



Heartland Film Society

presents

Blindsight (2006)

Friday, March 5th 2010



Lucy Walker directed this remarkable film about the quest to climb Lakhpa Ri, 23,000 feet high on the north side of Everest. Not just any climb, this one is led by Erik Weihenmayer, a blind mountaineer and adventurer and the youngsters he leads are all pupils from the first blind school in Tibet, set up by the idealistic, and blind, Sabriye Tenberken. Blindness is not just a disability in Tibet, it is also a curse, literally, where blind children are possessed by demons and Tenberken had to search for her pupils since so many were hidden away in shame. When Weihenmayer arrives in Lhasa he inspires Teneberken and her students Kyila, Sonam Bhumtso, Tashi, Gyenshen, Dachung and Tenzin to let him lead them higher than they have ever been before. The resulting 3-week journey is beyond anything any of them could have predicted.

What the critics said: The film has already, rightly, won much praise for the way Walker declines to judge Weihenmayer. Was this a heartwarming, life-affirming idea to help underprivileged young people, or a grotesque exercise in conceit from a well-off westerner obsessed with climbing and conquering, who has dragooned poor, bewildered kids - who can have given no informed consent to this desperately dangerous adventure - into his own compulsive, never-ending need to prove himself?
Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

Length and certificate: 104 minutes

Language: English, Tibetan, German

Coming next month... April 1st and 2nd **I've loved you so long**

For more information about our programme of films see

www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk