

MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN'S

RETURN TO EVEREST EXPEDITION UPDATE

FEATURING **JAMLING NORGAY**
AND **ARACELI SEGARRA**
ON LOCATION WITH **CAUDWELL**
XTREME EVEREST EXPEDITION

DISPATCH # 6

DATE: *May 18, 2007*

LOCATION: *Everest Base Camp*

FILED BY: *Christian Kallen*

On March 24, 2007, an international team of doctors, scientists and filmmakers embarked on a three-month mission to conduct a series of medical experiments on the world's tallest mountain and to document the expedition for a new IMAX® Theatre film. Doctors on the **Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition** will risk their lives to bring back important medical discoveries about the effects of extreme altitude on the human body while giant screen film producers, **MacGillivray Freeman Films**, document the expedition for *RETURN TO EVEREST (2D/3D)*, a follow-up to the smash hit film *EVEREST*, the highest grossing IMAX Theatre film of all time. *RETURN TO EVEREST* will also reunite two of the original stars of *EVEREST*, Jamling Norgay and Araceli Segarra, as they travel to Everest to help the Nepalese Sherpa people and conduct research on what has changed in the eleven years since their successful 1996 climb. *RETURN TO EVEREST* will be released to IMAX Theatres and other giant screen cinemas on March 4, 2009, the 11TH anniversary of the original historic *EVEREST*.



CHOCOHOLICS AND THICK SKULLS

The calm before the storm at Everest Base Camp

The weeks continue to tick by for the Caudwell Xtreme medical researchers stationed at Everest Base Camp—and for a while there, things were beginning to look bleak. “We ran out of treats about two weeks ago,” said communications director Kay Mitchell, “and things were getting pretty grim. We had placed an emergency order a while ago, but then one of the other climbing teams heard we’d run out of treats and came over with a rucksack full of goodies. That was very, very welcome.”

Though the incident seems humorous, it brings home an interesting point of study for the Caudwell Xtreme Everest team. “At such altitude, your appetite isn’t always very good, so you need things that tempt you to eat,” points out Kay. “That’s not saying that the Sherpa food isn’t good, but we have to eat a lot because we lose weight. That’s part of being at altitude.”

While this seems like a selling point for trekking to Everest Base Camp—gain

altitude, lose weight—there’s a down side to it as well. “At altitude your muscles just waste away, and that’s the battle that the climbers are constantly fighting. They have to stay up high to acclimatize, but they also have to be careful because they’re losing weight and becoming weaker.”

But does chocolate taste different at altitude? Is that a subject for future testing? “I don’t think there’s a lot of difference, really, but I’m not a chocoholic. You should ask Araceli,” laughs Kay. That’s Araceli Segarra of *EVEREST* fame and now *RETURN TO EVEREST*—known for her love of chocolate.



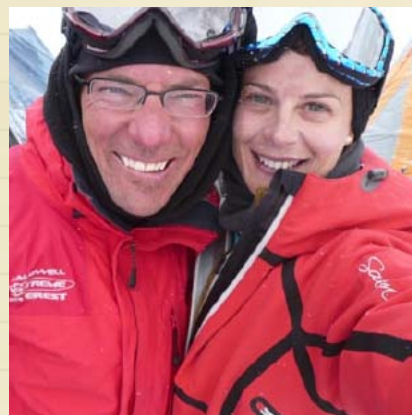
Snowfall at base camp: Sundeeep Dhillon of the Caudwell team with MFF’s Michael Brown, Greg MacGillivray and Brad Ohlund.

POV Film Team

The ongoing research at the Caudwell Xtreme base camp now includes Araceli and Jamling Norgay as well as others on the MacGillivray Freeman Films team who are filming the scientists at work. “Araceli broke all records with her visual motor coordination skills in putting little weird pegs into holes,” said Barbara MacGillivray of Araceli’s neuropsych test. “My theory is that she, along with other successful climbers, has to be good at visual motor coordination and problem solving because that’s what is needed for survival on the mountain.”

The MFF crew also filmed Jamling being subjected to a cranial scan to track how blood flowed through his brain. His skull, however, proved too thick for the scientists to get a good image. (A good trait to have on a mountain with avalanches, Barbara points out!) So, *RETURN TO EVEREST* director Greg MacGillivray stepped in.

“They got a really good image from Greg’s skull,” reports Barbara, who noted that Greg’s scan would appear in *RETURN TO EVEREST*. “He was thrilled that he had such good blood flow in his brain and very enthusiastic about having his scan be the talent in the film.” Look for Greg’s brain scan in the giant screen format—coming to an IMAX Theatre near you!



Michael Brown with Araceli Segarra at Camp II where Araceli performed neuropsych tests for the Caudwell team.

“The Best Climbing Partners We Will Ever Have”

One of the unusual aspects of this Everest season is the attention that the Sherpas are receiving, which is long overdue according to most veterans of the mountain.

“It is so appropriate to be featuring the Sherpa story in our film,” says Barbara MacGillivray, “because of what, up to now, has been a blatant oversight of their contribution. All the spectacular

MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN'S RETURN TO EVEREST EXPEDITION UPDATE

RETURN TO EVEREST PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: **GREG MACGILLIVRAY**

PRODUCER: **SHAUN MACGILLIVRAY**

CO-DIRECTOR: **MICHAEL BROWN**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **BRAD OHLUND**

DIRECTOR OF MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY:

MICHAEL BROWN

CAMERA: **GREG MACGILLIVRAY, MICHAEL**

BROWN, JACK TANKARD, RON GOODMAN

EDITOR: **STEPHEN JUDSON**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: **HARRISON SMITH**

EDUCATION PARTNER:

SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Kathy Almon, kalmon@macfreefilms.com.

MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS

9 4 9 - 4 9 4 - 1 0 5 5

WWW.MACFREEFILMS.COM

MacGillivray Freeman Films is proud to support *Science Beyond the Boundaries*, a program of the Saint Louis Science Center encompassing a network of science centers reaching over 10 million visitors annually throughout the United States and Canada. A 2-disk set of educational and exhibit development materials regarding *Caudwell Xtreme Everest*, including hands-on science activities, posters and a live demonstration script, is available to all participating science centers at no cost. For information about joining the network or to order the disks, contact Jennifer Boxer at jboxer@slsc.org.



successes of Everest mountaineering are nothing without the physical, spiritual, and personal characteristics of the Sherpa rope layers, load carriers and trail blazers.”

As well as fulfilling their usual support role for foreign expeditions—from Japan, New Zealand, India, Italy, and many other countries including the U.S. and U.K.—the Sherpas are mounting their own expedition to climb Everest, known as the Super Sherpa Expedition. Among them are Lhakpa Sherpa (all Sherpa use their tribal name), who holds the record for quickest ascent time, less than 11 hours from base camp to the summit and just over 18 hours round trip, and Apa Sherpa, who holds the record for 16 Everest ascents, and counting. (Note: as we go to press we’ve just received word that the Super Sherpa Expedition succeeded in reaching the summit on May 16, Apa for the 17th time.)



Inside the MacGillivray Freeman media tent: Ryan Ross, Michael Brown, Shaun MacGillivray and Greg MacGillivray.

While the MacGillivray Freeman Films team is filming and interviewing the Sherpas for *RETURN TO EVEREST*, the Super Sherpas are filming their own ascent in HD video. Such technological sophistication would have been unheard of even 10 years ago, when the original *EVEREST* was released; that it is possible at all is because of the increasing control the Sherpas are taking over their own cultural destiny, thanks in large measure to the annual injection of funds and support they receive from the climbing industry in Nepal.

“The Sherpas love what they do and take great pride in their role,” said Michael Brown. “It’s important for us to honor and respect their role in our expeditions. They are the best climbing partners we will ever have.”

The Time to Climb is Nigh

The spring thaw has hit Base Camp, and the melting ice of the glacier is keeping the staff busy. “Since we have been here, many of the tent sites are floundering due to the continuous melting of the glacier that we are residing on,” notes Barbara.



The MacGillivray Freeman Films team with Araceli Segarra, Jamling Norgay and the expedition’s much-appreciated Sherpa stars.

And the climbing season itself is here: the auspicious time, per the “lama calendar” of native prognostication, is from May 15th to the 24th, which is now coinciding with weather reports of a possible early monsoon by the end of May.

As of this writing, at least two teams have tried to make the summit, but been turned back. Other teams are sure to follow, with some 30 expeditions at Base Camp eyeing each other for signs of movement.

For the Caudwell Xtreme team, the research into low oxygen in the blood continues, no matter what the weather—they have another four trekking teams to host before the end of the month, and then there is the push for the summit itself.

“The plan is to go up any day now,” Kay Mitchell reports. Which raises a question increasingly on the minds of those at Base Camp this weather-troubled year. Should they not attain the summit, what would constitute a successful expedition from a scientific point of view?

“The policy of the expedition has always been Safety First, Science Second and Summit Third. If we manage to get some science done at the South Col, and no one gets to the summit, that would still be a successful expedition for us. Particularly if we get everyone down safe.”

Next: All eyes on the summit.

Photographs courtesy of the Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition. For more information about the Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition, visit www.xtreme-everest.co.uk.