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Interview with JT HOLMES

For Warren Miller
Entertainment's newest film

CHASING SHADOWS



I'm told you are originally from the east coast. Where did you grow up?

That's actually not true. I lived the first six months of my life in Boston, Massachusetts but I've been in California and Nevada ever since.

Ah, so you did not do much skiing on the east coast growing up?! (laughs) I was going to ask where you began skiing here in the east but in that case, what mountain did you cut your teeth on in your early years out west?

At Squaw Valley.

Was there an identifiable moment in your life when you knew you had what it took to go far beyond what even most extreme skiers are capable of?

Well, I knew that I could at least hang on that level when I started achieving podium results in freeskiing competitions at the age of 18 and 19.

So that was kind of a "wake-up call" point in your life?

Yeah, it was a confidence boost and I just set my mind on achieving my goals and decided I wouldn't give up until they were reality.

Do you recall the feeling the first time you skied off a cliff and opened up a parachute and has that feeling ever returned or is it the same exact adrenaline rush each time?

It's a tremendous rush every time. The first time I did it I had thought it through so thoroughly that I actually was surprised at how easy it was. You know, the first time I opened a parachute, it opened perfectly, it opened quickly and I was pleasantly surprised with the simplicity of the whole run.

Shane McConkey was a close friend of yours. The self-titled documentary film about his life was breathtaking and in my opinion is a must-see if you are considering getting into either base jumping, free riding or extreme skiing. Being you were featured in the film you may be biased but what did you think of the final edited version?

You know, I absolutely loved the film and my favorite part is the

first half because I didn't know Shane until he was already 24 years old. So for me it was insight into the half of Shane's life that I wasn't a part of. So that was really kind of special for me being that I don't have my own memories from that time. I think the whole movie is going to be really special for his daughter Ayla in that there will be a whole lot of memories that she can hold on to through the film itself.

You are once again featured in the newest Warren Miller film Chasing Shadows which will be previewed in theaters around the country soon. Were there any standout moments in that film that you would like to give some insight on that viewers may not get from simply watching it?

Well, I don't know that any ski film can ever capture just exactly how much fun we have when we're out there. I think Warren Miller Entertainment does the best job humanly possible. But the opportunity to film with these professionals that are going to create these images and the motivation that that gives you to go out there and take the extra hour long hike or wake up early to achieve the very best shots possible is tough to convey. As far as a stand-out moment, I'd definitely say that when we skied off of the Dome De Gouter off of Mont Blanc in Chamonix France and flew our parachutes all the way down to a grassy valley below. You know it's about a 20,000 foot drop which is huge. It's about 4 times the elevation of most ski resorts in the United States. So that's definitely the stand-out moment for me in Chasing Shadows: Speed riding on Mont Blanc.

What lies in store for JT Holmes this coming ski season?

Well, I feel that Speedriding is a sport that is currently underdocumented in North America so I hope to team up with my good friends at Warren Miller Entertainment and go speed riding at as many north American peaks as possible.

Thanks for your time JT and I wish you all the best in the coming year and beyond. Keep pushing the limits!