

*“Doubt consumes the spirit and without risk our destiny is ultimately written by others.”*

A man wearing a cap and safety glasses is walking in a field. A large camera rig is suspended in the air above him. The background is a textured, golden-brown surface.

# THE VIRTUE OF RISK

Dave Banks presents stories and clips from life in the field.

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## BOOKING

### The Short Program

In the 45-minute program, Dave introduces 3 clips that demonstrate the rewards of risk and opens the floor to discussion after each clip.

### The Long Program

In the 2-hour program, Dave will screen 6 clips and then be available for Q & A with the audience.

## CONTACT

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## Dave Banks presents stories and clips from life in the field.

Three-time Emmy-winning photojournalist and documentarian Dave Banks has spent 30 years in the field chronicling the human condition. From trekking across the Sahara Desert, hanging off cliffs in Australia and being hunted by the Turkish Army, Dave has encountered numerous risks in his illustrious career. Despite his worldwide experiences, perhaps his biggest risk was to simply believe in himself. Told by teachers that his dyslexia would haunt him forever and profoundly diminish his professional opportunities, Dave found solace in an old Ansco box camera given to him by his grandmother. With an endless energy and a positive spirit that has served him well all over the globe, Dave delivers a passionate presentation complete with video clips, photographs and an engaging question and answer exchange that is sure to illustrate what can be accomplished by making the decision to believe in yourself.

*“Being driven protects you from fear because it keeps you moving forward.”*

3/30/99 **Sahara Desert.** Emotions are soaring after seven days of crossing the Sahara during the Marathon des Sables. I had taken every step of the journey with Felicia. Watching her breakdown mentally and physically through my viewfinder then having the French nurse take her away was a humbling moment. It was then that I realized that the journey was no longer just hers, it belonged to all of us.

8/14/98 **Australia.** For the first time since my near-fatal climbing accident twenty years ago, I found myself harnessed in over the edge of a cliff. Had to steady my nerves and my camera for the Eco-Challenge Australia. If I’m not going to rappel off the side of a cliff to get a shot, I’m certainly not going to ask someone else to do it.

2/20/94 **Eastern Turkey.** With the Turkish Army fast on our heels, searching for Noah’s Ark wound up being the least challenging part of the day. It took a late night mad dash to the border to avoid the certain horrors of a Turkish prison.

4/29/92 **Los Angeles.** Was in San Diego when the news broke. Grabbed my camera and raced up the 405 following the police helicopters until I could see the flames engulfing the city. The L.A. riots had begun and I was headed towards the eye of the storm.

7/14/03 **Afghanistan.** Another close call today while searching for the Taliban fighters. After weeks of filming US Forces scouring the country side of Afghanistan, we returned to the safety of Baghram Air Base. A routine sweep revealed a landmine sitting in a sandbag directly outside my tent.

10/4/02 **Jordan.** My guides were yelling “Broom! Broom!” as I broke away and trudged across a field to get the shot I wanted. By the time I realized they were saying, “Boom! Boom!” I found myself in the middle of a landmine field. The only way out was to carefully retrace my footsteps, but only after I got the shot.

*“It’s never a question of ‘What am I doing here?’ but more about ‘How could I have been in a better spot when it happened?’”*

