

# NO MAN'S LAND FILM FESTIVAL

## DIVERSIFY OUR OUTDOORS PROGRAM SYNOPSES

Films with the \* next to the title indicate female or gender-expansive involvement in the production. It also indicates that they are in the running for the "Fem-Wow" award; ie. all-woman or gender-nonconforming production.

### **Trail to Bayanihan (22:04)\***

**Director: Catherine Aeppel**

**Co-Directors: Santiago Burin des Roziers**

**Producer: Martin Faubert-Smith**

**Editor: Tory Powers**

**Cinematographer: Catherine Aeppel + Tory Powers**

***FEMALE DIRECTOR***

"Trail to Bayanihan" follows Sam's journey as she pedals through diverse landscapes, celebrating the joy of biking and the power of community. Along the way, she discovers how a bike can bridge distances and forge deep human connections. As she explores breathtaking terrains and bonds with local riders, including the passionate Baguio crew, the film highlights the Filipino biking community's role in shaping her journey. Grounded in her search for cultural roots, "Trail to Bayanihan" ultimately reveals the wider family Sam finds through biking, transforming her quest for heritage into a celebration of shared humanity.

### **Mother River (6:34)**

**Director: Jeremiah Schuster**

**Camera Operators: Alexander Martin + Daniel Tyler**

**Drone Operator: Eric Callagan**

**Key Cast: Devin Brown**

A look into Devin Brown's journey as she seeks to be the First black female on record to kayak the entire Mississippi River.

### **Beauty In A Fall (26:48)\***

**Director + Producer: Nat Segal**

**Writers: Nat Segal + Ryan-Paul Collins**

**Director of Photography + Editor: Colleen Gentemann**

**Cinematographers: Ryan-Paul Collins+ Casey Dubois**

**Key Cast: Julianna Howatt**

***FEMALE DIRECTOR + PRODUCER***

***DENVER, CO PREMIERE***

### ***TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES AWARD, 2026***

From a young age, Julianna didn't feel like she belonged. However, upon finding the weird and wonderful world of rock climbing, she dedicated her life to mountain sports and becoming an IFMGA guide. Despite her love for the work, existing in the mountain guiding industry led her to feel unsafe publicly expressing her true gender identity. It was only after a life changing accident and a series of serious wake-up calls that she took time off guiding and started to seek support and therapy for CPTSD.

Join Julianna on her journey to self-discovery in the face of an industry that struggles to accept folks who currently fall into the margins of mountain culture. Visiting the mountain-scapes that were her livelihood, she confronts her past experiences and her journey's cost.

After having taken a step back from her role in the mountain community, Julianna is now ready to share her story and use her experience to advocate for an inclusive future for the guiding community.

#### **Internal Peaks (14:21)\***

**Directors: Jr Rodriguez + Vanessa Chavarriaga**

**Producers: Jr Rodriguez + Vanessa Chavarriaga**

**Writer: Vanessa Chavarriaga**

**Key Cast: Jr Rodriguez + Vanessa Chavarriaga**

***FEMALE DIRECTOR + PRODUCER***

***PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD, 2026***

Jr and Vanessa are professional athletes on a mission to bring to light the intersectional relationships between their outdoor pursuits, climate change, and who belongs in these spaces. As children of immigrants, they know what it feels like to be the bridge between different worlds. They recognize that shining a light on disappearing glaciers far away starts at home in Jackson Hole.

#### **Still Rider (9:25)**

**Director: Daniel Stark**

**Producers: Jason Hamborg + 6ix Sigma Productions**

**Director of Photography: Christos Sagiorgis**

**Editors: Daniel Stark + Glenn King**

**Key Cast: Chantelle + Warren Grafton**

After a mountain bike crash resulted in a life-altering injury, Chantelle Grafton and her husband Warren have gone to great lengths to get Chantelle back out on the trails. "Still Rider" explores this journey, highlighting the unanticipated complexities that come with a

major spinal cord injury and, more importantly, the benefits of prioritizing adaptive design for those with and without accessibility issues.

**Beyond the Gates (15:05)**

**Director + Producer: Roo Smith**

**Additional Cinematographer: Sam Freiburger**

Beyond the Gates follows Addie, a teenage girl with intellectual disabilities, through her first season competing in the Special Olympics as an alpine skier. With her family and coaches by her side, Addie learns to ski independently, faces the stress of competition, and aims to discover joy and belonging on the mountain.

**Zelzin, footprints that Inspire (24:21)\***

**Directors: Zelzin Aketzalli Weeks + Adam Pawlikiewicz**

**Producers: Zelzin Aketzalli Weeks + Adam Pawlikiewicz**

**Cinematographers: Zelzin Aketzalli Weeks, Adam Pawlikiewicz + Helios Nieto**

**Writer: Julian Moura-Busquets**

**Photographers: Noe Moises Galindo, Ruben Mondragon + Eduardo Ochoa**

***FEMALE DIRECTOR + PRODUCER***

***WORLD PREMIERE***

Footprints that Inspire follows Zelzin Aketzalli, the first person from Mexico to complete the Triple Crown of Hiking, as she circumnavigates her home mountain, the Iztaccíhuatl volcano. Raised in a violent neighborhood in Mexico City, Zelzin turned adversity into strength and found purpose by hiking some of the world's most iconic trails.

This intimate and visually powerful short film not only documents her return to the mountain that shaped her, but also reveals the challenges that come with being a pioneer. Zelzin shares the weight and clarity of walking for a dream few believe in. A portrait of resilience, connection with nature, and the struggle to forge paths where there are none, Footprints that Inspire is an invitation to follow our passions, even when no one else has been there.