

THE GUESTS

SIMON YATES: Perhaps unfortunately Simon Yates will always be known as "the guy who cut the rope" for his part in "Touching the Void." However this event forms a tiny part of a hugely successful climbing career. Yates has pioneered many first ascents on such notable peaks as S.W. Face of Hispar Sar, Monte Ada, Leyla Peak, and Nemeke; he made the first British ascent of Khan Tengri; he has climbed big walls in Patagonia and Baffin Island, and put up a new route on the Central Tower of Paine. In the 90's Hollywood called and Yates performed stunts in such films as "The Crossing" and "The Big Steal" and even acted a part in the film "Flynn." He is the author of a memoir "Against the Wall". Yates will present a slide show of his climbing career, sign copies of his book "The Flame of Adventure," and will answer questions after the screening of the film "Touching the Void." www.londonspeakerbureau.co.uk/speakers



SIMON YATES

PETE ATHANS: Over the course of 15 expeditions to Mt. Everest, Pete Athans has summited seven times, a feat unsurpassed by any western (non-sherpa) climber cementing his place in history as one of the world's foremost high-altitude mountaineers. He was a key participant in the rescue of several climbers during the May 1996 Everest disaster earning him the American Alpine Club David A Sowles Memorial Award. His accomplishments include speed ascents of Annapurna South, Pumori, Ama Dablam, and Cho Oyu. In addition, he has led expeditions to, Lhotse, Nuptse, Manaslu, Makalu, and K2. Athans will show slides of his exploits and talk about his work with the Himalayan Cataract Project, the subject of the Michael Brown film "Light of the Himalayas." www.everestspeakersbureau.com/peteathans.htm



PETE ATHANS

JON BOWERMASTER: In keeping with Taos Mountainfilm's interest in the literary side of mountaineering and adventure, the festival has invited an expert in this field. With over 20 years of adventure writing, 15 for National Geographic, eight books and countless international publications, plus many documentary films of his expeditions including the 2004 success, "A Slow Boat to Nowhere," Bowermaster is coming back to Taos to present his newest films, "Borderland; Croatia By Sea" and "Birthplace of The Winds; Alaska's Aleutian Islands." Both films are from his sea kayaking project called "Oceans 8," which journeys from Antarctica to Asia, one continent at a time. www.jonbowermaster.com



JON BOWERMASTER

GREG MORTENSON: After growing up on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mortenson served as a medic in the U.S. Army. His lifelong interest in mountaineering culminated in a 1993 climbing attempt of the treacherous K2. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb, he was sheltered for weeks by the Balti people in the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school. Since then, through his nonprofit Central Asia Institute, he has overseen the construction of fifty five schools. Mortenson has dedicated his life to promoting education in remote, often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, garnering him "Peace Maker of the Year," "Humanitarian of The Year," and over a dozen other awards. He will talk about his new book "Three Cups of Tea" and present a slide show of his remarkable adventures. www.gregmortenson.com



GREG MORTENSON

MICHAEL BROWN: From kayaking first descents in Bhutan and Chile to bagging remote summits on all seven continents and summiting Mount Everest three times, this celebrated director of twenty-five films, is considered a pioneer of high altitude cinematographic adventure filmmaking. Brown received international acclaim for his film "Farther Than the Eye Can See." As winner of over thirty international film festival and industry awards, including three national Emmys from five nominations, he has established himself unequivocally in his field. He will present his new film "Light of the Himalayas," and a slide presentation on his filmmaking experiences. www.seracfilms.com



MICHAEL BROWN

ADRIAN BELIC: Born in America of Czechoslovakian and Yugoslav parents Belic grew up in Chicago but spent his early summers in Eastern Europe. This cross cultural childhood gave him a unique world view, which is reflected in his work. Produced in conjunction with his brother Roko, his first film, Ghenghis Blues (TMFF 2001) was a huge success and was nominated by the Academy in the Best Feature Documentary. Belic will present his award winning film, Beyond the Call and participate in a panel. www.wadirum.com



ADRIAN BELIC

ALEX NICKS: An accomplished kayaker in his own right, Nicks has run and made films on some of the world's great rivers including the Orinoco, the Nile, the Zambezi and the Futaleufu in Peru. He has worked extensively for National Geographic often in the company of Jon Bowermaster. He will present a selection of his favorite films. www.fourpynesfilm.com



TAYLOR STREIT

TAYLOR STREIT: Taylor has been a fly fishing guide for decades. He is the author of many articles on the subject and has written two humorous and informative books, "Instinctive Fly Fishing" and "Fly Fishing New Mexico". He will present a slide show of his career. www.streitflyfishing.com

ANDREA HECKMAN: Andrea has worked as a cultural and trekking guide for over twenty-five years in the Andes. In 1996, while on a Fulbright grant, she researched Quechua people through their rituals and textiles, which resulted in the book Woven Stories, Andean Textiles and Rituals. She teaches anthropology, film and Latin American studies at UNM-Taos. www.andeansoftware.com