

“Disciples of Gill” climbing film makes New Mexico Premieres

Pat Ament was a famous climber by the time he was in his early teens, a protégé to Royal Robbins, Layton Kor, and Dave Rearick. He was the leading light of free climbing in Colorado during the 1960's and did the first routes of a 5.11 grade in both Colorado and in Yosemite.

On the recommendation of many people, Pat Ament at last decided to digitize his original, classic 16mm footage of John Gill and also his ancient footage of the amazing Jim Holloway, creating the only film that captures both of these two champions of bouldering when they still were in their prime.



Pat Ament on Yosemite's El Capitan 'Nose' Route

Gill has called Holloway the best boulderer ever, as has John Bachar. Pat captured Holloway on several of Jim's most difficult routes, before Jim developed health problems and had to give up bouldering. This film, central to which are these two superstars, is a priceless historical artifact. Old images come alive, restored and preserved in high definition.

Pat's vision, however, has not been simply to preserve the critical footage but also build a new film around it. His efforts have resulted in a gorgeous, nostalgic piece that remembers the golden age of bouldering and chronicles its development and central characters.

Featured are all the original, most significant pioneers of bouldering and the true disciples of Gill. Barry Bates, for example, the best California boulderer in the later 1960's, known for his exploits in Yosemite and at Pinnacles, and known also for his quiet, genial spirit, has never until now been interviewed. His lovely insights are invaluable.

Also legendary Greg Lowe, the remarkable Utah master boulderer and climber, has not until now been interviewed. He and Gill sit together and muse about time and its passing. Included are commentaries by Jim Holloway himself, Rich Goldstone, a disciple of Gill's, and Jeff Lowe. Ament also, another partner to Gill and Colorado's best boulderer during the golden age, provides a humble portrayal of his own bouldering exploits.

The film is beautifully framed by climbing done by Pat with his eight-year-old daughter Anna, a dialogue unscripted and spontaneous, in which he shares with this beautiful young spirit things about his past, and his experience with Gill, along with speculation about her future.

Ament will be bringing his newest book and have them at a discounted rate. Get a signed copy from one of climbing's premier authors!! According to everyone who has seen this film, it's a masterpiece and even moves some people to tears, a real work of art.

Pat Ament's Raves: At age 21, Pat won the Artist Award through the University of Colorado Art Department. In the later 1970's he won a \$2500 award from the University of Geneva for his film work. In 1984 he won the "Best Spirit" award at the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival. In late 2007 he won an outstanding achievement award at the St. Anton Filmfest in Austria. In 2008 he was given a lifetime achievement award at the international mountaineering festival in Utah, CLIMBFEST. He also won the first prize in their poetry competition that year. David Breashears, Everest veteran who shot the I-MAX Everest movie, calls Pat "My greatest climbing and filmmaking mentor."

Friday, March 5th, 7PM, Albuquerque

The show will be presented at the University, Centennial Engineering Center. The Center is on University just north of the intersection with Central Avenue. It is being hosted by the UNM Mountaineering Club and the Lobo Climbing Team. We have the 200 seat room from 6-11 PM, so there will be ample time to mingle after the show. Thanks to the UNM Climbers and to Bryan Pletta at Stone Age Gym (<http://www.climbstoneage.com>) for making this possible. Tickets are \$10 each.

Saturday, March 6th, 7PM, Santa Fe

The show will be presented at the classic Jean Cocteau Theater and film museum. The theater is on Montezuma Street, right across from Sangre De Cristo Mountain Works. It is being hosted by Sangre De Cristo Mountain Works (<http://www.sdcmountainworks.com>), and I believe there will be a reception at the shop after the show. Thanks to Kent, the owner, and Steve Bing for making this possible. Tickets are \$10 each.