

RUMMIN PRODUCTIONS and MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT
in association with
IGNITE DIGI and DMM INTERNATIONAL
present

DOING IT SCARED

69 Kilos , 65 Metres, 126 one-arm pull-ups

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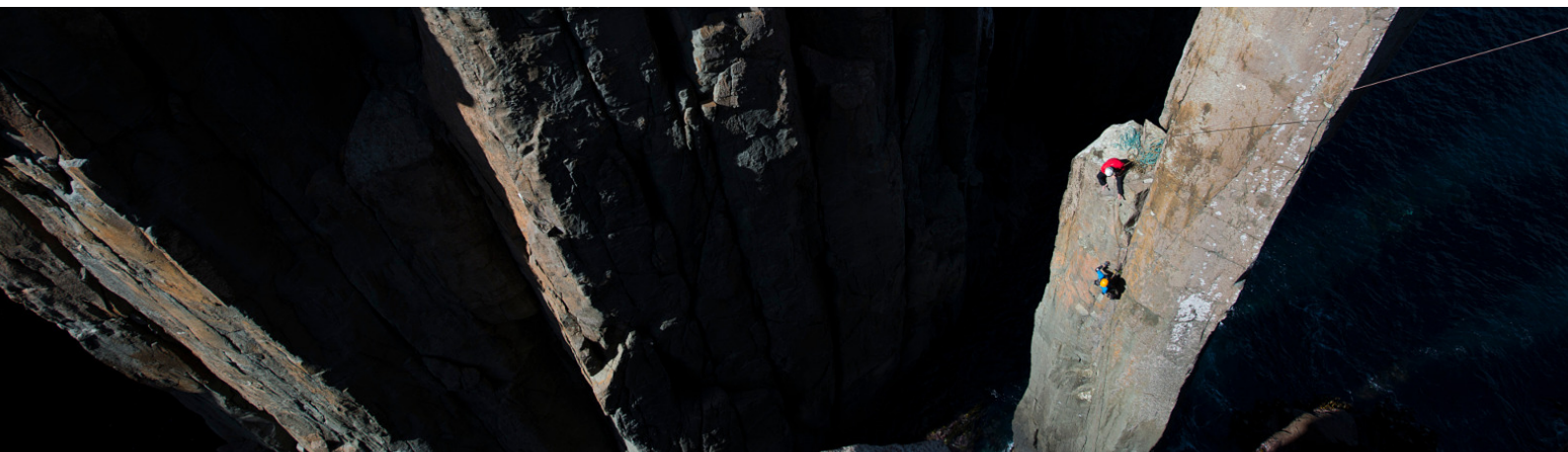
RUN TIME: 12 Mins

LANGUAGE: English

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: <http://www.paulpritchard.com.au/>

Additional press photos available on request.

R U M M I N



LOGLINE:

18 years after a catastrophic accident which left him with hemiplegia, climber Paul Pritchard returns to the Totem Pole to find out if he has recovered enough to finish the climb.

SYNOPSIS:

British climber – now resident of Tasmania – Paul Pritchard, was one of the leading climbers and mountaineers of the 1980s and 1990s, renowned for his hard and extremely bold first ascents. In 1998 Paul was abseiling in to climb the Totem Pole in Tasmania when he dislodged a rock with his rope that hit him on the head, leaving him with a severe head injury that he was lucky to survive.

The aftermath of the accident left him with hemiplegia, which means he has little feeling or movement in the right side of his body. Despite this disability, Paul's continued to live a life filled with adventure.

Eighteen years later Paul returns to the Totem Pole to find out if he has recovered enough to finish the climb.

"There are a thousand reasons not to climb a mountain: rock-fall, hypothermia, falling off, avalanche, altitude sickness, severe weather or just the hard work of it. However, there is but one singular reason to climb when you look at it carefully."

This is a film about an extraordinary man on an inspiring life journey, his continuing recovery from a crushing injury and the never waning desire for adventure. This is a film about determination and acceptance, patience and humility, grace, and ultimately, freedom.

"It's a very scenic place to have a head injury, that's for sure!" Paul Pritchard



PRODUCTION NOTES:

This project became a labour of love the very moment a large group of Paul's friends came together to help out in planning the logistics of the climb. Rummin Productions in association with Ignite Digi filmed the climb as it unfolded from every angle including from the air through the use of drones.

After the climb, the Australian National broadcaster picked up the story and filmed some more interviews, producing a half hour of television for the *Australian Story* program, which aired in July 2016. Thanks to some great artistic collaboration over many months, and a successful crowd funding campaign that helped make it a reality; Rummin Productions have now produced this short film that gives audiences the chance to see Paul go full circle and share in his personal triumph at long last.

RUMMIN PRODUCTIONS:

Catherine Pettman is a creative producer based in Hobart who has managed feature docudrama and television series and co-produced multi-platform projects for both stage and screen. Now principal director of Rummin Productions, Catherine collaborates on documentary and narrative projects that celebrate Tasmania's irreplaceable landscapes and rich cultural diversity.

Matthew Newton is a photographer / cinematographer based in Hobart. He has filmed numerous documentaries that have been broadcast nationally as well as feature documentaries for festival release. He has been a finalist in Australia's National Portrait Prize, the Moran Prize for Contemporary Photography and the Bowness Photographic Prize on a number of occasions.

R U M M I N

CREDITS

Director Matthew Newton
Producer Catherine Pettman
Camera Matthew Newton
Editor Ashley Seward
Composer Caleb Miller

Aerials Ignite Digi
Pilot Rian Taylor
Camera operator Gene Miller
Aerial Cinematographer Tom Waugh
Production Stills Matthew Newton

CAST:

Paul Pritchard
Steve Monks
John Middendorf
Melanie Oogjes
Neale Smith

Acknowledgements

ABC Australian Story vision 'The Longest Expedition'

CAST:

Paul Pritchard (born 1967 in Bolton, Lancashire) was one of the leading British climbers of the 1980s and 1990s. On Friday 13th February 1998, Pritchard's life changed drastically when he was hit by a large boulder as he was climbing the Totem Pole, a slender sea stack off the coast of Tasmania. He was left suffering from hemiplegia, a condition that robbed him of feeling and movement in his right side and which caused his speech and memory to suffer.

Pritchard has written three books:

- Deep Play (1997) is about his early climbing experiences
- Totem Pole (1999) about his accident and his recovery from it
- The Longest Climb (2005) continues his story of recovery

He won the Boardman Tasker Prize for Mountain Literature for each of the first two of these. Totem Pole was also awarded the 1999 Banff Mountain Book Festival Grand Prize.

John Middendorf (born 1959 in New York City) is a big wall climber and inventor of climbing equipment. In the 1980s, he climbed the hardest walls of Yosemite (including El Capitan and Half Dome), and in 1992 he climbed the largest rock wall in the world, Great Trango Tower

Steve Monks climber and mountain guide. Based in Australia and Switzerland.

Melanie Oogjes Paul Pritchard's partner.

Neil Smith Tasmanian ambulance paramedic.