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California Film Institute announces lineup for DocLands Documentary Film Festival



G. Allen Johnson | March 25, 2024



Photo: Provided by California Film Institute

The DocLands Documentary Film Festival is going to extremes this year — as in extreme sports, extreme viewpoints, extreme scenarios.

The event, scheduled for May 2-5, put on by the California Film Institute at the Smith Rafael Film Center, opens with "Skywalkers: A Love Story," about a Russian couple who scale tall buildings with a single boundless energy, while falling only for each other, and closes with the U.S. premiere of "500 Days in the Wild," in which filmmaker Dianne Whelan chronicles her six-year quest to traverse all 15,000 miles of the Trans Canada Trail that connects the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific oceans across all terrains.

In "From Here/From There (De Aquí/De Allá)," Marlene Morris follows Redwood City's Luis Cortes Romero, a lawyer and undocumented "Dreamer" who fights then-President Donald Trump's efforts to deport recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program all the way to the Supreme Court — becoming the first unauthorized immigrant to argue before the nation's highest court.

"Documentary filmmaking is more relevant than ever, covering a spectrum of topics from joy to the most pressing issues of our time," Mark Fishkin, founder and executive director at the California Film Institute, said in a statement. "The DocLands lineup is set to entertain, inspire, and leave a lasting impact."