



# HEART OF A LION



# Two mountain lion mothers. One shared landscape.

**Survival is no longer just about the wild - it's about living alongside us.**

**HEART OF A LION** follows renowned biologist Mark Elbroch deep into the rugged wilds of Wyoming and Washington's Olympic Peninsula, where he has spent years tracking two elusive mothers, F61 and Yoko, as they fight to raise their young on the edge of human territory.

*With rare, long-term access, the film reveals an intimate world few have ever seen: mothers hunting, protecting, and teaching their cubs in landscapes increasingly shaped by people.*

*As Elbroch's connection to the lions deepens, so do the stakes — every movement, every decision, becomes a matter of survival.*

**Visually immersive** and emotionally driven, HEART OF A LION challenges long-held myths and reframes our understanding of one of North America's most misunderstood predators—asking a timely and urgent question: what does it truly take for humans and apex predators to coexist?





# Why Now

As human development pushes deeper into wild landscapes, encounters with apex predators are increasing at an unprecedented rate.

**HEART OF A LION** arrives at a moment when coexistence is no longer theoretical—it's urgent. The film offers a rare opportunity to reshape public perception of one of North America's most misunderstood animals.

# Unprecedented Access



Filmed over multiple years, **HEART OF A LION** is built on rare, long-term access to two wild mountain lion families—allowing for an intimate, character-driven story that is almost never possible with such an elusive species.

Combining fieldcraft, camera trapping, and deep behavioral research, the film captures moments that have rarely, if ever, been documented—placing audiences inside the private lives of these animals.

A photograph of three lion cubs in a forest. The cubs are light brown with darker spots and are looking towards the left. They are surrounded by dry leaves and twigs on the ground. The background is a dense forest with green foliage, slightly out of focus. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a daytime setting.

## Visually Immersive

Intimate, immersive, and cinematic, *HEART OF A LION* blends observational natural history with emotional, character-driven storytelling.

The film places audiences inside the lived experience of these animals—balancing visceral survival with quiet, deeply human moments of connection, loss, and resilience.

# Awards and Recognition

## Best Wildlife Film

*REEL Wild New York Film Festival*

## Best Animal Behavior

*International Wildlife Film Festival*

## Best Editing

*Boston International Film Festival*

## Best Cinematography

*Boston International Film Festival*





## Jeff Hogan

Producer • Director of Photography

Emmy-winning wildlife cinematographer with over 30 years of experience, with four additional Emmy nominations. His work includes *Wild Yellowstone* (National Geographic), as well as projects for PBS and Disney+. He spent over a decade filming mountain lions in the Teton Range, creating one of the most extensive visual records of the species.



## Joe Pontecorvo

Director • Producer • Director of Photography

Three-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker whose work spans PBS, National Geographic, and the BBC. His credits include *Bears of the Last Frontier*, *Snow Monkeys*, *The Last Orangutan Eden*, *Yosemite*, and *Born in the Rockies*. He is known for crafting cinematic, character-driven wildlife stories with a strong conservation lens.

# Director's Statement

I wanted to tell a story that brings audiences closer to an animal we rarely see—and often misunderstand.

Following these lions over the years changed the way I see the wild, and our place within it. This film is about connection, perception, and what it means to share a landscape with something truly wild.



# Mark Elbroch

## Featured Biologist

Renowned mountain lion biologist and former director of Panthera's Puma Program, Mark Elbroch has spent years tracking and studying mountain lions in the wild—reshaping our understanding of the species.

Inspired in part by his book *The Cougar Conundrum*, his work brings rare depth and perspective to *HEART OF A LION*, grounding the film in both science and lived experience.



# Technical Specifications

**Runtime:** 99 Minutes

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9

**Country of Production:** USA

**Year:** 2025

**Language:** English



# HEART OF A LION Credits

A HEART OF A LION Production  
In association with Pontecorvo Productions

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Jon Ayers  
Dorothy Bahna

## PRODUCERS

Joe Pontecorvo  
Jeff Hogan

## DIRECTED BY

Joe Pontecorvo

## DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeff Hogan  
Joe Pontecorvo

## SUPERVISING EDITOR

Billy McMillin

## EDITED BY

Brad Allgood

## WRITTEN BY

Joe Pontecorvo  
Mark Elbroch

## MUSIC BY

Judson Crane

## SOUND DESIGN AND MIXED BY

Jason Devore

## ASSISTANT CAMERA

Nimmida Pontecorvo

## LOCATION SOUND

Nimmida Pontecorvo

## NARRATOR

Mark Elbroch

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Nimmida Pontecorvo  
Chelsea Fisk

## ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Jesse Wippert  
Matt Mahan

Heart of a Lion LLC | Joe Pontecorvo | 206-618-4087 | [pontecorvoproductions@gmail.com](mailto:pontecorvoproductions@gmail.com)

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