



For Immediate Release

**High Plains Films Set to Release new Feature Documentary, *This is Nowhere***

VHS copies are available for review by the press. Digital still images are also available.

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Additional information and a short trailer can be viewed on-line at:  
[http://www.highplainsfilms.org/fp\\_nowhere.html](http://www.highplainsfilms.org/fp_nowhere.html)

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*This is Nowhere*, a new documentary feature from High Plains Films, will soon be released to theatrical, broadcast, educational and home video markets. The 87 minute film, which documents the motivations and philosophies of RV travelers who camp in Wal Mart parking lots, was four years in the making. Montana Public Television will be a presenting station when the film is released for broadcast. High Plains Films is seeking distribution in all markets.

Nearly three million Americans live full-time in motor homes, campers and trailers. Millions more spend significant portions of each year wandering America in their homes on wheels. Taking advantage of the modern American landscape, tens of thousands of vacation and full-time travelers steer their Recreational Vehicles (RVs) into Wal-Mart parking lots each year to “camp” for a night or two.

2001 Montana Individual Artist Fellowship winner, Doug Hawes-Davis, and co-director John Lilburn set out to document this emerging social phenomenon with the idea that this story was bigger than a few wayward tourists with curious tastes in camping spots. The result is a new documentary feature, *This is Nowhere*. Producer Hawes-Davis explains. “The inherent contradiction of ‘camping’ in a box-store parking lot seemed like the perfect starting place for exploring cultural attitudes towards nature, community, and sense of place. We were surprised, however, by how eager our interview subjects were to discuss these same themes. After the very first night of interviews we realized that we could tie together many related issues in the same film. Themes of urban sprawl, tourism, and consumerism are accessed by examining RV camping in Wal-Mart parking lots.”

Lilburn adds, “What we found so compelling is that Wal-Marts are becoming important and valuable travel destinations, just as National Parks, museums and historic sites are important travel destinations. It’s clear the phenomenon is a reflection of ongoing changes in American culture.”

The travelers’ rationale for seeking out Wal-Marts as travel destinations provides a fascinating portrait of American culture at the dawn of the 21st century. “The travelers we interviewed are not out of the ordinary,” says filmmaker Hawes-Davis. “They are representative Americans who share a common bond of loving to travel in RVs, and loving Wal-Mart. Most of them are interested in nature, meeting new people, learning about our nation’s history, or just plain new experiences, but they are also interested in the predictability, homogeneity, and sameness that Wal-Mart provides for travel and shopping.”

The film features an original soundtrack primarily from Birmingham, Alabama musician Ned Mudd, but also includes tracks from Missouri alt-country rockers, The Incontinentals and others. Montana musician, Aaron Parrett, also recorded music for the film. One music reviewer described Mudd's work this way, "Mudd's music defies nailing down, as does the artist. If forced to play one style of music for more than a few days, he'd give it all up and do something meaningful. It's about soul, not style. His music is as much picture as sound."

*This is Nowhere* is the third feature documentary from High Plains Films, the Montana-based non-profit production company which has released fifteen films that document "the relationship between nature and society." Two earlier feature documentaries, *Varmints* (1998) which has been called "*the Schindler's List* of wildlife documentaries," and *Killing Coyote* (2000), winner of the John Michaels Award at the 23rd Big Muddy Film Festival, have received wide acclaim.

Full of irony, *This is Nowhere* humorously captures the essence of American attitudes toward nature, equality, liberty and civic values. *This is Nowhere* was financed by the Fund for Wild Nature and Montana Public Television.

More information about High Plains Films is available on-line at [www.highplainsfilms.org](http://www.highplainsfilms.org).

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