

OUTMERSIVE FILMS PRESENTS

The High Sierra Trail

A Documentary

OUTMERSIVE FILMS PRESENTS "THE HIGH SIERRA TRAIL" A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY OUTMERSIVE FILMS WITH MUSIC BY OCTOPUS ARMS
SOUND DESIGN ALEX KNICKERBOCKER AND BILL MEADOWS NARRATION BY WILLIAM TWEED PRODUCED BY CHRIS SMEAD COLORED BY BRUCE GOODMAN DIRECTED BY CHRIS SMEAD

This exciting documentary bounces back and forth between the modern experience of hiking the High Sierra Trail, and the early 1900's when the trail was created. Join Chris as he drives his friend John to insanity over 6 days in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Together they have some close calls with lightning, climb the highest mountain in the continental US, and discover the history of the trail brought to life via 3D animations created from a blend of historic photos and modern photos taken during the trip.



The Trail

The High Sierra Trail is the lesser known 'little brother' to the John Muir Trail.

The 72 mile trail starts in Crescent meadow on the western side of the Sierra Nevada, and ends on top of Mt Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

The trail takes most people about a week to complete, and is a great alternative for anyone struggling to find 3 weeks to do the full John Muir Trail.

Distance: 72.2 miles

Time: 6-8 days

Difficulty: Strenuous

Elevation gain: 13,303 ft

Dogs: No

When to go: July-Sept

Weather: Varies



William Tweed and Trail History

The film is narrated by William C Tweed, a 30 year national park service veteran. He eloquently shares the hidden stories of the trail. From the man who envisioned it's creation, to the reason behind the summit hut on Mt Whitney, and the story of the Kaweah cult colony. There's much more to the trail than meets the eye.

William Tweed's contributions to this project were beyond invaluable. He knew every inch of the High Sierra Trail and the history behind it. When he speaks it feels like you're reading a well written book, which makes sense given he's written several of them!



Chris

Director / Videographer / Editor

At this point Chris has logged over 60 treks, mostly in the Sierra. After completing and shooting on the trail, he spent over 500 hours editing, and animating photos from the early 1900's to help tell the story. The goal: Create an immersive experience with multiple dimensions: The modern experience, some technical aspects, history, and of course a lighthearted human element that's inherent with any backcountry experience.



John

Frequent hiker and segment PCT backpacker. John has travelled around the world, walking though the Golden Triangle in Thailand, rafting up the Katherine Gorge in Australia, and climbing to the top of Kilimanjaro Peak in Tanzania. From the west coast of Turkey to the Abel Tasman track in New Zealand, hiking, backpacking and climbing in the wilderness is his joy.



Outmersive Films

The Team Behind the film:

Outmersive Films is a newly formed arts collective founded by Chris Smead. He had previously operated solo, under the name “Chris Is Awesome Productions” when the direction of his hobby was unclear. As things turned more serious and other collaborators began joining in, it became obvious that it needed to be reinvented.

Soon after shooting the film and making the trailer, Chris was approached by Bruce Goodman, a professional colorist who had worked on countless Hollywood films as well as *Mile, Mile and A Half*. Shortly after, Bill Meadows and Alex Knickerbocker (*of Mr Robot, Fast and Furious*) reached out and offered their post sound talents. Long time friend Jacen Spector joined the show to save Chris from his notoriously terrible marketing skills, and Emma Massick recently joined to help lead marketing and social media management. Gordon Gurley, an experienced videographer and audio engineer has provided a lot of guidance during the project and will be taking a much more active role for the next project. The Outmersive family is growing and we’re excited to see what we can create together.

Fun Facts

- During the post sound process, Alex Knickerbocker and Bill Meadows didn't like the trekking poles sounds recorded by the camera mic. So they brought a pair of trekking poles into the studio and recorded them hitting the ground. These sounds were then inserted into the film.
- To illustrate the level of sonic detail by Bill and Alex, here's an actual text from Bill to Chris during the post sound process:
"Was that a red tailed hawk in the background, or more of a 70's sounding hawk".
- The day before the hike, Chris's 4 year old son accidentally shut a heavy door on his bare foot. He had to complete the 72 mile hike with a broken toe. This was left out of the film to avoid encouraging irresponsible behavior, which was a major concern of the NPS during the film permit process.
- Chris used a gimbal stabilizer for many of the shots on the trail. His unfamiliarity with the new device caused him to ruin many important shots. In a move of desperation, select individual frames were exported from the bouncy footage as still photos, cut up in photoshop, and then animated in 3D space. This became the goto "look" for the film.
- Over a dozen shots of Mt Whitney near the end of the film were created from a single panorama photo. It was cut up, animated in 3d space, and then composited with clouds, the sun, and a star timelapse to fit the needs of each scene.

Contact Us

Official film website:

www.highsierratrail.com

The group behind the film:

www.outmersivefilms.com

IMDB page:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8363758/>



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