

# More snowboarding magic

**M**ore, Absinthe Films' seventh snowboarding film, brings audiences closer than ever before to the heart of one of the world's fastest sports.

"Every winter season used to be groundbreaking in terms of new equipment, freestyle tricks and steeper mountains, but the quality of the products and the level of riding have now reached the highest standards," remarks Swiss Producer and Director of Photography Patrick Armbruster. "A few years ago we developed some of the first heli cams in the snowboard world and captured riders flying by the camera, but since then it became clear that our tactics needed to evolve if we wanted to continue surprising and attracting audiences. Last season my partner and also director of photography Justin Hostynek was involved in developing an inventive rope cam that can be set up anywhere in the backcountry which has enabled us to achieve dynamic camera angles incredibly close to the riders."

*More* was filmed between November and May in untracked backcountry in China, Austria, the United States, Switzerland, Canada and Alaska. "It took a longer time than most features, but our five cameramen needed to be on the road the entire winter waiting in remote cabins to catch the best weather," says Armbruster. "We invested a lot of time finding perfect conditions and brought in the best snowboard athletes, then we captured the action in new and progressive ways."

"The unexpected is our constant attendee," he declares. "Sunken snowmobiles in creeks, avalanches the size of a village, dislocated shoulders, personal struggles amongst crew waiting at the ends of the world for the right weather conditions... the list goes on and on. But it's exactly

those risks that make it all so unforgettable and bond everyone together. The impassable terrain is a real physical strain, yet the few days when everything works out and the riders finally land insane tricks are ample reward for all the desperation."

"Our films are the best medium for top snowboarders to present themselves to the world," continues Armbruster who filmed in bright daylight at high altitudes with his favourite stock – 16mm KODAK VISION2 50D 7201. "It



gives perfect contrast, nice saturated colours and the very fine grain meant we could shoot without additional filters. We usually filmed at 32, 48 and even 100 fps, ensuring we captured key moments in a format that highlights fragments too rapid for the human eye to perceive in their true complexity. On the occasions when we shot at night with halogen lights, we used KODAK VISION2 500T 7218. The stock has a highlight sensitivity that can be pushed but still retains its quality."

In *More's* stunning Wyoming opening sequence, Nicholas

Müller, Travis Rice and Gigi Rief session together in a pillow line. "We covered the traditional views from the front as well as alternating side angles and the third camera hovered above the pillow line. The latter position required heavy rope logistics and took more than a day to set up." Armbruster instructed the cameramen to keep their angles until the riders landed their mind-blowing tricks or lines. Lighting this particular zone proved tricky as direct sunlight didn't filter through and the snow remained light, so he used 7201 towards the middle of the day and switched to 7218 in the afternoon.

"Snow storms and bad weather created some unique-looking moments but were a nightmare for the crew," he muses. "Imagine changing 100 feet film rolls in three feet of powder with snow flakes pouring down and no assistant to hold an umbrella!"

*More* is touring over 50 stops around the world on Absinthe Films' most extensive première, complete with the snowboarder stars and soundtrack musician Scott Sullivan.

FUEL TV, a Fox Networks subsidiary television channel, heard about the intense work of Armbruster Hostynek and their crew and offered them a reality television series. Produced by Absinthe's crew, the eight episodes focus on both snowboarders and crew and examine what it takes to produce a snowboard movie of such high calibre. Titled *Flipside*, it was launched in November and will be aired during the winter. For more details, check out the Absinthe Films website at [www.absinthe-films.com](http://www.absinthe-films.com) ■

Below and inset:  
Absinthe Films shoot  
in Obertauern, Austria,  
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