



MILE MILE & A HALF

HIKE, LAUGH & INSPIRE ON THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL

a documentary film by THE MUIR PROJECT

"MILE... MILE & A HALF"

featuring music by OPUS ORANGE editing by EDWARD CHIN directors of photography
RIC SERENA & JASON FITZPATRICK sound designer DURAND TRENCH original
score by PAUL BESSENBACHER & BERNARD CHADWICK still photography
by JEN SERENA produced by JASON FITZPATRICK, ZEE HATLEY, JEN SERENA,
RIC SERENA, & DURAND TRENCH co-producer KIA M. KISO
directed by JASON FITZPATRICK & RIC SERENA





SOMETIMES IT IS ABOUT
THE JOURNEY

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& A
HALF**
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“WANDER A WHOLE SUMMER IF YOU CAN...
TIME WILL NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE SUM OF LIFE.
INSTEAD OF SHORTENING, IT WILL INDEFINITELY
LENGTHEN IT AND MAKE YOU TRULY IMMORTAL.”

- JOHN MUIR

ONE LINERS:

25 DAYS OUT, 219 MILES IN,
13 NEW FRIENDS, & 1 EPIC ADVENTURE.

AN ADVENTURE ALONG THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL.

COME LAUGH, LIMP, SING & WALK WITH US.

HIKE. LAUGH. INSPIRE.

SOMETIMES IT **IS** ABOUT THE JOURNEY.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In an epic snow year, five friends leave their daily lives behind to hike California's historic John Muir Trail, a 211-mile stretch from Yosemite to Mt. Whitney (the highest peak in the contiguous U.S.). Their goal -- complete the journey in 25 days while capturing the amazing sights & sounds they encounter along the way.

Inspired by their bond, humor, artistry & dedication, the group continues to grow: to include other artists, musicians & adventure seekers. Before they all reach the summit, hikers and viewers alike affirm the old adage -- it's about the journey, not the destination.

Mile... Mile & A Half is the feature-length documentary of that journey.

MORE INFORMATION

What began as an adventure to see -- let's be honest -- if we could complete the trail, became the need to capture the experience in order to share the trail with others. This film grew out of the desire to motivate others to go after their adventures.

It was a tremendous undertaking to leave lives & family behind for a month, & our journey has continued well past the trail. Along the way, we have been blessed by the additions of talented adventure-seekers, artists & life-lovers that have joined our undertaking.

May you be so inspired by this film, that you take that first step towards your own adventure.



CREATIVE TEAM

RIC SERENA

DIRECTOR/DP/EDITOR

www.ricserena.com

Ric is an award-winning editor and rising director for network promos, music videos, documentaries and commercials. Currently represented as a director by Moving Parts, he has helmed spots for ABC's American Music Awards and Nickelodeon, featuring the USA Women's gymnastics team. Ric has worked as an editor for the past 12 years, including an in-house stint at CBS. He co-owns the creative agency, Serena Creative, Inc. with his wife, Jen Serena.



JASON FITZ- PATRICK

DIRECTOR/DP/EDITOR

gutterpoetproductions.virb.com

From network sitcoms to studio features, Jason brings 15+ years of experience in the film and television industry. He is currently directing, editing and shooting "Primetime In No Time," the most successful show in internet history – with more than 650 million streams to date. His filming adventures prior to co-directing "Mile... Mile & A Half" include "In The Know Traveler," a TV show that took him all around the world. Jason is a graduate of Loyola Marymount Film School.

JEN SERENA

STILL PHOTOGRAPHER/
PRODUCER/GRAPHICS

www.jenserena.com

Where event planning, nonprofit fundraising and photography cross paths, you'll find Jen Serena. An internationally published photographer who understands the power of a good story, her visual arts specialty is concept-based commercial photography, portraits and portfolio-building photos for creative professionals and talent. Factor in her experience and know-how when it comes to well-kept (but flexible) timelines and streamlined budgets, and you get a one-of-a-kind creative professional.



DURAND TRENCH

LOCATION SOUND/
SUPERVISING SOUND
EDITOR

www.sasquatchsound.com

Durand is a location sound mixer and sound designer whose work has ranged from documenting Malaria net distribution in Africa, to backpacking with sound equipment and recording Foley on glaciers at the base of Mount Baker. Though hailing from the gloriously forested Pacific Northwest, he has come to truly embrace Southern California, with its proximity to unsurpassed and easily accessible wilderness areas, since moving there 10 years ago.

PAUL BESSEN- BACHER

MUSICAL COMPOSER

www.emotomusic.com

Growing up in Northern California, Paul Bessenbacher (PB to those who know him) spent his college years at a music conservatory outside Chicago. It was there that he honed his craft as an accomplished concert pianist by day & spent his nights in Chicago-area clubs as a member of bands Waterworks & Orange was the Color of Her Dress. Landing in Los Angeles in 2002, PB got mixed up with a community of like-minded artists & musicians, like composer/vocalist Lauren Hillman of Kotomi & multi-instrumentalist Jo Pusateri. They became the band, Opus Orange, whose single, "Almost There" set the soundtrack for The Muir Project's first video release.



ZEE HATLEY

CAMERA OPERATOR

Zee started his career as a videographer for KSBY, the NBC affiliate ranked #1 in the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara market, and has since worked behind the scenes on some of the best TV series of the last 10 years ("The Shield," "The Riches," "White Collar," "Saving Grace," and "Grey's Anatomy"). He has kept his eye sharp as a director of photography and/or camera operator for indie features, several short films and web series ("Waxing Platonic," "Fluffy Bunnies in a Field of Daisies") and television pilots ("Trailer Trash"). The JMT excursion was particularly special for Zee, as many of his favorite childhood memories took place in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.



CREATIVE TEAM

BERNARD CHADWICK

MUSICIAN/COMPOSER

LA-based Bernard Chadwick is an experimental sound and video installation artist. Bernard uses video, performance, multimedia installation, and sculpture to create a personally-crafted ontology of sound and its relationship to the visual, often straining concepts about sound, acoustics, and theory of music through their visual counterparts like color, movement and physical materials. He received a MFA from Art Center College of Design in 2010 with a final graduate exhibition titled "Somewhere There's Music."



EDWARD CHIN

EDITOR

After abandoning his dreams of becoming a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, Edward took the next logical step and became a successful film and television editor. From his experience working on documentary, narrative, and sports projects, he has honed his ability to shape stories that resonate with the viewer. And just as scientists must work together to solve life's mysteries, he enjoys the creative collaboration that goes into making every project the best it can possibly be.



KOLBY KIRK

TITLE CARD ARTIST

www.thehikeguy.com

Artist, writer, and outdoorsman Kolby Kirk enjoys a good ramble in the woods -- with his journal always within reach. Oregon-born, he has hiked over 3,000 miles of trails in the past three years alone, including a month-long backpacking trip through the Sierra Nevada Mountains last summer. Kolby stopped frequently during his hike to sketch, watercolor, and write about the mountains -- where he feels most at home. As the owner and operator of "The Hike Guy's Hiking & Nature Club," he is passionate about introducing others to the wonders of the outdoor world. He is currently writing a book on how to journal while on the trail.



KIA KISO

PRODUCER

Award-winning producer Kia was 12 years old when she became keenly aware of media's possibilities to transform lives on a grand scale. After graduating from film school and moving to Los Angeles, she gained a deep understanding of all filmmaking aspects during her professional career as a camera assistant, telecine colorist and VFX coordinator.

A born producer, Kia has a knack for creating bullet-pointed lists, budgeting, scheduling, coordinating and bringing creative people together to collaborate. Her ability to shepherd a project from idea to screen is rooted in her passion for stories which inform, entertain, inspire and transform people's lives.

ABOUT THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL

There's a reason that "Backpacker Magazine" ranked California's John Muir Trail as the best Hike in the World in the November 2010 issue.

Stretching 211 miles from Yosemite Valley to the summit of the contiguous United States' highest peak, Mount Whitney, it rambles through some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery that the heart & mind could conceive. Most of your days are spent above 10,000 feet, where you'll experience the High Sierras in all of it's grandeur & beauty.

Construction of the trail began in 1915 after the passing of its namesake Sierra Club founder & conservationist ninja John Muir (whose writings & efforts are responsible for the protection of not only most of the lands that the trail goes through, but all protected wild places around the world). The trail was completed in 1938.

WE'LL SAVE YOU THE TRIP TO WIKIPEDIA:

LENGTH: 211 miles (for the record, that only gets you to the top of Mt. Whitney. You still have to hike back down.)

TRAILHEADS: Happy Isles (Yosemite Valley) or Whitney Portal

ELEVATION CHANGE: 80,000 feet (24,000m)

AREAS HIKE THROUGH: Yosemite, Ansel Adams Wilderness, Devils Postpile National Monument, John Muir Wilderness & Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks.

Some perspective on how far **211 MILES** is. (Give or take a few miles.) Think of walking from:

- **LOS ANGELES TO LAS VEGAS** (Make sure to look at the world's largest thermometer in Baker)
- **NEW YORK TO BOSTON** (Figure out whether you prefer Manhattan or New England Chowder)
- **CHICAGO TO DETROIT** (Not advised in winter)
- **HOUSTON TO DALLAS** (Not advised in summer, spring or fall)
- **LONDON TO MANCHESTER** (For our friends on the British Isles)
- **PARIS TO ANTWERP** (For our friends on the continent)
- **ROME TO BOLOGNA** (For our friends on the boot)
- **OKYO TO KYOTO** (For Kaz)



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still photography by JEN SERENA

journal artwork by KOLBY KIRK

produced by JASON FITZPATRICK, ZEE HATLEY, JEN SERENA, RIC SERENA, & DURAND TRENCH

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Feature-Length Documentary

Running Time: 87 minutes 6 seconds

Country of Origin: United States of America

Language: English (bad English)

Shooting Format: HD 1920x1080 (Nikon D7000, Canon 5D Mark II, Canon Vixia, GoProHD)

Exhibition Formats available: HDCAMSR, BLU-RAY, Quick Time ProRes 422 HQ

16x9 HD, 23.98

5.1 Surround Mix, 2.0 S Stereo Mix

OP ADVENTURE TEAM:

These people are legit, watch the trailer, their cinematography is amazing, the shots they took, the editing, the story they are telling is just great. The trailer they have put together... displays their talent & the fact that this is not just another hiking documentary.

REI:

We just heard about this film from The Muir Project, “Mile...Mile & A Half,” & we really like it. Ahem, REALLY, like it.

RUNNING & RAMBLING:

They managed to capture both the chill vibe of going off the grid for an extended period of time, as well as the epic beauty of the trail.

THE GOAT/ BACKCOUNTRY:

Man, the folks who made the Muir Project video are good at taking a relatively boring, non-dynamic subject like hiking & making it fun to watch. I’m sure they’ll all be offered jobs making TV commercials for pharmaceutical companies soon.

SLASHFILMS:

It’s a trailer that just feels genuinely inspiring; not so much for the way it frames the adventure, but that it doesn’t feel threatening or intimidating, it seems welcoming... It’s a story of individuals who go on a journey, to be sure, but there’s just something about the way the trailer captures the beauty & grandeur of the great outdoors.

F-STOPPERS:

Why does a group of creative artists take their gear on a 230 mile, 25 day backpacking trip? The Muir Project is why. This team not only creates masterful images in remote places, but they’re able to endure rough terrain & heavy packs. Hiking for 25 days with a 75lb pack is crazy, but the images are certainly worth it.

SEVERAL CHAT- ROOM MEMBERS:

It’s backpacker porn.

Stories also by Go Outside Magazine, KCET’s SoCal Wanderer, Sierra Club online, REI Blog, Gadling, Outside, Prana, Mammoth Sierra Magazine, & more.



WHAT THEY’RE SAYING ABOUT US



CONTACT US

THE MUIR PROJECT

www.themuirproject.com
themuirproject@gmail.com



The MuirProject
@themuirproject

Jennifer Serena, Producer
serena943@mac.com
818-568-4977

Kia Kiso, Producer
kiakiso@zazaproductions.com
323-216-0926