

JIM SURETTE
WWW.GRANITEFILMS.COM

PO BOX 187 INTERVALE, NH 03845; JIMSURETTE@GRANITEFILMS.COM; 603-986-5355

BIO

Jim Surette's 17-year career as an adventure cameraman includes filming feature-length programs for the major television networks: ESPN, NBC, CBS, MTV, FOX, Discovery Channel, UPN, OLN and USA Network. He has filmed documentaries for National Geographic Explorer, IMAX, Rush HD, The North Face, Peter Jennings Productions and others.

From Mount Everest to Borneo, Jim has operated cameras in the world's most extreme environments, keeping up with world-class athletes and adventurers to get his shot. Jim's experience as an expert climber and skier allow him an inside perspective on the places and personalities he captures on film. Jim's mountain skills enable him to single-handedly rig his own shots without the need of a large crew. He has worked as a camera operator for Discovery Channel's hit show, *The Deadliest Catch*; National Geographic Explorer's *Surviving Everest*, and NBC's *Great Trango: A Mile High in Pakistan*.

Jim's experience encompasses a wide variety of cameras, disciplines, and formats, including super 16, digital, beta, and high definition. Jim has operated the Sky Cam for ESPN, filming Major League Baseball and NBA games live via remote aerial cameras. He's navigated motion-control cable cameras from the top of helicopter-accessed mountains for the skiing feature, *Steep*, and rigged aerial cameras through stadiums and ski resorts for the X Games. Jim has worked for nearly all of the major players in the aerial-camera industry, including Sky Cam, Cable Cam and Fly Cam.

In the 17 years since walking onto the feature film *Aspen Extreme* as a grip, Jim has worked with some of the industry's most accomplished filmmakers and cinematographers. Jim has partnered with fellow climber and snowboarding filmmaker Mike Hatchet, shooting the cult-classic climbing series, *Masters of Stone*, and four of the *Totally Board* snowboarding films. Jim has also worked extensively with Los Angeles-based cinematographer Mike Graber. Operating as a team, Jim and Graber covered Alaska's Iditarod race, *Wild California* in IMAX, the Baja 1000 off-road vehicle race, and long-distance adventure races in New Zealand, Morocco and Patagonia.

Jim is a native of the Mount Washington Valley, New Hampshire, where he learned an appreciation for the mountains at an early age. Jim was on skis by the age of 4, and climbing waterfall ice by 14. While still a teenager, Jim established what was then the hardest technical rock climb in New England, with his historic first-ascent of Cathedral Ledge's Liquid Sky. His exploits on rock have been documented in feature articles in *Climbing* and *Rock and Ice* magazines, as well as the films *Master's of Stone II* and *Uncommon Ground*. He has ventured to the top of remote peaks in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Patagonia and Peru, and pioneered new routes throughout New England and the Rocky Mountains.

"The footage we see in *Steep* is positively breathtaking. Some of the climbing sequences that are in the early parts of the film were shot by Jim Surette, who is a consummate climber. He would climb into places (where) you couldn't really get a bigger camera and felt so confident in his climbing abilities that he was able to get some really wonderful footage, particularly of Doug Coombs." —Mark Obenhaus, director of *Steep*, The Hollywood Reporter

"Your scene on the Epic Couloir is the climax of the film. It's amazing what you were able to capture up there." —Roman Gackowski, producer of *Shelter From The Storm*, The North Face and Rush HD's film about women skiers in the arctic.

CREDITS

CAMERA OPERATOR

- Silent Crow Arts/Discovery: *Lobstermen: Jeopardy at Sea*. Camera operator and producer for Discovery Channel show; 2008.
- Original Productions/Discovery: *Swordfishing*. Shore DP and Chase Boat for Discovery Channel show; 2008.
- Matchstick Productions: *Claim*. On-slope camera operator for Chris Davenport and Stian Hagen skiing four iconic peaks in Europe: The Eiger, Matterhorn, Mt Blanc, and Monte Rosa; On-slope camera operator for Antoine Montant speed-riding in the Alps; 2008.

- ESPN/Sky Cam: *College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska*. Remote operator for aerial, motion-control camera; 2008.
- ESPN/Sky Cam: *Moto X World Championships in San Diego, California*. Remote operator for aerial, motion-control camera; 2008.
- RGTV Productions/Rush HD: *The Adventurist*. Camera operator for an adventure television series: Bull riding in Wyoming, Base Jumping the Eiger in Europe, Big-Wall Climbing in Yosemite, Kayaking the Futaleufu River in Chile, and Adventure Racing in Scotland; 2007.
- Red Bull: *Vertical Rush*. Camera operator for a feature documentary about skiing Mt. St. Elias, Alaska; 2007.
- Sony Pictures Classics/The Documentary Group: *Steep*. Skiing camera operator and Cable Cam operator for the skiing feature film, Bella Coola, British Columbia; 2006. **Official selection of the Tribeca Film Festival, 2006.**
- RGTV Productions/Rush HD: *La Bas*. Camera operator for a feature documentary about rock climbing in Morocco; 2006.
- Sky Cam: 2006 *Asian Games*. Sky Cam operator during the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar; 2006.
- ESPN/Sky Cam: Major League Baseball, Belmont Stakes horserace, pro boxing: remote operator for aerial, motion-control cameras; 2005–2006.
- FOX/Cable Cam: NASCAR race in Las Vegas, remote operator for aerial, motion-control cameras; 2006.
- *No Barriers Dolomiti: Mountains Without Barriers*. Erik Weißenmayer, Hugh Herr, and Andy Holzer climb a major Dolomite wall; interviews with Mark Wellman, Cortina, Italy; 2005. **Winner of Most Inspiring Film, Boulder Adventure Film Festival, 2006.**
- Rush HD/The North Face: *Shelter from the Storm*. Feature documentary about women skiing in Baffin Island, Canadian arctic; 2005. **Winner of Best Action Sports Film, Vail Film Festival, 2007.**
- Discovery Channel/Original Productions: *The Deadliest Catch*. Television series about crab fishing in the Bearing Sea, Alaska; 2004.
- CBS Sports/Outdoor Life Network/Barrett Productions: *Primal Quest*. Adventure race in Seattle, Washington; 2004.
- Unlimited magazine: *Arctic Education*. Lead photographer for feature article; first ski descents in the Arctic Circle, Baffin Island, Canada; 2004.
- Outdoor Life Network: *Global Extreme*. Reality adventure race, South Africa, Costa Rica, & Iceland; 2003.
- National Geographic Explorer: *Surviving Everest*. Feature documentary about the 50th Anniversary Everest Expedition, Mount Everest, Nepal; 2002.
- UPN/Jaffe Productions: *Manhunt*. Reality television show, Kauai, Hawaii; 2001.
- Chance Productions: *Uncommon Ground*. Producer and camera, New England rock and ice climbing video; 2001.
- RSN: Ice climbing segment with George Hurley, New Hampshire; 2001.
- NBC/American Adventure Productions: *Great Trango A Mile High*. Feature documentary of a big-wall first ascent in Pakistan, 1999. **Winner of Best Film on Mountaineering, Vancouver International Film Festival, 2000.**
- Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts: *Luminescent Flights*. High Definition, vertical dance in Yosemite National Park, California; 2000.
- Standard Films: *Totally Board Nine*. 16mm snowboard film, Lake Tahoe, California; 2000.
- Outdoor Life Network/American Adventure Productions: *Batu Lawi*. Feature documentary about rock climbing

a first ascent on Batu Lawi, jungle spire in Borneo; 1999.

- Standard Films: *Infinity: Totally Board Eight*. 16mm snowboard film Snowbird, Utah; 1999.
- Cave Productions: *The Black*. Base-jumping the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado; 1999. **Winner of Kids Choice Award, Telluride Mountain Film Festival, 1999.**
- South Wing Films: *Quiet Desperation*. Solo Ascent of the East Face of Longs Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado; 1998.
- MTV Sports: Lynn Hill free climbing the Nose route of El Capitan, Yosemite National Park, California; 1997.
- Eric Perlman Productions: *Pure Force: Masters of Stone IV*. Rock climbing video, Colorado and Utah; 1997.
- *Body By Jake*. Workout infomercial with Bobbi Bensman, Salt Lake City, Utah; 1996.
- *Free Climbing the Nose*. Documentary of Lynn Hill free climbing El Capitan, Yosemite National Park, California; 1995.
- Eric Perlman Productions: *Third Stone From the Sun: Masters of Stone III*. Rock climbing video, California and Colorado; 1995.

SOUND

- Discovery Channel: *The Southern Traverse*. Adventure race in New Zealand; 2000.
- USA Network: *Iditarod*. Dog-sledding race across Alaska; 2000.
- Discovery Channel: *The Eco Challenge Argentina*. Adventure race in Patagonia; 1999.
- Discovery Channel: *The Eco Challenge Morocco*. Adventure race in Morocco; 1998.

GRIP

- Aardvark Productions: Comedy Central comedy festival in Aspen, Colorado; 1999.
- Ranch Exit Films: Lincoln/Mercury commercial, Aspen, Colorado; 1997.
- Harmony Pictures: Jeep commercial, Aspen, Colorado; 1997.
- Ranch Exit Films: Mitsubishi commercial, Aspen, Colorado; 1997.
- Obermeyer Productions: Salomon Ski & Snowboard commercial, Aspen, Colorado; 1997.
- Modfilm: Stimorol Gum commercial, Leadville, Colorado; 1997.
- Nabisco in-house video, Aspen, Colorado; 1997.
- DeGeorge Homes commercial, Rifle, Colorado; 1997.
- Light Smith productions: *Rorsach Test* music video, Denver, Colorado; 1992.
- Hollywood Pictures: *Aspen Extreme*. Feature film, Aspen, Colorado; 1992.

CAMERA ASSISTANT

- IFC Films: *Dust to Glory*. Dana Brown feature film about the Baja 1000 off-road race, Baja, Mexico; 2003.
- Outdoor Life Network: *To The Edge*. Alpine climbing show with Conrad Anker, Teton National Park, Wyoming, and the Sierra Nevada, California; 2000.
- Standard Films: *Totally Board Two*. 16mm snowboard film, Lake Tahoe, California; 1994.

• Eric Perlman Productions: *Hard Rock: Masters of Stone II*. 16mm climbing film, California, Colorado, Nevada; 1993.

RIGGER

- ESPN/Sky Cam: US Figure Skating championships, St. Louis, Missouri; 2006.
 - ESPN/Sky Cam: NBA game, Miami, Florida; 2005.
 - ESPN/Sky Cam: *Great Outdoor Games*, Orlando, Florida; 2005.
 - ESPN: Winter X Games, Aspen, Colorado; 2004–2005.
 - ESPN: Summer X Games, Los Angeles, California; 2004.
 - IMAX/MacGillivray Freeman Films: *Wild California*. Tree climbing in Sequoia National Park, California; 1999.
 - OLN: *Black Magic*. Jeff Achey and Steve Levine free-climbing the Nose in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Colorado, 1994.
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