

BICYCLE DREAMS,
AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT RACE ACROSS AMERICA,
COMING TO HARTFORD ON MARCH 7

Bicycle Dreams, the award-winning feature-length documentary about the Race Across America (RAAM), will premiere in Hartford at the Aetna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Arts on Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. as part of the film's ongoing nationwide winter tour. The screening is sponsored by and will raise funds for Bike Walk CT.

The film, which has won numerous awards at film festivals all over the world, "is an up-close look at what RAAM riders go through," says Stephen Auerbach, the director and producer of *Bicycle Dreams*. "They deal with searing desert heat, agonizing mountain climbs, and endless stretches of open road. And they do it all while battling extreme exhaustion and sleep deprivation. It's a great subject for a film."

"*Bicycle Dreams* is a spectacular and heartfelt film that offers a riveting portrait of extreme courage in the face of inhuman obstacles," writes TheLoveOfMovies.com. "It is an artistic triumph that renewed my belief in the power of desire and the strength of the human will."

"We are very excited to be able to bring *Bicycle Dreams* to so many locations along the route that have never had access to the film before," says Auerbach. "Viewers will be overwhelmed by the amount of pain and suffering these riders go through."

To capture the mammoth scope of the race, Auerbach worked around the clock with a complement of 18 cameras. Embedded camera operators traveled inside the racers' support crew vehicles, gaining unprecedented access to the cyclists and their teams. Their footage captured emotional and physical breakdowns, late-night strategy sessions, and great moments of personal triumph, all in intimate detail. Auerbach then took on the enormous task of editing hundreds of hours of material and forming it into a powerful and inspiring look inside the most difficult race on the planet.

Bicycle Dreams has won major awards at the Fallbrook and Breckenridge film festivals, as well as the Yosemite, Grand Rapids, Red Rock and All Sports LA film festivals, among many others.

Most recently the film added the *Best Foreign Film* trophy from the Krasnogorski International Festival of Sports Films in Moscow and was also invited to be included in the 2011 World Cinema Showcase in New Zealand as well as the Mountain Film Festival in Istanbul, Turkey. And before that it made its Australian debut at the Big Pond Film Festival in Adelaide.

Critical acclaim for the film continues to pour in from all sources.

"An astonishing documentary," declares *Pez Cycling*. "This film is a ride of many stark contrasts; when it ended I felt both shattered and triumphant. I realized I was experiencing its

genius. A central theme of *Bicycle Dreams* is the profoundly inspiring strength of the human in facing monumental challenge and tragedy. *Bicycle Dreams* is a race of truth.”

“This film isn’t for those who want to shy away from the tragic side of the human experience, unwilling to risk the cracking of their shell of denial, not willing to risk their coping mechanism,” writes *Cycling-Review.com*. “*Bicycle Dreams* captures the human condition like few other films. *Bicycle Dreams* moves us to break through the barrier of the fear of death. I have seldom found a film that captures this ‘life drama’ as powerfully as does *Bicycle Dreams*.”

Adds *Podium Café*, “*Bicycle Dreams* is the ultimate inner journey. If you thought the life of a cyclist was an internal struggle, wait until you see what Auerbach unearths in this film. *Bicycle Dreams* is an unprecedented exploration of the subject of the suffering on the bike.”

About.com writes, “As we fall deeper and deeper into *Bicycle Dreams*, what we witness grows more terrifying, yet more compelling. Auerbach’s masterful direction exposes the raw lessons that drive people to push beyond the limits of human endurance. Revealing what lies at the heart of every impossible human endeavor is what *Bicycle Dreams* is all about.”

And finally, *Bicycle Touring Pro* comments, “If you’ve ever dreamed of challenging yourself to a place far beyond what you previously thought was possible, *Bicycle Dreams* is a film you must see. It’s beautiful, thought provoking, exciting, emotional and scary. The experience of watching this film will leave you with a new perspective on life that will remain with you for a very long time to come.”

Bicycle Dreams also has been named one of the top 10 adventure films of all time by both *The Matador Network* and *Playground Magazine*, calling it the best bicycle film since “Breaking Away.”

Tickets will be \$11 in advance and \$15 at the door the night of the show. To purchase advance tickets, order online at www.imathlete.com/events/bicycledreams. Tickets will not be available at the Wadsworth Atheneum except on the day of the event. The Aetna Theater is located inside the Museum of Art located at 600 Main St. in Hartford.

Bike Walk CT’s mission is to continually change the culture of transportation through advocacy and education to make bicycling and walking safe, feasible and attractive for a healthier, cleaner Connecticut. For more information, go to www.wecyclect.org.

For more information on the film, go to www.bicycledreamsmovie.com, or visit us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/events/350953698265940/>).

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