The Lineup



MONDAY: **Safety on the Roads** by Dave Werner *(traffic safety)*



TUESDAY: **Family Time** by Diane Chase



and (alternating) **Writes of Passage** by Lynda Peer *(local color and ancedotes)* and **Bushwhack Jack's Tracts** by Jack Drury *(outdoor adventures)*



THURSDAY: (every other) **Aimless Insights** by Amy Cheney-Seymour *(local color and anecdotes)* and (once a month) **Teens Speak** *(book reviews, essays by teens)*

and (once a month) **The Wilderness Above** *(astronomy)*



FRIDAY: **The Inseide Dope** by Bob Seidenstein *(local color and anecdotes)*



SATURDAY: **You Know What ...?** by Howard Riley *(local history)*

What is America?

Two documentaries at the Lake Placid Film Festival show us the meaning of America

Art Matters

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Documentary filmmakers often find their stories among people and communities that are overlooked. By bringing these lives into the frame, we learn about worlds we did not know, and sometimes, as it is with "A Life Outside" and "The Americans," we learn about ourselves.

WHAT IS AMERICA?

One question that connects two films competing in the documentary film competition at the Lake Placid Film Festival is: What is America?

The directors, Mat Hames and Hyunsoo Moon, approach this question from different directions. Hames, director of "A Life Outside", explores the world of mountaineering and the relationships forged in the outdoors. Moon, director of "The Americans", turns his camera towards immigrant workers in a meatpacking factory in Storm Lake, Iowa. The common thread is in their narrative approach — both directors look beyond conventional narratives to find the humanity that connects people.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Mat Hames.

A LIFE OUTSIDE

Mat Hames, the Emmy nominated director of "A Life Outside," found himself in the mountains for his latest project. Hames chose not to focus on the history of the sport, with its roots in nationalism and conquest. He wanted to move beyond the familiar image of mountaineering as an individual pursuit defined by personal triumph and focus his lens instead on the mountaineer as a student and the mountains as a classroom: a place where people learn cooperation and respect for the natural world. This shift in perspective is significant. No longer a backdrop for individual heroism, Hames transforms the mountain into a metaphor for a larger human experience, one in which humility and connection matter more than achievement.

"I love movies like 'Free Solo,'" he said, "but they're about personal conquest, and I wanted to make a film about treating the outdoors as a classroom and learning from the outdoors. I've always thought about the outdoors like that. I'm humbled when I'm there, so I wanted to show people that it's not about the conquest, it's not about the selfie. I wanted to move away from the idea of hyper-individuality, about personal conquest, and show how the mountains can bring out the best in us. I wanted to make the community the center of the story."



PHOTO PROVIDED
Hyunsoo Moon.

If America is often imagined as a place where individual ambition and achievement define success, Hames suggests that we think and look anew. The mythology of the self-made individual and the conquest of the frontier has long informed the country's cultural imagination. In "A Life Outside", however, fulfillment does not come from standing alone at the summit but instead from our willingness to experience the world together.

THE AMERICANS

Community is also at the heart of Hyunsoo Moon's "The Americans", a documentary about immigrant workers in a meatpacking factory in Storm Lake. Moon's interest lies not in immigration policy or in defining the immigrant experience, but in the people themselves: their everyday lives, their individual concerns and their search for happiness. He wanted audiences to see the person beyond the label of immigrant.

"I want to tell the story from the immigrant point of view, in a way that doesn't feel like I'm talking down, or glamorizing or fetishizing the immigrant," Moon explained. "I wanted to focus on the human emotion, and for me that doesn't always have to do with American societal and political structures. These people can have stories without only framing themselves as immigrants. They're also just people; they're just looking to find happiness."

Moon's approach is also reflected in the way he communicated with his subjects. Rather than relying on translators or conducting most of the interviews in their native languages, Moon spoke with his subjects in English. This choice allowed the conversations to unfold on their own terms, while also challenging audiences to reconsider the assumptions they make about people based on their appearance or fluency in English.

"I'd love people to see this film and next time they meet someone who doesn't speak fluent English, they don't assume things about that person. I'd love it if people learnt to not be afraid of broken English."

Moon's point matters: fluency is not a measure of intelligence or personhood. The ability to communicate, connect and find happiness does not depend on speaking perfect English. I'd like to think there is something fundamentally American about the idea. Broken English, after all, is American English too.

REDUX: WHAT IS AMERICA?

So, what is America? As the two directors suggest, it is more than individual triumph, more than a fixed identity determined by heritage, more than one narrative. It is the ongoing negotiation between people who, despite their differences, share the desire to find meaning, happiness and a place in the world.

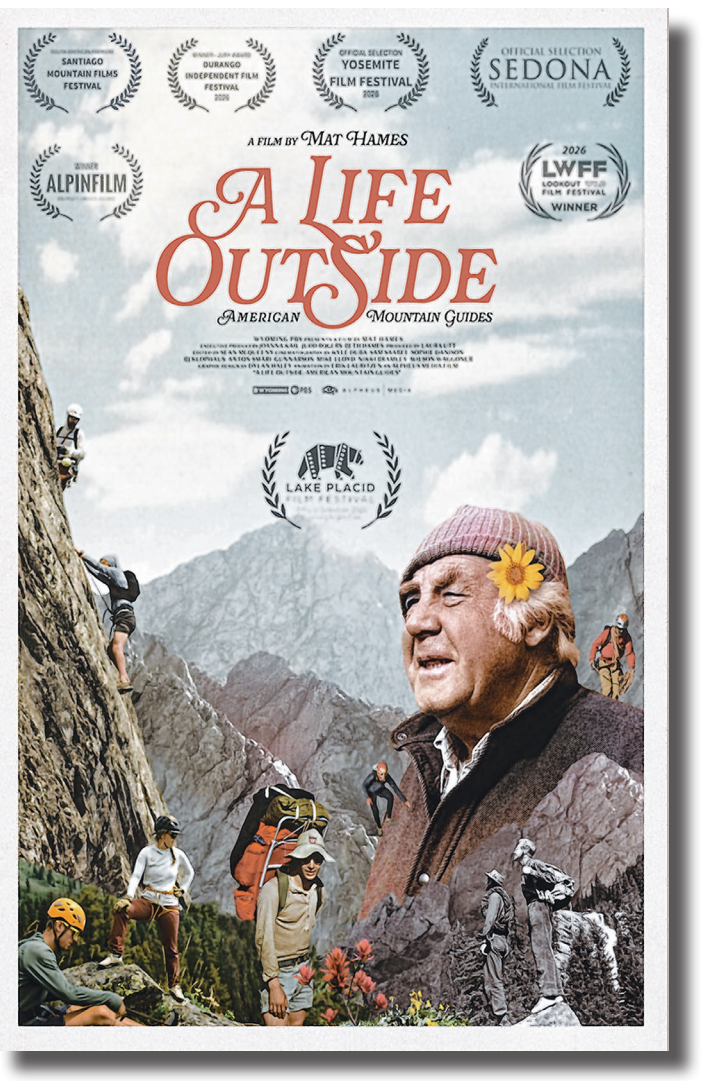
The Lake Placid Film Festival runs from Thursday, Nov. 5 to Sunday, Nov. 8. For more information on the schedule, check this website: lpff.eventive.org/schedule.



THURSDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT NOVEMBER 5, 2026

TV LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO LAST MINUTE CHANGES.

	SL/TL	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
3 WCAX	3	Channel 3 News at 5:30p (N)	Channel 3 News at Six (N)		CBS Evening News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Georgie & M. (N)	Eternally Yours (N)	Elsbeth "A Bad Lie" (N)		Cupertino "Celeste" (N)		Channel 3 News at Eleven (N)	(:35) Comics (N)
5 WPTZ	5	NBC5 News at 5:30 (N)	NBC5 News at 6 (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Traitors "Playing Chess" (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Forsaken" (N)		Law & Order "Rage Bait" (N)		NBC5 News at 11 (N)	(:35) Tonight Show (N)
6 CBMT	6	Jamie O "Curry Night"	CBC News (N) (Live)	Kim "Good Neighb-ours"	Corona-tion Street (N)	Feud (N)	Dragons' Den (N)		Lord of the Flies "Simon" (N)		The National (N)		CBC News (N) (Live)	Canadian Reflect-ions (N)
12 CFCF	15	News-Rinaldo (N)	CTV News Montreal (N) (Live)		etalk (N)	The Big Bang Theory (N)	The Traitors "Playing Chess" (N)		9-1-1: Nashville "In Cold Blood" (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Love on the Brain" (N)		News-Omar (N) (Live)	CTV News Montreal (N) (Live)
18 WPBS	18	BBC World News America	PBS News Hour (N)		Weekends "Meet Me at the Fair"	Whiz Quiz	Death in Paradise		The Brokenwood Mysteries "Here's to You, Mrs. Robinson"			Tell Me Matthew Walker	Amanpour and Company (N)	
22 WVNY	4	Judge Judy	ABC22 News at 6 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC22 News at 7 (N)	Inside Edition (N)	9-1-1 "Imposter Syndrome" (N)		9-1-1: Nashville "In Cold Blood" (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Love on the Brain" (N)		ABC22 News (N) (Live)	(:35) J. Kimmel (N)
44 WFFF	7	Family Feud (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	The Big Bang Theory	The Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "A Black Tie Affair" (N)		Special Forces: World's Toughest Test "Survival" (N)		FOX44 News at 10 (N)		The Conners	The Conners
57 WCFE	14	Death in Paradise	BBC World News America	BBC News The World Today	PBS News Hour (N)		Death in Paradise "Murder Most Electric"		Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries "Dead Air"		Patience "Pandora's Box"		BBC News	Amanpour (N)
CABLE														
A&E	11	First 48	First 48 "Cold Fury"		The First 48		The First 48 (N)		After the First 48 (N)		Killer (N)		(:05) The First 48	
AMC	44	Meet the Parents	(:15) ★★ Meet the Fockers ('04) Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro.						TNA iMPACT! (N) (Live)				★★★★ The Perfect Storm	
AP	63	Pit Bulls	Pit Bulls and Parolees		Pit Bulls "Golden Girl"		Pit Bulls "Fire Dog"		Pit Bulls "Like a Boss"		Pit Bulls and Parolees		Pit Bulls and Parolees	
CNBC	34	Fast Money	Mad Money (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	12	The Lead	Jake Tapper (N) (Live)		OutFront (N) (Live)		Cooper 360 (N) (Live)		The Source (N) (Live)		CNN News. (N) (Live)		Laura (N) (Live)	
COM	66	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	(:35) Office	(:10) Office	(:45) Office	(:20) The Office		(:55) Office	The Office	Daily Show	FamilyGuy
DIS	40	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Big City	Big City	Kiff	Ladybug	Ladybug
DSC	46	Monsters	River Monsters		River Monsters		River Monsters (N)		River Monsters (N)		River Monsters (N)		River Monsters (N)	
ESPN	13	Pardon	Saban Pride (N)		Countdown (N) (Live)		College Football Teams TBA (N) (Live)						SportCtr (N) (Live)	
FNC	38	The Five	Bret Baier (N) (Live)		Ingraham (N) (Live)		Jesse (N) (Live)		Hannity (N) (Live)		Gutfeld! (N)		Fox News (N) (Live)	
FOOD	62	Wars	Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie	
FREE	52	Wreck-It Ralph	★★★★ Ralph Breaks the Internet ('18) Voices of Sarah Silverman, Gal Gadot, John C. Reilly.					★★★★ Ratatouille ('07) Voices of Ian Holm, Lou Romano, Patton Oswalt.					The 700 Club	
FX	51	★★ Grown Ups 2 ('13) Kevin James, Chris Rock, Adam Sandler.			(:10) ★★★ The Mummy ('99) Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.				(:45) ★★★ Uncharted ('22) Mark Wahlberg, Sophia Ali, Tom Holland.					
HALL	37	Christma...	★★★★ The Most Wonderful Time of the Year ('08) Brooke Burns, Henry Winkler.				Mistletoe Murders (N)		You, Me & the Christmas Trees ('21) Benjamin Ayres, Danica McKellar.				A Royal Christmas ('14) Lacey Chabert.	
HIST	54	Mysteries	Mysteries Unearthed		Mysteries "Big & Bad"		Mysteries Unearthed		Mysteries Unearthed		(:05) Mysteries		(:05) Mysteries	
HOME	61	Sin City	Sin City Rehab		House	House	House	House	House Hunters (N)		House (N)	House	House	House
LIF	41	NCIS	NCIS		NCIS		NCIS "False Witness"		NCIS		(:05) NCIS "Recruited"		(:05) NCIS "Freedom"	
MSG	27	Don, Hahn (N) (Live)		NY Rangers	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at New York Rangers (N)					Postgame	Rangers	NHL Hockey		
MSGSN	30	Circa	Circa (N)	Pregame	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at New Jersey Devils (N)					Postgame	Devils	NHL Hockey		
MSNBC	56	Deadline	Ari Melber (N) (Live)		Weeknight (N) (Live)		All in (N) (Live)		The Briefing (N) (Live)		Last Word (N) (Live)		The 11th (N) (Live)	
NICK	47	Captain Underpants: First Epic M...	★★★★ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone ('01) Daniel Radcliffe.									Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
PARMT	48	Bar Rescue	★★★★ Top Gun ('86) Kelly McGillis, Tom Cruise.					★★★★ Twister ('96) Bill Paxton, Helen Hunt. (P)					★★★★ Top Gun ('86)	
SYFY	49	★★ Old ('21)	★★★★ Tombstone ('93) Val Kilmer, Michael Biehn, Kurt Russell.						★★ Godzilla ('98) Jean Reno, Maria Pitillo, Matthew Broderick. (P)					
TBS	23	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Foul Play With
TCM	45	★★★★★ West Side Story ('61) Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, Natalie Wood.					★★★★ Places in the Heart ('84) Lindsay Crouse, Malkovich, Sally Field.				★★★★ Absence of Malice ('81) Sally Field, Bob Balaban, Paul Newman. (P)			
TLC	55	7 Little	7 Little Johnstons		1000-lb Roomies		1000-lb Roomies		1000-lb Roomies (N)		Stories of E.R.		Stories of E.R.	
TNT	32	★★★★ Kong: Skull Island ('17) Tom Hiddleston.					★★★ Meg 2: The Trench ('23) Jing Wu, Jason Statham.					★★ Godzilla vs. Kong ('21)		
TVL	50	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	(:20) Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	24	Law-SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law-SVU "Underbelly"		★★★★ Dodgeball ('04) Vince Vaughn. (P)				★★★★ Dodgeball ('04) Vince Vaughn.			
YES	28	Yanks Mag.	AC Milan Magazine						Yankeeography Derek Jeter			Yankees Classics		
PREMIUM														
HBO		(:35) The Gilded Age		(:35) ★★ Red Sparrow ('18) Joel Edgerton, Charlotte Rampling, Jennifer Lawrence.					War (N)		(:55) War	(:50) The Gilded Age		(:50) War
MAX		(:50) ★★ The Adjustment Bureau ('11) Emily Blunt, Anthony Mackie, Matt Damon.			(:35) ★★ 3 Days to Kill ('14) Amber Heard, Hailee Steinfeld, Kevin Costner.					★★ Solace ('15) Colin Farrell, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Anthony Hopkins. (P)			(:15) ★★ The Nun ('18) Taissa Farmiga, Demián Bichir.	
PARSHO		(:45) ★★★ The Hunt for Red October ('90) Alec Baldwin, Scott Glenn, Sean Connery.					★★★ Patriot Games ('92) Anne Archer, Patrick Bergin, Harrison Ford.				Dexter: Resurrection		★★★ Se7en ('95) Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt.	
TMC		Barron's Cove ('24)	(:05) ★★ A Perfect Murder ('98) Gwyneth Paltrow, Viggo Mortensen, Michael Douglas.				★★★ Fatal Attraction ('87) Glenn Close, Anne Archer, Michael Douglas.				★★★ Basic Instinct ('92) Sharon Stone, George Dzundza, Michael Douglas.			



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