

Amy's dream come true

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By Kenny Paterson

THE journey started with a dream about her favourite horse dying and ends tonight for Amy Hardie at the Edinburgh Film Festival as she sees the UK première of her internationally acclaimed documentary *The Edge of Dreaming*.



The West Linton documentary maker's latest work, in which she stars, has sold out two screenings tonight and on Saturday at the Filmhouse, while all the tickets for an additional showing added for Monday to meet demand have also been snapped up.

The clamour to see the film is no surprise after widespread plaudits and prizes. It won the main prize at the Kiev International Film Festival, and Amy travelled to Donegal in Ireland last weekend as *The Edge of Dreaming* opened the prestigious Gufu Gafa, an international film documentary festival.

And everywhere it has been shown, the setting for the film – the Borders countryside around Amy's home – has received praise.

Amy told *TheSouthern*: "It has had a great response everywhere and people from all over the world have said how beautiful the Borders is.

"I have had people from places such as America, Greece, Macedonia and Barcelona all say they want to stay in the Borders after seeing the film, so there could be an influx of people coming into the region.

"My dad rebuilt an aeroplane in his shed next to his house and put a camera in it, which added some great shots from the sky of the Borders countryside."

It is appropriate that the film is launched in the UK this week by Amy, who moved to Bowden from Aberdeenshire in 1993 before relocating to Peeblesshire with her husband and three children – as the birth of the documentary's idea was from her horse George, who formerly carried a Selkirk Standard Bearer on Common Riding Day.

Explaining the film's theme, Amy said: "I usually make science films working in Edinburgh but because of these dreams I had to turn the camera on myself for the first time.

"I did not remember my dreams but this time George, who we bought off Norman Pender, spoke to me and said he was going to fall down and die.

"I was absolutely sure the horse was dead. When I woke up and went outside to check he was lying dead in a field.

"I'm not a superstitious person, and with such a busy life with my job and family, I put it down to coincidence.

"But then I had another dream with the father of my oldest child, who had died a year or so previous, who said he had come to tell me I would die in my 48th year.

"When I got very ill and had a third dream about dying I knew I had to take it seriously."

And so began her research and filming into how people can control their dreams. For Amy, seeing both a neuroscientist and a Brazilian shaman helped to banish the premonitions from her mind while she slept.

"When I had the dream I was too embarrassed to tell anyone but after people have seen the documentary they have said they have dreamt about someone dying who has died a few days later," added Amy.

She hopes as many Borderers as possible can see *The Edge of Dreaming*.

She told us: "It is fantastic to have the UK première at the Edinburgh Film Festival.

"Once it is out of the way, I am going to try to get the film to the Borders.