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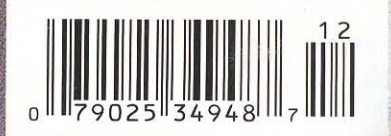
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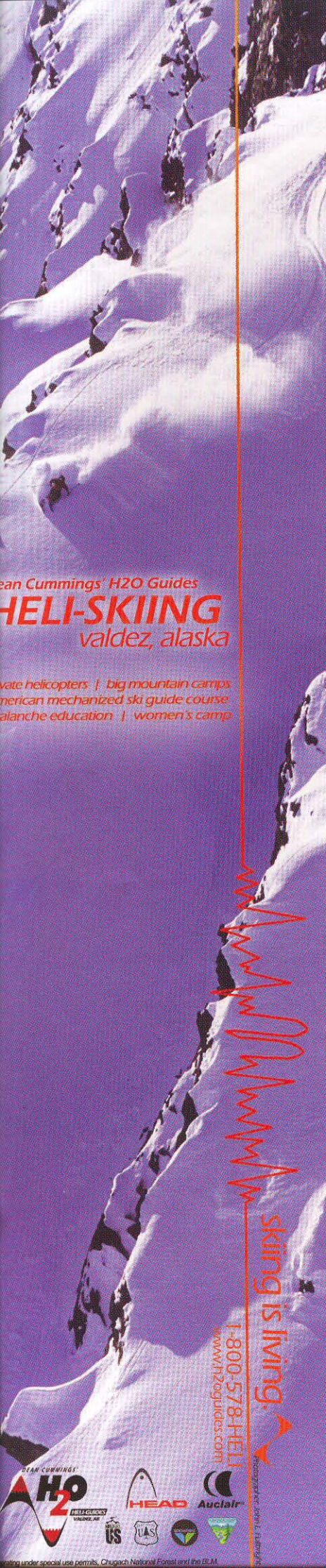
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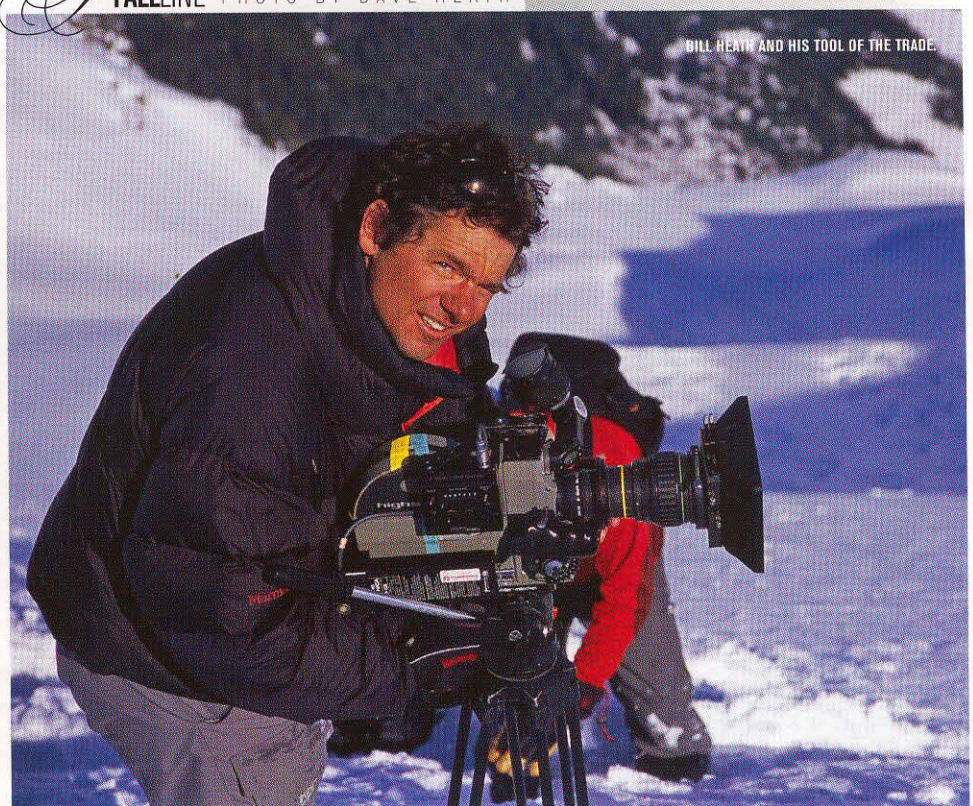
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BILL HEATH AND HIS TOOL OF THE TRADE.



NINE WINTERS OLD

AN UNLIKELY COLLABORATION SETS OUT TO MAKE A CLASSIC

BILL HEATH AND RICH CORBETT SHOULDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER. ONE IS AN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER and small-town family man living in Nelson, B.C., the other a successful lawyer and entrepreneur from Santa Monica, California. Sometimes destiny and dreams have a way of making unlikely pairs.

At 36, Rich Corbett is cashing in on a lifelong dream. Originally from Connecticut, Corbett spent most of his adult years living in Seattle where he studied then practiced law. When he wasn't working long hours he was falling in love with the deep snow and thick culture of Mount Baker. "I bought a ski cabin up in Glacier before I ever bought a real house," he says.

During his tenure as a practicing lawyer, in his "spare" time he developed a business that catalogued legal documents and case reports for perusal online. "Basically, a Google for lawyers," he explains. Corbett sold it a couple of years ago for a significant sum. But rather than go out and buy yachts in Florida or golf club memberships on Maui, Corbett decided to act on a dream. "Ever since I started snowboarding I wanted to create a movie that celebrated the characters of winter," he says. "I wanted to capture the beauty of winter with cinematography, the right music, and weave a story underneath it all."

With the cash to fully self-fund the project, Corbett set out to make something authentic, something different than anything he'd seen before. "I wanted to see if I could make a classic," he says. With no experience in filmmaking or cinematography, Corbett needed the right guy for the job, the person who could take his vision and make it real. Snooping around the ski and snowboard world led him to Bill Heath, a filmmaker with 20 years experience in the industry, a guy who has shot action for both Warren Miller and Hollywood. Anyone who has caught a glimpse of *Sinners*, which Heath filmed and produced over five years in his snow-draped backyard—completely self-funded and promoted—will understand why Heath was the right fit.

"Originally, Bill said he didn't have time," says Corbett. "But we talked again and discovered we had similar philosophies. We're both huge *Big Lebowski* fans." By December 2005, Corbett, who had only decided to make the film that October, had his filmmaker. Heath dropped his other projects and began shooting before the year was out.

The film, entitled *Nine Winters Old*, follows the life of photographer Dave Heath, who, if you're keeping up, is Bill's younger brother. He's also one of the most talented still photographers in the industry. "I've always wanted to do a film about Dave," says Bill. "He's a character with polarity and he loves winter like no one I've ever met." The brothers spent the winter filming throughout North America, in locations like Stewart and Bella Coola in northern B.C., Aspen, Colorado, and the mountains surrounding their Nelson home.

What emerged is a film that truly captures the beauty of winter, as seen not only through the eyes of Dave Heath, but of his subjects: kids, old guys, cat drivers, heli ski pilots, and avalanche technicians. Through it all are stunning images captured by Bill's cinematic talent.

"The goal has always been to make a film that people will think is good 10 years from now," says Corbett. "We're not trying to maximize corporate profits, we want people to not worry about seeing a granola wrapper in the movie, just appreciate winter. It's not about big-name people, but those just below the surface."

"It's a portraiture of portraiture," explains Heath. "Basically, it's a love story about winter."

Corbett plans on taking the film on the festival circuit: both mountain film festivals and bigger events like Tribeca and Sundance. They won't release the movie on DVD until next year. A portion of profits from the film will go to charity.

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