



JOHN FRY  
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To the Selection Committee  
U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame

Roger Cotton Brown transformed the art of the ski film when in 1967, with the late Barry Corbet, he made the 30-minute film *The Incredible Skis*. A year later came Brown's revolutionary *Ski the Outer Limits*. The films showed skiers doing royal christies and wiggling patented variations of wedel turns, hopping spectacularly through mogul fields and making sensuous deep powder turns. World Cup downhill racers crashed, Roger Staub performed stunts dressed like a clown. In two perilous, slow-motion sequences, Brown filmed Hermann Gollner and Tom Leroy somersaulting off a cornice overhanging the narrow, almost-vertical Corbet's Couloir at Jackson Hole.

Not only was the action captivating. Brown used powerful back lighting, super slow motion, and multi-hued images of a single skier unfolding accordion-like across the screen. The sound track gave the illusion that the skiers were performing their action sequences, ballet-like, to music. In reality, Brown and Corbet cut the film to the music, not the music to the film. The score is the best for any ski movie made, before or since. The effect was magical. It was also a statement: Skiing's limits had been extended. "The conquest of the useless no longer needed an apology," declared Brown on the sound track.

Unlike John Jay and Warren Miller, Brown spent almost no time on the road as a lecturer. Skiers would come to see his work on television, or as a result of the films being projected in theatres and at receptions held by the companies which put up the money for making them. Ski moviemaking changed forever.

Brown went on to make as many as 20 more ski films, including multi-award winners *The Moebius Flip*, *Magic Skis*, *Mt. Cook: Summit of Extremes*, and the comedic *The Great Ski Chase*. He is the winner of numerous film awards (See attachment).

A Dartmouth College graduate (1957) and long-time resident of Colorado, he was elected to the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 2013. Roger Brown's induction into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame is long overdue.



John Fry

February 15, 2018

*John Fry is the Chairman of the International Skiing History Association, former Editor of SKI Magazine and Snow Country, and author of the definitive The Story of Modern Skiing. In 1995 he was the sole person elected to the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame.*

## **Roger Cotton Brown/Summit Films, Inc Awards and Recognition, Ski Related**

- 2013 Inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard hall of Fame.
- 2014 Inducted into Who's Who, World Wide.
- 1996 National Emmy. "Mount Cook; Summit of Extremes" First snowboard descent of Mt. Cook by Jim Zellers, second ski descent by Bruce Grant.
- 1968 XXV Festival de Cinematography, Cortina de Ampizzo, Italy, Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano "Incredible Skis", Hart Ski team Skiers Roger Staub, Art Furrer, Tom Leroy, Herman Gollner.
- 1969 Film Library Educational Assoc. Blue Ribbon, "A Celebration of Winter".
- 1970 Trento, Italy "Ski the Outer Limits", First Place, Hart ski team.
- 1971 Film Library Educational Assoc. Grand Prize.
- 1971 Atlanta film Festival, "Ski the Outer Limits" bronze metal.
- 1972 Venice Film Festival, "Moebius Flip", First Place. Additional Hart skiers, Suzie Chaffee, Rudi Wirsch, Corky Fowler, Bill Peterson.
- 1985 Guest of Honor Telluride Film Festival.
- 1990 Palermo, Italy International Film Festival, "Airtime". First Place.
- 1992 Michigan Outdoor Travel Film Festival, "Mount Cook, Summit of Extremes", Teddy Award, Best Outdoor Adventure Travel.
- 1992 International Ski Film and Video Festival, Crested Butte, Mt. Cook, Summit of Extremes" Grand Prize.
- 1992 International Ski Film Festival, Crested Butte. Best in Adventure Travel, "Magic Skis".
- 1998 ISHA Lifetime Achievement award
- 2006 ISHA Ullr Book Award, "Requiem for the West".
- 2010 Jerry Award, "Ski the Outer Limits".
- 2012 Jerry Award "The Moebius Flip". Hart Ski team.
- 2012 ISHA Film Award for "Vail: the Rise of America's Iconic Ski Resort."
- 2015 ISHA Jerry Award, "The Incredible Skis". Hat Ski team
- 2016 Jerry Award "The Great Ski Chase". Hart Ski team and Fred Iselin.
- 2016 Jerry Award, "Jackson Hole Skiing Pioneers", Honorable Mention.

United States Information Agency, Council for Nontheatrical Events, nine ski related Golden Eagles. Films, distributed worldwide.



To Selection Committee

Dear John Fry,

I cannot agree more with you that the nomination of Roger Brown to the Ski Hall of Fame is long overdue and deserved. I worked for Roger in several of his ski movies that were produced in the late 1960's and early 1970s. To this day, they are the best ever made.

Roger and Barry Corbet's creativity created a ski movie style and camera technique that was unique, . . . years ahead of anything being done by sport moviemakers at the time. Their films have become all-time classics.

In almost all Summit films the incredible spirit of the outdoor adventure captivates us, as well as the genius and personalities of the makers. Without exaggeration, beautiful minds must have been at work to come up with such an artistic combination of winter landscapes, human performance in motion, music and story-telling.

Having been one of the performers in Roger's movies it is clear to me that the skiers were the instruments playing in an incredible orchestra called Summit Films, whose artistic director, brainchild, and conductor was Roger Brown.

With best regards  
Hermann Gollner

Pioneering freestyle and acrobatic skier, creator of the Moebius Flip, inventor of a new kind of slalom gate pole, alpine ski coach, Honored Member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

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To Selection Committee:

Roger Brown's cinematography helped to change dramatically the way people view our sport. His legendary films gave young skiers new opportunities to showcase their acrobatic and aerial skills, and to portray their own skiing dreams. Freestyle pioneers Suzy Chaffee, Herman Goellner and others starred in his movies, including *Ski the Outer Limits*, *The Incredible Skis*, and *The Moebius Flip*.

I first met Roger in the early 1960's when I was a young racer from Stowe, Vermont dreaming of competing in the Olympics. He invited me to stay at his home in Vail (one of the first in the Vail Valley) so that I could train and race. I recall accompanying him to the Elks Club in Silverthorne, Colorado for a rare showing of one of his very first ski films.

I am very pleased to support the nomination of Roger for Induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Happy Trails.

Billy Kidd

Olympic silver medalist 1964; Combined champion, FIS World Alpine Ski Championships 1970; Honored member U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame.

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To Selection Committee:

Roger Brown has been a devoted skiing friend of mine since our Dartmouth College days together in the early 1950s. We've led parallel lives, sometimes working together on ski films. Always a devoted friend for me and for the sport of skiing, over more than six decades.

Roger had a discerning and imaginative eye for ways to enhance our sport through filming. He polished his art accordingly. His *Outer Limits* film alone was a great inspiration for my own skiing endeavors, eloquently expressing what had never before been seen or said.

BILL BRIGGS

Fully Certified Ski Teacher, 1955. Led ski traverse of Bugaboos to Rogers Pass BC Canada 1958; Skied Mt Rainier with Roger Brown 1961; made first ski descent of Grand Teton 1971; Honored Member US Ski Hall of Fame, and Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame.

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Bill Briggs <billbriggs8@aol.com>



U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee:

I write to support the nomination of Roger Brown to become a candidate for election to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. Roger's application is being submitted by John Fry.

I have known of Roger's work, through his Summit Films – the production company that he ran with the late Barry Corbet – for almost as long as I've been involved in the ski business. That association goes back to when I first worked on Harry Leonard's International Ski Show Circuit – in 1969! One of my duties each Fall was to operate the Bell & Howell Marc 300 16 mm projector showing the latest films in the "Ski Film Theatre" – which was linked to Jerry Simon's International Ski Film Festival

The films Roger and Barry produced in those years – seminal ones such as *The Incredible Skis* and *Ski The Outer Limits* (see John's application for a complete list of Rogers prolific work) – had an oversize impact on kick-starting the fledging freestyle ski movement. Along with Dick Barrymore's film - *The Performers* - Summit Films introduced to the public the skiers who became the face of what was, at the time, a new aspect of skiing, which would go onto revolutionize the entire sport.

Roger's long-lasting impact on the sport, as a film-maker and storyteller, comes from the unique and special way he captivated audiences by showcasing the beauty, excitement and athletic prowess of the skiers who did it best. Such displays not only helped to advance freestyle skiing to an Olympic medal sport. They inspired a multitude of young men and women to take up the activity, ultimately pushing them to perform ski and snowboarding tricks, stunts, and displays of athletic skill that were once just dreams.

Our sport owes a lot to Roger Brown for all that he's done through his films to help it grow – an achievement that definitely should be honored by his election to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. – *Bernie Weichsel*.

Bernie Weichsel, President  
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John McMurtry

January 26, 2018

Selection Committee

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Re: Roger Brown Nomination

This letter is written in conjunction with the nomination of Roger Brown to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

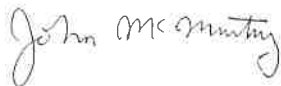
Roger is the classic definition of a ski sport builder. The ability to transport people to the mountains from hundreds of miles away is a rare gift. Emmy Award winner Roger Brown's extraordinary films about skiing do just that and continue to draw people to skiing even after 50 years.

Roger Brown changed the way ski films are made. His experimentation created sponsored ski films. One of the most famous partnerships was a series sponsored by Hart Skis in the late 1960s. These films included *The Incredible Skis*, *The Mobius Flip*, *The Great Ski Chase*, and *Ski the Outer Limits*, which won numerous prizes and awards and was a major force in launching the freestyle ski movement. These innovative ski films were groundbreaking, widely distributed and utilized super high-speed cameras for uniquely slow-motion photography.

Brown's ski films encouraged incredible innovation, helping to popularize extreme and freestyle skiing in America since the mid-1960s. Brown's tradition of focusing on the mountain lifestyle, people behind the stories, and the unique appeal of mountain communities widely promoted the sport and contributed to the growth of many resorts. While he has won four Sports Emmys, the International Skiing History Association Lifetime Achievement Award, numerous film festival awards, and has been recognized by *SKI Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential skiers of all time, Roger Brown's crowning achievement is celebrating and sharing with us the ski experience through his films.

As a pioneer and innovator, Roger Brown's induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame is well deserved. Through the medium of film, Roger has introduced the sport of skiing to countless thousands.

Sincerely,



John McMurtry

Vice President of Development

Colorado Snowsports Museum and Hall of Fame

Honored Member:

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame

*John McMurtry is Vice President of Development for the Colorado Snowsports Museum and Hall of Fame, former Chief Development Officer for the Steadman Philippon Research Institute, former Alpine Director, Director of Athlete Development and Head Technical Coach for the U.S. and Olympic Alpine Ski Teams. John was elected to the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame 1995 and the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame in 2014.*



# KEYSTONE PRODUCTIONS

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January 23, 2018

To the Selection Committee;

I am writing in support of Roger Brown's induction into the National Ski Hall of Fame.

Roger Brown was the most influential ski filmmaker of the 1960s. His Summit Films created both a new kind of ski movie and a new way that these ski movies would be seen. Instead of a yearly travelogue, personally toured to theaters by John Jay or Warren Miller, Brown's films enjoyed an open distribution that were shown without charge because of their compelling content. Sponsored by ski corporations like Hart Skis, or ski-related companies like American Airlines, they were shown continuously for decades in ski shops, bars, and any place skiers were likely to congregate.

The "featurettes" were relatively short, most about twenty minutes long. They will always be revered as a unique string of artistic films that still command attention when viewed today. In producing and directing these films, Roger insisted upon being given an unheard-of amount of artistic freedom. As documented in John Fry's nomination letter, Summit Films ground-breaking movies won numerous awards.

Some people have traced today's surge of extreme skiing back to Roger Brown's films. Perhaps they did usher in the era of extreme skiing. Certainly the somersault into Corbet's Couloir made extreme skiing famous. Featuring twisting inverted aerials and various "ballet" scenes on skis, Brown's films virtually launched freestyle skiing into the general skiing consciousness.

Roger Brown's Summit Films was a crucible for creative film work. Many of the people who worked there, like Bob Fulton and Paul Ryan, went on to have important careers of their own.

Recognizing the incredible contribution to skiing that Roger Brown has made is overdue, and we should all support his induction to our National Ski Hall of Fame.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Moulton

Award winning filmmaker, ski historian, and film archivist .