

1911. Fourteen runners will start...only a few will finish.
The incredible true story of America's first adventure race.



THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS

FEATURING ULTRAMARATHON CHAMPIONS **SCOTT JUREK - KRISSEY MOEHL** ALPINE CLIMBERS **STEVE HOUSE - CHAD KELLOGG**

NARRATED BY **KEVIN TICHE** STARRING **WILLIAM B. DAVIS** AS HENRY ENGBERG

GOA-TO-IT PRODUCTIONS AND JET CITY FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PICKFORD FILM CENTER AND FAMILY HISTORY VIDEOS PRESENTS "THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS"
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **STEVE NELSON** PRODUCED BY **TODD WARGER** AND **BRIAN YOUNG** ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **DAVID LOWRANCE** AND **RENEE SHERRER** SOUND DESIGN **TRAVIS JORDAN** LIGHTING **TOM ENSIGN**
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **DAVID LOWRANCE**, **KEITH KINGSLIEN** AND **LYLE JASMA** AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY **JOHN SCURLOCK** VISUAL EFFECTS BY **ERIC CHAUVIN**
COSTUMES BY **MICHAEL WATTERS** AND **TERRI KRANTZ** ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **PRETTY LITTLE FEET** WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **TODD WARGER** AND **BRIAN YOUNG**



Mount Baker photo: Brett Baunton

WWW.THEMOUNTAINRUNNERS.COM

Soundtrack available: www.prettylittlefeet.net



PRESS KIT

THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS
A Feature-Length Documentary

Run Time: 90:00



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THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | SYNOPSIS

The Mountain Runners is the story of America's first mountain adventure race which took place in 1911.

The grueling 28 to 32 mile marathon race to the summit of Mount Baker, a 10,781 foot volcanic, glacial peak in Washington State, was only ran for three years due to its intrepid dangers.

Narrated by **Kevin Tighe** (LOST, What's Eating Gilbert Grape, Emergency!, Matewan,) The Mountain Runners incorporates hundreds of vintage images, historic film, graphics, 3D effects, and recreated dramatizations starring **William B. Davis** (X- Files, Smoking Man.)

The film is well supported by a cast of Cascadian historians, descendants of race participants and several world-renowned experts in their field.

Interviews with multiple contemporary champion athletes and authors, including: record-holding alpine speed-climber **Chad Kellogg** and climbing author, **Steve House**, winner of the Boardman Tasker Prize, and champion ultrarunner **Krissy Moehl**, US speed distance record-holder, **Scott Jurek**, ultramarathon pioneer **Doug McKeever**; and author **Cami Ostman** (Second Wind: Seven Marathons on Seven Continents,) look back at the accomplishments of their endurance- athlete predecessors with astonishment and insights on how the competitors of a century ago may have managed to complete the race.

The men who ran these races in 1911-1913 were not professional athletes, but practiced a variety of vocations, including; logger, coal miners, bedspring maker, postman, milkman wrestler and insurance salesman.

All who ran the race defied death and injury for a \$100.00 purse of double-eagle gold coins.

THE GREAT RACE | LOGISTICS

Competing Communities/Competing Trails

The title for "Gateway to the Mountain" became a competition between two rival townships and their trailheads. Glacier was a village in the foothills of Mount Baker. It was the last stop before miners and loggers ascended into the mountains with their pack trains. The Glacier trail was shorter (28 miles roundtrip) to the summit but it was also steeper. The small crossroads-community of Deming, was known for its more gradual, 32-mile round-trip to the summit but both routes included several miles of snow and glaciers cut with deep crevasses.

THE MOUNT BAKER MARATHON 1911-1913

In 1911, the Mount Baker club was formed with the intent on developing the region around Mount Baker, which is a 10,781-foot volcanic glacial peak, located in the North Cascades Mountain Range.

Business owners and entrepreneurs living in Bellingham, Washington, a bustling city in the shadow of the mountain, wanted to make the area a tourist destination, so they concocted a plan to exploit the mountain: Host a round-trip race to the summit and back.

It was a dangerously ambitious venture that was risky even under the best of circumstances.

Several daring individuals accepted the challenge. They had the option of racing up one of two trails: the steeper Glacier Trail (28 miles round-trip) or the less strenuous, but longer Deming Trail (32 miles round-trip). The chosen trail determined the runners' approach to the mountain from Bellingham.

Running the trail was not necessarily the only factor to determine the winning racer. Getting to (and returning from) either trailhead was just as important (and daunting) as the actual "running" portion of the race.

RACE OF THE MACHINES

Runners had an option of transportation to and from the two competing trailheads. Each trailhead destination took about an hour's time, traveling at outrageous speeds. The Deming runners leaped into stripped-down automobiles traveling at 65-miles-per-hour.

The roads of the day (mostly dirt, rocks, mud and ruts,) were not designed for those kinds of speeds, making the car trips incredibly dangerous and many racers ended their attempts when their vehicles wrecked or broke down before reaching the trailhead.

Those runners bound for the Glacier trail, piled onto a 1890s steam engine, stripped down for weight and pulling only one passenger car for the special speed run down the track.



THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | STATISTICS

Years Ran:

1911-1913

Trail Distances 1911-12:

Deming: 32-miles round trip. Glacier: 28-miles round trip.

1913:

Runners ran both trails.

Elevation Gain:

Deming: 220-feet to 10,771-feet. Glacier: 906-feet to 10,771-feet.

Participants:

Woodsmen, loggers, coal miners, a postman, a wrestler, students, millers, farmers, poultry breeders, a milkman, a bedspring maker, and in 1912 and 13, a few professional marathon runners and Olympians.

Number of Runners:

1911 - 14

1912 - 9

1913 - 14

Casualties:

Runners ran in appalling conditions suffering multiple cuts and bruises, broken bones, torn ligaments, twisted ankles, snow- blindness, hypothermia, and exhaustion. Two racers fell into glacial crevasse.



THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | FILM MAKER BIOS



Todd Warger

Born in the hill country of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts, Todd grew up riding horseback on the family farm of four generations. He is an historian and researcher. Graduating with a B.A. in history at University of Nevada, followed by graduate studies at Western Washington University.

Shipyard, an award-winning feature-length documentary film, was written and co-produced by Warger. To date, the film has been awarded a broadcast industry Telly Award, for quality of production, the coveted David Douglas Award by the Washington State Historical Society, the Bellingham, Mayor's Arts Award and a Washington Museum Association, Award of Project Excellence, which stated, "...Shipyard demonstrates an unprecedented level of accomplishment."

THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | FILM MAKER BIOS



Brian Young

An award-winning film writer/director, Brian started creating films at the age of fifteen and had his debut feature film in 1999 with "**Counting Days**" which screened theatrically. Brian's recent film projects include the epic-scaled, award-winning "**Chapel Hill**" an American Civil War film. He recently garnered multiple awards including Best of Festival for his short film "**In The Garden Growing.**"

Brian also writes and directs for live theater and his productions have been seen by thousands of people. Brian taught "Advanced Feature Film Production Techniques" at the Northwest Film School and is frequently invited to speak at schools and Universities.

He was recently honored to be Master of Ceremonies and moderator at the "Native Experience in Film Festival." His current projects include "Spirit Water" and "Aquarianna". His work can be seen at www.jetcityfilms.com.

THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | PRODUCTION CREDITS

**Directed, Produced and Written by
Todd Warger and Brian Young**

Executive Producer
Steve Nelson

Associate Producers
David Lowrance
Rene Sherrer-Daly

Original Soundtrack
Pretty Little Feet
(Matthew Novak & Allegra Ziffle)

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Michael Bart	Rollins
Sandy Brewer	Brown
Brian Brunkow	Mountain Judge
William B Davis	Henry Engberg
Pat Dowling	Logger
Les Gitts	Police Chief
Brian Griffin	Official
Simon Hamlin	Reporter
Walker Holt	Harvey Haggard
Steve House	Himself
Scott Jurek	Himself
Chad Kellogg	Himself
Martyn G Krouse	Farnsworth
Michael Kunselman	Collins
Weston Lambert	Joe Galbraith
Troy Luginbill	Businessman
Jason Martin	Victor Galbraith
Doug McKeever	Himself
John Miles	Himself
Krissy Moehl	Herself
Cami Ostman	Herself
Roman Stadler	Conductor
Colin Sternagel	Driver
Kevin Tighe	Narration
James Willson	Davis
Douglas Zwick	Wilson

Continued...

Camera

Lyle Jansma

Keith Kingslien

David Lowrance

Michael Dyrland

Aerial Photography

John Scurlock

Film Editing

Brian Young

Additional Editing

Jen Barker, David Lowrance

Makeup

Michelle Romag , Lourdes Young

Art Department

Lyle Jansma

DW Miller

Graphic art

Storyboard artist

Sound Design

Travis Jordan

Sound editor

Visual Effects

Eric Chauvin

Lars Simkins

Karen Backe

Damien Rocha

visual effects artist

Modeling

Roto artist

Roto artist

Script Supervisor

Candy Galindo

Stunts

Jason Martin

Lighting and Electrical Department

Tom Ensign

Animation

Langley West

Costume and Wardrobe Department

Terri Krantz, Michael Watters

THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | **STILLS**

Page One

Caption: Driver Hugh Diehl and runner Joe Galbraith speed through downtown Bellingham in “Betsy” a modified Model T, to win the 1911 Mount Baker Marathon

Credit: Whatcom Museum Photo Archives

Caption: Paul Westerlund races through the door of the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce to claim first place in the 1913 Mount Baker Marathon.

Credit: Whatcom Museum Photo Archives

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Caption: Brian Young directs William B. Davis and actors portraying the race finale on set during a scene from The Mountain Runners.

Credit: Goa To It Films

Caption: Todd Warger directs a vintage race car driver during a scene from The Mountain Runners.

Credit: Goa To It Films

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Caption: The Number Three Special, a steam train competing in the 1911 Mount Baker Marathon, is derailed while speeding toward the finish line.

Credit: Goa To It Films

Caption: A group of race officials confront the Executive Committee to stop the Mount Baker Marathon before someone gets killed.

Credit: Goa To It Films











THE MOUNTAIN RUNNERS | CONTACT

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