

Golden Hour

Todd Ballantyne's Short Film
Inspired by New Mexico Landscapes
Wins Two Rocky Mountain Emmys



New Mexico landscapes long inspired Georgia O’Keeffe, and now they’ve won awards. Filmmaker Todd Ballantyne won two Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards for his ten-minute film *The Far Away*, which takes viewers into the very northern New Mexico landscapes depicted in many of O’Keeffe’s paintings.

A longtime filmmaker who has now won nine Emmys, Ballantyne traveled to New Mexico in 2017 in search of a break from his busy work schedule. While here he visited a few sites pictured in O’Keeffe’s work, but when he couldn’t find them all he realized that only a limited amount of information was available to the public about many of the locations. It sparked an idea.

“I found one article about the landscapes online,” Ballantyne said. “A lot of the sites were off-limits to visitors, but I was able to find some of the sites alone.

I had read about O’Keeffe and her painting—there was plenty of literature on those subjects—but hardly anything on the landscapes themselves, or why she picked certain hills or vantage points. I visited the Abiquiú Home and Studio, and could not get the idea of this film out of my head.”

Soon thereafter, Ballantyne connected with the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum to propose his idea of producing and creating a short film, and in 2021, *The Far Away* was shown on New Mexico PBS. In October 2022, that broadcast segment won two Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards.

Ballantyne used a drone to capture aerial footage of remote landscapes that included Cerro Pedernal, cliffs at Ghost Ranch, the Bisti Badlands, and the Rio Chama, as well as O’Keeffe’s homes in Abiquiú and at Ghost Ranch.

The filmmaker visited sites in all four seasons in order to capture the snow-covered hills of the Black Place, the Abiquiú garden in full summer bloom, and a monsoon storm cloud over Pedernal.



***The Far Away* can be viewed on Ballantyne’s website, acbfilms.com.**

Photos

- 1 Film still of Todd Ballantyne’s *The Far Away*
- 2 Todd Ballantyne with the Rocky Mountain Emmys for the short film *The Far Away*