

★ Steep (2007) DVD Review ★

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★ Steep (2007) DVD Credits:

Steep (2007) Directed by:

- [Mark Obenhaus](#)

Steep (2007) Written by:

- [Mark Obenhaus](#)

Steep (2007) Cast:

- [Bill Briggs](#), [Stefano De Benedetti](#), [Eric Pehota](#), [Glen Plake](#), [Shane McConkey](#), [Seth Morrison](#), [Chris Davenport](#), [Ingrid Backstrom](#), [Andrew McLean](#)

Steep (2007) Released by:

- Not available at this time

Region:

- 1

Steep (2007) DVD Release Date:

- 17th March 2008

Our Rating: ★★★★★ Extras Rating: ★★★★★

 User Rating: ★★★★★ [Log in to rate this DVD](#)

★ Steep (2007) Synopsis:

"Steep" is a feature documentary about bold adventure, exquisite athleticism and the pursuit of a perfect moment on skis. It is the story of big mountain skiing, a sport that barely existed 35 years ago. It started in the 1970s in the mountains above Chamonix, France, where skiers began to attempt ski descents so extreme that they appeared almost suicidal. Men like Anselme Baud and Patrick Vallencant were inspired by the challenge of skiing where no one thought to ski before. Now, two generations later, some of the world's greatest skiers pursue a sport where the prize is not winning, but simply experiencing the exhilaration of skiing and exploring big, wild, remote mountains. "Steep" features many of the sport's greatest athletes including Bill Briggs, Stefano De Benedetti, Eric Pehota, Glen Plake, Shane McConkey, Seth Morrison, Chris Davenport, Ingrid Backstrom and Andrew McLean.

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Steep is a documentary from director Mark Obenhaus (JFK: A Time Remembered, Peter Jennings Reporting) which takes a look at the dangerous and grueling sport of extreme skiing. Narrated by Peter Krause (Six Feet Under, Dirty Sexy Money), Steep reflects on the evolution of back woods skiing, also known as big mountain or extreme skiing. It is a activity that is part dangerous snow sport, finding its participants hurtling down the face of a 45 to 50 degree decline, and part mountain climbing in ski boots.

Steep features interviews with ski pioneer Bill Briggs, who was the first to ski the Grand Teton. Bill Briggs climbed and skied this treacherous, crag-filled mountain.

Doug Coombs, who is also considered a pioneer of extreme skiing, takes the viewer through his childhood. Growing up in Massachusetts, Doug would off-trail ski on an almost daily basis as he would ride frozen waterfalls and downed pine trees.

Perhaps the Holy Grail of extreme skiing is French resort Chamonix, whose approach at skiing is a little less reserved than most American resorts. In American resorts the slopes are fenced off with safe, controlled routes. In contrast, Chamonix is a free approach at some of the most difficult and dangerous mountains in the world, and whose hills attract skiers from all over the world; despite the number of lives they have taken. It is a wild outlaw world, and a ski lift to brings you to the top of it. Chamonix is where Glen Plake, the American face of extreme skiing in the 80s and star of the seminal film The Blizzard of Aahhs, made his film debut, and also where he lost his best friend.

If Chamonix is the Holy Grail, Valdez, Alaska, is the skier's Mecca. In 1991, Valdez, Alaska, began an annual event, World Extreme Skiing Championships. This event is a helicopter-launched competition on a velvety snow felt on rolling hills. The snow is so light it will often follow the skier down, looking like a surfer's wave. In the tradition of crazy and bizarre, the helicopter pilot lifting the WESC competitors to the peaks of the mountains was a Vietnam Veteran pilot who had been shot 13 times during the war.

From the godfathers of the sport come the next generation of extreme skiers, including the hardest riding woman to ever ride a slope, Ingrid Backstrom of the craziest innovator of big air, Seth Morrison or Seth McConkey, whose version of extreme skiing is a combination of base jumping and back woods skiing. These extreme skiers are continuing to redefine what was previously indeterminate.

In the tradition of sports documentaries such as Step into Liquid, Dog Town and Z-Boys, Steep takes the viewer into the world of extreme skiing. It is beautifully shot with a gorgeous score and a sentimental voice. It is first and foremost a film about skiing, and its director is absolutely an accomplished filmmaker. The cinematography is of IMAX caliber with amazing nature footage and heart-stopping action.

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The DVD is presented in Widescreen with a 5.1 stereo surround sound track. It is also available on Blu-Ray High Definition disc starting March 25, 2008. The special features include a commentary and Q&A with filmmaker Mark Oberhaus and skiers Ingrid Backstrom and Andrew McLean. The DVD also includes two photo montages and an interview with recently deceased extreme skier and innovator Doug Coombs.

Our Rating: ★★★★★ **Extras Rating:** ★★★★★ **User Rating:** ★★★★★ [Log in to rate this DVD](#)

Steep (2007) DVD review written by: **Andrew Mattson**

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