

**March 25, 2015**  
**Student Screening**  
**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 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 series are performed at the newly renovated Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts.

## **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. 10:00 -11:30am**

**\*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, hundreds of mountain films from all over the world 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=gCzgqIm\\_Ofg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCzgqIm_Ofg&feature=player_embedded)

Appalachian State University's Outdoor Programs has been host for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour for the past 19 years. The public screenings have built a reputation for the best mountain adventure, culture and environmental interest films. The Schaefer Center, which holds over 1650 people, is regularly sold out weeks in advance of the screenings to an enthusiastic mountain community.

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

## **Other campus connections to mountain life and culture:**

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 6, 2015.

<http://tcva.org/exhibitions/1463>

### **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. 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.

### **Afterglow (special edit)**

(2014, USA, 3 min)

Filmmakers: Michael Brown, Nick Waggoner, Zac Ramras

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Afterglow turns big mountain skiing on its end, and then turns it upside down again, heading into the night through a wintery glow of Technicolor.

- The filmmakers filmed Afterglow in the deep winter nights in the mountains in Alaska. They encounter treacherous conditions to get the images you saw on screen. They had to haul all of their camera and lightening equipment along with safety and ski 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 Afterglow 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?

### **14.c**

(2014, USA, 9 min)

Filmmakers: George Knowles, EVOLV Sports & Designs

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Kai Lightner discovered rock climbing at the age of six. Now 14, he is pushing the limits of hard climbing and trying to staying focused, all with his single mom on belay.

- Kai Lightner is from Fayetteville, NC which is not necessarily known for its natural climbing or climbers, yet Kai has been winning major championships since he was in elementary school,

including 7 National Championship titles. Today, he is 15 years old and still competing at the highest levels.

- What most inspires you about his story?
- In the film 14.c, Kai Lightner manages to balance a rock climbing career and rigorous school schedule simultaneously. What might make such a time consuming schedule worthwhile?
- When talking about discipline, Kai Lightner talks about how in order to achieve his goals, he has to balance ambition, drive, and focus which all play a key role in success. How do you define success?

## **Mending the Line (special edit)**

People's Choice Award at the BMFF Festival – sponsored by Treksta

(2014, USA, 20 min)

Filmmakers: Steve Engman and John Waller, Uncage the Soul Productions

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

In 1944, 20-year-old Frank Moore landed on the beaches of Normandy. Now, at the age of 90, he returns with his wife and son to heal the wounds of his past by fly-fishing the streams he once helped free.

- Mending the Line follows the story of Frank Moore, a WWII veteran who landed on the beaches of Normandy.
- The film follows Frank as he travels back to Europe for the first time, almost 70 years later to heal some of the wounds of war.
- Frank states that the natural world is a way to find peace or heal wounds. Do you agree that the natural world can be healing? Does the natural world have that effect on you? If so, why?
- Frank remembers the day that he and fellow troops were passing through the small village of Pontaubault, in the Lower Normandy region of France, just east of the famous tourist destination of Mont Saint Michel. As he passed over the mostly destroyed bridge in a military half-track, he spotted a huge salmon swimming in the water below then noticed a forlorn fishing rod propped up against the wall of the riverfront café below him. In the midst of the darkness and destruction around him, Moore experienced a moment of clarity: He wanted a fly fishing rod. What kind of emotions do you think Frank feels to travel back to these places, 70 years later, and fish the rivers that he helped to free?
- Do you feel like the film portrays those emotions well?
- On a map, locate some of the rivers in the Normandy region of France.

## **ARCTIC SWELL – Surfing the Ends of the Earth**

(2014, USA, 8 min)

Filmmakers: Anton Lorimer, Chris Burkard

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Surfing photographer Chris Burkard loves capturing cold water surfers. He's prepared to venture to the ends of the earth to snap that once in a lifetime shot.

- Chris Burkard states in his film *Artic Swell*, "As soon as I got a camera, I realized that this could be my vehicle to go and see the world". Have you ever thought what might be your vehicle to see the world? If so, what is it?
- Photographer Chris Burkard braves extreme environments to capture the beauty of places that many of us will never see. Does he succeed in creating engaging and beautiful images?
- Chris Burkard is a self-taught photographer. He states that "Photography for me was a release I wanted to immerse myself in the beauty of what I was seeing with my own eyes." Do you have any kind of creative or other talent that allows you to immerse yourself fully? Photographer Chris Burkard heads up to the Arctic on the 68th parallel to photograph professional surfers who brave the sub-zero temperatures to catch the perfect wave.  
Locate the 68th parallel in the Arctic on a globe or map.
- The Arctic area where Burkard photographs often experiences wind chills of  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-17.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and unpredictable weather patterns. What might motivate him to brave these conditions?
- At the end of the documentary Burkard displays his shots taken on the expedition. Which one is your favorite? Why?

## **Just Keep Running**

(2014, New Zealand, 10 min)

Filmmaker: Aaron Smart

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Ruby Muir is one of the world's most promising young trail runners. Ruby shares her journey of love and loss and the inner struggles which have helped shape her into the running sensation she is today.

- *Just Keep Running* is the story of Ruby Muir who is a talented young trail runner who lives in New Zealand. Ruby talks about the positive influence of her father on her world view. It comes across that he was an important role model for her. Do you have important role models in your life?
- Is this film more about trail running, the natural world, or important people who influence you during your life?
- Ruby talks about the struggle she has with competitive sports. Although she actively competes in sport and is quite successful, she says that there is another side to competitiveness that she has a hard time with. What is your perspective on the value of competitive sports?
- Muir talks about how trail running helps connect herself to more closely her surrounding environment. Do you have a favorite way to connect with the natural world? If so, what is it and explain how you feel about that connection.

## **Delta Dawn**

Best Short Mountain Film – sponsored by The North Face

(2014, USA, 16 min)

Filmmaker: Pete McBride

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

During an experimental pulse flow in the spring of 2014, filmmaker Pete McBride packed up his stand-up paddle board and headed to the Colorado River Delta to investigate how we use and abuse Western water - and how restoration is possible.

- Delta Dawn is a film about the Colorado River. For approximately 50 years, so much water has been diverted from the Colorado River for other needs (development, agriculture, etc.) that the river has not touched the ocean. Do you think that managing water use in this way is a good long-term strategy? Why or why not?
- In March 2014, through a multi-national agreement, enough water was released from behind dams on the Colorado River to allow for a “pulse flow” that mimics that natural cycle of runoff from winter snows. The filmmaker, Pete McBride, created his film Delta Dawn to capture this historic event. Do you think it is important for land and water managers to consider restoring rivers to their natural state? Who benefitted from the Colorado River “Pulse Flow”?
- A number of older, outdated dams, especially in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. have been removed in recent years. What has been the result to the respective ecosystems of this practice of removing dams once natural water flows have been restored?
- Name other important rivers in the world that do not reach the ocean or sea because so much water has been diverted by humans.
- Delta Dawn is about rejuvenation of natural waterways. What are some other environmental success stories related to rivers?
- The Colorado River extends through many areas. Locate it on a map and find all the states it passes through.

## **The Little Things – Meghann O’Brien (special edit)**

(2014, Canada, 6 min)

Filmmakers: Darcy Turenne and Marie-France Roy

Website: [www.thelittlethingsmovie.net](http://www.thelittlethingsmovie.net)

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Six years ago, snowboarder Meghann O'Brien started delving into her First Nations roots. She sold her sled, said good-bye to Whistler-livin', and headed north to learn from her Haida elders the fine art of weaving.

- Do you agree with the statement at the beginning that “everything” is connected? Explain.

- The narrator talks about how a personal connection with the outdoors is key to getting people more involved with the protection nature. Do you think this statement is valid? If so, what methods would be helpful in connecting people to the outdoors?

## **Vasu Sojitra: Out on a Limb**

(2014, USA, 7 min)

Filmmaker: Tyler Wilkinson-Ray

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

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

Vasu Sojitra lost his right leg to a blood infection at nine months old, but that doesn't stop him from venturing deep into the backcountry to ski challenging lines – entirely unassisted.

- Despite the amputation of his leg due to a blood infection as a young child, Vasu Sojita is able to teach himself to backcountry ski.
- What other athletes do you know about that have overcome a “disability” to reach their full potential.
- In the documentary, Sojita is skiing down the Chic Choc Mountains. Locate the Chic Choc Mountains on a Map.
- Sojita talks about the support his friends and family given him throughout his life. How critical is this support to his success?

## **Danny MacAskill: The Ridge**

(2014, Scotland, 7 min)

Filmmaker: Stu Thomson

Website: [www.dannymacaskill.co.uk](http://www.dannymacaskill.co.uk)

Classification: General, no advisory

Film Synopsis:

World-renowned trials rider Danny MacAskill is back! Filmed on the stunning Isle of Skye in Scotland, MacAskill returns to his childhood haunt for a new challenge: riding a mountain bike on the infamous Cuillin Ridge.

- Danny Macaskill returns to his native home of the Isle of Skye in Scotland and has a dream of riding his mountain bike along the Cuillin Ridgeline. Find the Isle of Skye on a map. Is this film more about mountain biking, or Danny’s connection to his homeland?
- Where is your “native home” and how important is that home to you and your identity? Explain.
- Macaskill takes his mountain biking skills to next level by challenging himself in a risky environment. Do you think that taking risks in a dangerous environment can be beneficial? Explain.
- Do you feel like Danny balances risk in a positive way?