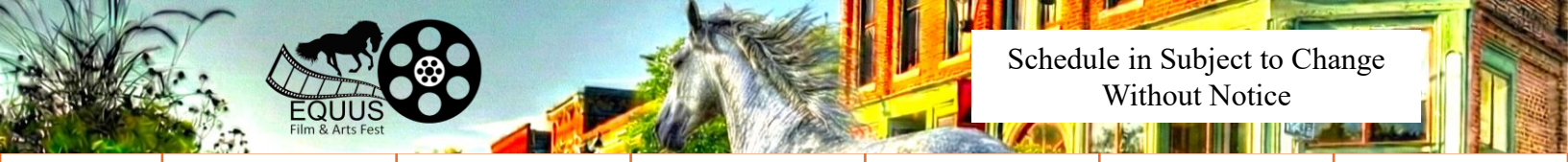


Films & Documentaries

2026 Official Selections

www.equusfilmfest.com



	Thursday Thoroughbred	Friday Thoroughbred	Friday KY Cannabis Co	Saturday Thoroughbred	Saturday KY Cannabis CO	Sunday Equus Run
9:00 AM To 1:00 PM	Horse & Human Connection Workshop Pine Knoll Center **Thurs - Sat** **9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**		**11:00 am** **Films Start** Galloping Free **30 mins** Stallions of Marbach **30 mins**	11 AM **Start** Shorts **80 mins** Honoring Love Running on Faith Healing the Healers Heart Horse +More	**11:00 am** **Films Start** Under The Western Sky **60 mins**	x
12:00 PM To 1:00 PM	x	Here Now Gone Forever	Gaza Friends Club **20 mins**	Donkey Cart People of the Tankwa **12:30 PM Start** Horses For Mental Health **PANEL**	Heartbeat of a Drum Horse **90 mins**	x
1:00 PM	x	**60:00 mins** Q & A w/Filmmaker Ron Syrko **20:00 mins**	Dance of the Wild **90 mins**	**90 mins** Moderated by **Amanda Held**	Q & A with **Loretta Bradfield**	x
2:00 PM	X	Brannu: The Urban Horseman	Home Ground Germany	Medicine of the Herd **80 mins**	War Angel **20 mins** **&**	Dan James Horsemanship Presentation & Meet Hank
3:00 PM	X	**108 mins**	**40 mins** **Wild Horse Shorts** Navarro **6 mins** Dead Horse **3 mins** EcoSense Untamed	Q & A with Melinda Starr **20 Min**	Our Dark Horse **75 mins**	WINNIE Awards Party Presented by **"Mustang Leadership Partners"** **&** **"For Hank's Sake"**
4:00 PM	X	Q & A w/ Filmmaker Adeline Gasana **20:00 mins** Clear Theater for Evening Event	Indian Grove **17 min** Buddy 2 Socks **3 mins** NOKOTA **3 mins** Untamed Bond	The Great Nomad Expedition **45 mins**	Guided by Horses **76 mins**	Winnie Awards Presentation
5:00 PM	x	Meet Tonight's Filmmakers Party	**33 mins** America's Wild Horse Crisis **22 mins**	A Year Without You **4 mins**		x
6:00 PM	VIP Party Presented by American Wild Horse Conservation	<u>Wild Horse and Jumpers</u> Navarro Wild Horse Refuge EcoSense Untamed Jumpers Spruce 50th **60:00 mins**	Sand Wash Basin **45 mins**	Totilas **90 min** Q & A with Annett van Trigt 20 mins	*	x
7:00 PM	The Equus Effect **8 mins** HMH Veterans **13 mins** Horse Power **43: mins**	Filmmaker Intro 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs **120 mins**	x	Meet & Greet 30 mins Adventures o Khemosabi and Ruth **8 mins**	x	x
8:00 PM	Q & A with Patricia Miller Scott Beckstead AWHC		x	**7:15 Start** Wild Within **70 mins** **Q & A with crew**	x	x

5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs

Directed by: Julianne Neal - 100:00 mins

What happens when you combine a passion for wild horses with a quest for grand adventure? In 2021/2022, the result was the “Mustang Discovery Ride.” Produced by JA Media Productions and directed by Julianne Neal, the 5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs Documentary captures the 14-month long ride of Wild Horse trainer Lisanne Fear, along with her team of Mustangs. Joined by support staff, visiting videographers and a rotating host of guest riders, Lisanne’s team experienced the extremes of major cities and remote wilderness as they crossed the country on the American Discovery Trail (ADT), riding previously wild Mustangs while packing, camping and speaking about the power of these amazing animals. From the Atlantic shores of Delaware to the Pacific coast of California, the film follows the team through grueling heat waves, intense wind storms, and encounters with everything from copperheads to wild herds. Set against the rugged beauty and diverse landscapes of the ADT, the documentary mirrors Lisanne’s mission to bridge the gap between wild horse advocacy and public awareness while showcasing the raw spirit of the Mustang. Attendees will experience a visually stunning film that is both a call to action and a love letter to America’s wild horses. The documentary release in 2026 is timed to coincide with the America 250 commemoration, the perfect backdrop to honor one of our nation's most enduring Living Legend.



Director: **Julianne Neal**

JA Media Productions, located in Ridgeway, SC, channels the power of storytelling through film, video and podcast production, art and literature. Creative Director Julianne Neal is a multi-award-winning author, film director and podcast host. She serves as Director of Education and Production for the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, is a member of the American Horse Publications Community and holds a dual certification in Equine Services and Education with Arenas for Change.
Contact Julianne for more information at 803-351-0223 at or email jamediaconnections@gmail.com. l



AMERICAN MUSTANG Music Video

Directed by: Julianne Neal

4:10 mins - USA

The song "AMERICAN MUSTANG (I'm An American Too)," written and performed by Buddy Celman, speaks to the plight of these living legends. Featuring footage from A Mustang Story, Lisanne Fear with The Mustang Discovery Ride, and Brooke Miller Mustangs, the video shows the power of Mustangs, both on and off the range. "AMERICAN MUSTANG" is one of the songs featured in the upcoming documentary, "5000 MILES 5000 MUSTANGS."

https://jamediaconnections.com/



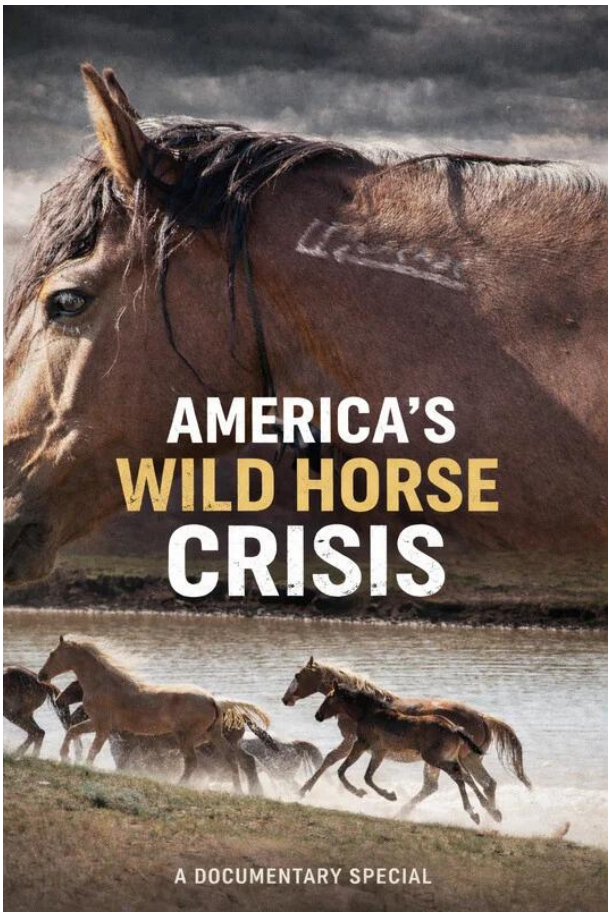


Director – Julianne Neal

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary and docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang related stories.
Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35 year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A lifelong horse lover, she owns and operates Thornfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections LLC.

America's Wild Horse Crisis

Directed by: Julie Karp – 21:21 mins



America's wild horses are among the most recognizable and misunderstood animals in the American West. This documentary explores the beauty, struggle, and present-day reality of America's free-roaming wild horses and why their future has become one of the most complex land-management challenges in the United States.

https://youtu.be/Lb6JoJHAQbE?si=hvJwF08Q9Pl08E26

Director: Julie Karp



Julie Karp is a documentary filmmaker and co-founder of Wild Horizon Productions, dedicated to telling visually compelling, fact-driven stories rooted in the American West. Her recent work focuses on the American wild horse — examining its beauty, cultural significance, and the complex management realities shaping its future. Drawing on immersive field cinematography and carefully researched narrative, she approaches her subjects with balance and integrity, seeking to inform rather than persuade. Through her films, Julie aims to foster meaningful conversation around conservation, public lands, and heritage.

.

A YEAR WITHOUT YOU

Directed by:
Stefan Neary, Nina Winternheimer – 13:28 mins



A veteran horsewoman reflects on gratitude and grief a year after the untimely death of her horse of a lifetime. Told entirely through slow-motion cinematography and original song with no spoken dialogue, A Year Without You pairs anniversary lyrics by Nina Winternheimer with luminous visuals by Stefan Neary—including footage captured on Norman's final evening at home. Moving from the quiet intimacy of the arena to the golden light of the open trail, the film is an emotional meditation on humility, unspoken trust, and the beauty of two partners dancing without force.

Director: Stefan Neary, Nina Winternheimer

Stefan Neary is an equestrian and visual artist whose slow-motion cinematography focuses on the quiet, unspoken language between horse and human. Bringing a horseman's eye for timing, breath, and natural light, he filmed Nina Winternheimer and her grey horse Norman across their training journey and on Norman's final evening at home.
Portfolio: StefanNeary.com

Nina Winternheimer is a lifelong equestrian and artist. She fell in love with horses as a little girl and was drawn to the discipline of dressage because of the beauty and intimate partnership with another species..



.

Brannu: The Urban Horseman

Directed by: Adelin Gasana – 108:06 mins



Wild Man. Animal Abuser. Squatter. Crazy. Outlaw. Troublemaker. These are the many labels hurled at Brandon Fulton to describe his lifestyle and ranching entrepreneurship. Going with his moniker “Brannu”, Fulton has been the recognizable local horseman in the southwestern part of Fulton County, Georgia. Since his arrival on the scene training and tending to horses and building up his ranch-style property, he has been the target of local government for a decade. City and county officials have cited him, arrested him, and imposed on him their will for the 27-acre land that he owns. In this adventure story the legal bounds of what land, freedom, and property mean in an agriculture state will be portrayed. Economic and sociopolitical forces of gentrification, eminent domain and urbanization will be addressed. Cameras will capture the nuance of Brannu’s daily life and his routine in fighting for his version of the American Dream. This is a coming-of-age story that shines light on the power of dreams where a Black man realizes his full potential in the crux of unchartered territory in 21st century America.

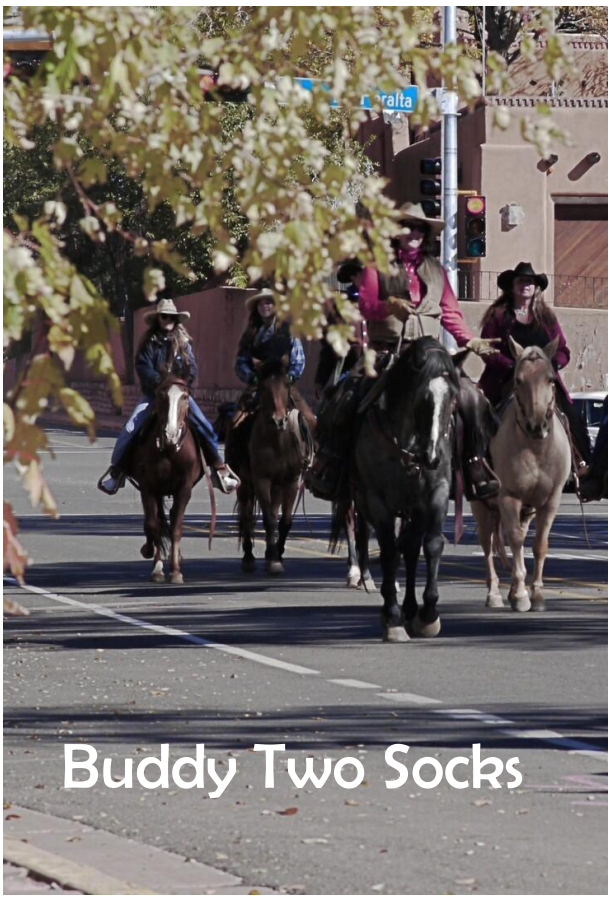


Director: Adelin Gasana

With nearly two decades in the ever-evolving TV/Film industry Rwandan-American filmmaker Adelin Gasana has grown formidable, dependable and accomplished as a writer/director, a producer/editor, and a researcher/manager. He has been able to balance his way in the confines of the broadcast media space alongside the independent film scene. This only broadened his horizon and sharpened his abilities and charisma to consistently deliver quality clips, content, shows, films and series..

Buddy Two Socks

Directed by: Neta Rhyne – 3:07 mins



Buddy Two Socks, a 34-year-old horse and his pasture mate, a Mustang named Jasper, are the stars of the Thundering Hooves Honor Ride and Gathering on the Old Santa Fe Trail. Buddy and Jasper stood proud on the Santa Fe Plaza, loving all the attention and time spent with children, proving, once again, the value of old horses is indeed ...priceless!

https://thunderinghooves.com/index.html

Director: Neta Rhyne

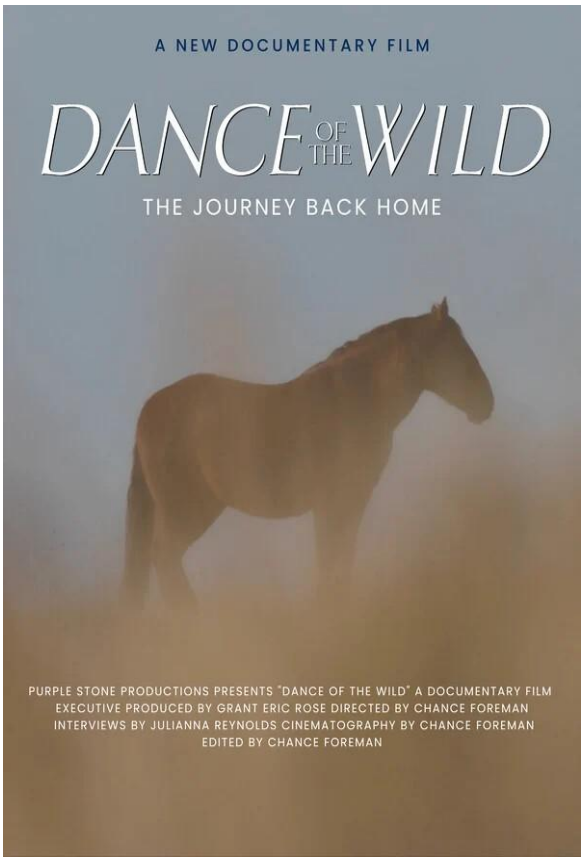


An award winning director, producer, and writer, Neta Rhyne is a proud enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Direct Descendent of the 'Trail Of Tears'. Through her Cherokee heritage Neta has a deep rooted connection to the Earth and holds a special bond to the spirit of the horse. Neta founded Thundering Hooves 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2011 to bring awareness to the many hardships horses face today, and the important role we play in protecting the environment.

Today Neta continues to be a tireless advocate for the horses both wild and domestic, and stays active in her mission to help protect and save San Solomon Springs, a series of artesian springs that have flowed for over 11,000 years in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas now in danger of disappearing ...forever!

Dance Of The Wild

Directed by: Chance Foreman – 90:58 mins



"Dance Of The Wild" is a poetic journey into humanity's timeless bond and fascination with the wild horse—a connection that mirrors our relationship to nature, spirit, and the deeper layers of the soul. Told through the lived wisdom of nine remarkable horsewomen, the film weaves sweeping landscapes, intimate stories, and teachings rooted in natural law to reveal why wild horses are more than just symbols of American heritage—they are sentient, mystical beings whose presence is vital to our survival and evolution.

As modern pressures threaten both the Earth and all living beings, "Dance Of The Wild" invites viewers on a journey of remembrance: a return to heart, to land, and to the ancient magic shared between human and horse.

Ultimately, the film poses a profound question: What if this sacred relationship holds the key to our collective healing and spiritual evolution?

https://www.danceofthewild.com/

Director Chance Foreman



Chance Foreman is an award-winning filmmaker, poet, and global storyteller. From the rainforests of Borneo to the streets of India's slums, Chance's work resonates worldwide. With credits on acclaimed films like "Kiss the Ground" and the follow-up film "Common Ground" as well as projects on Netflix, Apple TV, and Amazon Prime, his storytelling prowess knows no bounds. As a recipient of the Grand Jury Award for Activism, his short documentary set in Brazil stands as a testament to his commitment to effecting positive change through the art of filmmaking. Based in Venice, CA, Chance continues to ignite hearts and minds with his captivating storytelling, inspiring others to join him in shaping a better future for all..

.

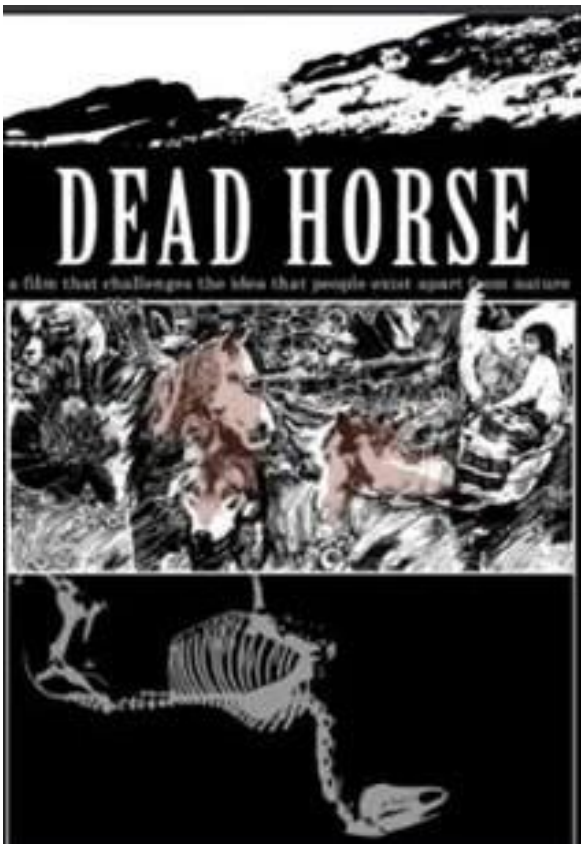
Dead Horse

(Okanagan Wild Horses Documentary)

Sizzle

Directed by: Lucas Margetson – 03:00 mins

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61595338372924



In the grasslands, forests, and desert valleys of British Columbia's Okanagan, wild horses still roam. Most people don't know they exist.

For generations, these herds have lived at the edges of public awareness. Once far more numerous, they were pushed further from view as settlement transformed the landscape and Western systems of classification defined which animals belonged and which did not.

The thirteen moons offer a way of understanding the land through change rather than dividing the year into four fixed seasons. Each moon is connected to what is happening on the land and as the story unfolds, we will witness plants emerging, roots being gathered, salmon moving through the water, animals shifting across the range, weather changing, and communities preparing for what comes next.

As climate change and other pressures alter local ecosystems, understanding these smaller, place-based shifts becomes increasingly important. The land does not change four times a year. It is always changing.



Director Lucas Margetson

When Lucas Margetson first met the Stelkia family in 2019, he was introduced to a story that would change the direction of his filmmaking career. As a founding member of Little Pine Productions, Lucas recognised that Aaron and Jane were carrying something far bigger than a local story. What began with helping Jane translate her passionate messages into film soon evolved into a years-long commitment to telling the story of the Okanagan's wild horse herds..

Donkey Cart People of the Tankwa

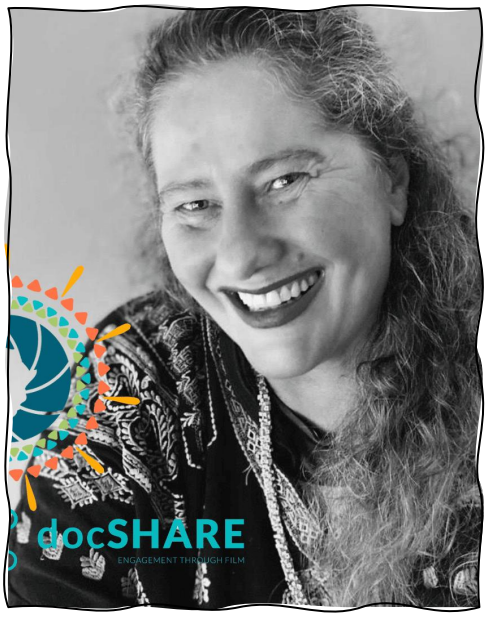
South Africa

Directed by: Lauren Groenewald – 15:00 mins



The "Donkey Cart People" of the Tankwa Karoo—known locally in Afrikaans as the Karretjiemense (or Karretjie Mense)—are a distinct, largely nomadic indigenous population group living in the arid Karoo hinterland of South Africa. Directly descended from the region's original San and Khoekhoen inhabitants, they represent one of the last remaining nomadic cultures in Southern Africa, entirely reliant on donkey-drawn carts for their mobility, shelter, and economic survival

Director Lauren Groenewald



Lauren Groenewald is an award-winning South African documentary filmmaker, media specialist, and global creative producer with over 20 years of experience in the industry. Since 2000, she has been a primary partner and independent producer at Plexus Films (also operating as Plexus Productions), a production company based in Cape Town that specializes in socially-conscious documentaries, multimedia storytelling, and human rights television strands.

EcoSense for Living: Untamed

Directed by: Jennie Turner-Garlington -





Focus: Explores wild horse controversies at the Wind River Wild Horse Sanctuary in Wyoming, nature-inspired design at the Savannah College of Art & Design, and the rare "spirit bear" in the Great Bear Rainforest of Canada.

Host / Producer: Jennie Turner-Garlington

Since Jennie Garlington was exposed to environmental issues at a young age, she launched a lifetime commitment to stewardship and sustainability. Since 1990, she has honed her environmental awareness as a Trustee of the Turner Foundation. Jennie previously served for 12 years on the board of directors for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the National Zoo.

Equine Vet Life

Directed by: Sean Chin

https://www.youtube.com/@EquineVetLife

Equine Vet Life

We are Dr. Jenna Donaldson, DVM and Sean Chin (her husband & filmmaker) from Southern Ontario, Canada.

This channel is a behind-the-scenes look at real equine veterinary life. Farm calls, diagnostics, problem-solving, and the everyday adventure that comes with it. No scripts, just real cases and real moments.

https://www.youtube.com/@EquineVetLife

Director: Sean Chin

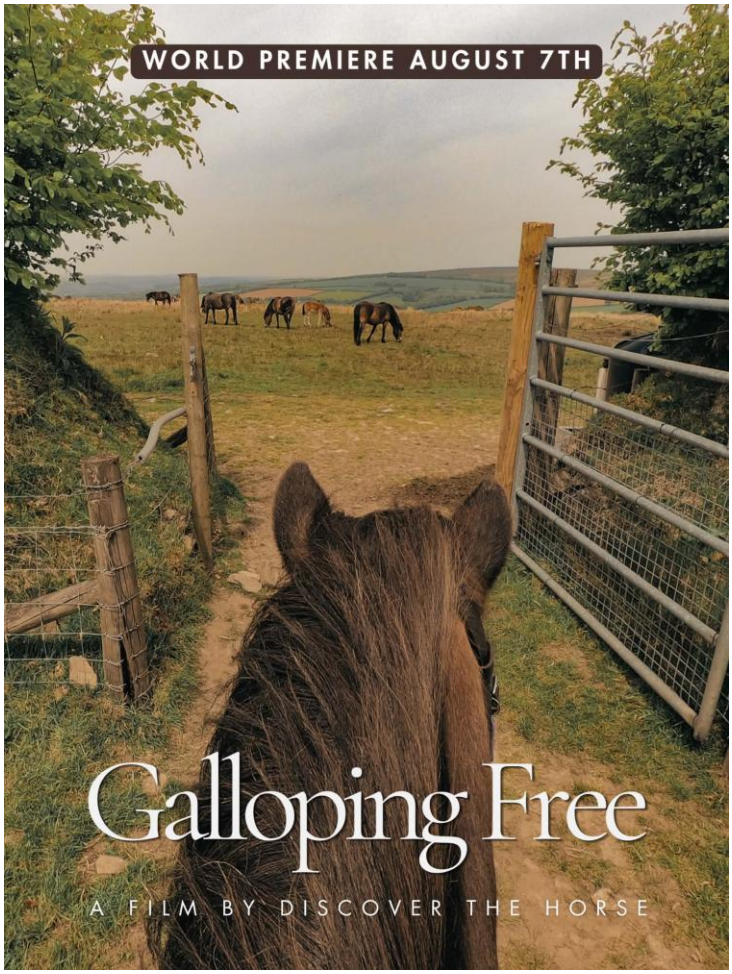


Sean Chin is a filmmaker, photographer, and storyteller based in Ontario, Canada. Alongside his wife, equine veterinarian Dr. Jenna Donaldson, he co-created *Equine Vet Life*, a documentary-style series that explores the people, passion, and challenges behind the equine veterinary world. Through authentic storytelling and cinematic visuals, Sean aims to give audiences a deeper appreciation for horses, the people who care for them, and the unique community surrounding the equine industry.me.

..

Galloping Free

Directed by: Alyssa Mathews – 30:24 mins



From DiscoverTheHorse comes Galloping Free, a documentary celebrating the wonder of the horse. Join equestrian Alyssa Mathews on a journey across continents to meet horses shaped by a heritage of freedom, from free-roaming herds to historic breeds ridden in their homelands. Along the way, she captures the raw beauty, resilience, and timeless allure of these incredible animals in an immersive quest into the enduring spirit of the horse.

https://www.discoverthehorse.com/

Director: Alyssa Mathews



Alyssa Mathews is an award-winning equestrian filmmaker and the founder of DiscoverTheHorse, an equine adventure series following her quest to ride every horse breed in the world. Since launching the quest in 2017, she has ridden 166 breeds across 31 countries, sharing each breed's history, homeland, and people. Her films have reached over 40 million views, inviting audiences worldwide to ride along, one breed at a time.

..

Gaza Friends Club

Directed by:
Lauren Capps, Isabeau Doucet – 20:21 mins



When footage emerged on social media of Friends Club, an equestrian sports club in Gaza, flattened, its horses scared, starved and running wild amidst the Israeli tanks, for many this was the moment they knew it would be a long and catastrophic war, unlike anything Gaza had seen before. At the center of this story is Mostafa Elghalayini, a Palestinian equestrian coach who was the CEO of Friends Club, a sports center he built in Gaza City over the course of six years “for children to have a normal childhood.” He fled Gaza in 2023, and made it to northern California, where he began to train horses at an equestrian club in Los Altos. He yearns to return to his homeland, find the horses that may still be alive and rebuild a space where children can heal and find peace again.

Director: Lauren Capps, Isabeau Doucet

Lauren Capps was a producer on the four-part documentary series, The Sing Sing Chronicles for NBC News Studios, which premiered at DOC NYC and aired on MSNBC in November, 2024. The series won several awards, including Best Documentary at the 2025 News and Documentary Emmy Awards.

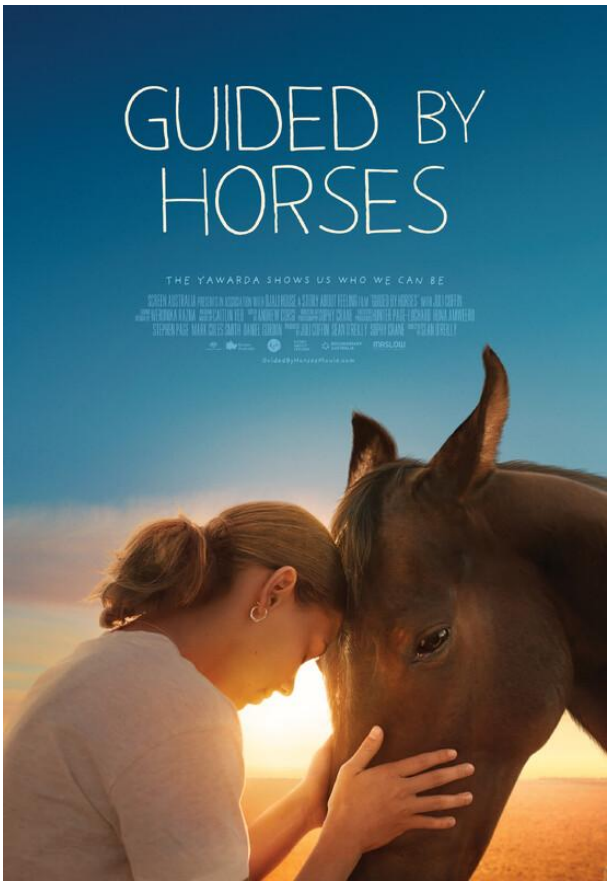
Isabeau Doucet is a two-time Emmy award-winning producer and reporter with 20 years of experience working in journalism and documentary film. She was recently certified in advanced Open Source Investigations by the Berkeley Human Rights Center and has been reporting on the fallout of the war in Gaza for The Guardian..



Guided by Horses

Australia

Directed by: Sean O'Reilly – 76:00 mins



In Australia's outback, where youth suicide rates are among the highest in the world, one woman creates extraordinary healing connections between horses and Indigenous teenagers. This powerful and timely true story celebrates kindness, the resilience of the human spirit, and our deep connection to nature.

At its heart, Guided by Horses is a tribute to instinct, spirit, and rediscovery. The vision for this film is both cinematic and philosophical: to reawaken something we've forgotten - our place in nature, the wisdom of the body, the quiet magic of the everyday. This is not a story of trauma, but of overcoming it. It embraces resilience, humour, and joy, carried by the intuitive grace of the horses who guide these young people forward.

https://www.guidedbyhorsesmovie.com/

Director Sean O'Reilly

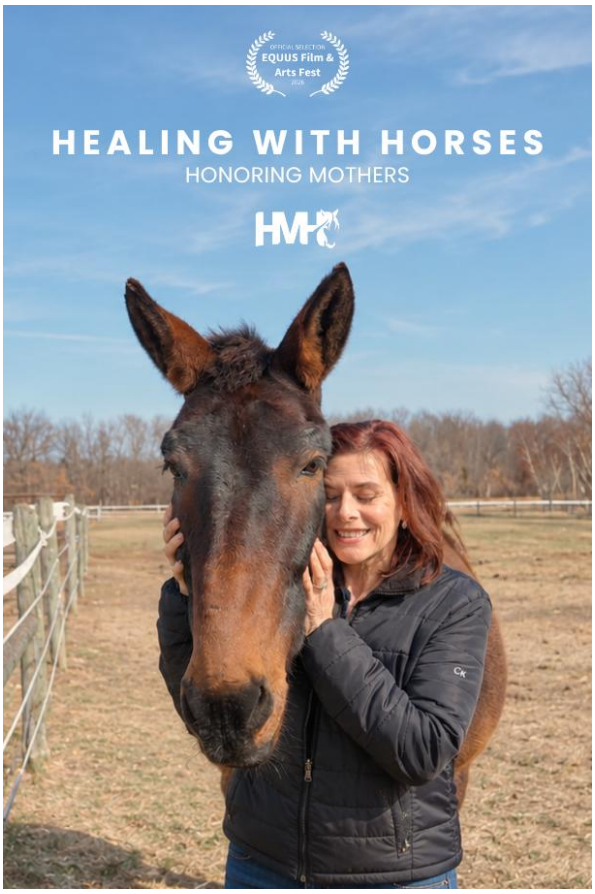


Sean O'Reilly is a director and producer drawn to films that remind humanity of forgotten truths. He produced the short film Mother, Child (2017), which won Best Short Film at the ATOM Film Awards and screened at Melbourne International Film Festival, Houston International Film Festival, and other festivals.
Sean has also worked across branded and documentary storytelling, creating the digital docu-series Discoveries for four seasons - an award-winning series following travellers seeking life-changing experiences. His conservation storytelling includes the short film Patagonia Penguins with Dr Pablo García Borboroglu, which won the Whitley Fund for Nature gold award (2018).

Sean created and produced the 8 x 30-minute TV series My Van Life, distributed worldwide, following a young American living in a van and meeting nomads across America. He is currently producing and directing Screen Australia-supported feature documentary, Guided by Horses..

Healing With Horses: Honoring Mothers

Directed by: Lynn Thomas – 14:54 mins
www.horsesformentalhealth.org



In this moving short film, mothers courageously share stories of adversity, grief, and loss to help other mothers feel less alone in their own journeys. Through the healing presence of horses, they rediscover strength, purpose, and hope, revealing the profound role the horse-human connection can play in supporting mental health and emotional healing.

HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Director: Lynn Thomas

Lynn Thomas is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving her Master's of Social Work from the University of Utah in 1995. She first developed a program integrating horses as a primary treatment component while serving as Executive Director of Aspen Ranch, a residential boarding school for troubled adolescents.

In 1999, Lynn co-founded Eagala, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, providing training and certification in the Eagala Model of incorporating horses in psychotherapy. In the 21 years she served as its CEO, Lynn built Eagala into a leading organization in the area of horses for mental health.

Healing the Healers:

The Power of Horses and Veterinarian Mental Health

Directed by: Lynn Thomas – 13:08 mins

www.horsesformentalhealth.org



Veterinarians dedicate their lives to caring for others, yet many face overwhelming mental health challenges in silence. This inspiring short film shares the true stories of veterinarians who found healing, connection, and renewed hope through the support of horses, while highlighting the importance of accessible mental health services for those who devote their lives to caring for both animals and the people who love them.

HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Director: Lynn Thomas



Lynn Thomas is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving her Master's of Social Work from the University of Utah in 1995. She first developed a program integrating horses as a primary treatment component while serving as Executive Director of Aspen Ranch, a residential boarding school for troubled adolescents.

In 1999, Lynn co-founded Eagala, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, providing training and certification in the Eagala Model of incorporating horses in psychotherapy. In the 21 years she served as its CEO, Lynn built Eagala into a leading organization in the area of horses for mental health.

Heart Horse

United Kingdom

Directed by: Ajay Mittal – 09:34 mins



Heart Horse is a short documentary set in the golden light of Alicante, Spain, following Ebba Nilsson, a young equestrian, and Ella, her mare of nine years. When everything in her life changed, Ebba let go of almost everything she had built, and turned down a fortune, to keep the one horse she trusts completely. A quiet portrait of devotion, and the rare trust between a rider and her horse.

https://filmedbyaj.com/

Director: Ajay Mittal

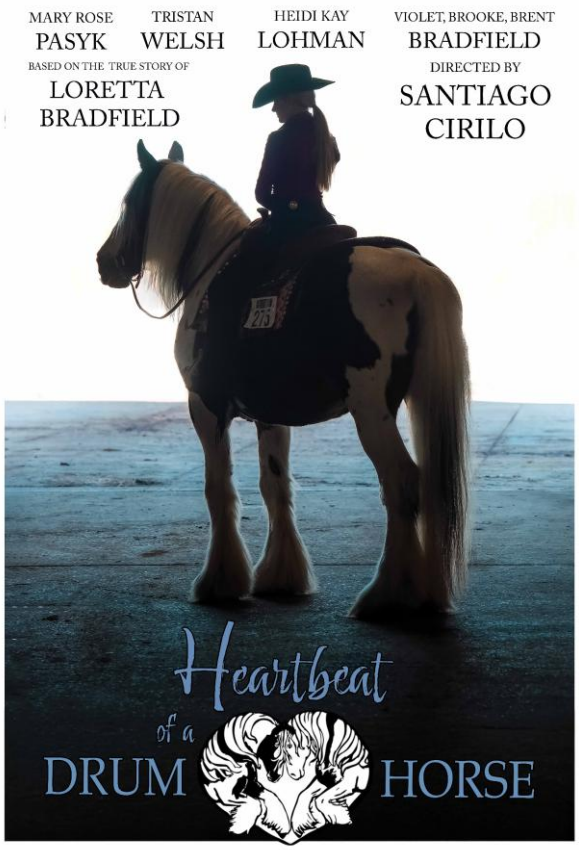


Ajay Mittal is a director based in Surrey, United Kingdom. He has spent years making films for brands across hospitality, sport and wellness, where storytelling always sat at the heart of the work. Heart Horse, made through his studio Film Me Famous, is the first film he has directed and shot for himself, a turn toward something more personal: real people, and the emotion beneath the surface of their lives, told like cinema. He is drawn to the friction of something real in a world of frictionless images, and to stories that stay with you.

Heartbeat of a Drum Horse

Directed by: Santiago Cirilo – 85:00 mins

www.heartbeatofadrumhorse.com



This movie is infused with the humor of Mike Rowe's Dirty Jobs and the heart of a Budweiser commercial. Heartbeat of a Drum is based on the true story of Bradfield Farms and BH SPECTACULAR, the famous Drum Horse Stallion. In the historic town of Holly, a woman embarks on a journey to breed Drum Horses and purchases a stallion. She expects him to be the challenge. However, she soon discovers that the real trials come from the people around her. While juggling the demands of horse shows and foaling, her life becomes a whirlwind of activity. BH SPECTACULAR rises to fame as the world's fastest draft horse barrel racer, captivating audiences wherever he competes. The film features baby horses, barrel racing, English and Western riding, trail courses, and mutton busting, all while following a family of five navigating this adventurous life. It combines action, comedy, drama, and family elements offering something for everyone.

This is not your typical tragic horse story. Instead, it is scripted by real equestrians with experts on set to ensure authenticity and bring the true equestrian experience to the screen.



Director: Santiago Cirilo

Santiago Cirilo was born April of 1973 in Puerto Rico, He is No#6 of seven children to Hector and Maria Cirilo both originally from Puerto Rico. Santiago lived in both Ohio and Puerto Rico at a young age. Growing up in Lorain, Ohio was a big challenge for Santiago.

Here Now Gone Forever

Directed by: Ron A. Syrko – 60:00 mins



"Here Now, Gone Forever": His prominent documentary project addressing how massive housing developments are rapidly overtaking rural farmland and eliminating historic horse riding trails across the United States. Equine Film & Arts Festival: Syrko frequently participates as a panelist and featured filmmaker at national equine summits, including the EQUUS Aiken Panel on Land Conservation. Commercial and Educational Content: He produces educational and promotional media pieces for prominent equine brands, such as Triple Crown Feed. Syrko is a prominent member and volunteer for local equestrian organizations. He has provided videos of trails which were improved by grants from organizations like the North Carolina Horse Council. He also has helped in the national Forest Pisgah and Grandfather District clearing and documenting damage caused by Hurricane Heleen., along with and maintain state public trail networks. Additionally, he is a long-time participant and fundraiser for the annual American Heart Association Beach Ride held in Myrtle Beach.

Director Ron Syrko



Ron Syrko is an independent filmmaker, land conservation advocate, and lifelong equestrian who directs under the production banner Ron and Tango Films. He is best known in the equine film community for directing and producing documentary projects focused on equine welfare, trail preservation, and the impacts of suburban sprawl on farmland**.**

Heels Down

USA

Directed by: Taylor Yocum – 04:21 mins



An artist asserts her horse girl identity in a quiet, collaged reflection.



Director Taylor Yokum

Home Ground

Germany

Directed by: Thomas Hartig – 39:00 mins

https://reitschule--jung-de.translate.goog



A rare, intimate look behind the scenes of Olympic equestrian champion Michael Jung and his team. Home Ground captures the relentless discipline, silent trust, and high-stakes dedication required at the pinnacle of eventing.

Behind every podium finish lies an invisible ecosystem of passion, routine, and profound partnership between human and horse. Home Ground follows Olympic multi-gold medalist Michael Jung and his close-knit team during high-stakes competition and preparation at Marbach.

Rather than focusing purely on sports achievements, the documentary highlights the delicate synergy between horse management, athletic perfection, and the quiet moments in the stable tent. Through striking visual storytelling and unfiltered access, the film explores what it truly takes to sustain excellence at the absolute top of international equestrian sport—where trust isn't just an asset, but the entire foundation..



Director: Thomas Hartig

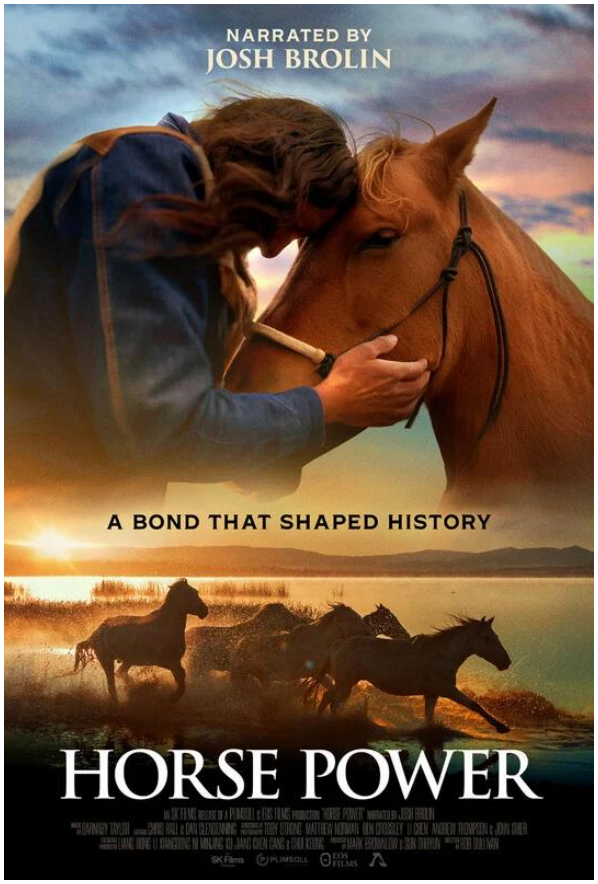
Thomas "Tom" Hartig is a German Director of Photography and commercial filmmaker known for high-end visual storytelling, dynamic camera work, and intimate documentary portraits. With a background spanning commercial video production and outdoor sports cinematography, he combines technical precision with a strong narrative focus on human dedication, athlete mindset, and the bond between human and nature.

Horse Power

United Kingdom

Directed by: Rob Sullivan – 42:45 mins

www.horsepowerfilm.com



DISCOVER THE REMARKABLE POWERS OF OUR CLOSEST ALLY.

The modern world was built on horseback. Embark on an epic and heartwarming journey across the globe celebrating the extraordinary abilities of horses and their inseparable bond with humanity. Join the unlikely pair of Julaa, an inspiring eight-year-old girl and her Mongolian foal who work together to push their endurance to the limit in the race of a lifetime. Be immersed in the power of wild mustangs and a Native American horse listener in Arizona who earns their trust and loyalty.

Gallop alongside the fastest horse, the Arabian Stallion. Be amazed by the astounding muscle power and courage of a draft police horse taking its toughest test in Amsterdam. Follow the adorable antics of Digby and Hazel, miniature guide horses with big hearts that comfort those in need. After near extinction, watch the drama unfold as six Przewalski wild horses are released, finally connecting with the big herd, giving strong hope to conserving this ancient species.

Director Rob Sullivan



Rob is a Bafta award-winning producer director specialising in high end films about people and animals. Recent credits include Disneynature 'Tiger' and 'Tigers on the Rise' nominated for a Grierson Award; 'Sentient' and 'America the Beautiful' for National Geographic/ D+, and'The Hunt' for BBC1, Winner of best conservation documentary at Jackson

Honoring Love: The Story of Little Annie

Directed by: Susan Edwards – 21:22 mins



Sometimes the smallest heart has the widest reach. One such small heart was that of Team Velvet's miniature therapy horse, Little Annie. Little Annie was a pediatric therapy horse for thirteen years and touched the hearts and lives of so many people that she came in contact with.

https://www.teamvelvet.com

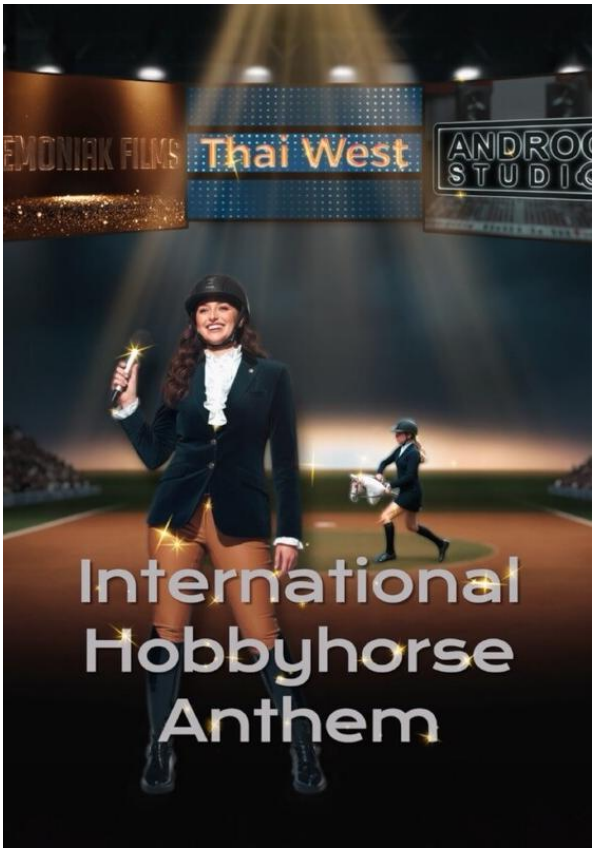
Director: Susan Edwards



Susan Edwards, Ph.D. Psychologist & Director has been licensed in NJ since 1990. She is trained in equine facilitated mental health and has worked with her horses helping children since 2009. Dr. Edwards assesses all children referred to Team Velvet, Inc., and designs specialized treatments tailored to their needs. Dr. Edwards has authored several books and 100+ articles, and has owned horses most of her life. She scripted and directed "Little Horse, Big Medicine," a previous Equus Film Festival Winnie Award winner. Her most recent publications are: Tales of a Wonder Horse: The Birthday; Santa Claus Visits Heaven: A coloring book helping children see love never dies; Children Are Treasures: A Helping Workbook for Mastering Self-Esteem and The Kids Who Saved the World.

International Hobbyhorse Anthem

Directed by: Kathleen Renee Krenitsky



https://ditto.fm/international-hobbyhorse-anthem-kathleen-krenitsky

https://illustratemagazine.com/international-hobbyhorse-anthem-by-kathleen-krenitsky-andrea-roccella-review/

https://www.ushhchampionships.com/

We are delighted to announce the official release of the "International Hobbyhorse Anthem," an original song and accompanying music video that honors and celebrates the global hobby horsing community. This distinguished anthem embodies the spirit, dedication, and unity of hobby horse enthusiasts worldwide, reflecting the rich diversity and creativity inherent in this dynamic sport. We invite all members of the hobby horsing community and beyond to join us in commemorating this significant milestone, united in the open invitation to go "horsin' around the world."

Crafted by artists in Naples, Florida, the International Hobbyhorse Anthem aims to become the global anthem, dedicated to celebrating the harmonious blend of athletic exercise, creativity, craftsmanship, and imaginative play, where participants engage in thrilling activities such as running, jumping obstacles, and performing routines judged on skill and artistry, using custom-made hobbyhorses, attracting thousands of competitors in organized events worldwide.



Director Kathleen Renee Krenitsky

Filmmaker; admittedly and unapologetically strange but also, undeniably happy...

.

Jumpers

Directed by: Naomi Sedgwick – 16:43 mins

www.naomisedgwick.com



JUMPERS follows 21-year-old equestrian athlete SKYLAR WIREMAN as she contends for a spot at the 2028 Olympics in a sport dominated by wealth and long-defined by the same elite riders who have held Olympic team positions for decades. Without major financial backing, Skylar has built her career riding horses that aren't her own, earning opportunities through her ability to quickly adapt and build trust with each new horse. Filmed over the course of two years and three different countries, JUMPERS captures what it means for a young athlete to chase her Olympic dreams and how much she is willing to sacrifice in order to make it.



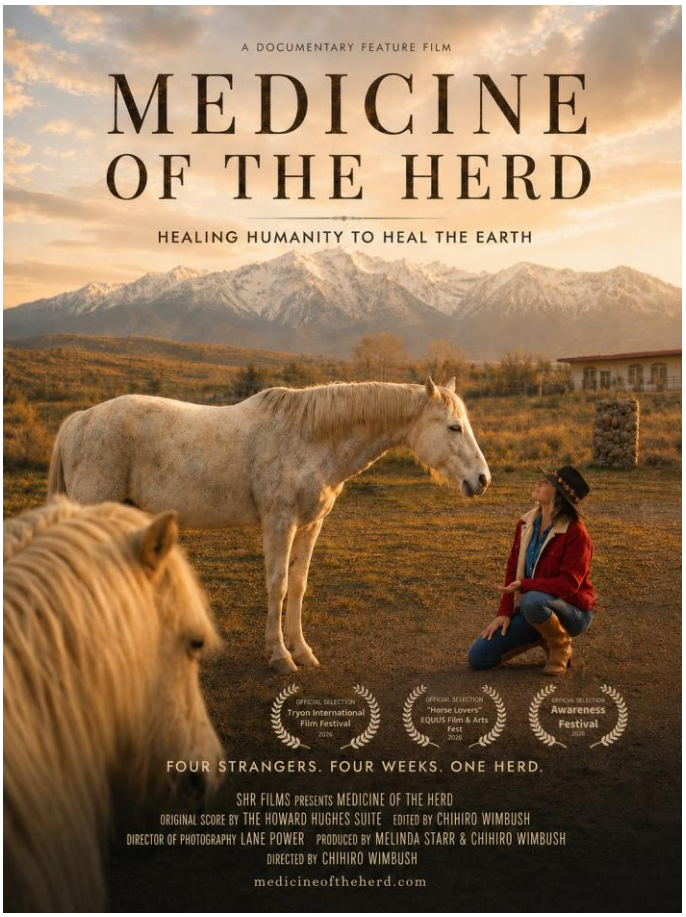
Director: Naomi Sedgwick

Naomi Sedgwick is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker interested in telling character-driven stories about ambitious individuals whose journeys are often overlooked. Drawing from her own experience in equestrian sport, her directorial debut, JUMPERS, examines the pursuit of an Olympic dream in a sport where financial resources often shape access to the highest levels of competition. JUMPERS had it's WORLD PREMIERE at Rhode Island International Film Festival 2026.

Medicine of the Herd

Directed by: Chihiro Wimbush – 100:00 mins

www.medicineoftheherd.com



Four strangers. Four weeks. Seventeen rescued horses.

Medicine of the Herd is a feature documentary that follows four strangers through a month-long immersive retreat with a herd of seventeen rescued horses in Northern Nevada. They arrive to learn about horses, only to discover the horses are teaching them. Through relationships built on trust, choice, and mutual respect, each participant is invited into a journey of healing, connection, and a deeper understanding of what the horse-human bond can become.

Director: Chihiro Wimbush

Dogtown Redemption (2015): Co-directed and co-produced this feature documentary about homeless shopping cart recyclers in West Oakland. It won an Audience Award at the Mill Valley Film Festival and was nominated for a national Emmy Award.
Current Projects: As of early 2026, his recent work includes the project Release, which focuses on nature connection and was part of the 2023 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.
https://www.chihirowimbush.com

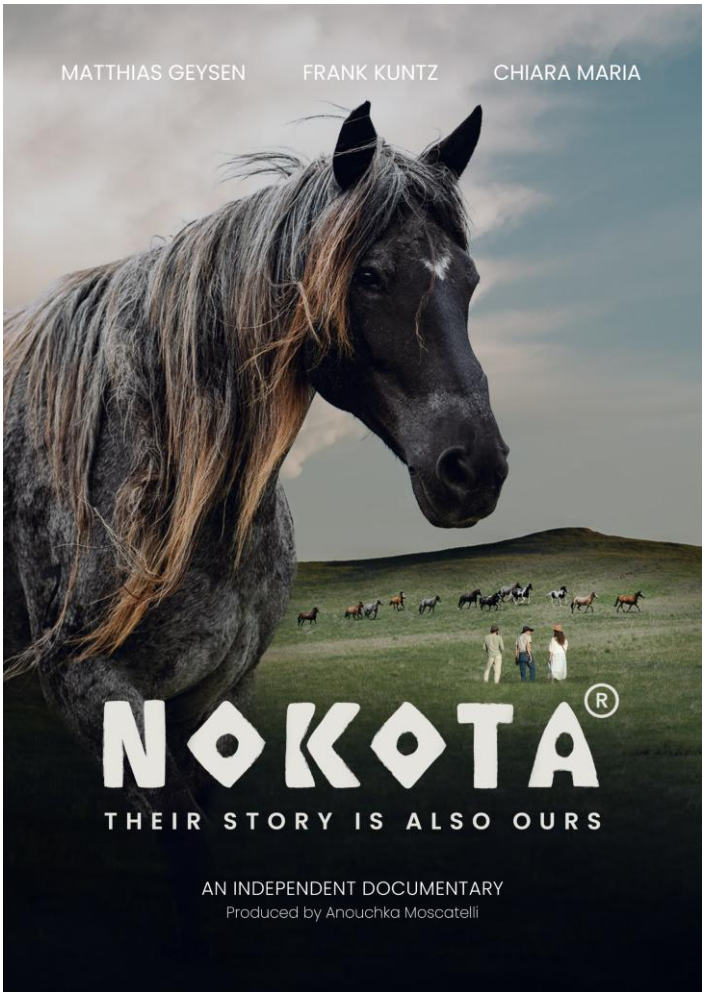


NOKOTA

France

Directed by: Anouchka Moscatelli - 3:00 Min Sizzle

https://www.nokotaexperience.com



In the Great Plains of North Dakota, Frank Kuntz, a Vietnam War veteran, has devoted nearly fifty years of his life to preserving the Nokota horses, a threatened breed whose future now remains uncertain.
As eight women, guided by Chiara Maria and Matthias Geysen, enter the rhythm of the herd, the film opens onto a more universal story. Moving through memory, loss, healing, and transmission, NOKOTA explores what these horses reveal about our relationship with the living world, and what their survival may still teach us about our own humanity.

Director Anouchka Moscatelli

Anouchka Moscatelli is a French executive producer, project founder and advocate for the preservation of the Nokota horses.
Her connection with the Nokota began in Texas in 2012, while training in natural horsemanship. Deeply struck by their presence, sensitivity and way of relating to humans, she later returned to France and began her journey with Sweetdream, one of the first Nokota horses born in Europe.



One More Breath

Horses Helping Veterans Heal

Directed by: Lynn Thomas – 13:10 mins

www.horsesformentalhealth.org



Veterans share deeply personal stories of trauma, resilience, and recovery in this powerful short documentary. When traditional approaches weren't enough, connection with horses offered a path toward healing, self-acceptance, and hope. Their stories highlight the life-changing impact of the horse-human bond in helping veterans find a way forward.

HORSES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Director: Lynn Thomas



Lynn Thomas is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, receiving her Master's of Social Work from the University of Utah in 1995. She first developed a program integrating horses as a primary treatment component while serving as Executive Director of Aspen Ranch, a residential boarding school for troubled adolescents.

In 1999, Lynn co-founded Eagala, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, providing training and certification in the Eagala Model of incorporating horses in psychotherapy. In the 21 years she served as its CEO, Lynn built Eagala into a leading organization in the area of horses for mental health.

Our Dark Horse

Directed by: Grace Berry – 75:08 mins

https://www.ourdarkhorsefilm.com/
https://www.susankayne.com/





After ex-racehorse Kitty is rescued from the slaughter pipeline, she lands in the gentle hands of Susan Kayne and a sanctuary of misfit animals. But when Kitty's long-lost son resurfaces, bound for the track, both horse and human must confront the grim fate awaiting horses after the finish line.

Director: Grace Berry



Grace Oathout is a documentary filmmaker whose work examines the stories and symbols that define American identity. She has developed and produced documentary shorts, features, and series, serving as Co-Producer on projects including Come See Me in the Good Light (Apple TV+), Into the Fire: The Lost Daughter (Netflix), Pamela, a Love Story (Netflix), and State of Alabama vs. Brittany Smith (Netflix). Her credits also include Good Night Oppy (Amazon Prime Video), Assassins (Greenwich Entertainment), Coded: The Hidden Love of J.C. Leyendecker (MTV Films), Visible: Out on Television (Apple TV+), Ask Dr. Ruth (Hulu), and The Keepers (Netflix). Our Dark Horse marks her directorial debut, continuing her interest in overlooked lives and urgent questions that sit at the intersection of journalism and storytelling. She especially values the collaborative nature of filmmaking and traces her roots to the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, where she first discovered her passion for the craft.

Running on Faith

Music Video

Directed by: Marilyn Swick – 03:22 mins



This is our original song and music video for the film of the same name, "Running On Faith", about a 17 year old barrel racer as she balances rodeo life, acting, and high school while chasing her dreams with discipline and dedication guided by the 3 G's: God, Grace, & Grit!

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61591269159962

Director: Marilyn Swick

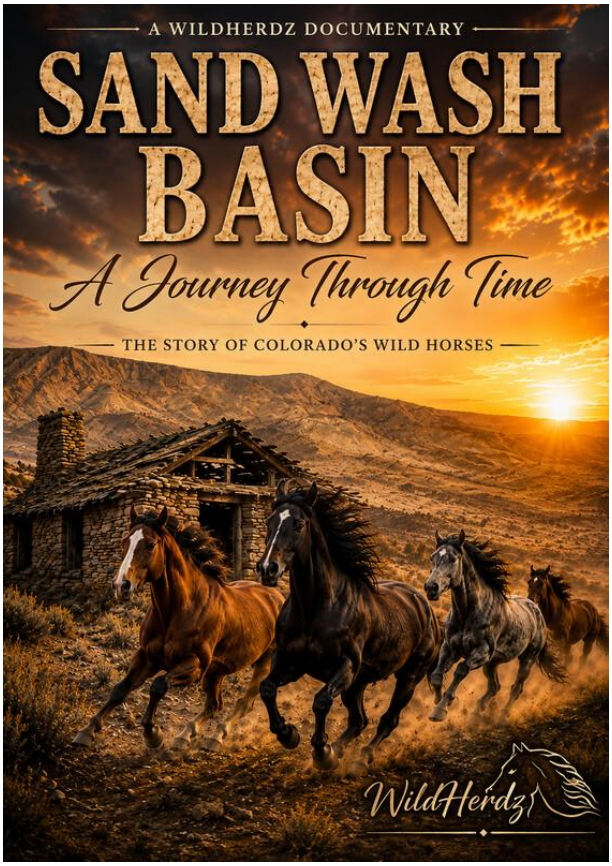
Marilyn Swick's creativity and passion for the film industry have been a fundamental drive in every avenue of her life since she began acting in high school. Today she is an accomplished award-winning Screenwriter, Director, Producer, SAG-AFTRA Actor, ASCAP Songwriter & ASCAP Publisher under Sleep On It Productions. She attended the New York Film Academy and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Georgetown University, in Washington, DC.

Marilyn is a long-standing member of WIF-LA, serves on the board of WIFVNE, and was honored to receive a STAR Award in 2016, as a female filmmaker in Houston, Texas.



Sand Wash Basin:
A Journey Through Time

Directed by: Cynthia J Wright – 47:12 mins



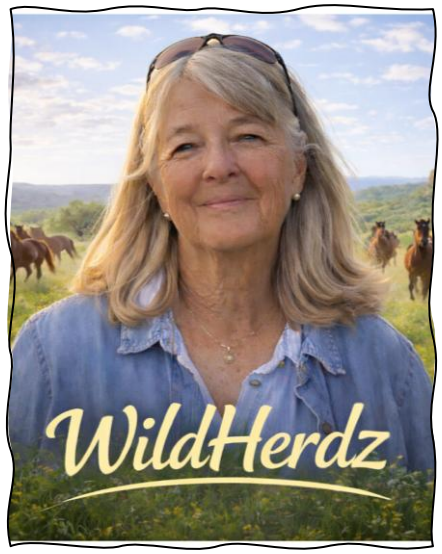
For more than a decade I have walked the sagebrush hills of Sand Wash Basin, watching generations of Colorado's wild horses live, struggle, and thrive. During those years I came to understand that the future of these magnificent animals depends not only on our love for them, but on our willingness to face difficult realities.

This documentary is told through original music, narration, photography, and film gathered over years on the range. Rather than presenting heroes and villains, it explores the complex relationship between wild horses, wildlife, public lands, and the people entrusted with managing them.

The American West has endured years of persistent drought. Water becomes scarce. Forage disappears. Wildlife, livestock, and wild horses all compete for the same limited resources. These are not theoretical challenges—they are realities witnessed on the ground.

I do not consider myself a conservationist. I consider myself a realist.

Director Cynthia J Wright



Cynthia J. Wright is a Colorado wild horse educator, photographer, songwriter, filmmaker, and co-founder of Wild Horse Warriors for Sand Wash Basin, a nonprofit organization working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management to support the long-term health of Colorado's Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area..

Spruce: A Glimpse at Greatness

Directed by: Samia Staehle – 21:13 mins



A celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of one of the world's largest equestrian circuits, Spruce Meadows.

https://www.spruce50.com/

Director Samia Staehle



Samia Staehle was born in the US but raised in Algeria, Switzerland and India where she fell in love with ponies and horses at a young age. As a teenager, Samia's father retired from his career as a diplomat and with her family's return to the U.S. focus on college replaced horse riding. Upon graduating she followed another overseas path, this time as a TV news producer with Associated Press Television in Washington D.C., London and Paris. A return to school to study law was followed by a return to riding as a "nice little hobby" when Samia re-discovered her passion for horses. She then saw an opportunity to share the stories of the dynamic people that surround them..

Stevie & Harley Episode 1: The Rainy-Day Parade

Directed by: Rob Feldman – 2:13 mins



When the rain strikes, will the parade be cancelled… or will Otto G. Rowe, Dharma, and their Gypsy Vanner horses Stevie and Harley come up with a brand new idea? With a little teamwork and a lot of heart, can they pull it all together in time? Dive into The Rainy Day Parade and find out!

https://www.stevieandharley.com/



Diana Hansen and "the Boys"!

Director Rob Feldman



Rob Feldman is a Ringo-Award nominated comic book creator and animation producer best known for his print and online comic Cyko KO and web animated series, Dr. Shroud. He has produced content for the likes of Warner Brothers, Fangoria, Starlog, Top Cow and Mystery Science Theater. Most recently, he produced the animated pilot, Cyko KO, featuring the cast of Napoleon Dynamite. When he's not making comics or cartoons, Rob enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons and is on a quest to perfect the ultimate homemade pizza.

The Adventures of Khemosabi and Ruth
The Strange Saga of Bounty County

Directed by: B. Paul Husband – 8:01 mins



Khemosabi and Ruth bring Ginger Snapsnatch to justice after discovering that she gingered her Arabian show horses.

Director: B. Paul Husband

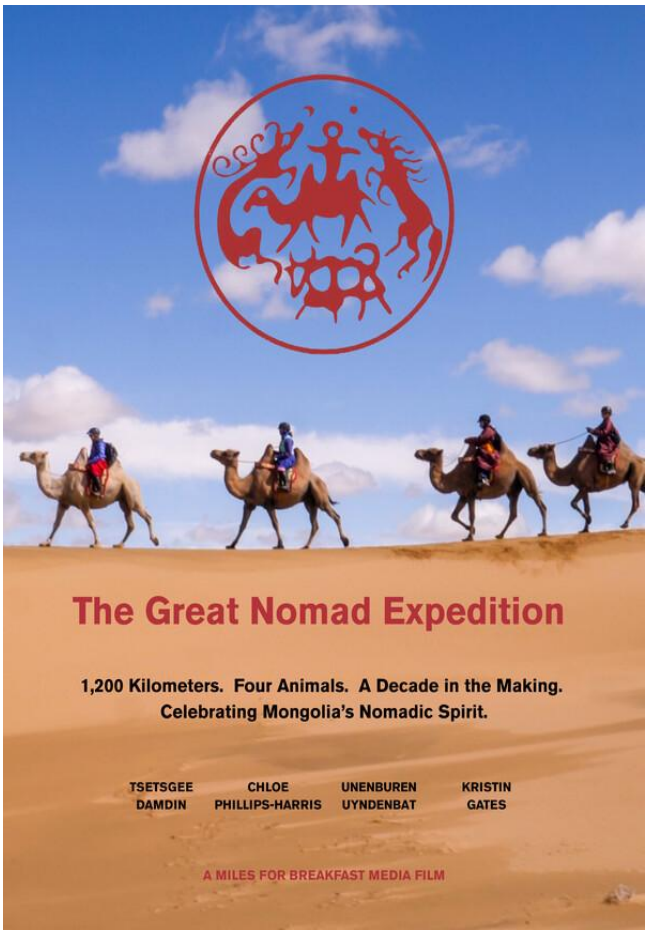
Mr. Husband is a graduate of the School of Law at the University of California at Los Angeles Occidental College. He practices equine, tax and entertainment law serving U.S. and international clients from Southern California, with offices in Palm Springs, California. He has raised, shown and raced Arabian horses for most of his life, and served for 20 years as an American Horse Shows Association Judge in the Arabian Division**.**

https://www.husbandlaw.com



The Great Nomad Expedition

Directed by: Kristin Gates – 43:56 mins



The Great Nomad Expedition is a celebration of Mongolia's nomadic culture. A decade in the making, this epic journey was dreamed up by legendary New Zealand equestrian Chloe Phillips-Harris and Mongolian visionaries Tsetsgee Damdin and Unenburen Uyndenbat. Traversing the country 1,200 kilometers from the rugged Gobi Desert to the soaring peaks of Khovsgul by camel, yak, horse, and reindeer, the expedition immerses viewers in ancient traditions, intimate human stories, and landscapes of staggering beauty. The Great Nomad Expedition is a cinematic adventure and a tribute to resilience, freedom, and the timeless wisdom of Mongolia's nomadic people.

https://milesforbreakfast.com/great-nomad-expedition



Director: Kristin Gates

Kristin Gates is a filmmaker and writer specializing in expedition-based storytelling. She filmed, directed, and edited The Great Nomad Expedition, crafting a cinematic journey across Mongolia’s vast landscapes that celebrates nomadic culture, human resilience, and the intimate stories of those who live on the steppe. Her work focuses on immersive, ground-level storytelling that connects audiences to both people and place...



The Equus Effect

Directed by:
Diego Ongaro, Veronica Beach Betts – 07:55 mins



Powerful Non-Predatory Mammals
Their existence for 55 million years has depended upon their ability to sense the intentions of anyone in their environment. As prey animals, they know that if they make a mistake, they're dinner. By learning to understand their 'language' and reactions to us, we are able to reconnect with our own inner landscapes and often discover states that we have long since buried. Another key characteristic of horses and why they are so valuable as catalyst for change, is that they base their responses to us on trust without judgment – rather than taking sides based on like or dislike. Their preference is peace, safety and harmony for the herd as well as for themselves. They deal with reality as they see it – without reservation.

It is an honor to be trusted by a creature who is so discerning.

https://www.theequuseffect.org/

The Equus Effect Executive Director:
Jane Strong



Jane began her relationship with horses as a competitive rider. When she left that world behind, she never envisioned horses becoming an integral part of her life again.

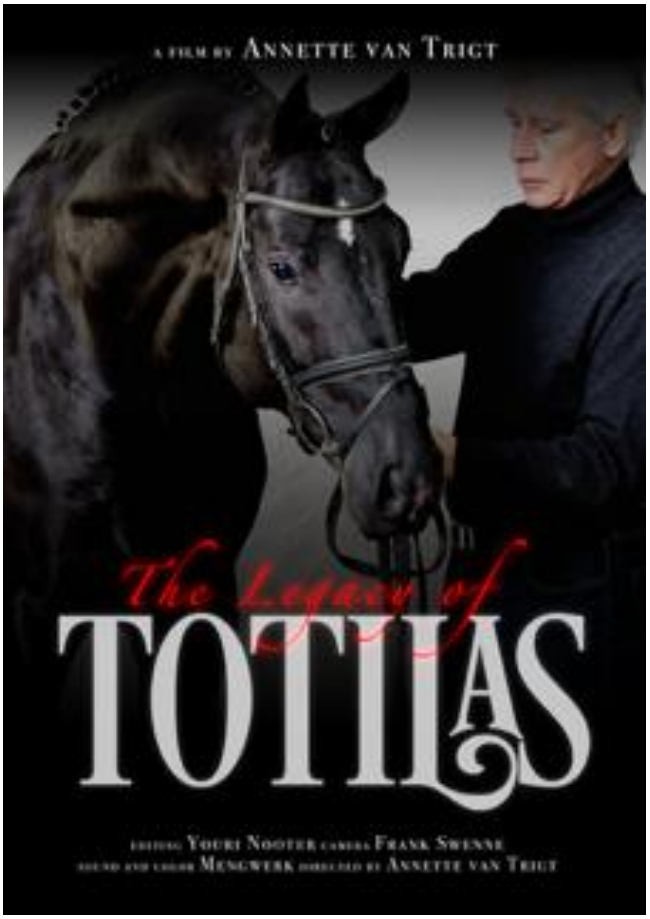
For 25 years, she worked as a research professional, executive coach and enneagram teacher — helping people''take back the reins' in their personal and professional lives. It was only after returning to horses and horsemanship in 2002 that she realized how much they could help us rreveal and reclaim our authenticity.

The Legacy of Totilas

Netherlands

Directed by: Annette van Trigt – 90:00 mins

https://www.annettevantrigt.nl/en/home-2



Totilas (2000–2020), a black Dutch Warmblood stallion ridden by Edward Gal, permanently transformed modern dressage by becoming the first horse to break the 90% barrier in Grand Prix Freestyle and turning the sport into a global commercial spectacle.

Director: Annette van Trigt

Is a Dutch research journalist, filmmaker and director. She started her career as a host of several national radio programs. Later she became anchor of Dutch national television programs NOS Studio Sport and NOS News. Annette is currently working on two new films. Her film The Story of Totilas was rewarded with a Winnie Award for best international documentary at the Equus Filmfestival in New York in 2017. Her documentaries recently released “Golden Genes” “Foul Play” “Obstacles” and “the Story of Totilas” were available on iTunes, Google Play and Amazon.



The Retreat Horse Rescue UK

Directed by: Theresa McCaffrey – 46:41 mins



People have a romantic idea of animal rescue. Billy Thompson knows it isn't like that. He founded The Retreat in Kent in 1989, and has spent thirty-six years saving the animals nobody else would take. He has been arrested for feeding pigeons in Trafalgar Square, given an ASBO, jailed abroad for animal rights work, and last year throttled until he passed out by a stranger who didn't like being told he was being cruel to a horse. He talks about all of it without drama. The hands, as he puts it, were given to him for a reason.
This documentary spends a day with him among the horses and donkeys: hand-reared foundlings, two completely blind horses each shadowed by a smaller guide, ex-racing horses, ex-riding school ponies, donkeys from a Romanian seaside ride yard.

https://www.curiousequestrian.co.uk/

Director: Theresa McCaffrey

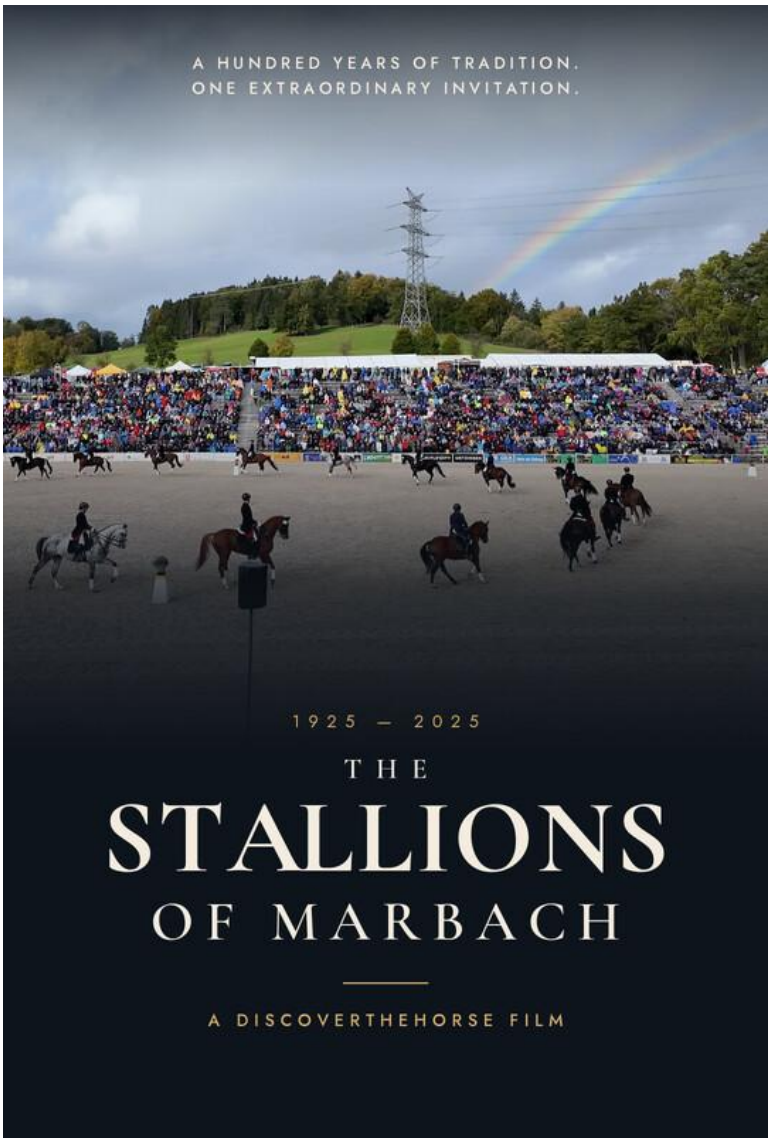
Curious Equestrian is where those questions get asked out loud, with the researchers, the vets, the practitioners doing things differently, and the riders who've already been where you're standing and kept going anyway. We don't arrive with a position. We arrive with a question and take the time to follow it honestly..

..



The Stallions of Marbach

Directed by: Alyssa Mathews - 21:10 mins



A century of tradition. Thousands of spectators. One extraordinary invitation. At Germany's oldest state stud, filmmaker Alyssa Mathews steps inside the celebration of a lifetime.

https://www.discoverthehorse.com/

Director: Alyssa Mathews

Alyssa Mathews is an award-winning equestrian filmmaker and the founder of DiscoverTheHorse, an equine adventure series following her quest to ride every horse breed in the world. Since launching the quest in 2017, she has ridden 166 breeds across 31 countries, sharing each breed's history, homeland, and people. Her films have reached over 40 million views, inviting audiences worldwide to ride along, one breed at a time.



..

Under The Western Skies

Directed by: Natalie Aramendia – 60:34 mins



Kristyn can handle rugged land, stubborn cattle, and impossible odds. What she is not prepared for is the possibility that saving her family's ranch may require help from a tech-savvy outsider with shiny cowboy boots. Fiercely independent and deeply tied to the traditions of ranch life, Kristyn has spent her life proving she can carry her family's legacy forward. But when foreclosure threatens the future of the ranch, she is forced to consider a future she never wanted – one shaped by innovation instead of instinct.

That future arrives in Jordan, a charming city-bred neighbor whose modern ideas challenge everything Kristyn has fought to preserve. As their worlds clash, Kristyn must navigate the tension between tradition and progress, pride and vulnerability, duty and desire.

A Ranch Musical is a romantic western about family, identity, and the courage it takes to embrace change without leaving your roots behind.

https://www.ranchmusical.com

Director: Natalie Aramendia



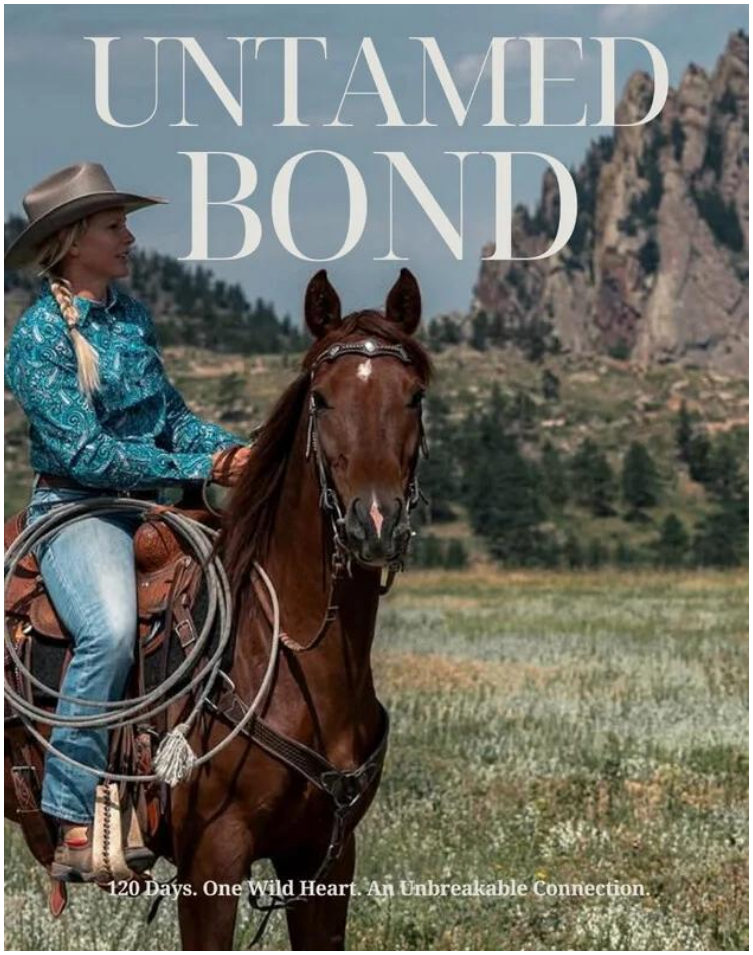
Natalie Aramendia is a Mexican-American filmmaker with more than a decade of experience producing and shooting independent films, branded content, and documentaries centered on distinct identities and underrepresented communities.

Originally trained as a cinematographer, she developed her visual storytelling style behind the camera, crafting work that foregrounds emotion, place, and perspective. As a producer, she has guided award-winning projects from development through post-production with a collaborative and deeply hands-on approach.

With A Ranch Musical, Aramendia makes her feature film directorial debut, while also serving as writer, producer, and editor. Set in rural Nevada, the toe-tapping western musical draws inspiration from her family's agricultural roots and love of western music, blending cultural heritage with themes of innovation, family legacy, and belonging. Aramendia is passionate about telling stories that connect generations, communities, and traditions through a visually-driven and emotionally grounded lens.

Untamed Bond

Directed by: Sophia F Stern – 33:08 mins



In 120 days, trainer Sarah Welty must gentle a wild mustang for the Meeker Mustang Makeover, taking us with her through the powerful transformation—from fear and uncertainty to trust and partnership.

Director Sophia F Stern

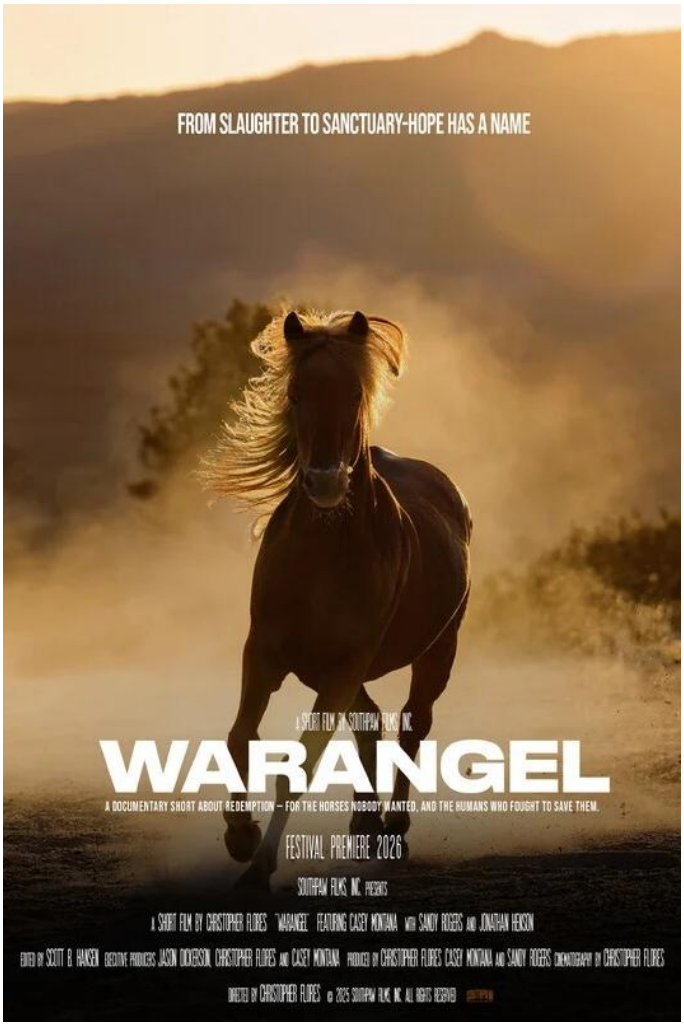


I have always been drawn to the stories that live in quiet moments—the ones found in people's expressions, in landscapes, in communities, and in the small details that often say the most. My background in journalism, photography, and documentary filmmaking has shaped the way I see the world: with curiosity, care, and a desire to understand what lies beneath the surface.

As a filmmaker, I am interested in stories about people, place, the environment, and the connections between them. Whether I am filming on digital, shooting stills on film, or following a story as it unfolds, I am most inspired by work that feels honest, human, and rooted in the real..

WARANGEL

Directed by: Christopher Flores – 20:24 mins



WarAngel follows Casey Montana, a young woman in Georgia who rescues horses bound for slaughter through her nonprofit farm. As she saves these animals, their healing journey becomes intertwined with her own family's story of love, loss, and resilience..

Director: Christopher Flores

Christopher Flores is an Atlanta-based filmmaker and founder of Southpaw Films, Inc., with over 25 years of experience in television and film. His career spans work with major networks and streamers including Netflix, Disney, Paramount, and HBO, where he's built a reputation for cinematic storytelling and high-end production. Flores has collaborated with global talent such as Shaquille O'Neal and specializes in branded content, commercials, and documentary filmmaking. WarAngel is a deeply personal project that reflects his passion for stories of resilience, redemption, and the human–animal bond.



We Put a Needle Through This Horse's Skull to Flush His Sinus

Directed by: Sean Chin – 14:32 mins

https://www.youtube.com/@EquineVetLife



Ollie, a 23-year-old champion hunter/jumper, has been battling a chronic sinus infection with recurring nasal discharge from his right nostril. In this episode, Dr. Jenna Donaldson, DVM and her colleague perform a sinus flush using a specialized needle that passes through the bone into the sinus cavity to help clear infection and inflammation.

https://www.youtube.com/@EquineVetLife

Director: Sean Chin

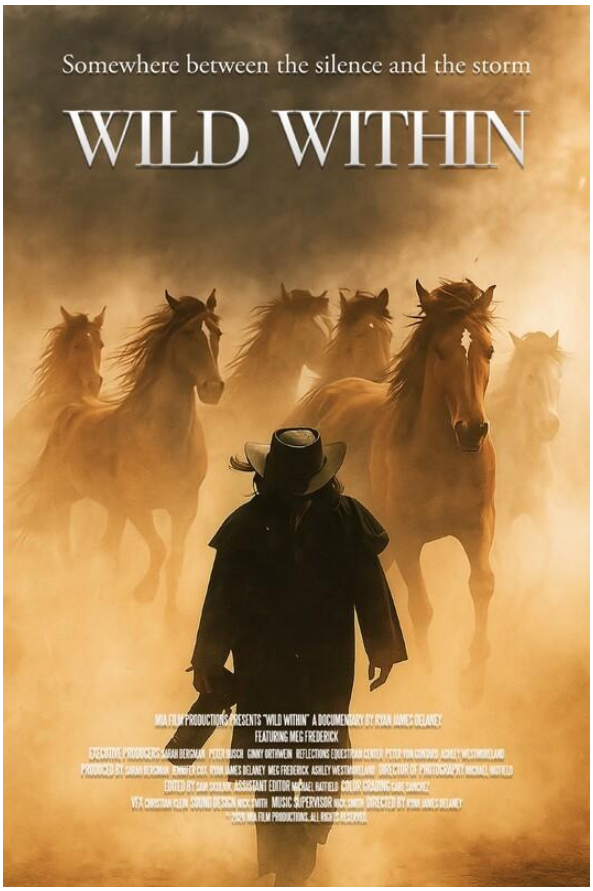


Sean Chin is a filmmaker, photographer, and storyteller based in Ontario, Canada. Alongside his wife, equine veterinarian Dr. Jenna Donaldson, he co-created *Equine Vet Life*, a documentary-style series that explores the people, passion, and challenges behind the equine veterinary world. Through authentic storytelling and cinematic visuals, Sean aims to give audiences a deeper appreciation for horses, the people who care for them, and the unique community surrounding the equine industry.me.

..

Wild Within

Directed by: Ryan James DeLaney - 70:00 mins



After surviving a devastating car accident, Meg leaves behind her former life and finds herself drawn to the remote landscapes of the American West. There, she begins living among wild horses, forming a deep and unexpected bond that reshapes her understanding of healing, freedom, and belonging. Wild Within is an intimate portrait of resilience, exploring how nature and connection can restore what once felt lost.

Director: Ryan James DeLaney



Ryan James DeLaney is an award-winning producer, director, and co-founder of Mia Film Productions LLC. His work centers on character driven storytelling that explores resilience, transformation, and human connection. DeLaney has produced a range of projects across narrative and documentary formats, including work connected to Corsicana and Night. Night, and most recently produced two vertical drama series with FOX Entertainment one of which reached the #1 spot on the platform, marking a breakout moment in his producing career. While he has directed multiple projects currently in post-production, Wild Within marks DeLaney's feature directorial debut to be released, signaling a defining step into long form storytelling from behind the camera.