

FILM

Steep Hits Theaters, Finally

Big-mountain skiing gets the Hollywood treatment.

More than just another hip-hop-infused ski-porno, *Steep*—a documentary opening in major cities and ski towns in December—is more Oscars than X Games. Imagine *Dogtown* and *Z-Boys* for ski culture. The 90-minute film offers an encyclopedic history of big-mountain skiing and celebrates the sport's legends, including Doug Coombs, Glen Plake, Seth Morrison, and Ingrid Backstrom. But we'll overlook *Steep's* portrayal of ski-BASEing (the parachute thing) as the future of big-mountain skiing. The film is part case study of adrenaline junkies like extremist Shane McConkey, part eulogy for La Grave guide Coombs, who died in April 2006 shortly after filming wrapped. Says executive producer Mark Obenaus, "Doug's death confirmed the reality that we explore in the film—that big-mountain skiing is a dangerous sport full of rewards and full of risk." —MEGAN MICHELSON

"Boy, this sure is steep."
Glen Plake brainstorms titles in Chamonix.