

Reality Theater

The 10th of May 1996 was the day of the accident. Eight people died in a snowstorm that day. Most of the people in the group who tried to reach the top, under the leading of the experienced guide Rob Hall, who himself had said: Any idiot could climb to the top of this mountain. The trick is to get down from it alive.

Exactly what happened on the mountain that spring day is still uncertain. It was reported storm, but that did not stop Hall and the others who tried to reach the top that day. The American journalist and the experienced climber Jon Krakauer were the only ones from Hall group who survived. He has later become rich on a book about the disaster, "Into Thin Air". But the book brings up only more questions. How was it possible that so experienced climbers ignored the storm that was on its way? Was it incompetence or just bad luck that made so many climbers lose their lives? And can we really trust Krakauer's story?

Within climbing groups many people have accepted that the truth never will be found. But that is something the group "Schauplatz" will not listen to. Armed with film and a perfect panel of real people they try to get to the bottom of the mystery. But instead of invite the partly famous participants, they fill their rolls themselves. Suddenly the division between fiction and fact appears not so clear to us. And because of that, the interview Bergenpuls.no had with for example the actor Lars Studer, will not be with him but with "Jon Krakauer". A polite, reflective and sympathetic American journalist. Still, with a very noticeable accent. A journalist with a little bad conscience who wants to see the disaster in a greater perspective:

-There are problems here who are really important now after what happened the 11th of September. I think we should talk a little bit about it. Don't you agree, he asks the rest of the group.

-I am here to talk about climbing, not about bin Laden, says "Gøran Kropp"

The real Gøran climbed Everest without extra oxygen (but with the assistance of sherpaer, of course) during the days of May in 1996.

-I don't understand that one absolutely must go to other parts of the world to climb. Not as long there are many enough mountains in their own country, claims "Ludmilla Tuting" (Yangzom Brauen). Dr. Ludmilla Tuting is a journalist, expert on Himalaya and a critic of the commercialisation and the pollution of Everest.

-What about us who come from Denmark, what mountains should we climb?, objects "Lene Gammelgaard". The real Gammelgaard is a Danish founder and consultant who likes to use the title "the first Nordic woman on Everest". That happened - the 10th of May 1996.

-Jahaha, as you can see they haven't agreed yet, laughs Albert Liebl, who together with Anna-Lisa Ellend ("Lene Gammelgaard") has the regi for the docu-theatre - debate - satire at Teatergarasjen Thursday - Saturday 18.00

They play convincingly. For a moment I am not quite sure who I am talking to. "Gøran" can also tell that he has been hired of an audience who wanted to climb the 3970m high mountain Eiger in Switzerland. The actor Peter Zumstein turned the offer politely down of course.

-But what we first and foremost are interested in is to explore the different explanations people have when such things occur. Explore the borders to the truth, explain Albert in a sudden moment of seriousness. He is talking about the play, isn't he? Or is he talking about the Everest accident? Who have I actually been talking to?

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Interview: Lars Holger Ursin