

PRAISE FOR *MONUMENTAL: David Brower's Fight for Wild America*

"Stylish and substantial enough to prompt even a couch potato to action, Kelly Duane's **Monumental** delivers a stirring and visually dense account of the life and times of Brower . . ." *Variety*

"Monumental is an inspiring testament to the power of the individual." -- **Greg Crouch, *Mother Jones***

"This is an absolute must-see." -- **Kevin Swift, *Climbing Magazine***

"See it and just try not to get inspired." -- ***Outside Magazine***

"Monumental" is a visually ravishing look at the life, work, and world of David Brower. For shut-in film nerds and naturalist who must live in the city to put bread on their table, it is a feast of nourishing images -- as well as a persuasive reminder of what exactly environmentalists are fighting for." -- ***The Oregonian***

"No individual contributed more to the effort to protect wilderness in America than David Brower, and no film captures the contours and passion of that transforming effort better than Monumental. Duane's film has a freshness and originality that sets it apart from the historical documentaries that have come to dominate the genre." -- **J. Stine, *Smithsonian Institution***

"Calling David Brower an important environmental activist is like calling Hamlet an important member of the Danish royal court. Brower invented modern American environmental activism. This film tells you how and why." --**John Nielsen, *NPR***

"In addition to its unique documentary resources, the movie should be an invaluable historical primer for anyone who aspires to influence government policy, not to mention the government officials obliged to evaluate that influence." -- **Gary Arnold, *Washington Times***

"It's great to see those 16-millimeter views of Sierrans at play among Western wonders and striking to see those sights in a grainy format instead of lurid Imax detail. There's Yosemite, the rugged Marin coast, the Nipomo Dunes. There's the young Brower and friends, basketball shoes on their feet, making the first ascent of New Mexico's Shiprock in 1939. The filmmaker's enthusiasm for that insider footage is understandable -- imagine the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s home movies of the civil rights movement. . ." --**Chris Reynolds, *Los Angeles Times***

If Kelly Duane dabbles in hyperbole for this portrait of the Sierra Club's influential former president, the producer-director also constructs an engrossing study in the power, and the perils, of charismatic single-mindedness. A zealous outdoorsman, David Brower transformed the Sierra Club from a friendly gang of mountaineers into a formidable force for the preservation of America's wild spaces. Duane's research is exhaustive and informative, but the film's real pleasures are Brower's own Sierra Club movies of majestic mountains, canyons and forests. As seen through his lens, these spaces are even more commanding than the activist himself. --***LA Weekly***

"If anyone's been searching for the soul of the new West, here it is. Monumental, Kelly Duane's inspiring new-feature documentary, seizes on the renegade spirit Berkeley native David Brower. . ." --**Michael Fox, *San Francisco Magazine***

"Though framed by the incendiary personality of environmental activist Brower, Monumental is as unconventional a portrait film as its subject. Filmmaker Kelly Duane touches on some personal highlights including his brief tenure at the Sierra Club but what resonates most is the footage he shot of America's most spectacular natural wonders. Brower's passion infuses every frame and proves the old adage about a picture being worth a thousand words, no matter how fiery." --***Movie City News***