



# THUNDER RISES

a stop motion film by  
EVAN CURTIS

2021 / CO, USA



**Trailer:** 00:35

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1

### Short Synopsis:

In a vanishing wilderness, man silences the freedom of the wolf.

### Long Synopsis:

The conflict between wilderness and civilization, and the expectation that wild creatures obey human laws is displayed through The Hunter, the Wolf, and its domesticated descendant, the Dog. Based on a true story of a Fish and Wildlife biologist tasked with exterminating a reintroduced wolf for feeding on livestock, as required by his state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Filmed on location in Southwest Colorado.

# Production Process: *Outdoor Animation*

Similar to live-action filmmaking, I shoot on location which allows me to improvise. As an outdoor animator, I am able to capture unscripted moments such as weather changes. In this scene, a storm rolls in, rain falls, and the sun bursts through the clouds.



# Production Videos



*Sound Design*  
00:24



*Lighting*  
00:42



*Cabin - Deer Painting*  
00:44



*Cabin - Fire Light*  
00:40



## Stop Motion Filmmaker Evan Curtis

Evan Curtis is an award-winning independent stop motion filmmaker. His work has screened at SXSW, on PBS and in festivals worldwide.

Growing up in the Adirondack Mountains, and working as a trail crew leader building trails in National and State Parks, provided adventures and inspiration for themes that explore our place in an ever-changing landscape.

Roles on *Thunder Rises*: Director, Writer, Editor, Animator, Sound Designer, and Cinematographer.



## Puppet Fabricator Eszter Zrubka

Eszter Zrubka lives in Budapest, Hungary and specializes in needle felting. She created the Wolf and two Dog puppets for this film using wool, which offers a thematic contrast between the natural fibers of the animal characters and the hard plastic of the human character.



## Voice Actor G. Michael Nicolisi

G. Michael Nicolisi is an actor and voice actor. He created a voice for the Hunter that captured the nuance, reflection, and emotion in a character who struggles with his role in the wolf's fate.