

RUNNING WILD

→ THE LIFE OF DAYTON O. HYDE ←

“RUNNING WILD” COMES TO THE BLACK HILLS FILM FESTIVAL IN HILL CITY AND RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Film marks the inspiring journey of a remarkable South Dakota cowboy who triumphs in his quest to protect wild horses and the American West.

New York, NY – April 22, 2013 – Free Running Films is pleased to announce the participation of **Running Wild: The Life of Dayton O. Hyde** at the “Black Hills Film Festival” in Rapid City, South Dakota, May 1 - 5, 2013. The film will be shown opening night! This cinematic adventure explores the compelling life of Hyde, a cowboy conservationist and South Dakota resident who has dedicated his life to protecting the wild horses, land and water 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 Hot Springs, South Dakota and his Yamsi Ranch in Oregon’s Klamath Basin. 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.

Running Wild and Dayton O. Hyde have received incredible audience response at the film’s previous showings at the Slamdance Film Festival, Sedona International Film Festival, Cinequest Film Festival, Palm Beach International Film Festival, Sarasota Film Festival and at Cinema Falls in Sioux Falls, SD. The film just received the Sarasota Film Festival Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature, and at Cinequest was voted to Audience Favorite status, resulting in an encore screening. The film has been screened to sold out, standing ovation audiences who have left theaters awed and inspired. **Running Wild will be shown on Wednesday, May 1 at 8:30pm at the Elks Theatre at 512 6th Street in Rapid City, and on Friday May 3 at 7pm at the Hill City High School at 488 Main Street in Hill City.** (Tickets are available onsite at the box offices and full festival passes are available at www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org).

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 misery 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 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 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). Poltz delivered heartfelt acoustic performances of songs featured in the film's soundtrack to theater audiences at the Cinequest, Sedona, Palm Beach, and Sarasota film festivals. Having just returned from major showcase performances at the Folk Alliance and SXSW, Poltz is actively touring and will open Jewel's west coast concerts in coming months. **On Wednesday, May 1 from 5pm – 6:30pm, Running Wild soundtrack recording artist Steve Poltz will be one of the performers featured at "Cinema Celebration" at the Main Street Square Bandshell at 6th St. and Main St. in Rapid City.**

Suzanne Mitchell, Dayton O. Hyde, and Steve Poltz are available for interview.

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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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>
Black Hills Film Festival Running Wild tickets: <http://blackhillsfilmfestival.org/>

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