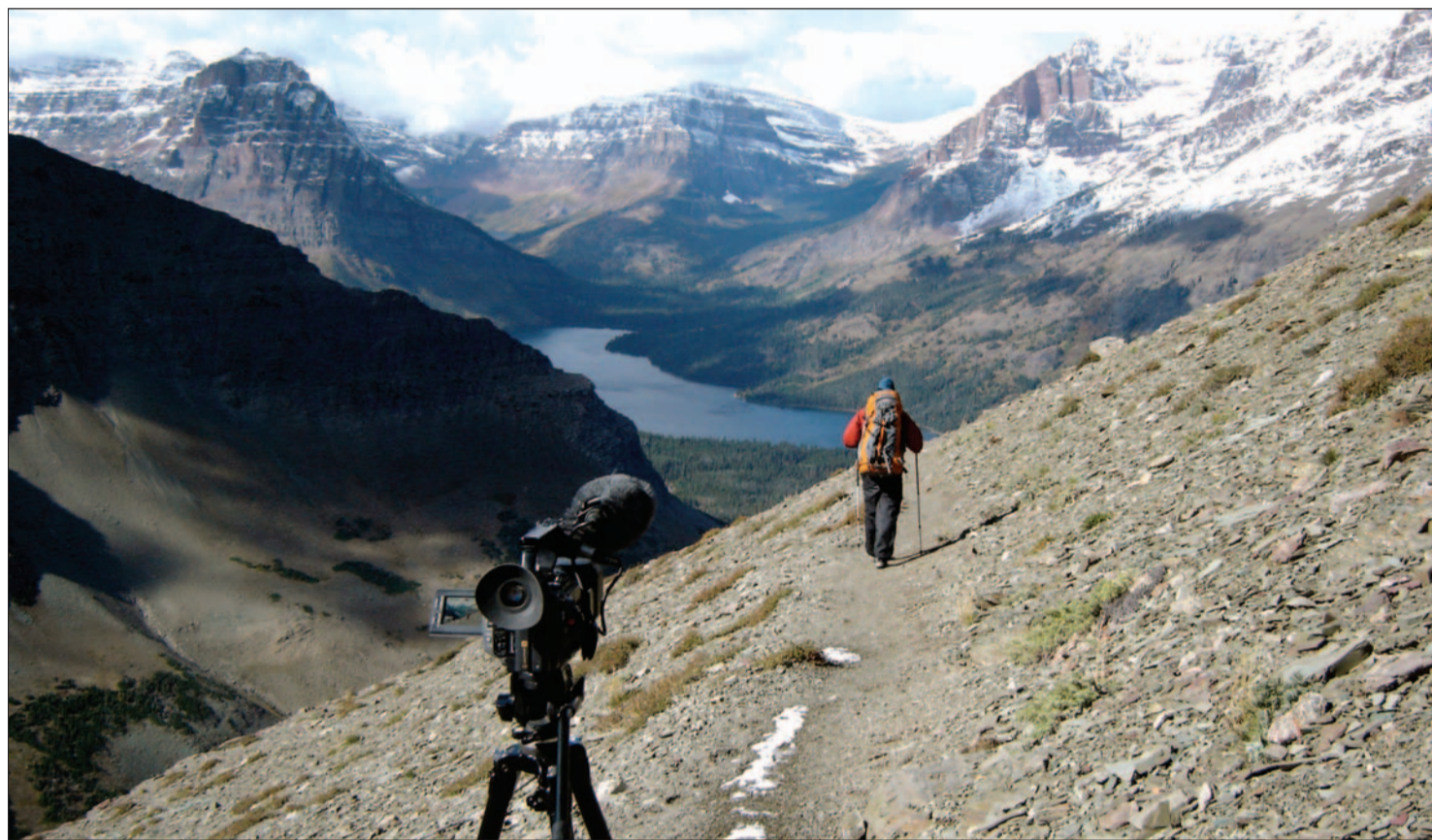




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CINEMA TOUR

THROUGH THE WOODS



Filmmaker Mark Flagler is screening documentaries about the Appalachian and Continental Divide trails at the Gryphon Theatre today. Photo courtesy of Kevin Jones

Film tour shows off long-distance trails

By EVE NEWMAN
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The Appalachian Trail and Continental Divide Trail cover more than 5,000 miles of some of the most rugged and beautiful landscapes in the Lower 48.

Those trails are the subject of two documentaries scheduled to screen in Laramie today during the Flagler Films Long-Distance Hiking Cinema Tour.

"Appalachian Impressions" is set to screen from 7-9 p.m. at the Gryphon Theatre, 710 Garfield. "Walking the Great Divide" is scheduled to screen from 9:30-11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for one movie or \$20 for both.

Filmmaker Mark Flagler is showing his documentaries in eight Western cities this month.

"The primary focus of the tour is to educate and entertain people and to introduce them to not only the world of long-distance hiking, but really the world of America's national scenic trails," he said.

Flagler, who grew up

in Tennessee and North Carolina, was introduced to the outdoors by his grandparents, who lived near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 2001, he hiked the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail, which runs from Georgia to Maine.

"I gave it a shot, and it hooked me," he said.

He met his wife, who is from Ireland, while they were both crossing through Pennsylvania on the trail. They hiked the last 900 miles together and continued their trail-inspired romance when they finished.

The filmmaker returned to the trail in 2003 to shoot the self-funded documentary, which involved hiking another 1,000 miles. He visited scenic highlights and towns along the way while also interviewing hikers and members of local communities.

In 2006 and 2007, Flagler hiked about 1,500 miles of the 3,100-mile Continental Divide Trail while making "Walking the Great Divide." The trail runs from Canada

to Mexico through the Rocky Mountains.

The Appalachian Trail program has shown on 262 PBS stations across the country, while the Continental Divide program has shown on 428 stations. Both were also released on DVD.

Flagler described the Appalachian Trail as one of the most popular trails in the world and a good introduction to long-distance hiking.

"You just have to be determined and in a little bit of shape," he said.

The Continental Divide Trail, by contrast, demands more expertise. The trail is more remote, portions don't have water available, navigation is required and hikers need to be mindful of bears, lightning and other challenges of the Rocky Mountains.

In southern Wyoming, the trail passes through the Sierra Madre Range west of Laramie.

The two trails make up two-thirds of what's known as the Triple Crown of Hiking. The third long-

IF YOU GO ...

What: Flagler Films Long-Distance Hiking Cinema Tour

When: 7 p.m. today

Where: Gryphon Theatre, 710 Garfield St.

How much: \$12 for one documentary or \$20 for both

More info: www.flaglerfilms.com

distance trail in the United States is the 2,600-mile Pacific Crest Trail, which Flagler is hoping to film in the next few years.

Flagler said he hopes to inspire audiences to go outside, whether for a weekend or for 3,000 miles.

"Anybody can do these trails," he said. "Just get outside."

A dollar from each ticket will be donated to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Continental Divide Trail Coalition, nonprofit organizations that maintain their respective trails.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

The Exit Interview: A comedy

UW Theatre and Dance set to begin 2014-15 season

By TIM STEERE
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The University of Wyoming's 2014-15 theater and dance season is scheduled to open next week, beginning with "The Exit Interview," a play written by UW's playwright-in-residence William Missouri Downs.

The winner of a rolling premiere by the National New Play Network, "The Exit Interview" has been featured at several national venues, including the Orlando

Shakespeare Theater and the San Diego Repertory Theater.

"The Exit Interview" tells the fictional story of Professor Dick Fig, who gets fired from his university teaching position and is forced to sit through a miserable exit interview.

The interview takes a number of turns, evolving from simple small talk, to a comic discussion of controversial topics such as religion, love and politics.

"I read writing about a

professor going through his exit interview and it began to explode into this wonderful comedy," Downs said.

"People say comedy comes from pain and people who had tough childhoods, but to that I answer, 'That's why so many playwrights come from Somalia.'"

Downs said he coined the idea for the production while

IF YOU GO ...

What: The Exit Interview

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Oct. 11, 2 p.m. Oct. 12

Where: Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts main stage

How much: How much: \$14 for the public, \$11 for senior citizens and \$7 for students

More info: www.uwyo.edu/finearts

See Exit, B2

GET OUT

This week

A look at events going on in Laramie and Albany County:

TABLE RUNNER CLASS

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday, QuiltEssentials

A class at QuiltEssentials, 314 S. Second St., is planned to lead participants in making a table runner. The event is led by Alice Kay Arnett and uses the Squedge 18 degree ruler by Cheryl Phillips, according to a news release. The cost for the class is \$40 plus the cost of the Squedge ruler and other supplies.

NEW FRONTIERS: THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PROJECT

Monday-Thursday, UW campus

From Monday-Thursday, a celebration of modern classical music and living composers is set for the University of Wyoming campus, according to a news release. The celebration, dubbed "New Frontiers: The Contemporary Music Project," includes four concerts that are open to the public.

On Monday, an apprentice concert of UW student composers and performers is set for 7:30 p.m. in the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall. Next, a concert by award-winning trio Allegresse is set for 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday in the UW Art Museum main gallery. Two events are set for Wednesday: a lecture on compositional methods by artist-in-residence composer and Latin Grammy-winner Gabriela Lena Frank, set for 10 a.m. in Room 128 in the Buchanan Center; and a micro-concert featuring Frank and opera-in-progress by UW Department of Geology professor Ron Frost, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

Finally, Thursday wraps up the celebration with two events. First is a panel discussion on commissions and collaborations, lead by Frank, at 1 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Second is a macro-concert featuring the university's Collegiate Chorale, Wind Symphony and Wyoming Jazz Ensemble.

Call 760-5242 or email guzzo@uwyo.edu for more information.

'A PLACE AT THE TABLE' SCREENING

7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Wyoming Union

As part of the Food Perceptions, Policies and Practices conference, a free screening of "A Place at the Table" is set from 7-10 p.m. Wednesday in the University of Wyoming Family Room, according to a news release. The movie addresses food insecurity and hunger in America. Go to www.uwyo.edu/cic for more information on the conference.

WWII MOVIE SCREENING

7 p.m. Thursday, Gryphon Theatre

The Wyoming Humanities Council is set to present a free screening of a WWII documentary at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Gryphon Theatre, according to a news release. The film, titled "4-4-43: Lt. Col. William Edwin Dyess and The Greatest Story of the War in the Pacific," is based on a book by author and filmmaker John Lukacs, "Escape from Davao: The Forgotten Story of the Most Daring Prison Break of the Pacific War." Go to www.thinkwyo.org/veterans-initiative for more information.

GET OUT

Submission guidelines

If you've got an event you want people to GET OUT to, submit it to news@laramieboomerang.com, bring it to the office at 320 Grand Ave. or fax it to 307-721-2973. Include the who, what, when, where, why and how for the event, as well as the cost and where to go for more information. Word limit for briefs is 125 words. All submissions will be edited for grammar, style, spelling, libel and length.

For more information, call Peter Baumann at 755-3328 or Mark Heinz at 755-3321.