

RUNNING WILD

→ THE LIFE OF DAYTON O. HYDE ←

“RUNNING WILD” COMES TO THE SARASOTA FILM FESTIVAL IN SARASOTA, FL

Documentary feature film marks the inspiring journey of a remarkable cowboy who triumphs in his quest to protect wild horses and the American West.

New York, NY – March 18, 2013 – Free Running Films is pleased to announce the participation of **Running Wild: The Life of Dayton O. Hyde** in the Sarasota Film Festival in Sarasota, Florida, April 5 through 14, 2013. This cinematic adventure explores the compelling life of Hyde, a cowboy conservationist who has dedicated his life to protecting the threatened wild horses and the land of the American West. It is a captivating story of incredible determination and accomplishment, heartwarming and poignant emotional moments. **Running Wild** features spectacular footage of wild horses, Hyde’s Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary in South Dakota and Yamsi Ranch in Oregon. The film marks Emmy Award winning producer Suzanne Mitchell’s feature directorial debut and was executive produced by two time Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple, whose new documentary “Running from Crazy” will also be shown at the Festival. Kopple will be honored by the Festival and presented with the “Director’s Award” at the April 12 annual Tribute Luncheon.

Running Wild comes to Sarasota after an incredible reception at both the Sedona International Film Festival and the Cinequest Film Festival. At Cinequest, sold out, standing ovation audiences were left awed and inspired by the film and voted the film to Audience Favorite status, enabling an encore screening to another full house. Theater-goers stated, “Thank you so much for this incredible film” and “Dayton is my hero” to the filmmaking team over and over again. **Running Wild will be shown at the Sarasota Film Festival at the Sarasota Regal Cinemas Hollywood 20 at 1993 Main Street in Sarasota on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:15pm and Wednesday, April 10 at 3pm.**

The film chronicles Hyde’s dramatic journey of challenges and successes that began in Michigan and took him across the West. From rodeos, conservation battles and wild horse rescues to his award-winning books, personal heartbreak and new found love, **Running Wild** is the self-told tale of a 6’5” cowboy who demonstrates the importance of defending our natural world. Dayton has a breathtaking 12,000-acre prairieland sanctuary, where more than 500 mustangs rescued from the controversial wild horse roundups in the west, slaughter or neglect now run free. The film includes never-before-seen footage of a Lakota Naming Ceremony, held to recognize Hyde as a protector of sacred land. Hyde continues to fight to protect the land and reveals his current effort against a uranium mining company that is poised to pollute the water and contaminate the ecosystems that support the residents, wildlife, and horses of the Black Hills. At 88, Hyde says, “It’s going to be my last great battle, but I’m going to win this one.”

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Upon meeting Hyde years ago, Mitchell was captivated by his passion for wildlife, the clatter of hooves on the prairie, and by the stunning backdrop of the Cheyenne River and Black Hills. She immediately began filming. Said Mitchell, "I had to make a film about this incredible man who has handed his heart over to the West and accomplished so much through sheer will." Mitchell has created television series, specials and documentaries and has won awards including two Emmys, two Gracie's, and an Omni Intermedia Award. Producing celebrated specials for Oprah, HBO, A&E and others, Mitchell collaborates and produces a number of documentaries with Academy Award-winning director Barbara Kopple.

Running Wild is scored with an original soundtrack and soon to be released album by singer/songwriter Steve Poltz, featuring the singles "Song For Hawk" and "I Pray It Never Comes To This" on Arrival Records. Poltz' music has charted on Billboard and various radio charts and he is as well known for his impressive collection of ballads, rockers and uniquely melodic finger picking acoustic tunes as he is for "You Were Meant For Me," which he co-wrote with Jewel. Steve is actively touring, and just returned from major showcase performances at the Folk Alliance. He is currently performing at SXSW and will open for Jewel's west coast tour in coming months. Steve debuted live performances of songs from the film's soundtrack at the Slamdance Film Festival in January 2013, accompanied by Allie Gonino on violin/vocals (actress ABC Family's "The Lying Game"), John Castro on bass and Jeff "Stinky" Aafedt on percussion/drums (both formerly of The Rugburns). Earlier this month, Steve brought heartfelt emotion to acoustic performances of songs featured in the film's soundtrack before theater audiences at the Cinequest and Sedona Film Festivals.

Suzanne Mitchell, Dayton O. Hyde, and Steve Poltz will be at the Sarasota Film Festival and are available for interview pre-festival and onsite.

Film Credits: Director and Producer: Suzanne Mitchell, Editor: R.A. Fedde, Cinematographer: Mauro Brattoli, Executive Producer: Barbara Kopple, Executive Producers: Robert Johnson and Alejandro Perez

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Contact: for additional information, photos, interviews

Fran Perchick
Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Running Wild
646-369-6643
fran.perchick@runningwildfilm.com

Links:

Running Wild website: www.runningwildfilm.com
Running Wild on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/runningwildfilm>
Running Wild on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RunningWildUSA>
Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary website: www.wildmustangs.com
Dayton O. Hyde website: www.daytonohyde.com
Steve Poltz: www.arrivalrecords.net/artists/StevePoltz.html
Steve Poltz "I Pray It Never Comes To This" and "Song For Hawk" from the film's soundtrack on iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/i-pray-it-never-comes-to-this/id592227025> and <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/song-for-hawk-from-running/id604421114>
Sarasota Film Festival: www.sarasotafilmfestival.com/

