

2010 MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR SEATTLE FILM & SPEAKER LIST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th



SPEAKER: Ed Viesturs

Speaker / Q&A: Ed Viesturs

Ed Viesturs is America's leading high altitude mountaineer, having climbed many of the world's most challenging summits, including ascending Mount Everest seven times. He recently completed a 16-year quest to climb all 14 of the world's highest mountains (above 8,000 meters) without the use of supplemental oxygen. In doing so, he became the first American and the 5th person in the world to accomplish this. He reached the summit of his 14th peak, Annapurna, on May 12, 2005.

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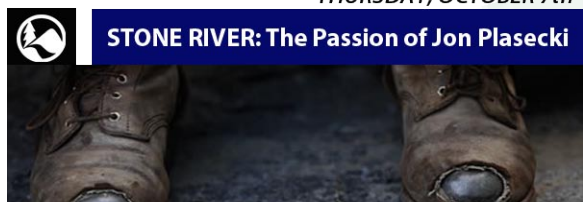


11 DEGREES

11 Degrees | Anna Ewert
2009 UK / Environment / 8 min

You might not think of Scotland as the place to link turns, but despite a warming climate, a little Scottish ski resort continues spinning the motor on its rope tow. Skiers keep descending on one small swath of browning snow. And whatever the conditions, Scottish humor and enthusiasm shine in the ski attendant, a mild-mannered man of the mountains. —EL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th



STONE RIVER: The Passion of Jon Piasecki

Stone River: The Passion of Jon Piasecki | Hal Clifford & Jason Houston
2009 USA / Environment / 17 min

With his thick glasses, duct-taped gloves, worn-out boot toes and ursine bearing, Jon Piasecki may not immediately impress you as someone who can change the world. But watch as he waltzes hefty slabs of flagstone through the woods and connects them meticulously into a pathway that melds seamlessly with its surroundings, and you will likely credit him with having earth-shaking power and down-to-earth wisdom. Hal Clifford (executive editor of Orion magazine and former Telluride resident) and Jason Houston (2009 Mountainfilm gallery artist) created this thoughtful film. —PK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th



MAN vs. EIGER

Man vs. Eiger | Peter Mortimer
2009 USA / Adventure / 25 min

The famous North Face of the Eiger is revered among climbers, not only for the quality of its rock but also for its intimidating dimensions and technical challenges. This lethal exposure has tested the limits of climbing for the past century. Now, climbing pioneer Dean Potter pushes another boundary for himself and the Eiger by scaling the North Face with no rope, just a backpack containing a carefully folded parachute. "Adrenaline makes me feel calm," says Potter. —PK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th



HOTEL CHARLEY

Hotel Charley V: First Ascent | Ben Stookesberry
Adventure / 15 min (segment)

Kokatat team members Ben Stookesberry, Jesse Coombs, Darin McQuoid, and Chris Korbolic take the search for first descents to the next level in the 5th most dramatic installment of the Hotel Charley Series. On a quest to attempt still untested class V, a team of expedition kayakers attempts to run the river through three continents on one of the most rewarding and complicated whitewater expeditions in the sport.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th



NICO'S CHALLENGE

Nico's Challenge | Steve Audette
2009 USA / Culture & Adventure / 15 min

Nico Calabria was born with only one leg, but his disability does not define him. As he says, "Even though I have one leg, I can still do what anyone else can." In this short documentary, he takes on the highest peak in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro with his father Carl, and shares his success with those less fortunate than him. —EL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



SPEAKER: Jim & Leif Whittaker

Speaker / Q&A: Jim & Leif Whittaker

As the first American to summit Mount Everest in 1963, Jim Whittaker was swept up in a media maelstrom, quickly becoming a figure larger than life. He was a man with whom all America could identify; courageous, hard working and from humble origins - Jim embodied the spirit of a country riding a crest of confidence. On May 24, 2010, Leif Whittaker retraced American and family history when he topped out 47 years after his father, Jim, became the first American to do so, back on May 1, 1963.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



FISHMAN

Fishman | Kathy Kasic
2009 USA / Adventure & Environment / 11 min

For Mike Kasic, the Yellowstone River represents the West as it's meant to be—wild, fast and free flowing. Mike should know: He spends a lot of time swimming the Yellowstone, looking for fish and almost becoming one himself. In particular, he looks for the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout that represents, for him, the soul of the river. Unfortunately, all is not well for the cutthroat, and Mike finds fewer and fewer in his subaquatic searches. Fishman neatly captures the vital and tenuous connection between man and nature. —PK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



AS IT HAPPENS

As It Happens | Renan Ozturk
2010 USA / Adventure / 16 min

At the beginning of this terrific short, Renan Ozturk (director of the award-winning Samsara at Mountainfilm 2009) addresses how disconnected an expedition and a film can be, which happens simply because of the time that elapses between the two. So he and mountaineer Corey Bradshaw "go rogue," as they call it, and file video dispatches from their attempt at the first ascent of Nepal's 6,000-meter Tawoche Himal. The film takes these individual pieces and ties them together in one well-made film that lets a challenging trip unfold as it happens. —DH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



POINT OF NO RETURN

Point of No Return | Peter Mortimer & Nick Rosen
2009 USA / Adventure / 25 min

Only 24 people have reached the summit of Mt. Edgar in China's Sichuan Province, but none approached via the east side of the 22,368-foot mountain. Top-flight alpinists Jonny Copp and Micah Dash, followed by cameraman Wade Johnson for the Sender Films First Ascent series, were attempting a new route. After three weeks in base camp with little progress, they decided to abandon the ascent and retrieve some gear they'd stashed higher on the mountain. As they proceeded, a massive avalanche let loose. Point of No Return tells the compelling story of these accomplished men. —DH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



EASTERN RISES

Eastern Rises | Ben Knight & Travis Rummel
2010 USA / Adventure / 37 min

The Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East may as well be at the end of the earth. Its enormous, wild landscape is threaded with rivers, swimming with massive mouse-eating trout and swarming with bugs and bears. In other words, this place is the Holy Grail for truly obsessed, halfway insane fly fishermen. In this gorgeous film, fishing is poetry; Bigfoot lurks in the fog; and fishermen risk life and limb in decommissioned Cold War helicopters to explore rivers that have never been fished before. —KK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th



SIGNATURES

Signatures | Nick Waggoner
2009 USA / Adventure / 10 min

Nick Waggoner, a talented young filmmaker, captures the essence of deep powder skiing in Hokkaido, Japan. —DH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



SPEAKER: Chris Jordan

Speaker / Q&A: Chris Jordan (*Photo Credit: Chris Jordan)

Photographer Chris Jordan vividly documents the combined effects of our culture of consumption in his art, providing a unique perspective and commentary on the role we all play in mass consumerism. He is an internationally acclaimed photographic artist and activist whose work explores the detritus of American mass culture. (more at www.chrisjordan.com)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



BAG IT

Bag It | Suzan Beraza
Environment / 79 min

Try going a day without plastic. Go ahead. You'd be hard pressed to get out of bed without encountering the substance in one form or another. Plastic is everywhere and infiltrates our lives in unimaginable and alarming ways, according to Suzan Beraza's documentary, which explores both its pervasive and pernicious nature. What starts as a film about plastic bags, evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic and its effect on our lives, bodies and waterways.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



THE GREAT WHITE SHARK SONG

The Great White Shark Song | CASAGRANDE IV
Adventure / 4 min

If you think there's nothing funny about great white sharks, check out Andy Brandy Casagrande IV who plays a guitar and sings underwater while a few of the toothy megabeasts swim by sublimely. The apropos chorus goes, "If I was a great white, I wouldn't bite you...but I'd swim right next to you." There's none of the doom, doom, doom, Jaws vibe; this is pithy shark-dance music.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



BROTHER'S WILD

Brother's Wild | Peter Mortimer
2009 USA / Adventure / 25 min

This film about the O'Neill brothers, Timmy and Sean, profiles an unusual pair of siblings. Timmy is, of course, a familiar face to Mountainfilm audiences with his brilliant climbing and comedy. Sean, however, is new to the festival and is equally unforgettable for his own achievements. Sean is confined to a wheelchair because of an accident that happened when he was younger, but being an O'Neill, this doesn't stop him from climbing Yosemite's El Capitan or attempting Peak 6000 in Alaska's Ruth Gorge. This short piece, part of the First Ascent series by Sender Films, is the kind of climbing film that keeps the genre alive and well. —PK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



THE SHARP END

The Sharp End | Peter Mortimer
Adventure / 10 min

In the world of climbing, "the sharp end" is the technical term to describe the end of the belay rope that is tied to a lead climber. But in this film, it also refers to the mental state of a climber on lead when the stakes get big. There's no turning back, and the consequences of failure are huge. Follow along as we leave the rope on the ground and follow high-ball bouldering pioneer, Lisa Rands, beyond the no fall zone.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th



WESTERN SPAGHETTI

Western Spaghetti | Pes
2008 USA / Art & Culture / 2 min

Masterful animator Pes uses commonplace and unexpected items to put together the most perfectly magical plate of spaghetti. Bon appetit! —EL

NOTE: Films and speakers are subject to change at anytime.