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## A minute with ... Pasquale Scaturro

### Nile expedition leader talks about the challenges of Imax filming and book tours

Pasquale Scaturro, leader of the 3,000-mile river expedition chronicled in "Mystery of the Nile" at the Museum Center Omnimax theater, visits Cincinnati this week to promote the companion book "Mystery of the Nile" (Putnam; \$29.95) co-authored by Richard Bangs.

How book tours compare with river expeditions. It's like being on a river or climbing a mountain, it's one step after another, one stroke after another, keep doing it until it's done. The key is to enjoy it as much as you can.

Imax filming is challenging because: An Imax camera is not like a digital camcorder. It's \$125,000 a minute for the finished product. The film itself is \$1,200 a minute just for the raw stock. The camera weighs 100 pounds. ... As far I was concerned, I could have thrown it off the boat a half dozen times.

The first part of the project involved: Thirty-five people and seven tons of equipment shipped to Ethiopia on Nov. 10, 2003. For the next seven weeks, we shot the big scenes that take ungodly amounts of time and money to shoot - the pyramids, the helicopter shots, all the complicated set-ups.

The second part involved: Everyone went home with exception of me, (kayak expert) Gordon Brown and one Imax cameraman. We went back to Ethiopia, and for the next 114 days we ran the expedition with an Imax camera, 400 pounds of film, two rafts and a kayak. We had zero outside support, no outside vehicles, no air drops, no food supplies.

The scariest part was: Going through the rapids in the North Gorge. If someone had drowned, we would have buried them and gone down the river.

The best time was: Probably in the Sudan. We entered the Sudan petrified, the tension was tremendous ... As soon as we got there, it became unbelievable. The people we met along the banks were wonderful.

If I could do it again: I would, but I don't know if I would do the whole trip. My problem is I'm 50 years old. How many six-month expeditions do you have left in your life?

My next adventure will be: I'd like to visit every country in Africa and climb the highest point in every country.

Margaret A. McGurk

*Scaturro lectures at 7 p.m. Thursday, at Cincinnati Museum Center, (513) 287-7001, (800) 733-2077, [www.cincymuseum.org](http://www.cincymuseum.org). He signs books at 7 p.m. Friday at Joseph-Beth Booksellers at Rookwood Pavilion. (513) 731-7770.*

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