HOLD FAST:

CULTURAL RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

by

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DEDICATION

This thesis film and paper are dedicated to the people of Acadiana and those impacted by hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to first thank my family for the support in making this project come to life. In addition, I would also like to thank my thesis committee, Dr. Hugo Sindelar, Dr. Bob Arnold, and Ian van Coller from the Montana State University School of Film and Photography. And last, I would like to thank McNeese State University, the McNeese Rodeo Team, and the city of Lake Charles, Louisiana for being so welcoming and willing to share their story for this project.

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ABSTRACT

The Cajun Prairie of South Louisiana offers a distinctive lens through which to view the resilience, spirit, identity, and culture of a regional community that is under threat by the impacts of climate change and unsustainable development. *Hold Fast* explores and captures these struggles using documentary storytelling techniques through the lens of an emblematic subculture in southwest Louisiana in the McNeese State University Rodeo Team. The film presents the challenges of living within a changing climate as the team rebuilds after Hurricane Laura ravaged southwest Louisiana and uprooted their lives in 2020. The short film showcases that in a time of upheaval and widespread displacement, strong cultural identity becomes critical to a community's ability to rebound after disaster. By highlighting the McNeese Rodeo team's journey against the backdrop of Cajun Prairie's challenges, this project seeks to illuminate the interconnectedness of human and environmental stories, showcasing the unwavering spirit of the Cajun community.

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

Filmmaker Bio

Jack LaCalle is an M.F.A. candidate in the Science and Natural History Filmmaking Program at Montana State University. Jack earned a bachelor's degree in sustainable development from Appalachian State University in 2021 and quickly transitioned to pursue a graduate degree in documentary film. His passion lies in the outdoors, and much of his film work revolves around human-nature interactions. Jack LaCalle co-founded Generate, an award-winning independent film production company focused on documentary storytelling, with his brother, Will. Jack is originally from San Antonio, Texas.

Filmmaker Artist Statement

Storytelling, for me, is something that is critical to a healthy culture. Being homeschooled and living on the road for my whole childhood, my brother and I would sit together and watch documentaries when we were en-route to our next destination. So much of my early education and many of my career dreams came from watching the work of Ken Burns, Errol Morris, Werner Herzog, David Attenborough, and so many more. Looking at where I am now, it makes sense why I wanted to find stories that resonate with me and share them with the world. I am passionate about finding stories that show unique views of the world. In the filmmaking process, I take the most gratification out of finding the people and places that will be featured in the film and connecting with them. I really enjoy being on location and using the camera to create a sense of intimacy with the story so the viewer can walk away after watching the film as if they have just lived through the experiences and stories presented. This, to me, is what is so special about

the art of filmmaking and storytelling more broadly. It connects us, passes on lessons learned, and drives us forward. That's where my passion for the art form lies.

Film Logline

The McNeese State University rodeo team is a pillar of the community in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where worsening natural disasters have wreaked havoc on the community in recent years. With support from the university and community, Justin Browning, the head rodeo coach, develops young men and women to overcome and succeed through the trauma and adversity of their surrounding environment and build back stronger, compete harder, and grow as leaders.

Film Synopsis

In the heart of the Cajun Prairie of South Louisiana, amidst the backdrop of escalating hurricane activity, the McNeese State University rodeo team stands as an unwavering beacon of resilience. Led by coach Justin Browning, the team transcends the chaos of their surroundings, embodying the spirit of perseverance and triumph in the face of adversity. As the head rodeo coach, Browning epitomizes dedication, fostering a supportive environment where young men and women not only hone their rodeo skills but also cultivate the strength to confront and overcome the challenges thrust upon their community and surrounding environment. With the backing of both the university and the community, Browning nurtures a culture of resilience, instilling in his team the determination to rise above the wreckage and emerge stronger than ever. Amidst the turmoil brought by a catastrophic hurricane, the rodeo arena becomes a sanctuary, a place where these aspiring athletes find solace and purpose. Through the dust and sweat of their rigorous training, they forge bonds that transcend the arena, uniting as a family bound by shared

struggles and triumphs. In the heat of competition, the McNeese State University rodeo team shines, embodying the resilience and fortitude of their community. Each ride and victory serves as a testament to their unwavering resolve and commitment to overcoming the odds. Through this documentary, viewers are invited to witness the journey of the McNeese State University rodeo team as they navigate the current landscape of South Louisiana. It is a story of resilience, of triumph over tragedy, and of the transformative power of sport to inspire hope, forge leaders in the face of adversity, and create a more sustainable future.

Financial Information

Jack LaCalle has funded the film's production along with his family's support. All equipment used in the film is already owned and paid for by Jack and Will LaCalle. The crew stayed at their family’s property in Louisiana during principal photography except for one night in Huntsville, Texas. The primary expense in the production of this film is post-production sound by Luke Bern Carr, which is quoted at $2,000.

Table 1: Hold Fast Film Budget

Cinematography	7 Days	In-kind
Sound	7 Days	In-kind
Post-production Sound and Music	30 Hours	$2,000
Gas	10 units	$350
Data Storage	3 units	$600
Food	42 units	$750
Lodging	6 nights	In-kind
Hotel	1 night	$150
Total:		$3850

Crew

Jack LaCalle: Producer, Director, Editor

Will LaCalle: Cinematographer

Lindsay Coe: Additional Cinematography

Luke Bern Carr: Post-production Sound

CHAPTER TWO: HISTORY, CONTEXT, AND ARTISTIC APPROACH

2.1 Research

The Cajun Prairie of South Louisiana offers a distinctive lens through which to view the resilience and community spirit intrinsic to Cajun culture. This culture, a vibrant blend of French, Acadian, Spanish, and Native American influences, has flourished over centuries, despite historical adversities. The Great Upheaval of the 18th century marked a pivotal moment in this narrative, as Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia found refuge in Louisiana, infusing the region with their rich cultural traditions and strong communal bonds (Brasseaux, 1992). Though filled with hardship, this displacement led to the emergence of a distinct Cajun identity, characterized by its linguistic, culinary, and musical traditions, that has become synonymous with the spirit of resilience and adaptability in the region.

The economic landscape of Louisiana, deeply intertwined with its natural resources, has played a significant role in shaping its cultural expressions. Agriculture and ranching have long been staples of Louisiana's economy, providing a connection to the land that is reflected in the community's values and traditions that were passed on for generations. Cajun people have typically made a living through farming, trapping, boat building, and raising livestock in the prairie and marshlands of south Louisiana. From a cultural standpoint, Cajun music has become one of the region’s most famous cultural artifacts. Often these songs are ballads sung in the Cajun French dialect, telling stories of the community’s deep-rooted connection with the landscape (Bernard, 2011). The Cajun people were Americanized after years of harsh Anglo-Saxonism through the 19th and 20th centuries, brought on by the Anglo-Saxon’s imposed belief

of superiority and interest in stifling the culture of other ethnic groups (Bernard, 2003). The advent of oil, gas, and chemical development in the 1930s in Louisiana introduced new dynamics to this relationship, propelling economic growth and presenting new environmental challenges. Canals, pipelines, platforms, and barrier islands have exacerbated the state's worsening coastal erosion. At the cost of significant economic growth, the water and soil in south Louisiana have been polluted and contaminated by waste, by-products, and spills from the oil and gas and chemical manufacturing industries (Theriot, 2021). Amid the first oil and gas boom in Louisiana, rodeo was introduced by workers in the oil and gas industry from Oklahoma and Texas. Ranching and horsemanship were well established in the Cajun Prairie long before most other states would identify with a cowboy tradition. However, it was not until the first oil and gas boom that it manifested as a sporting and competitive event. Rodeo encapsulated the state's western heritage and embodied the Cajun spirit of perseverance and grit, quickly becoming a popular sport in South Louisiana (Watson, 1999). Rodeo, with its celebration of skill, courage, and community, serves as a vital link to the region's agrarian past.

South Louisiana's natural landscape and communities face severe environmental challenges that threaten their existence. The region's susceptibility to climate change manifests in rising sea levels, hurricanes in increasing severity and frequency, and coastal erosion, each posing significant threats to its communities and ecosystems (Emanuel, 2005). These phenomena, exacerbated by human activity, have led to the loss of nearly 2,000 square miles of coastal land since the 1930s, a trend that, if unchecked, guarantees further destruction through increased severity and frequency of hurricanes, flooding, and coastal erosion (Zimmerman,

2023). The degradation of wetlands, crucial for biodiversity and a buffer against storms, highlights the urgency of environmental restoration efforts.

This confluence of cultural heritage and environmental adversity presents a unique scenario where the enduring spirit of the Cajun community is tested against the forces of nature and the consequences of human actions. The Cajun Prairie, a region of grasslands, lakes, rivers, and marsh in Southwest Louisiana, represents this struggle and embodies the resilience of a people determined to preserve their way of life during escalating environmental challenges. After overcoming the widespread regional destruction and displacement brought on by hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, the McNeese State University rodeo team, a pillar to the community, becomes a symbol of this resilience, their story a microcosm of the larger narrative of adaptation and perseverance (Watson, 1999).

Hold Fast, the thesis film, explores these themes, drawing upon a rich tapestry of cultural history, economic development, and environmental science to present a nuanced portrayal of South Louisiana. By highlighting the rodeo team's journey against the backdrop of the Cajun Prairie's challenges, the film seeks to illuminate the interconnectedness of human and environmental stories, showcasing the unwavering spirit of the Cajun community.

2.2 Connection to the Broader Field

Documentary filmmaking is an important medium for exploring diverse narratives that connect human experiences with broader socio-political, cultural, and environmental themes. In crafting *Hold Fast*, centered on the McNeese State University rodeo team, a deliberate effort was made to situate the story within this tradition, drawing inspiration from influential works while

pushing the boundaries of the documentary form to incorporate scientific and natural history elements in innovative ways (Nichols, 2017).

Hold Fast was deeply inspired by the film *Fightville* (2011), directed by Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker, which offers a raw and intimate glimpse into the world of mixed martial arts in Louisiana, highlighting themes of ambition, perseverance, and the quest for identity within the microcosm of the fighting community. The documentary's verité style, emphasizing personal stories and behind-the-scenes footage, provides a compelling narrative that highlights the importance of individual struggles within larger community contexts (Epperlein and Tucker). *Fightville* laid the framework for the cinematic style in addition to an emphasis on personal rather than explanatory conversations during interviews with members of the McNeese rodeo team while filming *Hold Fast. Fightville* directly inspired the sense of intimacy built through close-ups and handheld camera work presented in *Hold Fast.* Epperlein and Tucker's approach to storytelling has significantly influenced the making of *Hold Fast,* particularly in its focus on the personal journeys of rodeo athletes against the backdrop of the communal and environmental challenges in South Louisiana (Epperlein and Tucker).

The Territory (2022)

Another Film that influenced *Hold Fast* is *The Territory* (2022) directed by Alex Pritz, which provides an intimate and immersive look into the conflict over deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, focusing on the Indigenous Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people's struggle to protect their ancestral land from encroachment by non-Indigenous farmers and settlers. This documentary, through its powerful storytelling and innovative use of community-generated footage, offers am important perspective on environmental conservation, Indigenous rights, and

the complex relationship between humans and their environment. Analyzing *The Territory* alongside *Hold Fast* about the Cajun Prairie's rodeo culture and environmental challenges reveals the universal themes of land stewardship, cultural preservation, and community resilience in the face of external threats.

At the heart of *The Territory* is the theme of environmental stewardship, embodied by the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people's efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest from deforestation and degradation. This struggle resonates with the environmental challenges in South Louisiana, where issues like coastal erosion, habitat loss, and climate change pose significant threats to the region's cultural and ecological landscapes. Both films underscore the critical importance of preserving the natural landscape, not only for their intrinsic ecological value but also for their cultural significance to the communities that depend on them.

Alex Pritz's approach to *The Territory* involved collaborating closely with the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people, empowering them to document their experiences using cameras provided by the filmmaking team. This community-driven storytelling method enhances the authenticity and immediacy of the film, offering viewers an inside look at the Indigenous community's perspective. Similarly, *Hold Fast* aims to capture the lived experiences of the Cajun rodeo community, highlighting their deep connection to the land and their efforts to maintain their cultural heritage amidst environmental and societal changes through intimate personal stories and cinematography. *The Territory* utilizes striking imagery of environmental damage and forest fires across the Amazon rainforest. This use of collected imagery directly inspired the opening minute to Hold Fast, when Hurricane Laura was ravaging southwest Louisiana. This opening scene and the collected imagery shown in *The Territory* are intentionally used to create a sense

of drama and despair, introducing environmental threats as a character within the films' narratives. Before anyone else, Hurricane Laura is introduced as a character in *Hold Fast*. This intentionally plays on the human tendency to anthropomorphize non-human elements of the natural world (Hume and Robertson). Hurricane Laura is then mentioned and weaved throughout *Hold Fast* either directly or is alluded to by the other characters in the film. Hurricane Laura was not the only major hurricane to impact southwest Louisiana in 2020. Hurricane Delta made landfall as a category 2 storm with a path only five miles to the east of Laura on October 9th, 2020, less than six weeks after Hurricane Laura struck the coast (NOAA). However, Hurricane Delta is only briefly mentioned in *Hold Fast*, not to dismiss the damage it caused, which was relatively minor, but as a way to strengthen Hurricane Laura's character in the film. It can be overwhelming to remain focused on telling a concise story on the frontlines of climate change since so many issues are interconnected to the broad topic. In times of chaos and upheaval, communities can lose their identity and culture deteriorates. *Hold Fast* was made as an attempt to narrow the focus on the severe impacts of climate change on a regional level through the lens of one specific event, a hurricane.

The Territory and *Hold Fast* share a common narrative thread: the challenge of preserving cultural identity and environmental integrity against the backdrop of modernization and external pressures. In *The Territory*, this challenge is manifested in the fight against illegal deforestation and the encroachment of settlers on Indigenous lands. In *Hold Fast*, it appears in the struggle to maintain traditional rodeo culture and protect the Cajun Prairie's natural beauty and the ecosystem services the land provides to the local communities. These documentaries

highlight the universal struggle of communities around the world to safeguard their heritage and the environment for future generations.

The Territory by Alex Pritz contributes a valuable perspective, highlighting the shared themes of environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and community resilience. By examining *The Territory* alongside *Hold Fast*, we can appreciate the broad applicability of documentary filmmaking in exploring how communities engage with and protect their natural and cultural landscapes. This analysis demonstrates the capacity of documentaries to bridge diverse geographical and cultural contexts, revealing the commonalities in human experiences of connection to and conflict over a sustainable environmental landscape.

The Rider (2017)

Chloé Zhao's *The Rider* (2017) is a narrative film that stands out for its docu-fiction approach, blending real-life experiences with narrative storytelling. The film follows Brady Blackburn, a rodeo cowboy recovering from a severe head injury, as he navigates the complexities of identity, masculinity, and the American West's mythos. While not a documentary, *The Rider* employs non-professional actors playing versions of themselves, offering an authentic and poignant exploration of the rodeo culture and its impact on individuals and their communities. This approach provides a rich context for analyzing *The Rider* in relation to *Hold Fast* on the Cajun Prairie's rodeo culture and environmental challenges.

The Rider delves into the protagonist's struggle with his identity after an accident forces him to reconsider his life as a rodeo cowboy. *Hold Fast* attempts to do something similar, focusing on the rodeo team rebuilding and forging stronger bonds as a team following the displacement and destruction brought on by Hurricane Laura. *The Rider's* exploration of identity,

set against the backdrop of the American West, mirrors *Hold* Fast's investigation into how Cajun rodeo participants navigate their cultural heritage and personal aspirations within the environmental challenges of South Louisiana. Zhao's film highlights the importance of community support and the shared bonds formed through rodeo, themes that resonate with the McNeese Rodeo team and, more broadly, the Cajun community's collective efforts to preserve their way of life during a period of climatic and societal changes (Zhao).

Zhao's method of blending documentary and narrative filmmaking techniques in *The Rider* offers an innovative model for capturing real-life stories with emotional depth and cinematic beauty. The film's authenticity, achieved by casting real-life rodeo cowboy Brady Jandreau and his family, provides a template for integrating personal narratives into broader thematic explorations. *Hold Fast* similarly aims to portray the lives of rodeo athletes at McNeese State University authentically, utilizing verité techniques to immerse viewers in the subjects' experiences, thereby creating a connection between the audience and the community portrayed.

While *The Rider* primarily focuses on personal resilience and the quest for identity, the film's setting in the American West implicitly addresses humans' relationship with their environment. The vast landscapes and rodeo scenes underscore the cultural significance of rodeo within rural American communities and their connection to the land. This theme aligns with *Hold Fast's* exploration of the Cajun community's resilience in the face of environmental degradation, highlighting the intricate relationship between cultural practices like rodeo and the ongoing struggle to protect and adapt to changing landscapes (Zhao).

By examining *The Rider*, alongside *Hold Fast*, we can appreciate the value of documentary, even within narrative storytelling, which offers profound insights into the human

experience. Zhao's film underscores the potential of cinema to explore deeply personal and communal narratives within specific cultural and environmental contexts, reinforcing *Hold Fast*'s exploration of Cajun rodeo culture's significance in the broader narrative of environmental and cultural preservation.

Bringing together the insights gleaned from *Fightville*, *The Territory*, and *The Rider* reveals the profound capacity of documentary and docu-fiction filmmaking to illuminate the complexities of human resilience, cultural identity, and environmental stewardship. These films, each in their unique way, underscore the steadfast spirit of communities navigating the complex challenges posed by their environments, whether that is the physical landscapes of Louisiana and the Amazon or the internal landscapes of personal identity and ambition. Through the verité intimacy of *Fightville*, the collaborative authenticity of *The Territory*, and the docu-fictional sincerity of *The Rider*, we encounter a wide variety of human experience and perseverance. *Hold Fast* not only contributes to this rich tapestry but also stands as a testament to the power of documentary storytelling to bridge diverse cultures. It draws on the universal themes of struggle and triumph, and in doing so, it highlights the shared journey of humanity to confront and adapt to the ever-changing nature of life and the environment in the 21st century. This merging of stories and styles offers a compelling narrative that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, affirming the documentary medium's important role in creating a deeper understanding of our world and ourselves. *Hold Fast* thereby encapsulates the essence of documentary filmmaking's ability to inspire, challenge, and ultimately bring out a collective narrative of resilience, hope, and the relentless pursuit of preservation in this changing world.

Hold Fast also draws upon the scientific exploration and narrative engagement found in more typical environmental documentaries like *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006) and *Chasing Ice* (2012), which use compelling visuals and personal narratives to communicate complex climate change impacts (Guggenheim; Orlowski). By integrating these elements, *Hold Fast* aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the environmental challenges facing the Cajun Prairie, grounding the personal stories of the rodeo team in the broader context of global environmental change.

The tradition of documentary filmmaking, rooted in exploring and presenting real-life stories, issues, and environments, has continually evolved to embrace new subjects, techniques, and narrative forms. *Hold Fast* positions itself within this tradition, adopting a style that combines the intimate focus of character-driven storytelling with an exploratory approach to scientific and environmental themes (Aufderheide, 2007). This dual focus allows the film to not only depict the resilience and dedication of the rodeo team but also to contextualize their story within the larger story of climate change adaption.

Innovation in the documentary form often arises from the intersection of diverse narrative elements and filmmaking techniques. By incorporating scientific research with stark realism into the storytelling process, *Hold Fast* seeks to broaden the scope of traditional documentary narratives, offering audiences a richer, more layered understanding of the subject matter (Nichols, 2017). This approach reflects a growing trend in documentary filmmaking, where filmmakers are increasingly leveraging the power of storytelling to illuminate complex issues and engage audiences in meaningful ways. By situating the narrative within the broader field of documentary filmmaking and embracing traditional storytelling techniques and innovative

approaches to integrating scientific content, *Hold Fast* aspires to push the boundaries of the form, offering new insights into the challenges and triumphs of life in South Louisiana (Nichols, 2017).

2.3 Artistic Approach

The artistic approach of the thesis film is intricately designed to weave the rich tapestry of South Louisiana's Cajun culture, the resilience of the McNeese State University rodeo team, and the looming shadow of environmental challenges and disaster into a compelling narrative. Drawing inspiration from both the verité style of *Fightville* and the environmental storytelling of *The Territory*, as well as shocking visuals related to environmental degradation similar to *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Chasing Ice*, this section outlines the formal choices made to connect these elements cohesively.

Influenced by *Fightville* the thesis film adopts a verité approach to capture the raw, unfiltered experiences of the rodeo team. This technique, characterized by its use of natural lighting, handheld camera work, and direct sound, allows for an immersive experience, drawing viewers into the world of rodeo with an intimacy that blurs the line between observer and participant (Nichols, 2017). The intent is to create a sense of immediacy and authenticity, inviting the audience to share in the triumphs, struggles, and everyday realities of the team members.

This melding of narrative storytelling with factual scientific information aims to enhance the audience's understanding of the urgent environmental issues at play, grounding the personal stories of the rodeo team in the broader context of global climate challenges. The objective is not

only to inform but also to evoke a sense of stewardship and the importance of sustainable practices within the audience (Orlowski, 2012)

At its core, *Hold Fast* explores themes of resilience, identity, and environmental stewardship. These themes are interwoven throughout the film, highlighting the rodeo team's determination and the Cajun community's enduring spirit in the face of adversity. The film shows the rodeo arena as a microcosm of the larger environmental and cultural battles being waged, symbolizing the struggle to maintain tradition and identity amidst the encroaching forces of change (Nichols, 2017).

The artistic approach of the thesis film is a carefully considered combination of stylistic influences, thematic explorations, and scientific integration. By drawing from the documentary traditions exemplified by *Fightville* and *The Territory* and incorporating the informative clarity of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the film aspires to tell a story that resonates on both a personal and universal level. Through this approach, the film seeks to not only tell the story of a rodeo team but also to illuminate the broader concerns of cultural preservation, community resilience, and environmental sustainability in South Louisiana.

CHAPTER THREE: CONNECTION TO THE MATERIAL AND DISTRIBUTION PLANS

Section 3.1: Connection to the Material

I grew up spending much of my childhood in South Louisiana, living for extended periods of time on a high bank overlooking the Calcasieu River that runs into Lake Charles in several cabins my great-great-grandfather built in the 1940s. Generations of my family grew up spending time at the property, fishing on the river, hunting in the forests and sloughs, and gathering for the holidays. This cabin and property were destroyed in 2020 by Hurricane Laura. Both of my parents and their families are from the small town of Eunice, Louisiana, in the heart of what is considered the Cajun Prairie, which was historically settled by French Acadians after being exiled from Canada in 1755. The region has a strong and unique cultural identity within the United States that remains to this day. My father and grandfather both grew up competing in the bull riding event in rodeo in Louisiana through high school, and several family friends went on to compete and make careers in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Through these connections, I have been exposed to the sport of rodeo from a young age. Many of the McNeese rodeo athletes have this same heritage of being from Acadiana, and we share many mutual friends.

This story is personal to me. I want to represent my heritage and share a sense of hope that pillars of the community, like the McNeese Rodeo Team, will remain strong and represent not only the university but also the region. The trauma and devastation in the region have already happened. The impacts of climate change are ever present. The environmental and socio-economic degradation is ongoing. So, I believe it is important now to showcase the actions of

people who are trying to strengthen and rebuild an affected community. The McNeese Rodeo Team and the university as a whole opened their arms and let my brother and me in to film with them. They share a similar belief that people must see that they're still there and staying strong. From the time my brother and I started rolling the cameras, we had intimate access to life as a McNeese Rodeo athlete. I feel honored to have the opportunity to represent this culture and community. To showcase this team, culture, and region on a personal level for the public to see means the world to me. I want this film to go past traditional science-related documentaries and topic-oriented exposition and get into the practical and personal accounts of climate change and unsustainable practices. It's widely recognized that climate change and unsustainable practices are negatively impacting so much of the world, and I want to capture and share where people are going from here. That's what my focus is.

Section 3.2: Dissemination

My plan for my thesis film is to use it as a proof of concept for a longer and deeper diving film into Collegiate rodeo, visiting two other teams, Texas Tech University, and Montana State University, to showcase the different regions and the reach of college rodeo in addition to following the McNeese Rodeo team through the remainder of the 2023-24 rodeo season. The season will culminate at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, in June of 2024. I have already filmed with the Texas Tech and Montana State rodeo teams in the fall of 2023 and will continue to film with McNeese State Rodeo in May of 2024 as they prepare for the College National Finals Rodeo. Principal photography will wrap on July 1st, 2024, and post-production will be complete by December 15th, 2024, for the larger, long-form documentary film. The runtime will be between 45-60 minutes. My goal is to pitch the film to executive producers

that are already connected to streaming platforms or networks in the summer of 2024 to raise money for post-production, legal counsel, marketing, and distribution of the film.

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