**Preview** | *Adventure Film Festival celebrates five years*

# Outdoor inspiration

**By Jeanine Fritz**
Camera Movie Critic

Born in a tent in the Himalayas and obsessed with seeking the same treacherous beauty in which it was conceived, the Adventure Film Festival is in its fifth year of encouraging activism through adventure.

"I've been exposed to an incredible world of adventure through years of expeditions and work in outdoor media," said founder Jonny Copp, a photographer, writer and filmmaker whose work has appeared in Outside Magazine, National Geographic Adventure, Climbing Magazine and Men's Journal. "We created this film festival because there is powerful medicine within these stories. ... (They) have the power to change us and change the world."

The Adventure Film Festival is anchored in Boulder but also travels to Chamonix (a town in the French Alps) and Santiago, Chile. This year's Boulder festival takes place Thursday through Nov. 8 at the Boulder Theater and the b.side lounge.

**IF YOU GO**

**What** | Adventure Film Festival

**When** | Thursday through Nov. 8

**Where** | Screenings and events will be held at the Boulder Theater (2032 14th St.) and b.side lounge (2017 13th St.)

**Tickets** | Full festival passes are $50, daily passes range from $20 to $25, tickets for individual shows are $10

**Info** | To view a schedule or for a complete list of screenings, go to www.adventurefilm.org

**"Conflict Tiger"** screens Thursday at the Boulder Theater as part of the Adventure Film Festival.

Focused on bringing high-quality independent films that marry adventure and activism, the Adventure Film Festival can't be pegged as simply an extreme-sports showcase. Culling more than 40 films from several hundred submissions, the selection committee seeks entries that inspire and awaken the audience to the natural environment and the inner journeys that occur in the midst of a trek. And if there are sharks, whitewater rapids or grueling tests of endurance involved, all the better.

"These places where all the stories play out, we here in Boulder may never get to see them, but the filmmakers take us to these wild places," said Sara Close, a selection committee member and the membership and development manager of festival partner Leave No Trace. "We see the limited and delicate (natural) resources and see it's not just up to these adventurers to take care of (them); it comes down to us and what we can do to preserve them for future generations."

In 2008, the festival became a nonprofit and partnered with Leave No Trace, a group focused on education and maintaining the natural world. Close feels the two organizations make perfect partners.

"It's a great match. The Adventure Film Festival has so many different audiences that are in line with ours ... it's not just for extreme athletes; it's more accessible than that," Close said. "(The festival covers) economics, green living, recreation and the environment."

Just as it encourages filmgoers to take steps toward positive change, the festival has pushed its own boundaries over the years, creating and supporting events such as Mountain Bike Film Night, Films for Fourteeners and Dirt Days, Boulder's biggest Earth Day celebration.

Films this year include Patricia Thio's "Armed for the Challenge," the story of cyclist Willie Stewart, who lost his arm 25 years ago and fought depression, rehab and the judgment of others to reclaim his life. "A Land Out of Time" recalls the heftiest land grab in U.S. history — for oil — and what the repercussions have been and will be for folks who live near the wells. "Fridays at the Farm" documents Richard Hoffman's quest for better food and a better life through community farming.

But there are also films about saving sharks, an ultra-marathoner's minimalist lifestyle, the birth of mountain biking, and surfing in war-torn Liberia. And Chris Patterson, Warren Miller's lead cinematographer, submitted "Drift," a gorgeously shot hi-def film that roams the world while telling fly-fishing stories.

## FIVE TO WATCH FOR

More than 40 short and feature-length films will screen at this year's Adventure Film Festival. Below are highlights of the 2008 lineup.

### "Conflict Tiger"

Traveling to Russia's eastern border with China, director Sasha Snow initially intended to shoot a film using tigers as a metaphor for the post-Communism struggles of remote forest community life. And then he happened upon the story of a poacher who'd unwittingly created a man-eating tiger. Snow follows Yuri Trush, a tracker charged with capturing and killing the tiger; the resulting film could be called a docu-thriller. *60 minutes. Screens at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Boulder Theater, following the short "Armed for the Challenge."*

### "Recycled Life"

Nominated for an Oscar in 2007, this documentary narrated by Edward James Olmos studies the lives of 1,700 people living in a Guatemalan landfill. Some of the dump's residents have lived there for 40 years, raising families among other people's garbage. *40 minutes. Screens at 2:45 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Boulder Theater following the short "Running Down the Man."*

### "Indulgence"

Following ultra-marathon runner Anton Krupicka as he trains in Colorado, Utah and Nevada, this documentary extends beyond a simple snapshot of life as a runner and shows Krupicka's minimalism in sharp contrast to our culture of excess. *35 minutes. Screens at 8 p.m. Thursday along with the shorts "Oil & Water" and "Source." Directors Brennan Galloway and Alex Nichols will be in attendance.*

### "Klunkerz"

In the late 1960s, a group of cycling enthusiasts from California's Marin County began tinkering around with road bikes, building heftier frames, fatter tires and better brakes all in an effort to spend more time off-roading the mountains nearby. Years later, the group would be recognized for creating a sport that spawned a billion-dollar industry and an international craze. This spunky film captures the birth of mountain biking, featuring old footage and interviews with some of the group's original members. *83 minutes. Screens at 5 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Boulder Theater, following the short "Aconcagua Speed Flying."*

### "Drift"

Gorgeously composed hi-def shots from Warren Miller's lead cinematographer, Chris Patterson, find their foundation in a group of fly-fishing enthusiasts as the filmmakers roam from Oregon to the Kashmir region of India. Hailed as the best fly-fishing movie ever made, "Drift" meditates on the rhythms of the sport, the beauty of the locations and the passions of those who fly fish. *60 minutes. Screens at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the b.side lounge, followed by the short "Cerro Torre." Director Chris Patterson will be in attendance.*