

## 2002 Banff Mountain Festivals Participant Biographies

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### **Jean Afanassieff**

Of Russian origin, Jean Afanassieff was born in Paris in 1953. Over the last 20 years, he has directed over 35 documentary films on high adventure, science and the environment. He has worked from Russia to the Antarctic, filming in locations such as Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet, Siberia, Central Asia, Kamchatka, North America, the Alps and Patagonia. First and foremost an alpinist, Afanassieff was in 1978 the first Frenchman to reach the summit of Everest. He also holds a world record for skiing down the mountain from an altitude of 8300 metres. Afanassieff is currently working on several documentary films in Russia and France.

### **John Amatt**

John Amatt has over 35 years of mountain experience, having climbed in Europe, Peru, China, Nepal, Baffin Island and Greenland. In 1965, at the age of 20, he made the first ascent of the 1500-metre “Vertical Mile” Troll Wall in Norway, the highest vertical rock face in Europe. The following year, he climbed the more difficult North Face of Sondre Trolltind in the same valley. After immigrating to Canada in 1968, he worked at The Banff Centre, where he founded the Banff Festival of Mountain Films in 1976. In 1982, he was one of the principal organizers of and a climber on Canada’s first successful expedition to climb Mount Everest.

Building on these experiences, in 1984 Amatt founded One Step Beyond WorldWide, an innovative educational and motivational company dedicated to the pursuit of personal peak performance and effective teamwork in corporate and professional life. He has since delivered leadership seminars to more than 1500 audiences in over 35 countries worldwide. His “Adventure Attitude™” philosophy is articulated in his recent book *Straight to the Top and Beyond*, which uses his own adventure experiences to develop innovative strategies for meeting the challenges of rapidly changing times.

### **Bernard Amy**

Bernard Amy was born in Lebanon in 1940. As a scientific researcher living and working in France, he is involved in artificial intelligence and cognitive sciences. An alpinist and traveller, he has visited most of the mountain ranges in the world. He is a contributing writer to mountain magazines in both North America and Europe and is the author of several books. Amy is one of the founders of *Passage*, a French mountaineering literary magazine. A former president of the French branch of Mountain Wilderness International Association, at present he chairs the Observatoire de l’Alpinisme, a national committee involved in the defense of alpinism. In his latest book, *Le voyage à la cime*, he illustrates how alpinism, writing and scientific studies are just different ways of travelling — different aspects of a single search.

### **Ben Ayers**

Ben Ayers has worked and lived with mountain porters in Nepal for the past four years, even carrying loads in the traditional fashion — with a basket and tumpline. He recently founded Porters’ Progress, a Nepali NGO run by porters themselves which seeks to improve their working conditions through positive and empowering means. In just over two years, Ayers’ efforts have led to over 1,700 porters being outfitted with warm clothing, and another 3,000 given training on critical topics such as altitude-sickness prevention and basic mountain safety.

### **Gerhard Baur**

Born in 1947, Gerhard Baur grew up in Friedrichshafen. He apprenticed as a fitter, later graduating from a technical school. He started doing hard climbs as a student, and subsequently

completed several first ascents in the Alps. His contribution to mountain filmmaking began in 1968, when he made his first original film for Bavarian Television, about a first ascent in the Dolomites. Baur specializes in films that re-create pivotal moments in climbing history. His 1983 film *The Eiger – Conquering the Killer Wall* re-enacted the 1969 Japanese climb of the North Face of the Eiger and won the Banff Mountain Film Festival's Best Film on Mountaineering award. In 1986, his film *Die Entscheidung (The Decision)* received a Special Jury award. Baur's best-known film, *The Grandes Jorasses North Face*, won Banff's Grand Prize in 1986 and was awarded top honours at many mountain film festivals that year. During his rich career he has won more than 40 international film awards and other honours, including grand prizes at festivals in San Sebastian, Les Diablerets, Annecy and Telluride. Baur is the winner of the first award presented by the International Alliance for Mountain Film for significant contribution to mountain filmmaking.

### **Eldon Beck**

Eldon Beck has been developing village projects in mountain areas for the last forty years. The overriding philosophy of his work dictates that nature is the textbook for the village design. The village can, and should be, the place where people connect to nature. Buildings are massed and scaled to complement the pedestrian system, and public places and public landscape are the dominant features of the pedestrian village.

Beck has designed villages in Whistler, British Columbia; Mont Tremblant, Quebec; River Run Village in Keystone, Colorado; Stratton, Vermont; The Village at Squaw Valley, California; The Village at Copper Mountain, Colorado; Les Arcs, France; and a riverside village at the base of the Remarkables in Queenstown, New Zealand. He presents compelling evidence that a strong landscape, respect for that landscape, and good design create significant, long-lasting social and economic benefits for communities.

### **Ken Belford**

Ken Belford was born to a farming family in Debolt, Alberta, and grew up in East Vancouver. In the late 1960s, he moved to Smithers, B.C., where he homesteaded with his wife, Alice Williams. He now operates a guiding/outfitting business that specializes in wilderness excursions based at Blackwater Lake in the Nass watershed. He has published two books of poetry, *Pathways into the Mountains* and *Fireweed*. An eco-poet who examines the archetypal Canadian conflict of development and preservation, Ken Belford looks at both sides, delving into the heart of each argument.

### **Edwin Bernbaum**

Doctor Edwin Bernbaum is Director of the Sacred Mountains Program at The Mountain Institute, and a Research Associate at the University of California at Berkeley. A Guarantor of Mountain Wilderness International and a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), he develops ways of taking the cultural and spiritual significance of mountains into account in environmental programs. Bernbaum has initiated a project in the United States to develop interpretive and educational materials and activities for the National Park Service based on the spiritual and cultural significance of mountains. His award-winning book *Sacred Mountains of the World* (University of California Press) was the basis for an exhibit of his photography at the Smithsonian Institution. He is a frequent lecturer on culture, art, religion, leadership, mountains, mountaineering and the environment.

### **Barry Blanchard**

Internationally certified mountain guide Barry Blanchard heard climbing's call as a teenager in Calgary, and for the past 20 years he has been answering that call. With climbing experience throughout Asia, the Alps, the Andes and the northern ranges of North America, Blanchard developed a passion for hard alpine routes in winter conditions. In the past three decades, he has specialized in lightweight alpine expeditions

in the world's highest ranges. He lists his proudest climbing achievements as "a six-day ascent of the North Ridge of Rakaposhi [Pakistan] with Kevin Doyle and the late David Cheesmond, the first ascent of the North Pillar of North Twin [Canada] with Cheesmond, and surviving an alpine-style attempt on the Central Spur of the Rupal Face of Nanga Parbat [Pakistan] with Mark Twight, Ward Robinson, and Doyle".

Blanchard lives in Canmore, Alberta, with his wife, climber Catherine Mulvihill. He has worked as a climbing advisor and safety rigger on a number of Hollywood films including *Cliffhanger*, *K2*, *The Last of the Dogmen*, *The Edge* and *Vertical Limit*. Barry Blanchard is the 2002 recipient of the Bill March Summit of Excellence Award.

### **Kathryn Bridge**

Kathryn Bridge is an archivist and manager of the British Columbia Archives. Bridge has written several books about women in British Columbia history: *Henry & Self: The Private Life of Sarah Lindley Crease*, *By Snowshoe, Buckboard and Steamer: Women of the Frontier* and *Phyllis Munday: Mountaineer*. She lives with her family in Victoria.

### **Greg Child**

A mountaineer who has summited K2 and Everest, Greg Child lives near Moab, Utah. Perhaps more significant than his climbing is Child's rare gift of being able to bring those experiences home to the rest of us. He is a writer for *Outside* and has also authored several books: *Thin Air: Encounters in the Himalayas*, *Mixed Emotions: Mountaineering Writings of Greg Child*, *Postcards from the Ledge*, *Over the Edge* and *Climbing Free* (co-authored with Lynn Hill).

### **Maria Coffey**

Maria Coffey is the author of *Fragile Edge*, an account of her relationship with the British mountaineer Joe Tasker and of her journey to Everest in the wake of his death on the Northeast Ridge. First published in 1989, new editions of the book have recently appeared in Canada, the U.S.A. and Italy.

Coffey has written a number of adventure travel books including *A Boat in Our Baggage*, *Three Moons in Vietnam*, *Sailing Back in Time* and her latest title, *Visions of the Wild: A Voyage by Kayak around Vancouver Island*, which she co-wrote with her husband, Dag Goering. She is also the author of three books for children. She is presently working on her next book, *Where the Mountain Casts Its Shadow: The Personal Costs of Climbing*, to be published by St. Martin's Press, New York.

Coffey lives in British Columbia, and with Goering guides kayaking trips worldwide through their company Hidden Places.

### **Yvon Chouinard**

Yvon Chouinard is the founder of Patagonia Inc. He started his career in the outdoor business as a transient climber and surfer, making climbing gear on a small forge and selling it from the back of his car. In 1964, he published his first mail-order catalogue, a one-page mimeographed sheet containing advice not to expect fast delivery during climbing season. He has built a personal and a corporate reputation based on his commitment to reducing our society's environmental impact.

Today, Chouinard's primary motivation, aside from enjoying himself on the water with either a fly rod or a surfboard, is to positively affect environmental issues. He has been toying for a long time with the idea of artificial reefs and, through the aid of environmental grants from Patagonia, has funded important research on the topic. His most recent initiative is the creation of the 1% Club, of which Patagonia was the founding member. This organization encourages corporations to give one per cent of their gross sales to environmental causes.

### **Julie-Ann Clyma**

Originally from New Zealand, Julie-Ann Clyma travelled to Great Britain in 1985 and took up residence there following her marriage to Roger Payne. In early 2002, she moved to Switzerland, where she is

working as a mountain guide and completing a Ph.D. thesis on factors affecting male fertility. Clyma writes regularly for specialist mountain journals and magazines, and her photographs have been used by major publishing houses, the climbing press, equipment manufacturers and advertising agencies. She has worked on expedition film projects and climbing-technique videos.

Clyma's rock-climbing background includes extensive climbing in New Zealand, Great Britain and Europe. She has considerable winter climbing experience in Scotland, and 21 seasons of alpine climbing, including a first winter ascent on Mount Cook's south face. Her 17 expeditions to the greater ranges (12 as expedition leader) have encompassed trips to Alaska, Peru, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Nepal and India. Expedition highlights include the first British/N.Z. ascents of Khan Tengri (7010 m) and Pobeda (7435 m); the first British/N.Z. and first alpine-style ascent of Nanda Devi East (7434 m); attempts on Broad Peak (8047 m) and K2 (8611 m) which involved a two-year development project leading to the installation of two village micro-hydroelectricity schemes; and two attempts on the North Face of Changabang (6848 m).

### **Wade Davis**

Wade Davis holds degrees in anthropology and biology and received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany from Harvard University. The author of *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, an international best-seller appearing in 10 languages and later released by Universal as a motion picture, he has written numerous books including *One River* (1996), nominated for the 1997 Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction. His latest book, *The Clouded Leopard* (1998), describes Davis' journeys from the rain forests of Borneo to the mountains of Tibet, and from the ice floes of the Arctic to the sands of the Sahara.

A native of British Columbia, Davis has worked as a park ranger, a forestry engineer, a logger and a big-game hunting guide and has conducted ethnographic fieldwork among several indigenous societies of northern Canada. He has published some ninety scientific and popular articles on subjects ranging from Haitian voodoo and Amazonian myth and religion to the global diversity crisis, the traditional use of psychotropic drugs, and the ethnobotany of South American Indians.

### **Ed Douglas**

Writer, traveller and mountaineer Ed Douglas has been climbing for 17 years, having started on the gritstone edges of Derbyshire while still at school. He studied English at Manchester University and, in his final year there, launched the British rock-climbing magazine *On the Edge*. He was managing editor of the English-language daily paper *The Turkish Times* in Istanbul before returning to work as a freelance journalist specializing in adventure, mountain areas and their people, and environmental issues.

Currently associate editor of *Climber* magazine and editor of the *Alpine Journal*, Douglas continues to climb to a reasonable standard, in 1995 reaching the summit of Shivling, a 21,500-foot mountain in India close to the source of the Ganges. In 1996, he was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to travel around Everest. His account of that journey, *Chomolungma Sings the Blues*, won a Special Jury Mention at the 1998 Banff Mountain Book Festival. With David Rose, he has co-written a biography of the British mountaineer Alison Hargreaves, entitled *Regions of the Heart: The Triumph and Tragedy of Alison Hargreaves*.

### **Lonnie Dupre**

For 15 years, Lonnie Dupre has lived on and off with the Inuit and travelled 11,800 miles throughout the Arctic regions of the world by dog team, ski and kayak. He has organized and participated in seven major Arctic expeditions including a 3000-mile crossing of the Canadian Arctic's Northwest Passage and holds kayaking and dog-sledging records in Greenland. Dupre has authored a book entitled *Greenland Expedition – Where Ice Is Born*, and his expeditions have been featured in *Readers Digest*, *Outside Magazine*, *Backpacker*, *Australian Geographic*, *Sea Kayaker*, *Explorers Journal* and *World Traveler*.

Born in Minnesota in 1961, Dupre is an accomplished outdoor photographer whose special interests include a continuing study of traditional Inuit lifestyle and culture. In his spare time he enjoys

woodworking and backcountry skiing in the Quetico / Boundary Waters wilderness areas of the Minnesota/Canadian border area.

### **Gretel Ehrlich**

Gretel Ehrlich has had a long and notable career as an author. Winner of the Guggenheim Fellowship, the NEA Creative Writing Fellowship and the Harold B. Vurcell Award, she has written many books including *Solace of Open Spaces*, *Heart Mountain* and *A Match to the Heart*. She is currently working on a travel memoir titled *Questions of Heaven*.

Ehrlich has been to Greenland nine times since 1993 — because of her passion for the landscape as much as her keen interest in Inuit customs and culture. Her latest book, *This Cold Heaven: Seven Seasons in Greenland*, eloquently illustrates her immense knowledge and sympathy for that wild part of the world.

### **Will Gadd**

Will Gadd is one of the top extreme sports athletes in the world. To climbers, he is known for radical ice routes, high-level competition climbing, and slide shows about mountain experiences. Kayakers know him for pioneering new descents down wilderness rivers across North America, as well as teaching and writing about paddling for magazines. In paragliding, he is best known for record-setting flights (current national/world-record holder), as well as decent competition results both in the U.S. and Canada. Gadd's athletic abilities have earned him recognition as a top competitor and athlete, but in all sports he is also known for his excellent safety record and his intense love for adventure and enthusiasm — even when things aren't going exactly as planned.

Gadd's contribution to *Voices from the Summit*, published by National Geographic in 2000, revealed his great sense of humour about the “seriousness” of climbing.

### **Terry Gifford**

Terry Gifford is Reader in Literature and Environment at the University of Leeds and Director of Research in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries. Born in Cambridge in 1946, Terry Gifford specializes in teaching and researching literature and the environment, together with creative writing. He is Director of the annual International Festival of Mountaineering Literature at Bretton Hall Campus, University of Leeds, now approaching its 16th year.

### **Dr. Randall Gossen**

Dr. Randall Gossen is Vice-president, Safety, Environment and Social Responsibility, for Nexen Inc. in Calgary, and Chairman of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association. He holds a Ph.D. in soil microbiology from the University of Calgary and has 29 years in the oil and gas industry. He is considered a pioneer in the area of public consultation, community affairs programs and corporate social responsibility and has a deep interest in issues related to environmental and social justice. Dr. Gossen is Chairman of the Program Committee for the World Petroleum Congress and a member of the Advisory Council to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Calgary. His interest in environmental initiatives has resulted in his recent participation as Vice-chairman of the Arctic Institute of North America and as Co-chair and Director of the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.

### **Piers Handling**

Piers Handling has been the director of the Toronto International Film Festival since 1994 and was formerly the deputy director of the Canadian Film Institute. He has organized major retrospectives of Canadian, Latin American, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Hungarian cinema as well as creating retrospectives of Canadian cinema for the Sundance Film Festival, and festivals in Havana, London, and Washington, D.C. Handling has written extensively on Canadian cinema and has been published in numerous film journals. His publications include *The Films of Don Shebib* and *The Shape of Rage: The Films of David Cronenberg*. He has been climbing since he was 16 in the Alps and Nepal and is a collector of mountain literature.

### **Karsten Heuer**

Karsten Heuer took a leave of absence from his jobs as a park warden and contract wildlife biologist in Banff National Park to undertake the Y2Y hike, retold in his book *Walking the Big Wild*. In the winter, he works as an independent biologist studying the movements of wolves, lynx and cougars in the Rockies.

### **Lynn Hill**

Lynn Hill is one of the best climbers in the world. A natural athlete, she has competed in track and gymnastics as well as climbing. She first roped up at age 14, excelling immediately. By the late 1970s, she was climbing near the highest standards of the day. Hill discovered competition climbing during a visit to France in 1986. She quickly moved into the top ranks and won more than 30 international competitions, including five times at the Arco Rock Master, the Wimbledon of competitive climbing. Hill has also climbed some of the hardest routes in the world, succeeding on a 5.14a route in France called *Masse Critique* in 1991, the first 5.14 completed by a woman.

Hill possesses a combination of power, grace and endurance which has enabled her to tackle some of the more difficult challenges in the world of climbing. In 1992, she climbed *The Nose* on El Capitan, Yosemite's most famous aid route, in just over eight hours. The following year, she returned to Yosemite to make the first free ascent, encountering two pitches of 5.13 and several 5.12 pitches. A year later, she topped that feat with the first one-day free ascent of *The Nose*, leading every one of *The Nose*'s 34 pitches in 23 hours. The feat will long stand among the world's great rock-climbing accomplishments. It has yet to be repeated by man or woman. In 1995, Hill took her big-wall skills to the high peaks of Kyrgyzstan. There she made the first free ascents of two 5.12 walls, the 4000-foot west face of Peak 4810 with Alex Lowe and *Perestroika Crack* on Peak 4240 with Greg Child. Most recently on an expedition to Morocco, she established *Tête de Chou*, rated 5.13b. This route is the hardest climb established by a woman in Morocco.

Among the United States' best-known climbers, Hill has been a guest at the White House and has been featured on television and in many newspaper and magazine articles. She has produced a film about climbing and has recently finishing her autobiography.

### **Steve House**

Steve House is one of the most respected young alpinists in the world today. He combines his rock- and ice-climbing skills with vast mountaineering experience to move extremely fast on alpine and ice routes. Noted climbs include the solo first ascent on Denali's *Beauty Is a Rare Thing*, *The Gift* on Mt. Bradley and a new route on Howse Peak (Canadian Rockies) called *M-16*, which Steve climbed with Barry Blanchard in spring 1999. In addition to being a top-level alpinist, Steve focuses his energies on creating cleaner, faster ways to climb at high altitude. He is one of only 14 Americans to be internationally certified as UIAGM Mountain Guides.

### **Roger Hubank**

Roger Hubank was born in 1935 and was educated at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Introduced to mountaineering in the early '60s, he has climbed extensively in Britain and, to a lesser extent, in the Alps. He holds Master's degrees from the universities of Cambridge and Nottingham and for many years taught English literature at Loughborough University. In 1993, he left the university to write full-time. An earlier mountaineering novel, *North Wall*, was published by Hutchinson and, in the U.S.A., by the Viking Press. More recently it was included in the anthology *One Step in the Clouds*, published by Diadem. His novel *Hazard's Way*, published by the Ernest Press, won the 2001 Banff Mountain Book Festival Grand Prize as well as the Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature. His most recent novel, *North*, is based on the tragic 19th-century American "Lady Franklin Bay" expedition.

### **Jerry Kobalenko**

Jerry Kobalenko is an award-winning journalist and photographer whose work has appeared in *Geo*, *Outside*, *Islands*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *National Geographic World* among others. When he is not on an extreme journey, he lives in Banff, Alberta.

### **Sid Marty**

Sid Marty's work has been published in periodicals including *Equinox*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Reader's Digest*, *Canadian Business*, and *National Geographic Traveler*. In 1999, he won the Banff Mountain Book Festival's Jon Whyte Award for Mountain Literature for *Switchbacks: True Stories from the Canadian Rockies*. *Sky Humor* is Sid Marty's first book of poems for many years. It's about raising a family, fixing the roof, chopping firewood and hunting for grub. It's also about love and death — universal poetic preoccupations. His other poetry books include *Headwaters* and *Nobody Danced with Miss Rodeo*. Sid Marty lives and writes in the foothills of southwestern Alberta.

### **Reinhold Messner**

One of the most famous and influential climbers in the world today, Reinhold Messner has been climbing since he was five years old. He grew up in Villnöss in the St. Magdalena valley of South Tyrol, which he has described as a childhood paradise. Reinhold and his younger brother Günther would share a helmet on their increasingly adventurous rock-climbing forays.

By the age of 20, Messner had climbed most of the hardest routes in the Dolomites and the Western Alps and had begun to formulate his philosophy of clean climbing. Despite Günther's death on their first visit to the Himalayas, Reinhold saw no cause to compromise his dedication to lightweight alpine-style mountaineering. In succession, he made a swift two-man ascent of a 28,000-footer (Hidden Peak with Peter Habeler), an oxygen-free ascent of Everest and then solo ascents of both Nanga Parbat and Everest. He was the first man to climb all fourteen 8000-metre peaks, but he considers the first traverse of two of these in a single expedition — Gasherbrums I and II, with Hans Kammerlander in 1984 — as his supreme Himalayan achievement. In recent years, Messner has become absorbed with lightweight polar expeditions.

### **Lawrence Millman**

Lawrence Millman has written for *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Islands*, *Summit* and many other magazines. His books include *Our Like Will Not Be There Again*, *Hero Jesse*, *A Kayak Full of Ghosts*, *Wolverine Creates the World*, *The Wrong-Handed Man* and *Last Places*. Two collections of Millman's travel essays have been published, entitled *An Evening among Headhunters* and *Other Reports from Roads Less Traveled*.

When not on the road, Millman lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "On the road", for Millman, usually means off it — preferably a destination difficult to access and unknown to almost everyone else. Much of the time it also means somewhere in the North. He has made twelve trips to Arctic Canada, nine trips to Greenland, six to Labrador and six to Iceland. In fact, he sleeps with his head pointing north. For he feels the only way he can get a good night's rest is to align himself with the north magnetic pole and allow currents flowing from it to pass through his body and out his feet. He says any other point of the compass would result in insomnia and likewise give his system a rude geographical shock!

### **Greg Mortenson**

Greg Mortenson is the founder of the Central Asia Institute, a non-profit organization devoted to community-based education projects in the remote mountain villages of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia. A former climber, Mortenson has worked in the region since a 1993 climb of K2.

### **Timmy O'Neill**

Born in 1969 in the suburban shadow of Philadelphia, Tim O'Neill's adventurous spirit was fostered climbing the fences, buildings and trees of his urban playground. Tim's childhood version of open space

was neighbouring Fernwood Cemetery, and it was on its monumental tombstones and mausoleums that he first felt stone under his fingertips. At age 19, armed with a \$69 one-way ticket to Wyoming, he boarded a Greyhound bus bound for wilderness and freedom. He landed in Yellowstone National Park, worked in a gift shop, discovered rock climbing one weekend and never looked back. He travelled extensively in the western U.S. for seven years, living the iconoclastic “climbing bum” lifestyle. He’s still a bum.

During the past several years, Tim has been exploring the world’s great mountain ranges, climbing from Pakistan to Patagonia. His recent trip to South America, from December 2001 to April 2002, netted him a month of whitewater kayaking on the rain-forested rivers of southern Chile, seven weeks of bagging alpine first ascents in Argentine Patagonia, and finally a wild climbing adventure in the heart of Venezuela’s Orinocan jungle.

O’Neill is one of the fastest climbers in the world. He has set many on-sight speed records in Yosemite National Park, including the world-record ascent of the famed 3,000-foot *Nose* on El Capitan in three hours and 24 minutes in 2001. Last fall in Yosemite Valley, he teamed up once again with Dean Potter, and the two became the first ever to link up, in a continuous push, three massive Grade VI walls, climbing over 80 pitches and 9,000 vertical feet in less than 24 hours.

### **Roger Payne**

A qualified mountain guide, Englishman Roger Payne has been climbing in the Alps for over 25 years and has been on 19 expeditions to high and difficult peaks. In January 2002, he became the first Sports and Development Director for the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA). He came to this new post from his position as General Secretary of the British Mountaineering Council. This year, he organized an expedition to Nepal for the United Nations Environment Programme to highlight the impact of global warming and the danger of glacial-lake outburst floods, and a Swiss Summit for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to promote peace and protection of the environment.

### **Chris Rainier**

Chris Rainier is considered one of the leading documentary photographers working today. His mysterious images of sacred places and indigenous peoples of the planet have been seen in leading publications including *Time*, *Life*, National Geographic publications, *Outside*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Men’s Journal*, *Islands*, *The New Yorker*, German and French *Geo*, and the publications of the International Red Cross, the United Nations and Amnesty International.

Rainier’s photographs and books have been widely exhibited and collected around the world, including with the George Eastman House in Rochester, the International Center of Photography in New York, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, the Australian Museum in Sydney, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the United Nations, the Friends of Photography (Carmel, California), the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American Art library in Washington, D.C., the Los Angeles County Museum of Art library in California, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Chicago Cultural Center, the National Geographic Society Explorers’ Hall and the Houston Museum of Science.

Rainier has received awards for his photography including: five Picture of the Year awards for his continued documentation of vanishing tribes, a Communication Arts award for his latest book on New Guinea, an Alfred Eisenstadt Award in 1998 for his photography of the Sahara Desert, and an International Golden Light Award in 1994 for his first book, *Keepers of the Spirit*. Chris was recently included in *American Photo Magazine’s* 100 Most Influential People Working in Photography Today list. His second book, *Where Masks Still Dance: New Guinea*, was published in 1996 with an exhibition that is currently touring museums in North America and Asia. He is presently working on a book documenting tattooing and scarification around the world in both traditional and contemporary cultures. Rainier continues to lecture and teach seminars on the use of photography as a social tool, internationally and in North America. He lives among the mountains and streams of Aspen, Colorado.

### **Rick Ridgeway**

Rick Ridgeway is one of the world's foremost mountaineers and adventurers. His career began in 1976 as a leading team member on the American Bicentennial Everest Expedition. In 1978, with three companions, he became the first American to reach the summit of K2 and the first ever to complete the ascent without the aid of bottled oxygen. Ridgeway made the first coast-to-coast traverse of the unmapped interior of Borneo, sea kayaked in the uncharted waters below Patagonia and completed big-wall climbs in Antarctica. Most recently, he walked 300 miles across East Africa from the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro to the shore of the Indian Ocean. For the past twenty years, Rick has managed to combine his passion with his vocation, producing more than 15 documentary films for major television networks such as ABC, NBC and ESPN.

Ridgeway has won a number of Emmy awards. He has also written four books including the acclaimed *Seven Summits*, and dozens of articles for such magazines as *Outside* and *National Geographic*. He lives in Ojai, California, with his wife and three children.

### **Peter Robinson**

Peter Robinson began his career as a park ranger working in wilderness areas throughout British Columbia. He became CEO of Mountain Equipment Co-op in May of 2000, prior to which he was CEO of B.C. Housing, a provincial crown corporation. He also does ongoing humanitarian work with the Red Cross, including previous missions in the United States to manage disaster shelters, and as a delegate monitoring prison conditions with the International Red Cross in Rwanda. He currently leads a team that monitors the conditions under which immigration and refugee detainees are held in British Columbia.

Robinson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, as well as diplomas in Community Economic Development and Fish and Wildlife Management. He is currently completing a master's program in Conflict Analysis and Management. An avid outdoors person, Robinson spends as much time as he can in the Coast Mountains, or kayaking among the Gulf Islands.

### **Valeriana Rosso**

Born near the sea, in Sicily, Valeriana Rosso has lived in Turin, close to the mountains, for over thirty years. Her background in languages and her passion for travelling and for the mountains have led her to work on books and films about the mountains, including editing the "I Licheni" collection of books for four years. Since 1997 she has been the editor of "I Capolavori del Cinema di Montagna" (The Greatest Films about Mountains), a videotape collection that presents historic films about mountains and adventure. Rosso is the creator and director of the Cervino International Film Festival, now in its fifth year.

### **Bob Sandford**

Bob Sandford is a naturalist, historian and writer who has been working to celebrate the nature, history and culture of the Canadian Rockies for nearly thirty years. He has authored/edited a dozen books on the Rockies and is also well known for his photographs and films. Currently serving his second term as Vice-president of Publications for The Alpine Club of Canada, Bob also sits on the Advisory Council for Mountain Culture at The Banff Centre and has been involved with the Banff Mountain Book Festival since its inception.

### **Eric R. Simonson**

Eric R. Simonson, leader of the Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition, has been a mountain guide since 1973. He is a founding partner of International Mountain Guides and Mount Rainier Alpine Guides, based in Ashford, Washington. Since 1970, Simonson has summited Mount Rainier 260 times and participated in or led more than seventy high-altitude expeditions on seven continents, including twenty in both the Alaska Range and the Himalayas. He has summited Mount McKinley sixteen times and climbed Mount

Everest seven times, summiting in 1991. Simonson is one of the most experienced and successful expedition leaders in the world. He lives in Ashford, Washington.

### **Chief John Snow Sr.**

Chief John Snow Sr., author of *These Mountains Are Our Sacred Places* (1977), is a respected Nakoda Elder, traditional storyteller, poet and author. He was Chief of the Nakoda Nation of Morley, Alberta, from 1968 through 1990. As a community leader, Snow has fought hard to restore North American Aboriginal peoples' right to self-determination and self-respect. His unique narrative style includes humour, history and traditional stories.

### **Dermot Somers**

Born in Roscommon, Ireland, Dermot Somers studied languages and literature (Irish, English and French). He has over 25 years of climbing and mountaineering experience in Ireland, Scotland, the European Alps, North and South America and the Himalayas. He was a member of the successful 1993 Irish Everest Expedition (North Ridge). He continues to make numerous trekking and climbing trips, in particular to Nepal.

Somers has published two works of fiction, *Mountains and Other Ghosts* (1990) and *At the Rising of the Moon* (1994), which won the Boardman Tasker Award in Britain, and the award for Best Book – Environment and Culture at the inaugural Banff Mountain Book Festival. With Crossing the Line Films, he has produced three television series of more than 20 programs on landscape, culture, travel and adventure. All programs were made and presented in Irish and have won numerous awards. Somers is currently writing full-time in English and in Irish.

### **Julia Taffe**

Julia Taffe is a dancer and climber from Vancouver, British Columbia. She has successfully combined her two passions to make her one of Canada's leading vertical dancers and vertical-dance choreographers.

Taffe has studied and performed in Canada and the United States with companies such as the Toronto Dance Company, the Danny Grossman Company and Les Ateliers de Danse Moderne. She has performed vertical dance around the world as a soloist and with Bandaloop Dance Company. Her performances and choreographic works include "Let's Dance"; aerial building performances commissioned by the new Scotiabank Dance Centre; *The Granite Ocean*, a Bravo!FACT Mountain Dance Video; "One", commissioned by the National Arts Centre and premiered at the Canada Dance Festival; "Notre Dame de Paris", Eiffel Tower Millennium Celebration, Las Vegas, Nevada; "Awakenings", United Nations Climate Change Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and "Gravitations", Vertical Dance, Banff Arts Festival. In 1994, she was featured in *Julia*, a video portrait of a dancer/climber by Janet Roddan.

"The sheer plastique of Barrick Taffe's long limbs, her stunningly catlike falls and landings and her ability to physicalize emotion were gripping to behold." — Garth Buchholz, *Winnipeg Free Press*

### **Jim Thorsell**

Based in Banff, Alberta, Dr. James Thorsell is a Senior Advisor for World Heritage at the IUCN (World Conservation Union). His education was in an Interdisciplinary Doctorate program in Resource Sciences at UBC with emphasis on resource planning and park management. Beginning as a park ranger in Banff National Park in 1962, Dr. Thorsell worked as a researcher, planner, trainer and project manager in Canada before spending the period from 1979 to 1999 working on international conservation projects. His passion for backcountry travel has fuelled extensive field missions to over 600 protected areas in ninety countries. He has done more than 150 site evaluations for UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and served as facilitator for the IUCN's Mountain Protected Area Task Force.

Dr. Thorsell has authored or co-authored more than 300 publications on subjects ranging from the management of tropical forest habitats to World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserve, and the World Conservation Strategy. He is a world authority on transboundary international peace parks, particularly in mountain areas.

**Robert Torkildson**

Robert Torkildson is a spiritual explorer who has worked as a ship navigator, a carpenter, a teacher, a lock and dam operator on the Mississippi River, an explosives diver, a videographer and an immigration inspector. Between careers, he has undertaken a rigorous schedule of spiritual exploration which has taken him to the Amazon jungle, the Sahara Desert, the Himalayan region, and most recently to northern Japan to become initiated into the Yamabushi mountain monk society. He and his wife, Kazumi, have travelled to over seventy countries and have lived in Japan, Canada, the Philippines, Korea, Sicily, Crete and Spain.

Torkildson has degrees in Asian history and psychology. Over the last twenty years, he has extensively studied Nepal's "Living Goddess" Kumari, as well as many esoteric cultural traditions and Shengendo Buddhism. An avid promoter of mountain culture and sacredness, Torkildson is near completion on a book of short essays about his explorations into the spiritual landscapes of the world, titled *Pub – Temple – Mountain*.

**Martin von Neudegg**

Marty von Neudegg was born in Banff, Alberta. The mountain landscape has informed and shaped his life, both personally and professionally. His love of mountain sports is all-encompassing; he is an avid mountain biker, hiker, heli-skier, camper, backcountry skier, climber and traveller.

Von Neudegg's formal education resulted in a legal career, but, with typical Banff ingenuity and creativity, he found a way to combine his love of the mountains with his profession. For more than 15 years, he has led the marketing team for Canadian Mountain Holidays, the largest and most successful heli-skiing and heli-hiking company in the world. His vision includes safety and quality of experience at the very top of the list. Von Neudegg's community commitment sees him involved with important mountain cultural institutions such as the Banff Mountain Book Festival and the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

**Erik Weihenmayer**

On May 25, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer became the first blind man to reach the summit of Mount Everest. In September 2002, he completed his climb of the Seven Summits — the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

A former middle-school teacher and wrestling coach, Weihenmayer is one of the most exciting and well-known athletes in the world. Despite losing his vision at the age of 13, he has become an accomplished mountain climber, skydiver and skier. He has never let his blindness interfere with his passion for an exhilarating and fulfilling life. Weihenmayer's feats have earned him ESPN's ARETE Award for courage in sports, induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and, most recently, an IDEA Award from the largest American association of health and physical-fitness professionals, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Glaucoma Foundation.

**Linda Wylie**

Linda Wylie is the editor of *Above the Clouds: The Diaries of a High-Altitude Mountaineer – The Writings of Anatoli Boukreev*.