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THIRD ANNUAL TAOS MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES:

Advance Program

(Taos, NM) – Monday, September 22 – *Taos Mountain Film Festival* October 9-12, flourishing in its' third year, announces the first look at our 2003 expanded program. A wide array of Everest climbers and filmmakers will highlight this years' festival to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first ascent of the world's highest mountain. TMFF will be presenting its' annual human rights series on the *Aftermath of war* using speakers and films to focus on the repercussions left behind when the armies go home. Mountainfilm has also enlisted the talents of mountain writers for a cerebral look into mountain culture.

Meet the Climbers and Film Makers:

Conrad Anker, America's best-known climber, has climbed big walls and high mountains throughout the world and will present slide shows of his alpine adventures throughout the world and the film of his discovery of the body of George Mallory

Through a series of high altitude cinematographic firsts **David Breashears** has established himself as perhaps the leading mountaineering filmmaker in the world. His live broadcast from the Everest summit in 1983 was a technological breakthrough. In 1996 he produced his tour de force: lugging the heavy IMAX camera to the summit and directing a brilliant film that remains the most popular IMAX production ever.

Over recent years, **Dave Hahn** has moved to the forefront of an elite group: the high altitude guides. He has attempted Everest eight times, summited four times and gained a reputation as a powerful climber and a shrewd expedition leader. This spring he guided ex-New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson to the world's highest point

Absorb the Human Rights Series: Aftermath of War

Through Mountainfilm's proven formula of film and discussion our experts will examine the

legacy of modern war. Issues from the acceptability of collateral damage to post-war reconstruction will be discussed. TMFF begins its powerful *Aftermath of War* human rights program at the Theatre Arts Center (TCA) on October 11 at 9:30 continuing all day to 5pm. Commencing with the USA/Japan cooperative film “**Nagasaki Journey**” directed followed by USA produced film “**The Invisible War**”.

After these two films there will be an expert to field questions on depleted Uranium issues surrounding war torn conflict areas. At the end of the day after the films, starting at 4pm in the TCA will be a panel discussion featuring **Bobby Muller**, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and **Rob Scultheis**, journalist and central Asian expert

Taos Mountain Film Festival also seeks to raise awareness of threats to wilderness and the people who live in mountain regions. We will again highlight the problems of water shortage and control both in the southwest and worldwide. This year we will complete our screening of the award winning PBS series “Cadillac Desert”.

Experience Mountain Literature:

The world of mountain adventure and culture has a vivid tradition of stories from passionate writers. Mountainfilm presents a series of readings and book signings from prolific writers Gretel Ehrlich, Max Evans and John Nichols.

Max Evans, author of the *Hi-Lo Country* can be seen at the Old County Courthouse on the plaza on Sat Oct 11 at 5pm. He will also sign books at Moby Dickens on the following Sunday afternoon. **Gretel Ehrlich’s** lyrical account of her resettlement to Wyoming after the loss of a loved one, *The Solace of Open Spaces* won the Harold B Vurcell Award at the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She will read from *This Cold Heaven*, her new book about Greenland.

Renowned author **John Nichols** will read alongside Gretel Ehrlich at the Harwood Museum at 5.15pm on Friday Oct 10. Accomplished mountaineer and regular contributor to Mountain Gazette, **Dick Dorworth**, will perform with Ehrlich and Nichols. Mountain Gazette editor, **John Fayhee** will also be in town

The Third Annual Taos Mountain Film Festival features films of adventure, culture and wildlife of the world's remote regions. Mountaineering film screenings and personalities will highlight the Festival. Other events will include symposia, photography exhibits and readings from mountaineering literature.

MountainFilm seeks to raise awareness of threats to wilderness and the people who inhabit mountain regions. The Festival is committed to conveying the inspiration found in wild places through moving and still images as well as raw experience. Our human rights series will examine the aftermath of war. It will focus on the dangers that face local populations in war torn areas amid threats of landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium.

For information or tickets please contact the Taos Mountain Film Festival at 505.751.3658 or by email info@mountainfilm.net. The advanced program is now on at www.mountainfilm.net