

# WYO FILM FESTIVAL

## October 4-6, 2019

### Friday October 4th (Whitney Center for the Arts)

"**The Iron Orchard**" (2019) 111 minutes \*filmmakers expected\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2roNX6pAyc>

THE IRON ORCHARD is the story of Jim McNeely (Lane Garrison), a young man thrust into the vibrant and brutal West Texas oilfields in 1939. In a state gushing with oil and filled with ambition, McNeely settles into a small-town community that is slowly overcoming the trauma of the Great Depression. The formidable path before him is riddled with obstacles -- overbearing bosses who try to keep him down, powerful oilmen who are reluctant to invest in a fresh face, and women who see salvation in his charms -- but he finds a glimmer of hope with his first loves: new wife Lee Montgomery (Ali Cobrin) and drilling for oil. With everything falling into place to ascend to the top of the oil chain, McNeely stumbles upwards through his success and in turn jeopardizes his desperate longing to conquer this brave new world of influence and wealth. What will define his legacy in building the rich oil tradition of West Texas?

### Saturday October 5th WYO Theater

**10:30am - Morning Cup o'Shorts** (short film program, approximately 105 minutes total)

\*filmmakers expected\*

"**Good Medicine**" (7:31) - Filmed on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, Good Medicine is a short film looking at how the youth and elders of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes find peace and healing through skateboarding and traditions.

"**A Night at The Garden**" (7:06) - Archival footage of an American Nazi rally that attracted 20,000 people at Madison Square Garden in 1939, shortly before the beginning of World War 2. Nominated for a 2019 Academy Award for best short documentary.

"**Imagination**" (4:13) - As children, we viewed the world through the lenses of our imaginations. The carpet became lava, the shadows formed monsters, the family minivan was a spaceship. But the older we got, the more reality set in, and soon we forgot the magic our minds could create. We invite you to step back into your childhood and take a look through the lens once again in this stop-motion sensation, "Imagination."

"**Wyrms**" (19:52) - Wyrms has two days to get his first kiss or he'll be held back as part of the school district's No Child Left Alone program, forced to wear his My.E.Q. Remote Monitoring collar through high school.

"**A Passion of Gold and Fire**" (6:03) - A beekeeper shares his worries about the future of his apiary school. A passion of gold and fire which definitely helps our environment to keep on living.

"**White Guys Solve Sexism**" - (6:26) - Because of the Harvey Weinstein scandal two men realize that all of their favorite movies are now sexist, leading them down a dark path of discovery.

*AND MORE To Be Announced!*

**2PM - Shorts 2, Brute?** (short film program 136 minutes total) \*Filmmakers expected\*

"**Mointal Ranger**" (16:09) - Mointal Ranger is a 16-minute short observational documentary film. It tells the story of a Chinese Russian ranger who is using his lifetime to guard the forest in the frontier of China and Kazakhstan.

"**The Traffic Separating Device**" (15:00) - A traffic separating device is installed in the middle of Stockholm. It is supposed to keep normal cars away and only let buses pass. It turns into a disaster as normal cars continue to go there and hundreds of cars get destroyed every week. Tragic and funny situations occur and we follow the whole mess of human failures.

"**Knee High**" (13:50) - Set against the Iowa farmlands, KNEE HIGH follows Calvin Melbourne as he struggles to keep hold of the reins to the family farm while still making time for his young son, Avery.

"**Seattle's Bikini Baristas**" (9:49) - Seattle's Bikini Baristas is a documentary about the commodification of sexual harassment in the booming scantily clad barista coffee shop scene in Seattle.

"**Will 'The Machine'**" (13:35) - Denzel Whitaker (Black Panther) and Chris Fornataro (Bad is Bad) star in this brooding character portrait of an elite high school football star consumed by ambition. When Will faces defeat to an outsider in a series of races, the demons keeping "The Machine" running finally surface. Set in the unique backdrop of wintertime Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy, the title character embodies the city's conflicted, tumultuous history.

"**Flying Fur**" (36:15) - Welcome to the friendly skies of animal rescue. Saving dogs and cats one flight at a time is the mission, but changing the fate of these lovable creatures is no easy task. Lives are at stake and failure is not an option.

*AND MORE To Be Announced*

4:30pm "Pariah Dog" (**1hr 16min**) 2019 \*With special filmmaker introduction\*

<https://vimeo.com/316360791>

Pariah Dog is a creative documentary focusing on several eccentric dog lovers in Kolkata, India. Shot over two-and-a-half years, the film paints a kaleidoscopic picture of the city of Kolkata, seen through the prism of four outsiders and the dogs they love. These men and women have found meaning and purpose in their shared mission to care for these neglected street dogs, who have existed in the towns and villages of India for thousands of years. For some this mission is enough, for others, dreams of a better life are always near.

**7:30pm "Fire on the Hill: The Cowboys of South Central L.A."** 2018 (1hr, 18 min) \*Filmmakers and special guests expected\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoyY6IEbiFY>

Long before it was known for its hip hop and gang culture, South Central Los Angeles was home to one of the most recognized cowboy communities in the Nation. Yet after decades of urban development and rising street gang activity, this community--which had produced world champions--shrank to all but a one-block horse stable known as "The Hill." When a mysterious fire destroys the Hill Stable in 2012, the future of this once thriving culture finds itself at the brink of vanishing forever.

This feature documentary follows three cowboys in the wake of the fire. Ghuan, seeing the fire as an opportunity to resurrect the stable in his own vision must win over the broken cowboy community and hunt down the land's estranged owner before developers get to it first. Chris, a rising bull rider from Compton, enters into his rookie year of professional rodeo and discovers that the LA streets aren't so easy to leave behind. And Calvin, having found freedom on the back of a horse, must choose between the cowboy lifestyle and his family when his inner demons come back to haunt him.

FIRE ON THE HILL paints a portrait of the little-known urban cowboy community in South Central LA. Together, these three stories of perseverance shine a new light on what it means to be a "cowboy" in our modern world. This genre-bending documentary combines western film style with South Central's urban landscape to depict Los Angeles like it has never been seen before.

### **Sunday October 6th at WYO Theater**

**11am - "The Girl on the Third Floor"** 2019 (Special Horror Movie Brunch Screening) \*Rocky Mountain Premiere! With introduction by filmmaker\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYWymKRSZEU>

Bursting pipes, rotting walls, and unidentifiable slime were not what Don Koch (WWE legend Phil "CM Punk" Brooks) expected when he convinced his wife Liz (Trieste Kelly Dunn) that he could rehab their new Victorian home himself. In over his head, under duress, and tempted by his old weaknesses, Don soon discovers that the house has its own dark, sordid history and won't be so easy to renovate after all....

**2pm - "Outdoor Shorts"** ( short film program approximately 129 minutes total) \*filmmakers expected\*

**"Camel Finds Water"** (8:37) After surfer Trevor Gordon refurbished a boat he found abandoned in a field in California, he christened the vessel Camel. Then Gordon, filmmaker Ian Durkin, and fellow surfer Tosh Clements headed north from Santa Barbara to explore the coves of British Columbia in search of a perfect wave. Camel Finds Water chronicles their journey.

**"Silence"** (17:41) - What it takes to climb the world's first 9c? Let's find out in Silence, a movie by Bernardo Giménez. It shows what preceded the afternoon of September 3, 2017 when Adam Ondra, a professional rock climber and currently one of the best climbers in the world, made a little piece of climbing history when he climbed his project in the spectacular Hanshelleren Cave in Norway. The route, later named Silence, received a new grade of 9c and became the hardest route in the world.

**"One Breath Around the World"** (12:41) - Freedive with me around the world.

**"Adaptive"** (35:23) - Jim Ewing is a veteran rock climber and senior rope engineer at Sterling Rope, a prominent rock climbing rope company. On Christmas Day in 2014, Jim fell over 50 feet to the ground in a climbing accident, a near-death experience that led to the subsequent below-the-knee amputation of his left leg. Before walking on a prosthetic, Jim was already climbing again, and before long, he began dreaming about his bucket list...

In 2018, Jim invited a climber missing her left hand, Maureen Beck, to accompany him in attempting the first all-adaptive ascent of the über classic and deeply remote Lotus Flower Tower (5.10+) in Canada's Cirque of the Unclimbables. The route is on the list of North America's 50 classic climbs and the 2,000 foot granite face is coveted by climbers everywhere. In "Adaptive", Jim and Maureen hope to demonstrate that "disabled" climbers are just differently—and equally—abled.

**"Trout Country: Fly Fishing on a Changing Yellowstone"** (14:23) - Trout Country: Fly Fishing on a Changing Yellowstone takes us down the Yellowstone River to Paradise Valley, Montana, renowned for its world-class fly fishing. The stories in the 15 minute documentary demonstrate the very real economic, environmental, and emotional impacts of a rapidly changing climate for the community living in Paradise Valley. Trout Country delves into the fly fishing culture and livelihood of the folks in the film and rural communities that rely on the recreational fishing industry. The beauty of this iconic river contrasts with the harrowing reality of the warming of the Yellowstone River, which led to a massive die off of whitefish and a weeks-long closure of the river during the heart of fishing season in 2016. We watch as the communities along the river come together to develop and implement strategies to begin understanding the river's climate change-driven changes.

**"Speak to Me Softly"** (6:13) - Experience fear and emotion alongside climber Jenny Abegg as she ascends a route while fighting the self-criticism and doubt from that little voice we all have in the back of our heads.

*AND MORE To Be Announced...*

**5pm "Owned, A Tale of Two Americas"** 2018 (1 hr 22 min) \*filmmaker expected\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUQbHuaj13I>

The United States' postwar housing policy created the world's largest middle class. It also set America on two divergent paths -- one of imagined wealth, propped up by speculation and endless booms-and-busts, and the other in systematically defunded, segregated communities, where "the American dream" feels hopelessly out of reach.

Some ten years after the last housing collapse and well into a perceived upswing, the election of Donald Trump and urban uprisings in places like Baltimore suggest that there's a far more fundamental problem with housing policy in America. And we haven't even begun to 'recover.'

'Owned' is a fever dream vision into the dark history behind the US housing economy. Tracking its overtly racist beginnings to its unbridled commoditization, the doc exposes a foundational story few Americans understand as their own.