

**John Middendorf Rigging Resume**  
**AVAILABLE FOR VERTICAL CLIFF RIGGING AND FILMING JOBS**

**CLIMBING EXPERIENCE**

- 85 multi-day ascents worldwide (many first ascents), including 30 ascents of EL CAPITAN in Yosemite.
- 35 first ascents of desert spires, including two ascents of THE TOTEM POLE in Monument Valley.
- Ascents include an ascent of CERRO TORRE in Patagonia, and the first ascent with Xaver Bongard of *The Grand Voyage* on THE GREAT TRANGO TOWER, in the Pakistan Karakoram, recognised as the most technical and difficult ascent in the Himalaya to date.

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL VERTICAL CLIFF RIGGING EXPERIENCE**

**2000: DIRECTOR AND CAMERAMAN** for "Baffin Island-Vertical Adventure".

Location: Baffin Island. Producer: Outdoor Life Network

*Spent 14 days on a 2000-foot big wall with three climbers as cameraman for the one hour TV documentary.*

**1995: CAMERAMAN AND RIGGER** for BASE Jumping TV documentary.

Location: Colorado Plateau, Utah. Producer: Outdoor Life Network.

*Mike Graber awarded Emmy for shared footage.*

**1994: CLIFF RIGGER** for television series, "Extreme". (3 days).

Location: Snow Canyon, Utah. Producer: Alan Barnette/T. Chehak. Director: Tony Hickox.

Rigging: Wiggins Aerial Rigging, Inc.

**1994: HEAD CLIFF RIGGER AND CAMERAMAN** for Reebok Commercial, "Nancy Feagin, Rock Climber"

Location: Zion National Park. Ad Agency: Leo Burnett USA. Producer: G.M.S. (John Marshall).

Director/Cameraman: Peter Nydrle.

**1993: HEAD CLIFF RIGGER** for the ESPN Shield climb: "Rock and Road" (11 days).

Location: El Capitan, Yosemite. Producer: American Adventure Productions. Cameraman: Dan Mannix.

Director: Rick Ridgeway.

*For seven days I climbed the Shield route on El Capitan with the cameraman, Dan Mannix, whom I continuously rigged in position above the climbing team. My job also required supervising 5 other riggers through radio contact. Rick Ridgeway has called this "the most complex vertical rigging job ever achieved for television", and Dan Mannix has received an Emmy for his footage.*

**1985: CLIFF RIGGER** for ABC Sports one-hour special: "The Lost Arrow Free Climb" (5 days).

Location: Yosemite Valley, California. Camera: Bev Johnson.

Director and Producer: Mike Hoover, Hoover Productions.

*We rigged a variety of cliff shots on the 1200 foot Lost Arrow Spire while Ron Kauk and Jerry Moffat climbed. I was the main rigger for the final ABC Live Coverage television shots when the climbers approached the summit; it required careful timing and expert & safe cliff rigging skills.*

**1984: CLIFF RIGGER** for Gillette Commercial: "John Bachar, 'The Essence of Shaving'" (7 days).

Location: Yosemite Valley, California.

Producer: BBDO Advertising Company (NY).

Director: David Dwiggens.

Cameraman: Caleb Deschanel

*Duties required expertise with vertical cliff and rope work, and included setting up many complicated vertical shots in which the cameraman was placed in various spots, with many ropes and anchors needing to be set up in order to keep the crew safe while working near the edge of high cliffs.*



Rick  
Ridgeway  
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

October 19, 1993

John Middendorf  
1109 S. Plaza Way  
Number 286  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear John,

Now that we are back on flat ground, and the production is behind us, I am writing to thank you for your invaluable contribution to the success of our one-hour rock climbing show for ESPN's Expedition Earth series.

I think it's accurate to say we pulled off one of the most complex vertical rigging jobs ever achieved for television. The requirements on El Capitan's Shield Route were formidable: virtual seas of blank, overhanging rock; the challenges of positioning the camera above and to the side of the lead climbers when any rope lowered off the wall dangled away from the rock by as much as fifty feet!

As the lead rigger tackling this challenge, you did a superb job: you had the technical know-how, the can-do attitude, and the imagination and creativity to figure it out. Your recommendation, for example, that on the headwall we have your rigging crew and the main camera always one lead above the climbers-- and operating as an independent team-- was the single most important addition to a strategy that lead to our success.

You can be assured we'll be working together in the future as I produce more climbing films, and I will heartily recommend you to anyone needing an expert vertical rigger.

Yours Cordially,



Rick Ridgeway