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SUMMIT *life*

Colo. films, filmmakers descend upon Breck

From wildfire to practicing that first youthful kiss, Breckenridge Film Festival offerings have Colorado ties

Summit Daily staff report

Films with Colorado themes and Colorado ties have risen to the top of the Breckenridge Film Festival selection pool to make up a broad subcategory of film within the 66 films to be presented during the weekend festival.

Summit County resident Paul Heesaker's film "Rios Guatemala: The Preservation of Wild Rivers" is a show closest to home. An adventure and environmental documentary dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wild rivers and to empowering the local Mayan people with educational and economic opportunities, the film recounts the story of lives risked to save the endangered Rio Copon, plus breathtaking footage of six jungle rivers and the best of Guatemala's natural and cultural attractions. Heesaker, about to embark on a new project, will be in attendance at the festival.

A block of films slated for noon on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Ten Mile Room at The Village at Breckenridge also features Colorado-themed films. "Across the Fence," by Gunnison resident Jack Lucido, is a picturesque representation of the lives of four families inextricably intertwined with the land and natural resources in south-central Colorado.

From across the state, Boulder County's beloved and historical Gold Hill Inn and Bluebird Lodge are the focal points of the documentary "Heart of Gold Hill." Meanwhile, "Big Burn" recounts the story of the largest fire to burn in Colorado, its impacts and the hardiness of its survivors.

Three Breckenridge Film Festival films may not focus on Colorado topics but were spearheaded by graduates of Colorado universities.

The Closing Night drama "Una Vida: A Fable of Music and Mind" was written and directed by Richie Adams, a graduate of University of Colorado Boulder. Adams, who plans to attend the festival along with Aunjanue Ellis (known for her role in "The Help"), masterfully combines the colors of New Orleans with the richness of storytelling and tantalizing jazz tones to create a soft story about a woman succumbing to Alzheimer's and one man's personal and professional struggle with the disease taking her over.

In the Colorado premiere of the documentary "Untouchable: Children of God," six-year Colorado resident and Denver University grad Grant Knisely explores the brothels of India, where young girls perish daily. A mere 1 percent of these sex slaves ever escape or get rescued. Knisely's



ALL PHOTOS: SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Above, 'Across the Fence' is about the longtime traditions and recent innovations of sustainable practices in ranching. Four ranching families from the Gunnison Valley are the subjects of this picturesque film. Middle photo, the compelling documentary 'Rios Guatemala — The Preservation of Wild Rivers' recounts the story of lives risked to save the endangered Rio Copon, plus breathtaking footage of six jungle rivers and the best of Guatemala's natural and cultural attractions. Bottom photo, 'Big Burn' is directed by Emmy award-winning writer and reporter Bev Chapman, whose documentary work is included in the collection of the Museum of Broadcast History in Chicago.



mission is to uncover the root causes of sex trafficking in Nepal and India, highlighting the heroes risking their lives to rescue and protect these forgotten angels.

Adventure documentary "Driven to Ride" was created by Michelle Carpenter, a University of Colorado Denver graduate. The film explores the two-wheeled vehicles of choice

for wild women seeking thrill since the 1870s. Victorian Age corsets and billowing skirts were eventually set aside as motorcycles unleashed the power hidden within and the freedom to give that power pursuit.

Meanwhile, in short comedies "One-Minute Time Machine" and "Practice Makes Perfect," writer Sean Couch and several

BRECKENRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 20

- 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. — All Day Indies, Colorado Mountain College
 - 10 a.m. — CU Film Studies, "Superheroes, Remakes, Myths & Origins," Fuqua Livery Stable
 - Noon — "City of Hate: Dallas and the Assassination," "Flying the Feathered Edge," Breckenridge Town Hall
 - Noon — "Food Patriots," "Dog Down," Breckenridge Backstage Theatre
 - Noon — Colorado Films: "Across the Fence," "Big Burn," "Heart of Gold Hill," Village Ten Mile Room
 - Noon — Independent Film Forum, Riverwalk Center
 - 3 p.m. — "Close Call on Kilimanjaro with Martina Navratilova," "Driven to Ride," "The Meaning of Wild," "Rios Guatemala — The Preservation of Wild Rivers," Breckenridge Town Hall
 - 3 p.m. — "Dugun Dernek (Nuptials & Merriments)," Breckenridge Backstage Theatre
 - 3 p.m. — "Different Town," "Find Your Way," Village Ten Mile Room
 - 3 p.m. — Free Community Children's Program: "Blue," "I Need My Monster," "Lady B's First Winter," avalanche demo, Riverwalk Center
 - 3 p.m. — The Art of Editing, Fuqua Livery Stable
 - 4:30 p.m. — The Changing Landscape of Distribution, Fuqua Livery Stable
 - 6 p.m. — "Untouchable: Children of God," "Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives — The Environmental Footprint of War," Breckenridge Town Hall
 - 6 p.m. — "Things I Have Learned About Sex and Dogs," "Bis Gleich," "That Thing With the Cat," Breckenridge Backstage Theatre
 - 6 p.m. — "In the Blind," "Ojala," "The Boy and the Bus," "The Frontier," Village Ten Mile Room
 - 6 p.m. — Special Screening: Adventure Reel, "Higher," "Momenta," Riverwalk Center
 - 9 p.m. — "Lucidia," "One Armed Man," "Ten Cent Pistol," Breckenridge Backstage Theatre
 - 9 p.m. — "Powell to Powell," "Wrenched," Village Ten Mile Room
- Purchase tickets at www.breckfilmfest.com, or search "Breckenridge Film Fest" at www.summitdaily.com for more photos, features, film reviews, movie trailers and more.

film actors all hail from Colorado universities. English filmmaker Devon Avery and his crew put together stellar shorts that leave one chuckling well after the last line is delivered — and plan to talk

about it at this year's festival. "Even the little boy in my short film 'Practice Makes Perfect' is from Colorado and only moved to L.A. following the wildfires near Denver a couple years ago," Avery said.