



Jim Surette

www.granitefilms.com

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BIO

Since 1992, Jim Surette's career as a DP and camera operator has led him to shoot television programs for all the major networks, as well as feature documentaries, and commercials. He has worked with a diverse portfolio of clients that includes National Geographic, Warren Miller Entertainment, Discovery, MTV, The North Face, Patagonia, Eddie Bauer, Peter Jennings Productions and others.

In addition to mainstream productions, Jim often works in the adventure and action sports industries. From Mount Everest to Antarctica, Jim has operated cameras in the world's most extreme environments, keeping up with world-class athletes to get his shot. Jim's experience as an expert climber and skier allows 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*; NBC's *Great Trango: A Mile High in Pakistan*; and Matchstick Production's *Claim*, filming extreme skiing in the Alps. In 2010, Jim partnered with pro-skier Chris Davenport to produce the independent adventure film *Australis: An Antarctic Ski Odyssey*.

Jim's experience encompasses a wide variety of cameras, disciplines, and formats, everything from super 16 mm film to modern HD. Jim has also operated and rigged motion-control cable cameras for Sky Cam, Cable Cam, and Fly Cam, filming ESPN sports, X Games, and helicopter-accessed skiing for the feature *Steep*.

Ultimately, a good story is the most important ingredient in entertainment. Jim's talents lie in capturing scenes on camera while letting the action play out naturally. He is an experienced producer-shooter who knows how to get all of the shots that are needed to develop, follow, and complete a story line.

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, Baffin Island, Patagonia and Peru, and pioneered new, hard 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*, quoted in the Dec. 12, 2007 issue of *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.



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CREDITS

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & CAMERA

- *Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peak-Bagging Adventure*: Book trailer for Broadway books, 2012
- Granite Films: *Ice Revolution*: Independent short film of climbing legend Rick Wilcox and the beginnings of modern ice climbing in North America. 2011
- Eddie Bauer/First Ascent: Commercial featuring rock climbing expeditions to Southeast Asia and the Middle East with Caroline George. 2011
- Patagonia: *Repentance/Remission*: Independent short film of alpinist Steve House completing the first solo link of two historic ice climbs in New Hampshire. 2010
- Granite Films & Davenport Mountainsport Co-Production. *Australis: An Antarctic Ski Odyssey*: Feature documentary film about a sailing and ski mountaineering trip to the Antarctic Peninsula. 2009

CAMERA OPERATOR

- Original Media/National Geographic: *Mudcats Season 2*, television series for the National Geographic Channel, 2012
- RedBull USA: Filming *Red Bull BC One Cypher USA*, Boston 2012
- RedBull Russia: Documentary film about base-jumper Valery Rozov climbing and jumping from Mt. Shivling (21,543 ft.) in the Garhwal Himalaya, India, 2012
- Greenpeace: *Messages to Fukushima*, documentary film for Greenpeace covering a Greenpeace Action on the flanks and summit of Mt. Fuji, 2012
- Half Yard Productions: *Nor'easter Men*, television series about Dragger fishermen for the History Channel, Gloucester, MA 2012
- RedBull USA: Rajon Rondo's "*Boston Charity Classic*" basketball game, November 2011
- Eyes Open Productions: Memorial Hospital web commercial, New Hampshire, 2011
- The North Face/Camp 4 Collective: Commercial shoot covering rock climbers on sea cliffs in Newfoundland, Canada and the coast of Maine. 2011
- Two Roosters Media/Discovery Channel: *Surviving The Cut, Season Two*. Elite military forces special ops training including Army Recon Surveillance, Sapper Explosives, 160th, SWCC Navy special boats, Marines. Ten show series. 2011
- Warren Miller Entertainment: *Like There's No Tomorrow* featuring Chris Davenport and Hugo Harrison. One week of ski mountaineering and camping in NH. 2011
- Two Roosters Media/Discovery Channel: *Surviving The Cut*. Military elite forces training including dive, sniper, para rescue, Rangers and bomb specialists. Six show series. 2010

- Aura 360/ Red Bull: *Speed chasers* with Travis Pastrana. Travis set the record for the fastest ascent of Mt. Washington in his Subaru rally car. 2010
- Aura 360/ Red Bull: *Art of Motion*. Parkour event in Boston, MA. 2010
- Two Roosters Media/ Discovery Channel: *Two Weeks in Hell*. Green Beret's entrance test at Fort Bragg; 2009
- Helly Hansen: Commercial shoot in North Cascades National Park with Mountain Madness Guides; 2009
- Aura 360/ NBC Sports: Freestyle ski jumping at Yves Larouche Acrobatx training facility in Quebec; 2009
- Silent Crow Arts/ Discovery Channel: *Lobster Men*. Lobster Fishing in the North Atlantic; 2008
- Original Productions/ Discovery Channel: *Swords: Life on the Line*. Sword fishing in the North Atlantic. Shore DP; 2008
- Matchstick Productions: On slope camera operator for Chris Davenport and Stian Hagen skiing four iconic peaks in Europe. The Eiger, Matterhorn, Mt Blanc, and Monte Rosa; 2008
- ESPN/ Sky Cam: Moto X Championships in San Diego; 2008
- ESPN/Sky Cam: College World Series in Omaha. Remote operator for aerial, motion-control camera; 2008
- Red Bull: Vertical Rush. Long lens and aerial camera operator for feature documentary about skiing Mt. St. Elias, Alaska; 2007
- RGTV/Rush HD: The Adventurist with Joby Ogwyn. Camera operator for adventure television series. Base jumping in Switzerland, Kayaking in Chile, Big Wall in Yosemite, Rodeo in WY and Scotland adventure race 2007
- ASA Entertainment: LG Action Sports World Championships Dallas, TX. 2007
- Sony Pictures Classics/The Documentary Group: *Steep*. Remote operator for aerial, motion-control cameras, and hand held climbing/skiing operator on the skiing feature film, Bella Coola, British Columbia; 2006. **Official Selection or the Tribeca Film Festival, 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 Weihenmayer, 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.
- 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: *Rorschach 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, CA, CO, NV; 1993.

RIGGER

- Aura 360: Urbanathlon: rigging technical climbing obstacles, New York and San Francisco, 2011
- 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.