

A group of five hikers with large backpacks are silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky at sunset. They are standing on a ridge overlooking a vast, open landscape with sparse vegetation and distant mountains. The word "HIGHLINE" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

HIGHLINE

Ten days, Five friends, One Trek across Utah's Uinta Highline Trail




HIGHLINE



Ten days



Five friends



One trek across Utah's Uinta Highline Trail

OUTMERSIVE FILMS PRESENTS "HIGHLINE" FEATURING JOE VALESKO MATT FAVERO STEVE KAISER
WILL WOOD BENNY BRADEN TOM FLANIGAN RYAN BUERKLE GORDON HIRSCHI
SHERYL VALESKO KIM FAVERO LU FAVERO JOELLE WOOD ASHLEY BRADEN
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY CHRIS SMEAD CO-DIRECTED BY GORDON GURLEY
MUSIC BY TINY LUNATIC

HighlineFilm.com

Press Synopsis

Ten days. Five friends. One trek across Utah's Uinta Highline Trail. Watch as the ancient history of the trail is woven together with the personal history of each of the hikers as they get back in touch with the world, and each other.

More Information

Highline follows 5 hikers as they traverse a lesser known mountain range in Utah call the Uinta. Viewers will experience the adventures and challenges along the way. Local archaeologist Tom Flanigan adds another layer of depth to the experience by sharing stories from the past and conveying the importance of this lesser known place. As the story progresses, viewers begin to learn more about the hikers, and why they choose to hike for days, weeks, and even months at a time. Stories of PTSD recovery, addiction recovery, health and family issues are heavy topics in the film.

THE ADVENTURE

Spending 10 days in the wild is not easy. Highline takes you on an adventure over mountain passugh lighting and hail storms, through the pain and discomfort of altitude sickness, and all the way to the summit of the highest mountain in Utah.



THE HISTORY



THE UINTA MOUNTAINS BECOME THEIR OWN CHARACTER IN THE FILM

Archaeologist Tom Flanigan, PhD is the perfect expert to tell their story. Tom's far from your average history expert. His casual demeanor coupled with his PhD and first hand experience with the Uintas made him the perfect character for this story. He adds a layer of depth to the location that humbles our own human existence.

He shares the stories behind the Uinta's. From of early man populating North America all the way up to the expansion of the west.



THE CHARACTERS



Joe Valesko is the founder of the company Zpacks. A large outdoor equipment manufacturer with a cult following of outdoor enthusiasts. He's been described as robotic, yet superhuman. He hiked over 10,000 miles with mostly homemade gear, and ultimately created a successful outdoor company with his designs. He's respected as one of the most experienced hikers in the US.



Matt Favero is a former rock musician and avid hiker who is well known in the outdoor community. He and his wife Kim share the story of their daughter, who at 5 months old miraculously survived a risky open heart surgery. Since then, they've hiked all over the world together, and at age 7, his daughter became the youngest person to hike from Italy to Switzerland.



Benny Braden holds the speed record for hiking all 924 miles in the Smoky Mountains in only 43 days. A legend in the outdoor community, he's been featured on news stations and the cover of outdoor magazines. He shares his dark, yet inspirational story of how he used hiking to overcome severe PTSD from his time as an EMT



Will Wood aka "Redbeard" is a social media influencer and is well known on youtube. Kind and well spoken, he shares his story of rebirth. He shed his former career in the insurance industry, and parted ways with his wife to hike the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, and then went on to hike the 2,600 mile Pacific Crest Trail.



Steve Kaiser is everyone's favorite character. He's a loud, honest, and jovial 60 year old man with a heartbreaking life story that's beyond shocking. Numerous turmoils and a life of addiction nearly cost him his life. His story of redemption will breathe hope into anyone who thinks it's too late to start over.

THE REASON THEY HIKE

As the film progresses, you learn why these 5 friends subject themselves to the hardships of living away from the comforts of civilization. Topics such as PTSD, addiction, failing relationships, and near death experiences begin to surface.





AUDIENCE RECEPTION

400 people showed up to the premiere of Highline in the remote town of Vernal, UT. Most of the attendees were not from the area, and some traveled from out of state. Many more sold out screenings followed.

Fri, Jan 24, 2020 VERNAL, UT (World Premiere)- SOLD OUT

Sat, Jan 25th, 2020 Salt Lake City, UT - SOLD OUT

Sun, Jan 26th, 2020 Salt Lake City, UT - SOLD OUT

Sat, Feb 1st, 2020 Knoxville, TN - SOLD OUT

Fri, Feb 6th, 2020 Knoxville, TN - SOLD OUT

Fri, Feb 7th, 2020 Brentwood, TN - SOLD OUT

Fri, Feb 28th, 2020 West Melbourne, FL - SOLD OUT

Sat Feb 29th, 2020 Winter Park, FL - SOLD OUT

THE CREATIVE TEAM



Chris Smead (*Director/Editor/Cinematographer/Motion Graphics*) is an outdoor enthusiast who uses film to create an immersive multidimensional experience. Adventure, history, and the human element are baked into each project. He's also known for his unique use of animation to bring old photos to life. His previous films included *The High Sierra Trail*, and *Rae Lakes*



Gordon Gurley (*Co-Director/Cinematographer*) has over 20 years of experience as a cinematographer, and sound engineer. He was instrumental in capturing footage and sound both on and off the trail. He also served as a vital second set of eyes during the edit phase to ensure the story was told in a way that is cohesive and engaging.



Bruce Goodman (*Colorist*) Avid backpacker and professional colorist. Bruce has worked on countless Hollywood blockbuster films as well as documentaries like *Mile, Mile and A Half*. He colored every frame of *Highline* to ensure it had a professional and vibrant look to help immerse the viewers into the story.



Bill Meadows (*ReRecording Mixer*) has 27 years of technical sound experience and has worked on everything from *The Revenant*, to *The Fast and the Furious*. His skillset, coupled with years of backpacking experience were a perfect match for this project. In post he polished the audio and created an immersive 5.1 surround mix that pulls the viewer into the experience.



Alex Knickerbocker (*Sound Designer*) Alex has done it all. From recording sound for military aircraft, desolate Arctic winds, to intimate details of moving cloth. He was nominated twice for a Golden Reel Award for his work on the TV series *Mr Robot*, and *We The Marines*. His talents were leveraged to provide a seamless and natural link between picture and sound for *Highline*.



Emma Massick (*Artist / Social Media Strategist*) Emma is an artist, avid backpacker, and social media strategist. Her art and drawing skills were leveraged to help tell stories from past. She was also vital in creating a marketing strategy that leverages social media and relationships to help us get the word out about the film



Jacen Spector (*Artist / Marketing*) Jacen is a long time friend and collaborator, avid hiker, marketing consultant, and artistic visionary. His graphical contributions added a stylized and professional look to the film and online media including the *Highline* logo.



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Feature Length Documentary

Run Time: 116 minutes 55 seconds

Country of Origin: United States of America

Language: English

Shooting Format: UHD 3840 x 2160

Exhibition Formats Available: Quicktime ProRes422 HQ 16x9 UHD, and HD

Frame Rate: 23.98

Audio: 5.1 Surround Mix, 2.0 Stereo Mix

CONTACT US

Official Website: HighlineFilm.com

Outmersive, LLC
OutmersiveFilms.com
contact@outmersivefilms.com

Chris Smead, Producer
csmead@outmersivefilms.com
(510)501-7147