

MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN'S

# RETURN TO EVEREST EXPEDITION UPDATE

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

**DISPATCH # 4**

DATE: *May 2, 2007*

LOCATION: *The trek to 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 11<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the original historic *EVEREST*.



## ON THE TREK TRAIL TO BASE CAMP

### *MacGillivray Freeman Films At Full Force in Nepal*

The rest of the MacGillivray Freeman Films production team arrived in Kathmandu last week, 13,000 feet and 100 miles away from Everest Base Camp.

Led by *Return to Everest* director/producer Greg MacGillivray, the group included Greg's son and co-producer Shaun MacGillivray, Greg's wife and film researcher Barbara MacGillivray, director of photography Brad Ohlund, assistant cameraman Robert Walker, and Doug King of the Saint Louis Science Center. The team was also joined by Jamling Norgay and Araceli Segarra—stars of MacGillivray Freeman's 1998 IMAX Theatre film *EVEREST* and of the new film *RETURN TO EVEREST*.

"Jamling and Araceli look just like they did eleven years ago," reports Shaun MacGillivray from Kathmandu. "It looks like they haven't aged a bit. And Araceli still loves chocolate just as much as ever!"

After several days of scouting the city for locations suitable for filming next year, the group set off for the trek to Namche to meet up with cameraman Jack Tankard, who has been filming with *RETURN TO EVEREST* co-director Michael Brown at Everest Base Camp. The plan was for Jack to bring down one of the IMAX cameras so the team could shoot images of the trek up to Base Camp through the Khumbu Valley.



Director/producer Greg MacGillivray scouting the local scene in Patan Square in Kathmandu before setting off for Base Camp.

### Setting Out For Base Camp

These days most people begin the trek to Base Camp in Lukla, at about 9,300 feet, following a brief but dramatic half-hour flight from Kathmandu. Barbara MacGillivray reports by email:

"We flew into the most gut-wrenching holy-moley airstrip that I've ever seen and landed just short of the end of the world's shortest uphill runway. We were late starting the hike because our gear was delayed, but once on the trail the views just got better and better. The hike the next day lasted for about 6 to 7 hours going all the way to Namche through vistas that at times looked like scenes from *Lord of the Rings*."

Arrival in the colorful mountain town—the capital of the Sherpa region of Nepal—allowed the film team to take their first IMAX shots with Araceli and Jamling. Araceli, who became the first Spanish woman to climb Everest in 1996, has not returned to Namche since, but Jamling is a familiar figure.

"People are overtly deferential to Jamling here," writes Barbara. "Everyone knows him and loves him and he makes things happen." Things happen for him, too: in Kathmandu Araceli had followed her nose for chocolate to a bakery, and in Namche she pulled out a surprise chocolate cake for Jamling, in honor of his birthday.

"Today the filming was hugely successful," continues Barbara. "We filmed in a real Sherpa house, which was very old and part of the hotel here in Namche. Two of the women in the scene were Jamling's aunts. There was plenty of smoke, shafts of light, wonderful old wood, a Sherpa tea service and lovely old lined faces."



Araceli Segarra and Jamling Norgay reunite in Kathmandu eleven years after their first Everest ascent in 1996.

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## 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**

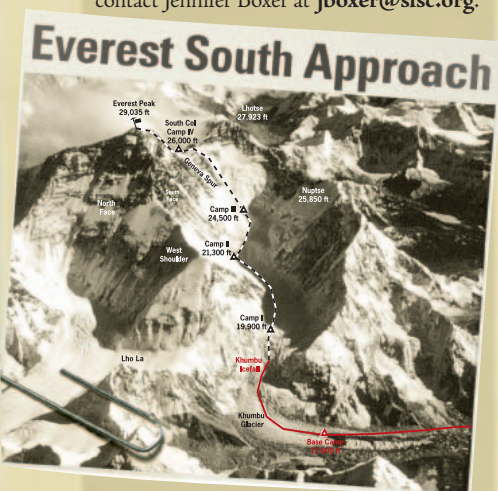
EDUCATION PARTNER:

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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](mailto:jboxer@slsc.org).



"This region is a visual feast," she concludes, a sentiment shared by her son Shaun. "We left Namche with Brad Ohlund telling us this was the last of luxury," he reports. "But it was beautiful hiking above Namche to Kumjung, where Sir Edmund Hillary started the first school in the Khumbu in 1961. About 300 children were lined up outside getting ready to start school. We filmed them doing their normal dance to Nepalese music which starts the school day."

## Caudwell Walks the Talk

Accompanying the MacGillivray Freeman film team is John Caudwell, the 53-year old telecommunications entrepreneur who is financing the Caudwell Xtreme Everest research project—but he's not just along for the ride. He is undergoing the same medical tests as the volunteers taking part in the research project that bears his name. "Having just had the tests myself, I realize the effort that the volunteers are making," he said from Kathmandu. "The tests take a while to complete, and aren't ideal for those scared of needles, but as it is all for such a good cause, it is easy to forget the inconvenience."

Caudwell, like many who trek in Nepal, is bothered by the effects of high altitude, especially sleep apnea, a suspension of breathing that can be quite distressful. "I decided to try to sleep without my usual medicine (Scotch whiskey) but immediately went into the apnea pattern of previous nights—falling asleep and waking gasping for breath every three or four minutes. Eventually I gave in and took my other prescription Loperzol, a mild sedative meant to relieve the condition. Thankfully it worked!

Next morning after a luxurious four hours sleep we did our daily tests as always and set out."



Caudwell Xtreme expedition sponsor, John Caudwell, undergoing one of many medical tests along the trek to Everest Base Camp.

## Caudwell Xtreme Pushes On To Camp III

As the MacGillivray Freeman Films team continues its way up the trail, the Caudwell Xtreme researchers continue to push their way above the Khumbu Icefall toward Camp III, acclimating to the altitude in preparation for their mid-May summit push. Yet the weather continues to be a concern. "The Icefall isn't particularly safe this year," Kay Mitchell reports from Base Camp. "It's been very unstable, and there are lots of avalanches higher up, and we've had lots of wind and snow, which has made communication quite hard."

RETURN TO EVEREST co-director and director of mountain photography Michael Brown is with the Caudwell Xtreme

climbing team on the mountain, continuing to capture the beauty and drama of climbing Mount Everest. "Mike Brown is like a kangaroo," says Kay Mitchell admiringly. "When he climbs he just screams up there, it really is phenomenal. And he's carrying that camera, which is 45 kilos!"

Experience must count for something: this is Mike's seventh time on Everest, and he is obviously in his element.

Soon, the climbing team will head back down to Base Camp, returning a day or so after the MacGillivray Freeman trek group arrives from below. The reunited film crews of both the mountain group and the trek team should already have some great footage for *Return to Everest*, but the hard part—reaching the summit—is yet to come.

*Next: Reunion at Base Camp*

Photographs courtesy of the Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition. For more information about the Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition, visit [www.xtreme-everest.co.uk](http://www.xtreme-everest.co.uk).



Roger McMorrow of the Caudwell Xtreme summit team climbs under a precarious arch of ice in the Khumbu Icefall.