



Winter Edition

# MOUNTAINS

ON STAGE

THE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

• MAGAZINE •

4 FILMS • ALPINISM • CLIMBING • SKIING





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# Editorial

MOUNTAINS ON STAGE  
WINTER 2023

10 years! Ten years since the creation of Mountains on stage. What a pleasure to share with you all those emotions, those thrills and those dreams, coming out of the best mountain films in the world. And what a change since our first edition in 2013. Drones and Gopros have changed how we record film in the mountains. 4k and now 8k video has made footage from the start of the century look really old. But that's not what matters the most. To make a film that we will remember in 10 years the recipe is still the same: a great story with great

characters in it. On that front we have been more than blessed during the last 10 years! And the films that we selected this year make no exception, with inspiring adventures from Nuptse to Annapurna, to Greenland and Chamonix.

Ten years is also a good occasion to say thank you. Thank you for your trust and your loyalty, and for the great atmosphere you created year after year at Mountains on Stage. With such an audience we will gladly continue for another ten years!



10-31-1404 / Cette entreprise a fait certifier sa chaîne de contrôle / [pefc-france.org](http://pefc-france.org)



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# FILM N°1

## Nuptse

DIRECTOR  
HUGO CLOUZEAU

LENGTH: 66 MINUTES

ORIGINAL VERSION,  
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A grandiose film that traces the unflinching commitment of 4 climbers: Hélias Millerioux, Benjamin Guignonnet, Frédéric Degoulet and Robin Revest, to reach the summit of Nuptse, a 7,861 meters Himalayan giant. During 3 years the « moustache gang » attempts a new route up the South face of this mountain that never ceases to obsess them. This extreme climb in alpine-style will challenge their will but also their limits. This expedition was awarded a Piolet d'Or and is brilliantly captured by director Hugo Clouzeau thanks to incredible images that transport us in the heart of the face.



### INTERVIEW

*Hélias  
Millerioux*

#### How would you describe the ascent of Nuptse?

It was an extraordinary climb. My friends and I in the «Moustache Gang» had never done anything so hard, so high, so far and so committed. The successful summit took place in 2017, but we've been there 3 times, in 2015, 2016 and 2017. It involved a huge amount of investment, pugnacity and also a lot of fear. Whether it was the fear of failure or the fear of succeeding. In a nutshell, Nuptse is a page we can't miss in our lives when we've reached the end of our mountaineering journey.

#### How did the moustache gang come together?

Historically, it's been these two teams. Robin Revest and I, Fred Degoulet and Benjamin Guignonnet. Two teams who knew each other but who each went their own way. One summer, we found ourselves sharing a flat in Chamonix, and from that flat came the desire to go on an expedition to Peru. That's when the Moustache Gang was born.

**Nuptse is a page  
we can't miss in  
our lives** when  
we've reached  
the end of our  
mountaineering  
journey”



### **What does it mean to be 3 or 4 people on an expedition of this scale?**

When there are more of you, you're stronger. We did 3-pitch boulders one after the other, then took turns. With efficient people who know each other, it gives you a chance to rest. With 2 people, you get much more tired. A party of 3 is best and safest. Because with 4 people, you'll have twice as much gear: tents, stoves, cartridges, etc.

### **Were you able to find all the lengths of the route?**

When we prepared the route, we analysed the entire route except for a few pitches that were hidden. On our 4th day of climbing, we arrived at the unknown part and that's when we had a big question mark. We found ourselves facing a huge chimney with a gigantic dihedral and icy 5 sup/6 pitches at 6900m altitude. Extremely tough! You go through every state: the need to be careful because you're on an expedition, maximum concentration, fear due to the lack of oxygen... It was very impressive to set off into the unknown on sight, as there isn't even a topo that specifies the level of the pitches and the difficulties. After the ascent, we were the ones who suggested the climbs.

### **Why didn't you reach the summit in 2016?**

For a whole host of reasons. In 2016, we had a route map that we didn't stick to. The weather forecast announced a change, so our summit day wasn't the one we'd planned. Then we got overconfident because we'd climbed really well and kept to our timings. Finally, when we prepared for the race, we underestimated the snow slopes at the top of the face. 800m of ascent on the last day was doable, except that we hadn't taken into account the technical difficulties.

### **Has your vision of mountaineering changed over time?**

When you're young, you're carefree, you don't realise what's going on. And the older you get, the more important things happen in your mountaineering life. You get tough, you create a shell to keep yourself inside. Mountaineering is not a game, nor really a sport. I'm a bit embarrassed by this definition of «sport» because I don't know of many where you can die. In this case, it's an integral part of the activity.

### **What has kept you going all these years?**

I'm a coward and I'm always on the alert in the mountains. I'm not a naturally gifted person, unlike some of my friends who are as comfortable as chamois. That's both my weakness and my strength. To succeed, I've worked constantly. Today my experience allows me to hold my own on peaks at 7000 or 8000m. But sometimes I really think that what saves me is the fact that I'm not the most comfortable guy in the world.



# FILM N°2

## Via Sedna

DIRECTOR  
RAMONA WALDNER

LENGHT: 45 MINUTES

ORIGINAL VERSION,  
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sailing to Greenland to open up a route on a face over 1,000 meters high is the dream that climber Caro North and skipper Marta Güemes have set out to realize with an all-female expedition. After 2 years of preparation, a team of 8 women, skippers and climbers, is ready to set sail : departure from La Rochelle, France, to the turbulent Arctic Sea... But be warned: if opening a new route at the end of the world is full of unknowns, the journey to reach it is not a piece of cake either!



## INTERVIEW

Caro  
North

### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Caro North, I am a mountain guide, an alpinist and a climber. I live half of the year in my native Switzerland, and the other part of the year in Patagonia in El Chalten where I can do both of my passions : be in the mountains and work as a guide!

### How did you get into the mountains?

I've been doing mountain sports since I was a little girl! I started skiing at the age of three, then when I grew up I started doing a lot of hiking with my parents. They soon realized that I liked technical sections, so they registered me at the Alpine Club, where I started climbing.

### What made you want to become a mountain guide?

I lived with a family in Argentina for one year when I was 15. It was a part of my life when I was already doing a lot of mountain sports and I really wanted to go to the Aconcagua, the highest mountain of America. My parents, who have always supported me in my projects, let me go with a guide friend! That experience was the catalyst for me to start dreaming of working as a guide. Then it all came together. I went to open routes in Albania, and I loved both the sporting aspect and the fact of going to places where there's no one to tackle unknown walls.

### Can you explain the purpose of the Via Sedna expedition?

The project was born out of a common dream with Marta Güemes : to go to Greenland by sailboat, open up a big line on a blank big wall, then come back to France by boat. The idea of replacing the plane with a sailboat was brilliant, even if it took more time, the adventure was guaranteed! We were also keen to carry out this expedition with just our girlfriends. It was a real challenge because the worlds of mountaineering and sailing are still very male-dominated. But in the end we managed to form an all-female crew!

### How was the crossing?

It was complicated because of the weather. The first storm hit us just before we reached Ireland. We had to stop in a fishing port after only six days at sea, where we had to wait a long time. This storm was the first one of many. Doubts began to creep in about the success of the crossing to Greenland. That's when I realized that at sea you're even more dependent on the weather than in the mountains. There were other problems, particularly during our passage through Iceland. The boat's radar wasn't working. There was a lot of fog and we had to spot the icebergs with the naked eye. It took us six weeks to get to Greenland instead of two or three. But when we finally saw the coast, it was a magical moment full of emotion.

### Were you finally able to go through with this climbing project?

The challenge lay in the fact that we only had 3 or 4 days of good weather before the arrival of a big snowstorm. We could try one line but not two. So we had to find one that would allow us to get out of the wall. Which is very difficult to judge on a big wall. That's why we took a lot of time to discuss and analyze the face before agreeing on a line. Fortunately, it was the right choice! On the first day, we put up 300 metres of fixed ropes, then came back down. From then on, we knew we only had two more days to climb and open this route. It was crazy! There was a lot of uncertainty as we quickly found ourselves in some difficult 7b+ pitches, so we were making slow progress. But in the end the last day was easier as we were able to climb everything free. We managed to reach the summit at midday, our time barrier. I think it was one of the most memorable moments of my life.



### Did you also make the return journey by boat?

Yes, and the return was even more complicated than the outward journey. While we were climbing, the girls who'd stayed on the boat had a major engine failure. When we started sailing again, we found ourselves in some pretty rough conditions, with a fragile engine. We managed to reach Iceland, where we had to stay for another ten days because of the storms. We couldn't get away. We even thought about taking a train back if things got too complicated! At times like these, you need a lot of patience. I sincerely believe that with another team, we would have given up in Iceland because the conditions were so difficult.

### How did you experience the end of this adventure and how do you see the future?

The return to reality after these three months cut off from the world was really difficult for me. I've dedicated two years of my life to this project and when it all comes to an end, there's nothing left. I was exhausted. I had no motivation left to go through such an intense and risky expedition again. But today my motivation is back and we're planning a new project with the girls!

**Doubts have arisen** about success of the crossing



# MOUNTAINS ON STAGE PODCAST

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST  
MOUNTAIN ATHLETES!

CARO NORTH  
JIMMY CHIN · ALEX HONNOLD  
TOMMY CALDWELL · BETH RODDEN



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# FILM N°3

## *The silent escape*

DIRECTOR

OSWALD RODRIGO PEREIRA

LENGTH: 29 MINUTES

ORIGINAL VERSION,  
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Polish skier Bartek Ziemiński has a monumental goal: to ski 2 mythical peaks over 8,000 meters high, Annapurna and Dhaulagiri back to back. An incredible feat in the history of extreme skiing, since he wanted to ski these two 8,000 meters peaks without oxygen and without the help of sherpas, but also to descend to base camp without taking off his skis! It's a terrifying, captivating film about going beyond one's limits, without forgetting the solidarity that can save lives at this altitude!

# The first ski descents of the 14 8000m peaks

Mount Everest (8848m)

**2000**

Ski descent: by Slovenian Davo Karnicar

**2001**

Snowboard descent: by Marco Siffredi via the Norton couloir

Mount K2 (8611m)

**2018**

Ski descent: by Polish skier Andrzej Bargiel

Lhotse (8516m)

**2018**

Ski descent: by Americans Jim Morrison and Hilaree Neslon

Makalu (8463m)

**2022**

Ski descent: by Adrian Ballinger





**Cho Oyu (8201m)**

**1988**  
Ski descent:  
by French skier  
Véronique Péryllat

**Dhaulagiri (8167m)**

**2023**  
Ski descent:  
by Poland's Bartek Ziemiński

**Manaslu (8163m)**

**1981**  
Ski descent:  
by Austrians Peter Woergoetter and Josef Millinger

**Nanga Parbat (8126m)**

**1990**  
Ski descent:  
below the North Summit  
by Hans Kammerlander and Diego Welli

**Annapurna (8091m)**

**1995**  
Ski descent:  
by Slovenians Andrej and Davo Karničar

**Gasherbrum I (8068m)**

**1982**  
Ski descent:  
by Swiss skier Sylvain Saudan

**Broad Peak (8047m)**

**2015**  
Ski descent:  
by Polish artist Andrzej Bargiel

**Gasherbrum II (8035m)**

**1984**  
Ski descent:  
by the Swiss Wim Pasquier and the French Patrice Bournat

**Shishapangma (8027m)**

**1985**  
Ski descent:  
by Austrians Oswald Gassler and Peter Woergoetter

**Le Kangchenjunga (8586m)** remains the only 8000-metre summit not yet to have been descended on skis from its summit.



# FILM N°4

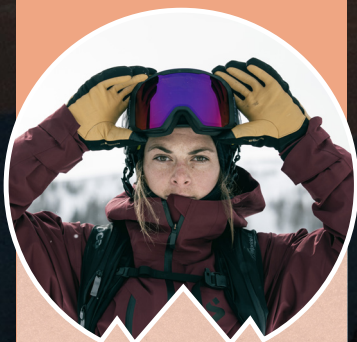
## Rise

DIRECTORS  
FRED ROUSSEAU  
& MAXIME MOULIN

LENGHT: 21 MINUTES

ORIGINAL VERSION,  
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Humility is an essential quality for discovering the high mountains. That's what skier Juliette Willmann tells us. After years of alpine skiing and freeride competitions, she's looking for new skills to tackle the legendary descents of the Chamonix valley, from the north face of Les Miages to the Couturier couloir on Aiguille Verte... A fast-paced apprenticeship for this gifted skier, and a gentle blend of wisdom and magnificent lines!



## INTERVIEW

Juliette  
Willmann

### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Juliette Willmann, I'm 26 years old and I'm from Barcelonnette in the south of France. I started skiing when was very young. I grew up in a ski resort with my father being a ski coach, my mother a ski teacher, and my sister a ski racer! I had a classic career, I joined an alpine ski club and then a ski school, where I competed in slalom and giant slalom. The results were there but I wasn't a competitor at heart.

### How did you start freeriding?

Our coach in ski school, Nico, was passionate about freeriding. He took us off-piste as soon as possible. That was our playground for doing silly stuff! When I was young I was a daredevil. I followed the boys who were doing big jumps to learn how to do the same thing. As time went on, I was able to perform tricks and ski steeper slopes. I was always attracted to the adrenaline!

### How does a freeride competition work?

One side is defined by the race directors. You have all this space to play with to find what seems to be the best line. In Europe, you're not allowed to go into the face for inspection, so you look at it from below and you check the details from precise photographs. The hardest part is imagining the height of the rocks, the distance between two actions, the steepness of the landing... The purpose is to choose a line where you will be able to score points thanks to jumps and tricks, because freeriding is a judging sport.

### What helps you achieve success with your line?

Visualization is essential. In the end, I would do my descent with every detail in mind the night before the competition, in bed before going to sleep. And on the day I was ready. I repeated what I'd practiced in my head. And if something unexpected happens, your instinct takes over.

### What inspired you to take up mountaineering?

Over the last few years, I had less motivation for freeride competitions. I no longer felt the freedom I experienced in the beginning. I wanted to ski for myself and to keep progressing. I've been living in Chamonix for 8 years now and I had the impression that I didn't really know this place! You are surrounded by beautiful mountains but it takes skills to get up there. I like mountaineering and I wanted to see where my skiing skills could take me.



### What were your inspirations ?

Léo Slemett is a good friend, and I saw he was going more and more towards the big mountains. Another inspiration is Giulia Monego who is an Italian skier who lives in Chamonix. She was on the World Tour. Today, she's a mountain guide and she skis very well. I've always had her career in my sights. And to name only two inspiring films, there is Frozen Mind with Victor de le Rue and La Liste by Jérémie Heitz, in which the two riders have incredible technical baggage!

### What's your skiing style?

A big brute with a good technical background and a fairly solid ski! I'm not a freestyler but a freerider who likes skiing fast and who wants to get out on the mountain!

### What were your first iconic descents in Chamonix ?

In 2019, I did the North East face of the Courtes and the Barbey couloir on Aiguille d'Argentiere. At the Courtes we really managed to ski fast, it was just incredible. But on the other hand, at Barbey, I fell as soon as I made the first turns. My ski broke on a rock and I was scared to death. After a few tomahawks down the face, I don't know how I did it but I managed to stop myself with my arms.

### How much fun do you get out of a steep bend?

The pleasure comes from knowing you're in control. The turn has to be facing the slope, with both feet in line and the pole planted at the right moment... All this precision gives me an endorphin rush.

“I was always attracted to **the adrenaline!**”



# MOUNTAINS ON STAGE

People's Choice Award for the last 10 years

## 2013

SUMMER EDITION

ex aequo :

| *I believe I can fly*  
Sébastien Montaz-Rosset

| *Venezuela Jungle Jam*  
Sean Villanueva

WINTER EDITION

| *Downside Up*  
Sébastien Montaz-Rosset

## 2014

SUMMER EDITION

| *China Jam*  
Evrard Wendenbaum

WINTER EDITION

| *Dejame Vivir*  
Sébastien Montaz-Rosset

## 2015

SUMMER EDITION

| *You only walk on the moon once*  
Christophe Raylat  
& Bertrand Delapierre

WINTER EDITION

| *Meru*  
Jimmy Chin & Chai Vasarhelyi

## 2016

SUMMER EDITION

| *A Line Across the Sky*  
Sender Films  
& Big Up Productions

WINTER EDITION

| *The Great Alone*  
Guido Perrini  
& Timeline Missions

## 2020

SUMMER EDITION

| *Apurimac*  
Hugo Clouzeau

WINTER EDITION

| *Himalayas, the walk above*  
Eliott Schonfeld

## 2017

SUMMER EDITION

| *Between sky and peaks*  
Nicolas Hairon  
& Jérémie Chenal

WINTER EDITION

| *Riso Patron*  
Antoine Moineville

## 2021

BEST OF 2021

| *China Jam*  
Evrard Wendenbaum

WINTER EDITION

| *The Traverse*  
Ben Tibbetts & Jake Holland

## 2018

SUMMER EDITION

| *Notes from the Wall*  
Guillaume Lion  
& Siebe Vanhee

WINTER EDITION

| *Zabardast*  
Jérôme Tanon & Almo Films

## 2022

SUMMER EDITION

| *Julia*  
Jocelyn Chavy  
& Hugo Clouzeau

WINTER EDITION

| *From shade to light*  
Sébastien Montaz-Rosset

## 2019

SUMMER EDITION

| *The Pathan Project*  
Guillaume Broust

WINTER EDITION

| *Coconut Connection*  
Sean Villanueva

## 2023

SUMMER EDITION

| *What matters*  
Timothée Ranger  
& Etienne Valentin



celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## QUESTIONS FOR THE FOUNDERS

Cyril Salomon & Manon Greenwood

### Which films inspired you to create Mountains on Stage?

**Cyril:** I really was a mountain film geek. When I was young, I used to watch videos all the time and then show them to my friends and family. The first is «Marco, étoile filante» (Marco, Shooting Star) with Marco Siffredi. I must have watched it 200 times, I know the lines by heart. Then came «La vie au bout des doigts» (Life at your fingertips) and «Opéra Vertical» (Vertical Opera) about Patrick Edlinger. Two legendary films in which he performs a full solo, barefoot. Admittedly, the footage has aged a little, but it's still just as inspiring to watch. Finally, this is the video of Chris Sharma on the Biographie route, the world's first 9a+. When I was sitting my business school exams, I used to watch it every morning to motivate myself.

I wanted to share these films with as many people as possible, like the Rencontres du cinéma de montagne in Grenoble, for example. As a Parisian, Grenoble was a long way away! That's where the idea for Mountains on Stage came from.

### How would you describe the Mountains on Stage audience?

**Manon:** We've always had a very warm welcome. People like to come with friends, family and all generations. We've also had some wonderful encounters with the public. We've had feedback from people in Lyon, for example, who have told us that they met at Mountains on Stage and got married three years later.

**Cyril:** also passionate, even relentless. In the days when we were in fewer cities, people would drive for hours to attend an evening. And then really loyal. Some spectators have come to almost every edition, and many come back year after year. In short, a magical audience!

### How many people attended Mountains on Stage?

**Manon:** In ten years, we've had around 800,000 admissions. People come back again and again, and we've built up a loyal following!

### What's been the best moment of the last 10 years?

**Cyril:** the standing ovation at the Grand Rex for Valentine Fabre, who came to present her film about the Chamonix-Zermatt crossing with Hillary Gerardi. It was a unique moment to salute Valentine's performance and her life's journey, a moment that warmed the heart.

**Manon:** the first edition of the festival and our first stage show. We weren't used to it, so it was a mixture of excitement and stress. It left me with a lot of emotions.



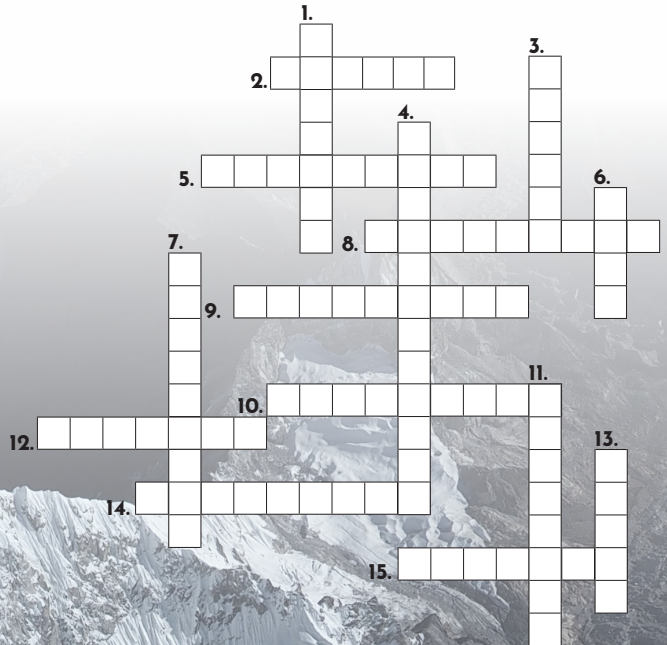
# CROSSWORDS

## QUESTIONS:

1. The town where Valentine and Hillary finished their record-breaking Haute Route race
2. The summit where Bruno Brunod and Kilian Jornet set their records
3. Object accompanying Blutch on his paragliding adventures
4. Main protagonist of "Summits of my life"
5. First name of the woman who took off from the Cervin in a wingsuit
6. Animals accompanying Nicolas Favresse and Seb Berthe in "Alpine Trilogy"
7. The summit on which the climbs in the film "You only walk on the moon once" take place.
8. Mountaineer who has climbed the 82 4000m peaks of the Alps
9. Mythical steep ski face descended by Vivian Bruchez and Paul Bonhomme
10. Name of the legendary 9a+ route did by Margo Hayes in "Break on Through"
11. Location of the film Valley Uprising
12. A crossing that earned Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell a Piolet d'or award
13. Discipline filmed and practised by director Hugo Clouzeau
14. Translation of "brilliant" in Pakistani, title of a film by Jérôme Tanon
15. Anne-Lise Rousset's record location featured in "What matters"

## ANSWERS:

1 Zermatt / 2 Cervin / 3 Violin / 4 Kilian Jornet / 5 Gereldine / 6 Dogs / 7 Annapurna / 8 L'iv Sansoz / 9 White Nant / 10 Biogrophy / 11 Yosemite / 12 Fitz Roy / 13 Kayak / 14 Zabarast / 15 Corsica



## fun facts

**115**  
number of films on offer  
at this Winter Edition, but  
only 4 films selected

**800 000**  
number of spectators  
since the first edition

**230**  
dates around the world  
for this new edition

**103**  
films shown since the first  
edition

**THOUSANDS**  
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