



2018 EQUUS Film Festival

SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2018 SCHEDULE

12:00 PM

HOLD YOUR HORSES LIMIT OF THE LAW (2018) USA

60:00 min / Directed by: Julianne Neal

Trailer:

Humans Helping Horses

"HOLD YOUR HORSES: The Limit of The Law" is a feature length documentary that covers the limits faced in prosecuting those involved in the abuse cases called The Hanging Barn (Clarion County Pennsylvania) and SAVE the Havasupai Pack Animals (Grand Canyon, Arizona). These two stories were featured in the 2017 Spotlight Rescue Series short PSAs. This new film calls for legislation to address issue of animal cruelty across the country, discusses alternatives and gives resources for educating and reporting abuse in your area. The film includes interviews with Bev Dee and Connie Schrekengost, as well as several other volunteers with Bright Futures Equine Charity, who discovered the horses in the Hanging Barn and were able to save some of the horses. Susan Ash, founder of SAVE (Stop Animal Violence), also speaks out about the systemic abuse of pack animals by members of the Havasupai tribe. Also included in the film are interviews with Bruce Anderson, Nature's View clinician and consultant, Neta Ryne and Amber Taylor of Thundering Hooves, and H Leroy Stearns, former Executive Director of the Clarion County Humane Society. The film concludes with a call to action to institute federal legislation in animal cruelty cases.

1:05 pm

A HORSE, A CONVICT, A CHANCE FOR CHANGE (2018) USA

22:30 min / Directed by: Autumn Payne

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHI7uZ_ZwiE

Wild Horse - Short (under 30 min)

Changed by his love for a wild mustang, a high-risk convict struggles towards a brighter future. His horse, Zephyr, leads a parallel path.

1:30pm

COWBOYS A DOCUMENTARY PORTRAIT - TRAILER (2018) USA

6:30 min / Directed by: Bud Force & John Langmore

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/202876044>

Equestrian Film Trailer

Told in the cinematic tradition of classic westerns, this feature-length documentary will offer the opportunity to ride alongside modern working cowboys on some of America's largest and most remote cattle ranches. COWBOYS documents the lives of the men and women working on "big outfit" cattle ranches - some of which are over one million acres - and still require a crew of horseback workers to tend large herds of cattle.

Narrated through first-hand accounts from the cowboys themselves, the story is steeped in authenticity and explores the rewards and hardships of a celebrated but misunderstood way of life and the challenges that lie ahead for the cowboys and ranches critical to providing the world's supply of beef.

Filmed on locations across the American West, COWBOYS features historic ranches in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming and Nevada.

1:40 pm

DOWN THE FENCE (2017) USA

94:00 min / Directed by: MJ ISAKSON - LORI ADAMSKI-PEEK

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/246609140>

Equestrian Sport - Western



Each year, horse trainers journey to Reno, Nevada to compete for one of the most challenging equestrian championships in the world. For the trainers, winning means putting food on the table and hay in the barn for another year. For the world, it means another year of survival for a culture at risk and the continued refinement of the art of vaquero-style horsemanship that dates back to the first Spanish missions in California.

3:15 pm

COBRA THE MUSTANG FROM WILD TO WORLD CHAMPION (2018) USA

06:15 min / Directed by: Ashley Mancuso

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

Equestrian Music Video

Equestrian Music Video – Short (under 10 minutes)

Wild Horse Music Video

Wild Horse - Mini (under 15 min)

The true story of Marsha Hartford Sapp and her wild Mustang, Cobra, is as magical as any Disney fairytale. It is a tale of second chances, belief, love and redemption. It is what inspired the writing of the song and creation of this heartwarming video

3:25 pm

SAVING THE MUSTANG: AMERICA'S HORSE ON THE BRINK (2018) CANADA

52:03 min / Directed by: Albert Botha

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB2A8dauhK0>

Equestrian Documentary – Full Length (over 30 minutes)

Wild mustangs have long been an icon of native peoples and early settlers of North America. Yet their fate today is uncertain. SAVING THE MUSTANG explores the state of wild horses today through the efforts of three individuals: Canadian horseman Randy Bird who adopted eight mustangs from a crowded facility in Wyoming and brought them 3000 miles to their new home - his ranch near Cobourg Ontario; Endurance rider and song-writer Jean Albert Renaud, "JAR" who works with horses and at-risk teens on his Maryland ranch, helping youth who are often gang members to escape their brutal life; and Roger William, past chief of the First Nation Xeni Gwet'in, who have created a 200,000 hectare wild horse preserve in the pristine and rugged wilderness of the Nemiah Valley deep in the interior of British Columbia. All three stories interweave a compelling tale of perseverance and determination -- one that offers hope for these amazing animals.

4:25 pm

FLOOD OF EMOTION (2018) USA

60:00 min / Directed by: Rose Cushing

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0Dcmp_idnQ&t=1s

Equestrian Broadcast News

Equestrian Documentary – Full Length (over 30 minutes)

This is the stories from survivors of Hurricane Florence. Hurricane Florence devastated North Carolina and severely crippled the equestrian communities along the coast. This is their stories.

5:25 pm

BEGIN THE DANCE WITH SANDRA BEAULIEU (2018) USA

03:47 min / Directed by: Ashley Mancusco

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGrYjkED3zU>

Equestrian Art Film – Mini (under 15 minutes)

Meet Sandra Beaulieu, a creative equestrian that inspires others with her unique skills and special horses. She has been studying the art of dressage for over 20 years and adds liberty training to enhance the relationship she has with her horses. She is well known for her exhibitions and unique talent to create paintings from horseback.



5:30 pm

FRANK REYS RIDE OF HIS LIFE (2018) AUSTRALIA

24:00 min / Directed by: Sam Doran

Trailer: <https://www.racing.com/videos/2018-11-12/racing-stories---franks-reys>

Equestrian Inspirational Documentary - Under 60 Minutes

Frank Reys, the first and only Aboriginal Jockey to win Australia's greatest race, the Melbourne Cup.

Frank Reys holds two pieces of Melbourne Cup history.

He was the first indigenous Australian to win the nation's greatest race and he is the only jockey to pilot the winner from barrier 24. An incredibly proud man, Reys' father was Filipino and his mother aboriginal - a Djiribul woman – a fact not many racegoers knew, even up to his death in 1984 due to pancreatic cancer.

Reys was a determined man and like all jockeys the allure of the Melbourne Cup kept him in the saddle.

In the middle of 1973, Frank contemplated retirement but trainer Ray Hutchins convinced his mate that Gala Supreme was worth the rehab to come back and have one last crack at the Cup.

Melbourne Cup campaigns are arduous, take great planning and luck is required to even reach the first Tuesday in November, and when barrier 24 came out against Gala Supreme's name, a dejected Reys thought his chance at the Cup would again be a tantalising tease, a situation he knew all too well. It was the ride of his life.

6:00 pm

DAUGHTERS OF THE POLO GOD (2018) INDIA

33:00 MIN / Directed by: Roopa Barua

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbWSgV60Al4>

Equestrian International - Documentary

Marjing (25 mins, 2018, documentary) directed by Roopa Barua is a film on the ancient horse-human connect of the people of Manipur (India) that has brought about the game of polo. An intense heritage around benevolent animal spirits converging onto a military tradition around the Manipuri pony brought about the genesis of this game. Roopa Barua's film is a homage to this tradition which has now seen the sport grow to include an international women's polo tournament called PoloYatra where many teams from round the world converge to play the game in Manipur.

The shimmering emerald state of Manipur, India is the birthplace of modern polo with men having played there for several hundred years. Now it's the turn for the young maidens to charge forward. A young polo sisterhood is developing in Manipur that ploughs on in spite of adversity and political turmoil. They are intensely connected to their sacred Manipuri pony and play an international tournament every year. Roopa Barua film is a tribute to these polo players and the modern Manipuri women.

6:45 pm

THE GREAT FLIP OFF (2018) USA

95:00 min / Directed by: Dafna Yachin

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/226467449>

Equestrian Documentary – Full Length (over 30 minutes)

The Great Flip-Off follows extreme circus bareback riding families in what may be their final feat against the loss of their livelihood and the death of their art form. Join these legendary families from Italy, Mexico, Hungary and France as they bring the history, risk and beauty of the original circus act to a multi-generational audience, one last time in Orlando, Florida. Then, return 10 years later to discover how these families have dealt with the passing of time in a range of unusual happy endings and ultimate heartbreak.

In 2006, we meet the best-of-the-best bareback artists past and present — The Donnerts, the Turveys, The Suarezes, the Zamperla-Zoppes, Timi Loyal and Mark Karoly. Each family holds a unique place in American circus riding history. They are competitors that agree to unite for a one night performance for the sake of keeping their art alive. From the seventh generation Italian Zamperla Zoppes, to the Donnerts who escaped from communist Hungary, to the Loyals of London who joined forces with the Mexican Suarez family, not only will their bold skill draw you in, but the interpersonal portrait of their family will capture your heart and submerge you into a fascinating world. Jumping through flaming hoops and executing somersaults high into the bigtop while bareback on magnificent steeds does not make them flinch. For these families, fear is not felt at the face of their daring stunts, but rather at the pending unknown: their future without a ring.



Fast-forward to 2016. Pushed by the modern climate, elephants are banned from the circus and the Big Top landscape is altered once again. It's a new era when animal rights are in full swing, and the most successful circuses leave behind animal acts, along with the financial burden associated with animal care and travel. We reunite with the bareback riding families 10 years later to find out how they've dealt with these changes, mere months before Ringling announces the closure of the legendary Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus after 146 years. The fate of the American Circus seems almost certain, leaving the future of bareback riding more ambiguous than ever.

8:20 pm

THE LAST HORSEMEN OF NEW YORK (2018) USA

89:00 min / Directed by: Mary Haverstick & Michele Mercure

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTdjGZ9vqPU>

NEW - Human Interest

Stars: Victor de Sousa, Christina Hansen, Mary Higgins Clark

New York City horse carriage drivers join with Liam Neeson to fight for their livelihood against animal rights groups and the city's mayor set on defeating them.

This documentary follows the New York horse carriage drivers as they fight to save their livelihoods after the new mayor of New York vowed to eliminate them on day one of his term. The film puts us inside the drivers fight against City Hall and features powerful accusations made by former mayoral candidate Christine Quinn outlining how she declined a quid pro quo to eliminate the carriage industry which may have cost her the mayoral election. The film exposes how dark money fueling an obscure special interest can tip an entire election, with working class New Yorkers in the crossfire.

9:50 pm

OBSTACLES THE ROAD TO RIO (2018) NETHERLANDS

48:00 min / Directed by: Annette van Trigt

Trailer:

Equestrian Director – International

An insight into the world of triathlon for horses. Follow Dutch best eventer Tim Lips and his father Martin, the national coach, as they prepare for the Olympic Games. Experience the unique pressure and disappointments of this environment as the both of them try to deliver the best results possible.

10:40 pm

MY PAINTBRUSH BITES (2017) USA

The Painting Racehorse - A Documentary - USA

16:03 min / Directed by: Joel Pincosy

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMAw6hY1gv4>

Equestrian Documentary – Short (under 30 minutes)

Metro, a champion racehorse with a quirky personality, had his career cut short due to debilitating knee injuries. As is the case with many racehorses, he was most likely headed for the slaughterhouse when Ron—a self-proclaimed loner with no previous horse-owning experience—decided to adopt him off the track. These two cantankerous souls who couldn't seem to connect with others, developed a deep bond. However, Metro's knees worsened, the decision looming as to whether or not to put Metro down before the pain became unbearable. Heart-broken, Ron vowed to figure out a way for Metro to at least be able to enjoy his limited time left. That's when it hit him. Maybe, just maybe, he could teach Metro to paint! As odd as it sounds, Ron is a self-taught painter and he had a sneaking suspicion Metro was cut from the same cloth. Not only did Metro learn to paint, his paintings sell around the world! And here's the kicker: with the money from the horse's paintings, they were able to afford an expensive, experimental, non-FDA approved treatment that ultimately healed Metro's damaged knees and saved his life.