

Mountain Calls For Stunning New Film

By Marci Winters

When the Mountain Calls: Nepal-Tibet-Bhutan explores director/producer Dr. Tom Vendetti's personal experiences and reflections from over 30 years of traveling through the Himalayas – a journey in which he discovers the meaning and source of happiness in unexpected places.

Passionate about making and promoting documentary films that lead to social change, Maui resident Vendetti's work is stylistically stunning as well. His delicate lens captures the changes over the decades to the people, land, climate and culture. The film shares a celebration of the lives, customs and beliefs within these very special places.



About three years ago, Vendetti was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Enduring intense radiation treatment because of his illness, he became weak, giving him the opportunity for deep reflection.

Suddenly he "heard" the mountains calling him, specifically the majestic Himalayas. Answering the call, Vendetti made the trek. Several serendipitous events guided him and, subsequently, visiting these regions inspired and gave him the gift of a new perspective.

Overwhelmed and transformed, Vendetti speaks of the voyage that has helped heal him. He now approaches his personal life and his work much

differently. He's opened up more, become more present with the miracles that had once eluded him.

His work as a psychologist had locked him into an objective pattern of diagnosing his patients. Something changed while filming – his inner world began to expand in unexpected ways. He experienced a new acceptance of life's occurrences that had no explanation. He fell deeply in love with The Mystery. Vendetti marvels at this healing, "I have come back to life with more understanding and respect for life, people and culture."

Upbeat, Vendetti speaks of his love for the region: "Up in the mountains, Buddhist culture seemed to influence the people. They felt happy from within, just not laughing happy, more of a kind of contentment. The environment in this region is so powerful, it is hard not to feel spiritual there."

Featured in the film are the Dalai Lama, Lama Tenzin, Paul Horn, Tenzing Norgay, Sir Edmond Hillary and the Prime Minister of Bhutan. Award-winning producer/editor Robert Stone partners with Vendetti. They have co-created for years. Also helping to make the magic is the writer, Maui's own Rick Chatenever.

Presenting the on-camera prologue and epilogue is Maui's Kris Kristofferson. Grammy Award winner Paul Horn and Emmy Award winner Christopher Hedge composed the soundtrack. This powerful film will premiere at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 5th at the Castle Theater, Maui Arts and Cultural Center in Kahului.

Prior to the screening, author Ann Mortifee (who narrates Vendetti's film) and legendary musician Paul Horn will offer verse, voice and flute. Paul's beautifully uplifting music will accompany Ms. Mortifee's performance as she reads passages from her new book, *In Love with the Mystery*.

From her website, Mortifee shares, "I've been fascinated my whole life with, Who are we? Why are we here? Is it just to get a job and live and die? Or is there a deeper purpose in life? What is this Mystery that we're involved with?"

Tom Vendetti has directed and produced numerous award-winning films including the Emmy-winning Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness. To find out more information about When the Mountain Calls online, visit whenthemountaincalls.com. To order tickets in advance for the Maui premiere, call 808.242.7469 or visit mauiarts.org.

Marci Winters is a filmmaker, author and astrologer. Call 808.639.1119, or visit sweetwaterfilm.com.

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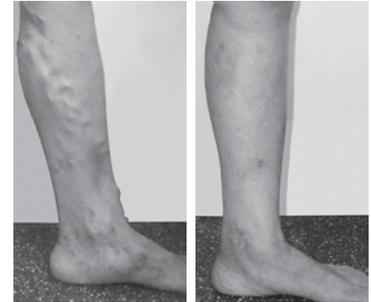
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