

# **RUNNING WILD**

→ THE LIFE OF DAYTON O. HYDE ←

## **“RUNNING WILD” TO PARTICIPATE IN CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL 23 IN SAN JOSE, CA**

**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 – February 1, 2013 – Free Running Films announces the participation of **Running Wild: The Life of Dayton O. Hyde** in the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, California, February 26 through March 10, 2013. **Running Wild** is one of only 188 films selected to be shown at the festival from over 2,000 submissions. 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. 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 Director Suzanne Mitchell's feature directorial debut and was executive produced by Barbara Kopple.

**Running Wild** comes to Cinequest on the heels of a sold-out world-premiere that left audiences awed and inspired at the 2013 Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, UT. The film will be shown at Cinequest at Camera 12 Cinema, 201 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in San Jose. The screenings are scheduled for Weds. Feb. 27 at 6:45pm, Sat. Mar. 2 at 12:30pm and Weds. Mar. 6 at 4pm.

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. On his 12,000-acre Sanctuary, Hyde provides refuge and freedom to wild horses rescued from roundups, slaughter and misery, and enables them to live and run on protected prairieland. The controversial wild horse roundups in the west have received much media attention over the past several weeks and months. 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."

(Continued from Page 1)

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 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. Steve debuted songs from the film's soundtrack with two live performances 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).

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

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](http://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](http://www.wildmustangs.com)  
Dayton O. Hyde website: [www.daytonohyde.com](http://www.daytonohyde.com)  
Steve Poltz: [www.arrivalrecords.net/artists/StevePoltz.html](http://www.arrivalrecords.net/artists/StevePoltz.html)  
Steve Poltz single "I Pray It Never Comes To This" from the film's soundtrack on iTunes:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/i-pray-it-never-comes-to-this/id592227025>  
Cinequest Film Festival: <http://www.cinequest.org/film-festival>