



# DUKE AND THE BUFFALO

RANCHLANDS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PONDEROSA PRODUCTIONS AND BOWS AND ARROWS "DUKE AND THE BUFFALO"

ORIGINAL SCORE BY BEN TALMI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALFREDO ALCANTARA EDITED BY JOSH CHERTOFF SOUND DESIGN BY ARJUN SHETHH CALLING BY CRAIG WAXMAN PRODUCTION MANAGER EISSA BURGHED CO-PRODUCED BY ALFREDO ALCANTARA JOSH CHERTOFF



PRODUCED BY DUKE PHILLIPS DIRECTED BY ALFREDO ALCANTARA JOSH CHERTOFF



PONDEROSA  
PRODUCTIONS

BOWS AND ARROWS

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## SYNOPSIS:

"Duke and the Buffalo" takes place on the Medano-Zapata Ranch, a 100,000-acre tract of land in Colorado owned by The Nature Conservancy. The film follows the story of Duke Phillips, who manages the ranch, as he presides over the landscape's most distinctive feature – one of the largest conservation herds of bison in the United States.

In an environment where resources are finite and predators no longer exist, ecological stability greatly depends on keeping the number of bison to a sustainable level. To meet that challenge, and to preserve this endangered animal as a wild herd, The Nature Conservancy relies on a unique partnership with Duke, also a cattle rancher, and his crew of horsemen. Once a year, they ride out on the risky and high-stakes mission of rounding up a herd of wild animals.

Duke represents a new breed of rancher, as much environmentalist as American cowboy.

## ABOUT THE FILM:

"Duke and The Buffalo" is the first in a series of films about a unique land management partnership between The Nature Conservancy of Colorado and Ranchlands, a private ranching organization. The film explores a story of lofty goals, on the Medano Zapata Ranch in southern Colorado, which encompasses a forward thinking ranching family joining forces with the worlds largest conservation organization to preserve nature, our unique western heritage and to build bridges between the ever widening gap between people living in cities and the natural world. The dichotomy between wild bison and the modern human world frames this film in a race to not only understand the wild from the past and how to preserve it, but to survive in todays world of fast moving changes and ecological threats of unprecedented proportions.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

When Duke introduced me to the work he was doing at the Medano-Zapata Ranch, I knew this had to be something people would have to one day witness. I came to learn that the enormous wild herd of buffalo under Duke's stewardship represented the growing responsibility that ranchers had towards preserving the remnants of what used to be a wild land. I partnered up with Duke, along my friend and collaborator Josh Chertoff, and we embarked on the adventure of making a film that would portray the feeling of running next to a stampeding herd of buffalo, and the hard work of the ranchers who strive to protect these animals and the country they inhabit.

I hope this film can provide an accurate glimpse into the color and drama of Duke's world.

-- Alfredo Alcantara,  
Co- Director

## ABOUT RANCLANDS:

Ranchlands is a modern ranching company that views ranchers as critical players in resolving the increasingly important ecological issues that we are facing in the west. It is a family business that is dedicated to preserving our uniquely American western cultural heritage and building bridges between the rural and urban worlds, by incorporating the arts (film, music, and painting), hospitality and education with its ranching activities. Ranchlands combines old ranching methods and innovative thinking to create a new model for managing land, which includes forming non-traditional partnerships with individual land owners and organizations such as The Nature Conservancy.



## FILMMAKERS' BIOS:

### CO-DIRECTOR/CINEMATOGRAPHER:

Alfredo Alcantara, brought up in Mexico, and now a resident of Brooklyn, is a filmmaker and cinematographer. In 2011 he was the cinematographer on a feature documentary "American Promise" which was recipient of the Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2013. In 2012 he was the cinematographer on the A&E Networks television series "The Unexplained." He's currently working on a mini-series produced by the Bio Channel focusing on the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama.



### CO-DIRECTOR/EDITOR:

Josh Chertoff is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker whose credits include television, film, music video, and award-winning commercial work. In 2012, he directed fourteen episodes of "The Unexplained," a documentary TV series for the A&E Network from executive producer Doug Liman. He is currently in post-production on a new documentary about the dying tradition of Mexican cockfighting.



### PRODUCER:

Ranching has been Duke Phillips's passion and his life's work that is dedicated to living from the land and living with the land in places across the United States, Latin America and Australia. Duke's extensive journey has led to creating a set of core beliefs that is both inductive and instructive, demonstrating the manifold ways that balance ranching, conservation, and economics.

In addition to his lifestyle, Duke sees ranching as an important medium for large-scale conservation across the western United States. He believes that building bridges across the widening gap between people living in cities and the natural world is a critical component to the success of this vision. The arts, especially film, has become an important tool for communicating this important mission with the public.

Duke Phillips founded Ranchlands and currently serves as CEO with responsibility for strategic vision and operational oversight of Ranchlands' ventures and all managed properties.

