

## Films:

### **1989 A Fare to Remember: The Great Taxi Adventure (2015)** *Michael Dillon 71 mins*

Spend a joyful, adventurous day travelling from England to Australia by London cab in A Fare to Remember: The Great Taxi Adventure. This brilliant, light-hearted National Geographic Production will have you smiling the whole way. Meet Filmmaker Michael Dillon AM, who will present this film.

### **Two Bedouins, a Camel and an Irishman (2016)** *Austin Vince 26 mins*

Long distance walking legend Leon McCarron strides into the Sinai on a 200 mile journey into one of the most dramatic desert landscapes in the world. His guide is the extraordinary Musallem Faraj who teaches Leon that the desert is bursting with natural treasure in abundance.

### **Kapp to Cape (2013)** *Reza Pakravan 21 mins*

British Iranian basketball legend and financial wizard Reza Pakravan let go of his high-powered city job to start a new career in adventure and cycle (at enormous speed) from Norway to South Africa. This is a delightfully whizz-bang telling of that adventure!

### **The Eyes of God (2016)** *Olaf Obsommer 31 mins*

Latvian extreme canoe legend, Tomass Marnics, assembles a crack squad. They tackle hundreds of miles of one of the most dangerous sections of white water in the world in the peaks of Kyrgyzstan. His crew are expert but are not ready for being cut off from the outside world for days. Their canoes are groaning under the weight of food and camping gear. Consequently, their sport kayaks lose all of their nimble qualities just when the team need them most!

### **Dug Out (2016)** *Ben Sadd 55 mins*

Two mates go out to the Amazon, fell a massive tree, make a dugout canoe and set off downstream. Ben and James are the future: kind, interested, grass roots and genuinely funny. They should have their own series on television.

### **Kayak the Kwanza (2016)** *Carl Treeby 52 mins*

Two buddies tackle the longest river in Angola in fold-up vintage 1960s kit canoes. This film is understated and charming in equal measure. It oozes DIY zeal and is exactly what we love at the ATFF. Not only that, the section where they are arrested by police who cannot cope with the fact that there is no such thing as a 'canoeing permit', was impossible to film. However, instead of just leaving it out, they re-imagined it as an animated sequence and kept the narrative afloat! Angola is in no way an easy place to adventure but these guys relish that all the more. Add to that, they raised £18,000 for H.A.L.O, the landmine clearing charity. Boom!

## **Losing Sight of Shore (2017)** *Sarah Moshman 92 mins*

A four-woman team spends nine months rowing across the Pacific from San Francisco to Australia, and smashes it. This project, film and epic achievement will resonate down through history for decades to come. This is a truly astonishing venture and its execution will be the stuff of adventure lore years from now. This is a staggeringly perfect film. Not just a great adventure travel doc, but an exceptional work of art and storytelling.

## **Liemba (2014)** *Julie Clavier 56 mins*

Life aboard an old steamer that still ferries people and goods up and down the shores of Lake Tanganyika. It is a great pleasure to showcase Julie Clavier's multi award-winning documentary. The star of the film is an old boat called The Liemba. It is now over 100 years old but still chugs up and down Tanzania's western coast. In 1913 it was built in Papenburg just west of Bremen and was then disassembled and shipped, in kit form, to Dar Es Salaam, in what was then German East Africa. The pieces made their way by rail to the lake and the boat was reassembled. This film takes us on board this creaking ferry which becomes a metaphor for Africa itself.

## **Man with a Pram (2016)** *Mikael Strandberg 58 mins*

Mikael Strandberg, a Swedish explorer spends 60 days pushing his 2 year-old daughter 400 miles across England in an attempt to understand those that fill this green and pleasant land. In his fifties, he has made documentaries and expeditioned to some of the wildest places on earth. Yemen, Siberia, Patagonia, Darien Gap etc. However, nothing could have prepared him for the total immersion required for this experience. He had been keen to get 'under the skin' of the English but his project was hobbled by not being able to afford the childcare for Dana, his little girl! So, he realised he would have to take her with him. What emerges is one of the most remarkable documentaries this festival will ever witness. Strandberg resolutely shoots unprepared and spontaneously.

## **Paddle for the North (2015)** *Simon Higgins 54 mins*

A canoe film with a strong environmental message: Protect the wilderness! This film has been four years in the making. A really substantial project that sees a load of kayak-mad buddies on a 1000-mile paddle far up in the north of Alaska and the Yukon. The team is led by Quebecois eco-warrior Gabriel Rivest. He loves the great outdoors but is far-sighted enough to realise that if industry and oil-drilling are allowed to prevail, the earth's few remaining truly pristine wildernesses simply won't make it. These guys aren't just canoeing, they're campaigning. Oh yeah, they take their dogs with them too!

## **Rowed Trip (2008)** *Colin Angus 57 mins*

A married couple spend seven months rowing and cycling from John O'Groats to Syria.

Colin and Julie Angus are dedicated to promoting education through adventure and are possibly two of the most impressive Canadians alive today. Colin's 2001 collaboration with Tim Cope, *The Yenisey River Expedition*, is still in the top five adventure travel films of all time. On *Rowed Trip* Colin and Julie cannot paddle their entire route because of land interruptions. No support vehicle for them! Instead, their home-made canoes have a secret compartment built into them, each of which contains a folding bicycle and trailer. When the water runs out, these heroes perform a quick 'switcheroo' and pedal away, towing their canoes behind them. More presciently, the couple reach a peaceful Syria, as yet unravaged by violence. This film is incredibly special in these troubled times.

## **It's a Small World (1951)** *Ben Carlin colour 16mm 49 mins*

Totally unbelievable. Around the world by land and sea in a WW2 amphibious jeep. Ben Carlin first encountered the Ford GPA amphibious Jeep whilst in the army during WW2. A seed was planted and in the late 40s he picked one up and set about modifying it so that despite being designed for calm water, he could take one onto the open sea. In July 1950 and newlywed, he and his wife Elinore set off from Halifax, Canada and 31 days later arrived in the Azores. The jeep carried all their provisions and whilst crossing the Atlantic they were completely alone, navigating by the stars. The jeep towed a specially designed bowser that floated, even with 7000 gallons of petrol in it! Onwards to North Africa and then overland across Europe, Turkey, The Middle East and India. Eventually, via South East Asia the Jeep made it to Japan. Back into the northern Pacific and a sequence of island hopping (including an unplanned landfall on the USSR's Siberian coastline!) along the Aleutians they eventually made it to Alaska. Back down the Alcan highway and after trundling into Halifax they had completed what the Guinness book of records agrees was the first circumnavigation of the globe by amphibious vehicle. If they hadn't filmed it why would anyone believe that this actually happened!

## **Solidream – Aspiration of the Pamirs (2016)** *Brian Mathé 53 mins*

Three French buddies pedal their revolutionary wooden phat bikes across the peaks and plains of Central Asia. These indefatigable Frenchmen bring us a new adventure from the nexus of the Silk Road. This film is one of several this year (*Dug out*, *Paddle to the North*) that have an adventure skin underlain by an eco-heart. The lads pedal furiously and give us an example of a type of adventure travel film that ten years ago simply did not exist. A masterpiece of art, compassion and environmental awareness.

## **Lowest 2 Highest (2017)** *30 mins*

Through the vast landscape of Australia five friends attempt to be the first to cycle from the continent's lowest point, Kati Thanda, a vast salt lake at -15m, to the highest point at the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. The 2150km journey would be hard enough for anyone but Duncan is blind, Walter can't breathe, Daniel can't walk, Conrad can't bend, and half of Paul's body doesn't work.

"What could possibly go wrong?"

## **Surviving the Fundy Footpath (2016)** *Craig Norris 41 mins*

A city-slicker townie from Ontario gets hopelessly out of his depth as he tackles one of Canada's most testing hiking routes.

Bruce Persaud is not your average lumberjack Canuk. Totally happy sipping a skinny latte de-caff in a pair of calf-skin moccasins he has never slept outdoors and is more likely to go to the moon than the great outdoors. He is challenged to take on the Fundy footpath and is quickly surrounded by a helpful team of guides, outdoorsmen and forest rangers. This trail is relatively new and not heavily hiked so many sections are incredibly wild and barely an inch of it is actually horizontal. Getting Bruce through to the other end of the trail becomes the trailmen's sole objective in a shepherding exercise.

## **Trabants to the End of the World (2015)** *Dan Priban 96 mins*

Crashing through the jungles of South America come three joke cars and an equally useless communist-era motorbike. Dan Priban is The Czech Republic's leading adventure goon and his team post their 600cc fibreglass cars to Georgetown in Guyana and are rewarded with a two-week wrestle with customs officials. The port authorities make no secret of the fact that they have no procedure for dealing with Europeans who want to bring in their own vehicles for holiday fun, rather than formal import. Eventually they break out of the bonded warehouse and the feeble-engined convoy is on its way south. They hit all the sights and sounds that South America has to offer and naturally, seem to be only ever in between breakdowns. In a world where bling and gadgetry spiral out of control there was bound to be a reaction. These Trabanteers are the feisty punk rock kick in the groin to the traction control sanitation of the modern 4x4 stadium-rock bloatfest.

## **Shorts** *Total time = 115 mins*

A crucial element of the festival and a chance for film-makers to capture the essence of adventure. Here's the line-up for the short film screening in 2018.

1. From the South UP - Stunningly realised solo cycle ride through South America. *2016. Directed by Brendon Tyree. 21 mins*
2. Idiot Train Hopper - Perfect class A uncut adventure travel in NY state. Contains some swearing! *2016 Directed by Jeff Seal. 5 mins*
3. Life on the Road – US couple sell up and become modern itinerants in a van. *2015. Directed by James Campbell. 3 mins*
4. Visual Journey: Sistan & Baluchistan - Sumptuous trip along the border of Pakistan and Iran. *2014 Directed by Ebrahim Mirmalek. 5 mins*
5. F Roads - Delightful view of Iceland through the eyes of a solo Brit biker. *2016 Directed by Noel Thom 4 mins*
6. Unicycle China - Yup, it really says that. *2016. Directed by Ed Pratt 13 mins*
7. The Spine - Up and over the Peruvian Andes by bicycle. *2016 Directed by Tom Connell 3 mins*
8. URAL USA - 6000 miles in a Russian sidecar on Super 8. *2016 Directed by Austin Vince 20 mins*
9. The Transcaucasian Expedition - A Day In The Life. Tom Allen's incredible footpath project. *2016 Directed by Dave Katz 6 mins*
10. Chernobyl: 30 Years Later - Festival regular visits the empty shell. *2016 Directed by Chris Fleet 3 mins*
11. Girls go Round: Corsica- Sea kayak joy in the Med. *2016 Directed by Erin Bastian 22 mins*
12. Head in the Sky - A call to arms for DIY adventure fun. *2016 Directed by Austin Vince 3 mins*
13. Scoot Japan *2016 Directed by Dave Cornthwaite 7 mins*

# Speakers:

## **Sarah Taylor**

Have you ever felt like there was a destination, a route, a challenge that was beyond you and your abilities? For Sarah that was a crossing of the Simpson Desert by motorcycle. Inspired by explorers in history and the challenge and danger of an isolated, unforgiving desert, Sarah set about preparing for a solo motorcycle crossing. From getting a bike set up for the ride, selecting the right gear, and preparing physically and mentally for the challenge that most people thought she would fail at. Sarah will discuss this preparation, the highs and lows of crossing the Simpson Desert, and the challenges of stepping outside your comfort zone.

## **Axel Leonhardt**

Being fascinated by reading about adventurous stuff from others I soon decided to make my own. Since I have had larger and smaller encounters with thrill, excitement and “boy i don’t wanna be here” moments. My most recent was a ride from Vladivostok to Spain, although ‘riding’ I did not all the time. Join me and I shall show & tell!

## **Heather Ellis**

*From Africa to the Silk Road.* Heather Ellis is the author of *Ubuntu: One Woman’s Motorcycle Odyssey Across Africa*, a memoir about a life-changing adventure into the soul of Africa that is filled with ‘survival-against-the-odds’ adventures. But it also unfolds as a deeply spiritual journey of personal growth that resonates with all who read *Ubuntu*. Following her travels across Africa, Heather continues her journey by motorcycle along the Silk Road and the sequel to *Ubuntu* based on this journey and will be available in mid-2018. Heather has worked as a radiation safety technician, a motorcycle courier in London, a journalist for News Ltd and for the NGO, Plan International. She lives in the Yarra Valley near Melbourne with her three children, and still rides motorcycles.

## **Francis Clark**

*A drover’s tale* – In 1980 the spring rains failed at Pinebank, with no prospect of grass until Autumn something had to be done. Francis and seven other Braidwood graziers put 5,000 Hereford cattle on the road in the Riverina. Mobs of this size had not been seen since the days of Paterson’s Saltbush Bill – who also makes an appearance as he ‘fights for a blade of grass.’ A stampede on the first night set the scene for a memorable adventure – cows stuck in the mud of the local water supply. An incompetent drover who allowed cows and calves to go without water for three days and an old time drover who took over the mob and delivered them fat and sleek without loss.

## **Jeanette McLaren and Dermot Meaney**

When it’s time to retire it’s time for adventure. Your age is not a limit to the extent of your adventure, just a gauge to let you know how many adventures you have left. We still think the world is a beautiful place, and the bicycle is such a great way to explore some of its more remote places and beautiful people. At 59 and 62 Jeanette and Dermot decided to get into it in the high Andes of Ecuador and Peru. Then across Europe, through 17 mostly ex-eastern bloc countries on a bike tour from Oslo to Athens

## **Michael Dillon and John Morgan introducing 1989 A Fare to Remember: The Great Taxi Adventure**

For almost fifty years so far, whenever Australians or New Zealanders have undertaken an epic or crazy adventure, Michael has usually accompanied them. He filmed Sir Edmund Hillary's Ganges jetboat expedition. Filmed the First Australian Everest expedition, Tim Macartney-Snape's Everest Sea to Summit Expedition, and with Lincoln Hall filmed a father and his 15 year old son attempting Everest. He's filmed two Everest ballooning expeditions, a Base Jump altitude record attempt, a three month camel race, sections of Tim Cope's epic horse journey from Mongolia to Hungary, the world's highest formal dinner party on a peak in the Andes, and a London Taxi Journey from Buckingham Palace to the Sydney Opera House.

John Morgan was the originator of the idea for the Great London to Sydney Taxi Ride in 1988, and very much enjoyed working and travelling with Mike Dillon and Edward 'Ned' Kelly on that adventure. But the more mundane matters of life, family, mortgage and business intervened to curtail what would otherwise have been a constant life of adventure travel. However he has still managed to do a nine month trip in a Volkswagen from Wales to Cape Town, to follow in the footsteps of poet and drunk Dylan Thomas on too many occasions, and to walk the tracks of the Brecon Beacons, Fiordland and many places between the two. He now lives in retirement in the Adelaide Hills. But in 2019 it is planned that he, Ned Kelly and Mike Dillon will follow the path of the seventeenth century cartographer John Ogilby when 'I know another way from London to Dublin' happens. This one will be more old friends reminiscing and telling tall tales whilst enjoying good hostelry as they travel 'along the road'. Before, they hope, any of them passes the great divide.

## **Iain and Trish Burgess**

Born with the adventure gene, Iain is willing to go where no man has gone before, Trish is the one who makes sure he doesn't get them into too much trouble. They have been adventuring since they got together 33 years ago, and whilst four kids put a limit on their adventures for a few years, as soon as the nest was empty, they took off on a series of trips around Australia. They started with an old Discovery, graduated to a Land Rover Defender and then Iain converted an old HiRail Unimog into an off road expedition truck, which they have used to go to the most remote places possible. Having racked up over 100,000km of driving around Australia, they still have a few more adventures in mind before they take their truck around the world in a couple of years' time. Iain is an avid photographer, and Trish his willing muse, which means they spend a great deal of their time looking for spectacular locations to add to their vast collection. Drones and GoPros have added an extra dimension to their photographic adventures which they have used to great effect.

## **Christie Hamilton**

Christie Hamilton is an otherwise normal IT professional prone to shenanigans, who embarked on an extraordinary self-supported cycling race across our massive continent. In a field of 71, with no experience, no racing pedigree and what many people called no chance, Christie became one of just 16 people to finish. There will be stories of road trains and road kill, broken wheels, mysterious rashes and a great deal of "type 2" fun. Christie will share her tales of elation and woe, her process for adventuring, and the grit it took to join the elites – and finish.

## **Alienor le Gouvello**

Alienor le Gouvello is of French nationality and has been an Australian resident for 11 years. Alienor has an educational background in the art and media industry. From a young age, she developed a passion for travelling and taking on adventures across the globe. Some of her previous expeditions include a horseback trek in Mongolia at the age of 22 and a motorbike expedition from Siberia to Paris. She has also lived in many different continents including South America, Asia and Europe. In 2015 she set out to embark on her longest solo expedition so far, 5330Km along the National Trail on horseback with the aim to dedicate her ride to the brumby plight. Alienor's expedition on the National Trail won her the Sidetracked, UK Magazine adventure Fund grant 2015 as well as sponsorship from the Australian Geographic Project Sponsorship Grant 2015. A month after completing the national trail she participated in the very first Gobi Desert Cup, a horse endurance race of 480km in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and finished first.

## **Ash Rutledge**

Ash grew up in a small town in rural New South Wales and it was here that he developed an obsession for motorbikes. By the age of 10 Ash was riding regularly and had learnt to drive the farm ute which gave him a level of exploring independence. He went on to learn a trade as a mechanic but in 1989 switched to the IT industry.

Ash and his wife Debbie have toured South Eastern Australia extensively on motorcycle road trips camping or staying in pubs. Ash is very lucky that Debbie likes camping. The idea of no shower for a few days is no issue. In fact, Ash dislikes camping in campgrounds and caravan parks and has discovered over time that he and Debbie are both happiest when they have to use a shovel for a toilet.

Ash had a brush with cancer in 2012 that gave him a new appreciation for doing things now, not putting them off and for not waiting for someone else to organise things. This has led to several adventures and trips with more always planned. Ash continues to work in IT but he is never happier than heading West with red dust in his teeth. He's happy to get dirty, just not at work.

## **Paul Pritchard and Duncan Meerding - introducing Lowest to Highest**

Through the vast landscape of Australia five friends attempt to be the first to cycle from the continent's lowest point, Kati Thanda, a vast salt lake at -15m, to the highest point at the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. The 2150km journey would be hard enough for anyone but Duncan is blind, Walter can't breathe, Daniel can't walk, Conrad can't bend, and half of Paul's body doesn't work.

"What could possibly go wrong?"

## **Bülent Esin**

Bulent is a 62 years old motorcyclist from Turkey. He started his round the world trip in 2017 from Bursa-Turkey.