



Pete's film premieres at Glasgow Film Festival

● By Matt Meade

Inside the Press



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A CAIRNEYHILL man will have his film premiered at the Glasgow Film Festival this month.

Pete Rennie (53) directed *Running Wild*, a 16-minute documentary about his ultra-marathon running wife Fiona, who suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2005.

It was selected as one of six "spellbinding" film ideas to be screened at the festival as part of the Starting Block scheme for emerging talent.

And it's an even greater achievement for Pete, Glenavon Drive, as he has ME, which can leave sufferers debilitated through a lack of energy.

He said, "Ultra marathon running intrigues people and hopefully this documentary can inspire others."

"*Running Wild* is about Fiona (right, in Carnegie Harriers vest) who runs over 50 miles at a time. Some people can take two days to do the West Highland Way, my wife can do it in one day or about 26 hours."

"She went along with it but didn't realise it was so professional."

He deliberately sought out 'wild' scenery to reflect the challenging landscapes and elements Fiona tackles. It saw him film his wife along the West Highland Way route and at Devilla Forest, Culross and in the Lomond Hills.

He managed to craft the film despite having no previous experience and admitting to not even being a film fan!

Fiona (48) has completed the gruelling West Highland Way Race – running 95 miles from Milngavie to Fort William – an amazing SEVEN times and still loves to keep pushing her body to the limit.

She appeared in the Press in October after completing her 65th marathon following her recovery from a massive brain haemorrhage in 2005.

Running magazine and national newspapers ran articles after the *Press* story had appeared, keen to tell her story.

Now Peter has transferred that inspiration to celluloid and will see the premiere at the Glasgow CCA, Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday with Fiona.

Runrig, one of Fiona's favourite bands, even gave Pete permission to use their song 'The Clash of the Ash' as part of the soundtrack.

Despite having had ME for 18 years, a slight improvement in his condition in the last two years saw him getting involved in different day courses, leading to his involvement with Diversity Films, who run the Starting Block scheme.

He added, "It can be debilitating. If I do one thing it can take days to recover and it feels like you go one step forward and 10 steps back."

Running Wild will also be screened at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, on Saturday 26th February.

www.glasgowfilm.org/festival

