along with mountain bikes and bike equipment to capture these images.
- Is it worth it to go to such great effort to make this kind of film? Why or why not?
- What about *Darklight* appealed to you?
- If you were given the opportunity to travel anywhere to make a film, where would you go and what would the film be about?

#### **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?



Photo by Brian Gratwicke

## Banff Mountain Film Festival: *The Last Dragons*

### IMC RESOURCES

#### Eastern Hellbender Salamander Books

- *Frogs, Toads, Lizards, and Salamanders* by Nancy Winslow Parker and Joan Richards Wright (ASU IMC Stacks 597.6 P2421fr)
- *Salamanders of the Southeast* by Joe Mitchell and Whit Gibbon (ASU Main Stacks QL668.C2 M493 2010)
- *Salamanders of the United States and Canada* by James W. Petranka (ASU Main Stacks QL668.C2 P36 1998)
- *Salamanders: Secret, Silent Lives* by Sara Swan Miller (ASU IMC Stacks 597.85 M651sa)

#### Salamander Habitats

- *The Brook Book: Exploring the Smallest Streams* by Jim Arnosky (ASU IMC Stacks 577.64 A763br)
- *Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean* by Arthur Dorros (ASU IMC Stacks 551.48 D716fo)
- *North Carolina Wild Places: A Closer Look* edited by Lawrence S. Earley (ASU IMC Stacks 574.509756 N864)
- *Rivers, Lakes, Streams, and Ponds* by Richard Beatty (ASU IMC Stacks 577.6 B369ri)

#### Environmental Protection

- *50 ways to Save the Earth* by Anne Jankéliowitch (ASU IMC Stacks 333.72 J335fi)
- *E is for Environment: Stories to Help Children Care for Their World--at home, at school and at play* by Ian James Corlett (ASU IMC Stacks 363.7 C799e)
- *My Big World of Wonder: Activities for Learning About Nature and Using Natural Resources Wisely* by Sherri Griffin (ASU IMC Stacks 372.35 G8523my)
- *Our House is Round: A Kid's Book About Why Protecting Our Earth Matters* by Yolanda Kondonassis (ASU IMC Stacks 363.7282 K82ou)

### MORE INFO



The Instructional Materials Center is a model K-12 school library located in Belk Library at Appalachian State University.



Local teachers are eligible to sign up for a free Teacher Borrower Card, which enables them to use the Idea Factory and to borrow library materials.