

Films showing on the BLUE film programme

2.5 Million

American skier Aaron Rice sets out to ski 2.5 million human-powered vertical feet in the backcountry in a calendar year. If he succeeds, it will be a new world-record for this self-confessed ski bum.

Filmmaker: Tyler Wilkinson-Ray, T-Bar Films, 22 minutes

Ace and the Desert Dog

For his 60th birthday, adventure photographer Ace Kvale and his dog, Genghis Khan, set out on a 60-day trek in Utah's canyon country. This film celebrates the special bond between the pair, and shows the beauty of canine friendships.

Filmmaker: Brendan Leonard, Semi-Rad Media, 9 minutes

DugOut

Mankind has been using dugout canoes for over 8,000 years. But this doesn't mean that building one from scratch is easy, as film-maker Benjamin Sadd and artist James Trundle, both from the south of England, discover on a journey to the Ecuadorian Amazon, where they live with an indigenous community, learn how to build a canoe and then take it on a journey through the rainforest. What could go wrong?

Filmmaker: Benjamin Sadd, 41 minutes

Safety Third

For most climbers, it's safety first. But Brad Gobrigh is definitely not most climbers. Fuelled by day-old doughnuts and unhindered by a fear of falling, this young talent is pushing the limits in his backyard playground of Eldorado Canyon, Colorado. Having survived a few big scares, Brad is determined to make his boldest ascent yet – a first-ever free solo of one of Eldo's most exposed and difficult routes.

Filmmaker: Cedar Wright & Taylor Keating, 29 minutes

Surf the Line

The Flying Frenchies are a group of multi-talented friends who like BASE-jumping and mountaineering, but who are also clowns, acrobats and musicians. Their latest film sees them playing in the Vercors mountain range, where they slice through the air on a 600m-high highline, reaching speeds of up to 75kph zipline-style, before using their BASE-jumping skills to dismount. For The Flying Frenchies, thinking out of the box isn't a choice – it's a way of life.

Filmmaker: Hello Emotion, 3 minutes

Johanna

Finnish freediver Johanna Nordblad holds the world record for a 50-metre dive under ice, but she only discovered the sport during recovery from a biking accident. For Johanna, diving under the ice provides a surreal, calming environment – although it can be unsettling to watch. "What she does is so close to the edge, but she does it in such a comfortable way," says the filmmaker Ian Derry.

Filmmaker: Ian Derry, Archer's Mark, 4 minutes

Where the Wild Things Play

There's ongoing discussion about why there aren't more females in the outdoor industry and in adventure films. Featuring four minutes of gnarly wingsuit flying, whitewater kayaking, climbing and big mountain skiing, *Where the Wild Things Play* suggests that perhaps women are just too busy having fun in the backcountry. An inspirational and funny response to a question we need to keep asking.

Filmmaker: Krystle Wright, 4 minutes

Pedal

Coming from the Netherlands, Hera van Willick grew up on a bicycle, and cycling across continents, solo and self-supported, has become her way of life. Forty-three countries down, via deserts, mountains, rainforest and the Arctic, this is her story so far...

Filmmaker: Scott Hardesty, Ultralite Films, 8 minutes

Why

Iceland. A cold, rugged and forbidding landscape where powerful rivers plunge through bedrock gorges, over massive waterfalls towards the sea. A crew of French kayakers travel here to ask the question we have all asked ourselves in the outdoors at some point: "Why? Why do we do this?"

Filmmaker: Hugo Clouzeau, We Are Hungry, 7 minutes