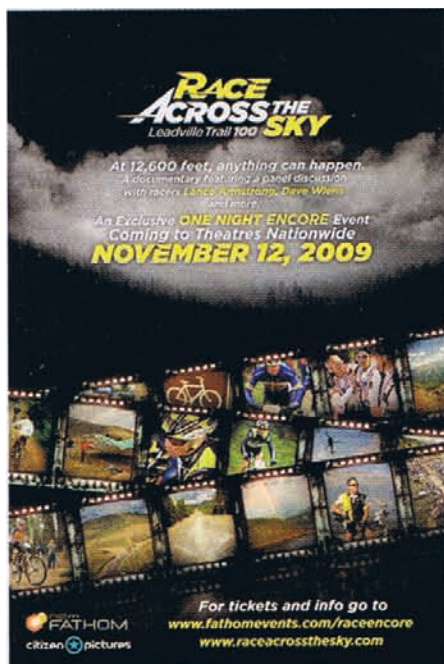
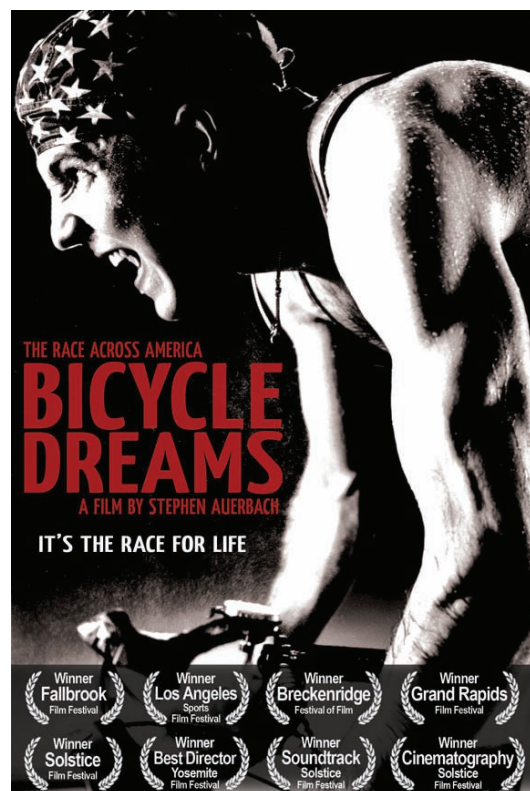


## RACING ACROSS THE SKY, AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

While different in both size and scope – one is a multi-day journey across the country, the other a single-day mountain-bike race held at 14,000 feet elevation – the Race Across America and the Leadville Trail 100 share several common denominators: elite riders and first-time participants alike find themselves pushed to their limits, attempting to complete events that exist at the far extreme of cycling competition. And in 2009, documentaries of both films were released to critical and audience acclaim.

In making *Bicycle Dreams*, filmmaker Stephen Auerbach and his crew worked around the clock to capture the highs and lows of the 2005 RAAM. With 18 cameras in the field, the team searched for innovative ways to document an event that sees half its participants abandon, including a midrace trip to the emergency room. Auerbach then took on the enormous task of editing hundreds of hours of material into a powerful, inspiring look inside the most difficult race on earth; since its spring release, the film has won nine film-festival awards.

"It blows me away to think that the film is reaching and affecting people in this way," Auerbach said. "All those lonely days and nights editing the 500 hours of footage down to 100 minutes are totally redeemed by the strong and mystical connection between filmmaker and audience. Making the film changed my life and for some, viewing it has had a similar effect."



After the epic 2008 Leadville battle between six-time winner Dave Wiens and Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong – the fight that prompted Armstrong's comeback – *Race Across the Sky* director Frank Matson couldn't resist the opportunity to document the rematch. However the battle for top honors doesn't dominate his film; instead, middle-of-the-pack participants share equal footing, as does the remarkable story of Roxanne Hall, who was seriously injured in a vehicular collision less than a year before the August 2009 event, yet staged a comeback of her own to finish under the 12-hour cutoff.

Armstrong may be the star power behind *Race Across the Sky*, but it's the cinematography that steals the show. Motorcycle-mounted camera-men and helicopter aerial shots bring the viewer up close to the riders while also capturing the breathtaking grandeur of the Rocky Mountains.

*Bicycle Dreams* is available for \$20 at [www.bicycledreamsmovie.com](http://www.bicycledreamsmovie.com). *Race Across the Sky* will be available on March 1 at [www.raceacrossthesky.com](http://www.raceacrossthesky.com).