



Press Information
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Wild Center's Film Named Banff Festival Finalist

Festival Recognition a First for an Adirondack Movie

Tupper Lake, NY - The Wild Center's new movie, *A Matter of Degrees*, filmed on location in the Adirondacks and Greenland and narrated by Sigourney Weaver was named a finalist at the Banff Mountain Film Festival. The movie will screen tomorrow at The Banff Centre in Alberta Canada. National Geographic named Banff "one of the most important events on the annual film festival circuit." The festival is recognized as a top international achievement for films that focus on the natural world. Last year's honorees included Sean Penn's *Into the Wild* and the widely praised *Conflict Tiger*, set in far eastern Russia.



Caption:

Tri Lakes residents and film-team members Tom Sciacca, Stephanie Ratcliffe, Jim Bisson, Rick Godin and Paul Chartier celebrate the Banff Film Festival award for The Wild Center's movie. The film, 'A Matter of Degrees', filmed in location in the Adirondacks and showing exclusively at The Wild Center, will screen at the international film festival in Alberta, Canada on Friday, November 7th.

The Wild Center's film production has deep Adirondack roots. Howard Fish, former publisher of Adirondack Life magazine is in Canada to introduce the film. Fish conceived the story and shares writing credit on the film. Musician Martin Sexton, who spends time in Saranac Lake, wrote the song 'Wild Angels' that plays during

the movie's finale, Rick Godin, a Tupper Lake-based producer and cameraman shot much of the Adirondack footage, using the same camera equipment used to film Planet Earth. The film requires three projectors to display it across wide screens at The Wild Center. David Franzi, a professor at SUNY Plattsburgh and an expert in glacial history consulted on the movie's science, Paul Chartier and Jim Bisson of Tupper Lake were the film's camera assistants, and Tom Sciacca, also of Tupper Lake supplied and piloted the boats used for the movie's aquatic scenes.

"Lots of people who care about the Adirondacks made the movie happen," said Wild Center executive director and film executive producer Stephanie Ratcliffe. "The award means people all over the world are going to get to see the film, and we hope that leads to more understanding of and appreciation for the Adirondacks." The Banff Film Festival arranges a global tour of the final award winners.

The film was produced by Chedd-Angier-Lewis, an award-winning documentary film company. Jill Singer, who produced the films shown in The Wild Center's exhibit hall, was producer and co-writer.

A Matter of Degrees takes viewers back to an Adirondacks that was home to mammoths, California condors, ground sloths, ice and floods. "We wanted to let people look at what made the Adirondacks," said Ratcliffe. "We have all this nature around us, and every corner of it is different, and our movie looks at where it all came from, and what forces acted on the Earth to get us to where we are today, and maybe where we are going next."

The movie screens daily at The Wild Center, until tomorrow, the only place it could be seen.

The Wild Center is a new kind of museum. Set in a 31-acre campus that includes an Adirondack river, it offers visitors a wide array of options for exploring the natural world. There are live exhibits, personalized naturalist-guided walks, engaging interactive exhibits, including hours of films visitors can explore, and plenty of hands-on fun ways to see, touch and experience nature. The Center features live animals from river otters to ravens and fish, and an indoor river that flows from a waterfall and winds around the interior of the main exhibit hall. Hiking trails outside the Wild Center feature labels that trained staff can change as events outdoors change.

The Wild Center is the first LEED certified green museum in New York State. It's open all winter on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information please see www.wildcenter.org.