

Steve Winter:

Born in 1968; raised in Seattle, Wash., and somehow didn't end up in a grunge band, at Microsoft or at Starbucks.

Migrated to:

Crested Butte, Colo.

Mission in life:

Ski filmmaker

Fork in the

road: "I was planning to go to film school in Seattle and had already written my tuition check. But while I was in line to register, I ripped up the check, then went out and bought a Bolex film camera, moved to Crested Butte and started filming skiing."

Result: Directed the ski film *Soul Sessions and Epic Impressions*.

Where it all started:

"I was 3 and I was at Stevens Pass, Wash., with my dad, who was an instructor. I couldn't stop and ran into a big prickler bush at the bottom of the hill."

When it all came into focus: "I was in the sixth grade, and I was night skiing at Ski Acres, Wash., riding up the lift by myself, listening to the Scorpions on

steve winter

my Walkman. All of a sudden this guy threw a huge helicopter in front of me. That image froze in my mind—the lighting, the music, the mood."

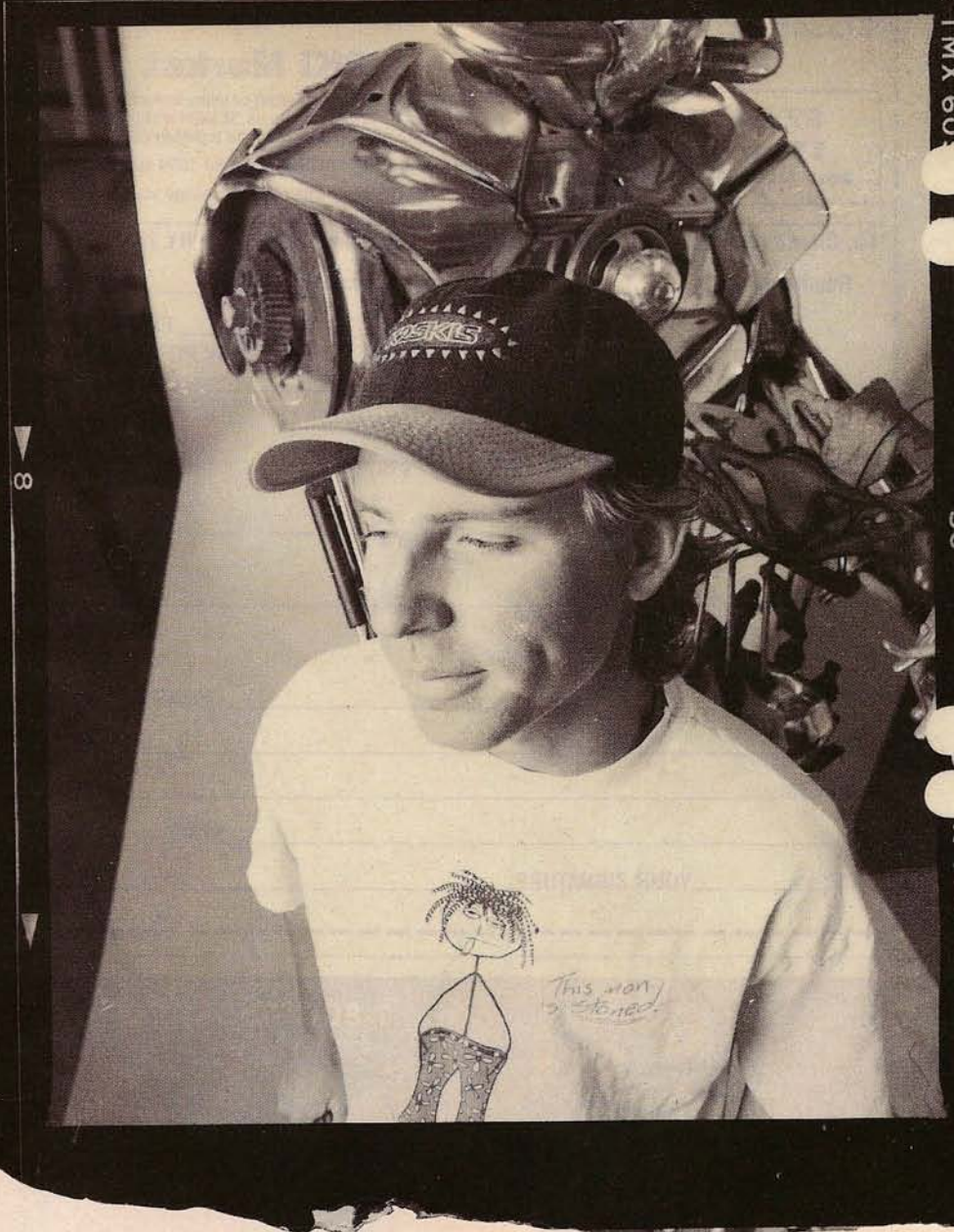
But first, a test: "I went to Wenatchee Valley, Wash., to get a two-year degree in ski instructing and coaching, and I thought I was a good skier. But I was the worst skier there. It really opened my eyes and changed my life. I worked really hard and was a full cert instructor within two years."

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Yin: "A spring day in 1988 at Blackcomb, B.C. It was huge—60 inches of fresh. Armpit deep."

Yang: "The day before, we ducked a rope, poached a chute at 9 am and took the rest of the day to hike out."

Favorite gravitational device: "Secura-Fix

mountaineering bindings. Put them in alpine bindings to free heel."

Bliss run: "Cowboy Ridge at Stevens Pass."

What the future brings: "Release of my new film, *The Hedonists* [September 1994; call 303-349-0860]. Hedonism is a doctrine of certain ancient Greek philosophers, which taught that the ethical goal and chief good of life is the enjoyment of personal pleasure and the gratification of desires." —RAEDE BAILEY