

RUNNING WILD

→ THE LIFE OF DAYTON O. HYDE ←

FREE RUNNING FILMS ANNOUNCES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF “RUNNING WILD” AT THE JANUARY 2013 SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

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 – December 6, 2012 – Free Running Films announces the world premiere of **Running Wild: The Life of Dayton O. Hyde** at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in January 2013. This cinematic adventure explores the compelling life of Hyde, a cowboy who has dedicated his life to protecting the threatened wild horses and the land of the American West.

Emmy award-winning Producer/Director Suzanne Mitchell, Academy Award-winning Executive Producer Barbara Kopple, and the **Running Wild** filmmakers will be at the 19th Annual Slamdance Film Festival for the premiere. They will be joined by **Running Wild's** Dayton O. Hyde. Praised by an awed and inspired audience at its private rough-cut screening, **Running Wild** is a captivating story of incredible determination and accomplishment, and heartwarming and poignant emotional moments. The film features spectacular scenic footage of Hyde's Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary in South Dakota and Yamsi Ranch in Oregon.

Hyde's life is a 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 before it's too late. On his 12,000-acre Sanctuary, Hyde provides freedom to wild horses rescued from slaughter and misery, and enables them to live and run on protected prairieland. 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 for the American West and reveals his current effort against a uranium mining company that is poised to pollute the water and contaminate the ecosystems that support the horses, residents and wildlife of the Black Hills. At 87, 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 Mitchell's feature directorial debut.

Running Wild is scored with an original soundtrack and soon to be released album by singer - songwriter Steve Poltz, featuring the single, "Song For Hawk," 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 will be actively touring in 2013, which will include major showcase performances at the Folk Alliance and SXSW.

Running Wild 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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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

Slamdance Film Festival: <http://showcase.slamdance.com/Film-Festival>