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To: Arkhaiois Film Festival Fans and Media e lists.
From: Arkhaiois Film Festival – ML Brewton
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Press Release For Immediate Release

12th Annual Arkhaiois Film Festival Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Virtual Edition, October 14-20, 2024

Special Event

Brent E. Huffman's "Saving Mes Aynak" Pre-Festival Free Streaming, September 5-8, 2024

Pittsburgh, PA - Arkhaiois Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival proudly presents a special four-day stream of the award-winning documentary "**Saving Mes Aynak**", directed and produced by Filmmaker and Professor Brent E. Huffman.

"**Saving Mes Aynak**" chronicles the fight to save a 5,000-year-old city in Afghanistan from imminent destruction by a Chinese government-owned mining company. This company is set to mine for 100 billion dollars' worth of copper located directly under the ancient site. *Mes Aynak* is home to some of the oldest Buddhist temples, stupas, statues, oil paintings, and written texts in the world. Mining will destroy the ancient city as well as permanently pollute the environment of the area. Tragically, mining began in early August, 2024.

The ancient Buddhist city of *Mes Aynak*, Afghanistan is under imminent threat of destruction as mining commences. [<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-189861>]. This four-day screening of an updated version of "**Saving Mes Aynak**" is happening to raise awareness about this incredible and priceless heritage, to celebrate the work of Afghan archaeologists who risked their lives to save it, and to raise awareness in order to stop mining from ever happening at or around the ancient city.

The 2014 original version of the film has been enhanced this year with a new ending to reflect the current situation at *Mes Aynak*. Arkhaiois Film Festival is proud to present this documentary for free around the world on September 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Professor and Director Brent E. Huffman will give a video update about the current situation at *Mes Aynak* to be included in the stream.

The documentary, and Huffman's update on *Mes Aynak*, will be streamed on the Arkhaiois Film Festival site, as a special event, before the Arkhaiois Film Festival which is taking place later on October 14-20, 2024.

Both videos are free to view: <https://arkhaioisfilmfestival2024.eventive.org/welcome>

Visit <http://www.savingmesaynak.com/> for more information.

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The multi-day Arkhaiois Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival is an annual juried competition, part of Archaeology Month celebration. It is free, open to the public, and is an educational event showcasing the discovery of past cultures gained from ethnological or archaeological research, and illustrated through documentary films.

The Arkhaiois Film Festival is sponsored by the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) and the Department of Anthropology of the University of South Carolina, and, in Pennsylvania, by the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pittsburgh, and the Allegheny Chapter #1 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

The Arkhaiois Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Events corporation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization producing the Arkhaiois Film Festivals in South Carolina and in Pennsylvania, when possible. A worldwide Virtual Edition has been added to screen the films online.

Visit the Arkhaiois website at: <http://www.arkhaioisfilmfestival.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ArkhaioisFilmFestival>

For more information, contact Arkhaiois Film Festival info@arkhaioisfilmfestival.org.