

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

ARRIVES IN IDAHO FALLS

Thursday February 5, 2009 at Colonial Theater

Observations from behind the scenes

Submitted by Clarke Kido, event organizer

Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol

So here I am, sitting in a borrowed ski lift evacuation chair, 30 feet above the Colonial stage, behind the movie screen. **My big fat idea; my stunt, remember that.** Rigging looks secure, held by double locking carabiners, 9mm steel cable, ropes controlled by stage crew. Red helmet is not comfortable, but provides good visual effect. Pulse 80, respirations 12, short and rapid. Took a restroom break before climbing onto the chair. Thankful.

7 pm, ready to start. Crew ties ropes to hold me up. Steady now. Banff promo clip takes 5 minutes. Seen it a dozen times. Don't fuss with curtains. Don't twist in chair. Stay alert, quiet.

Banff video shows a skier setting off an avalanche. The audience is thrilled, shouts, clapping, oohs and aahs. This crowd sounds younger. Almost a full house. (866).

Film narrator gives a dramatic voiceover by saying ***"This program is brought to you by National Geographic and New Balance."*** Noticed something curious. From where I am watching, above and behind the screen, the bright yellow rectangular NG logo is still recognizable. In fact, the logo doesn't change, whether I view it from the front or back, right side up or upside down.

The film clip is over, then darkness. The guys pull the movie screen up – good job. The crowd is quiet, wondering.

Bright spotlight. It's Showtime! Shout out climber commands, echoed by stage crew. ***"BELAY ON?" "On Belay!" "BRING ME DOWN."*** Begin slow, controlled descent. Turn on flashlight. Shine it side to side. Aim at balcony. Pause halfway. Wave to audience. 10 feet to go. Now 5. I'm down, safely. ***"BELAY OFF?" "Off Belay!" "SLACK!"***

Unbuckle chair harness. Remove helmet. Walk forward to stage. Screen descends behind me. Put on patrol hat. Scan my notes. Deep breath, then begin. ***"Good evening and welcome..."*** Refer to the printed handout with films, intermission, concessions, displays, prize drawing, and claim prizes at end of show. Thank local supporters and audience.

Nearly done. Introduce Banff road warrior. ***"Our visitor lives in Toronto, but was raised in Skaneateles, NY near Syracuse."*** Remember to pronounce it as skinny atlas. Look to stage right, where Liz smiles her OK. ***"Will everyone please join me with a warm Idaho Falls welcome for tonight's host, Elizabeth Nutting."*** Polite applause. Handshake. Give her the mic. Walk off stage right. Relax and enjoy the show.

