

Press release

From the Himalayas to the Valais Alps: a new adventure by Nicolas Steiner.

Sion, 29 September 2026. **Valais-born director Nicolas Steiner is shooting his new feature film, *The Flying Mountain*, an international co-production between Switzerland, Austria and Ireland. Shot in English, Gaelic and Tibetan, the film takes audiences from the landscapes of the Himalayas to the peaks of the Valais Alps. Part of the production is being filmed in Valais, in demanding high-altitude mountain conditions.**

From the Himalayas to the Valais Alps.

The screenplay for the feature film is inspired by the novel of the same name by Austrian author Christoph Ransmayr and was written following several research trips to Kham, China, as well as to Ireland and Nepal. This process has shaped a project deeply rooted in exploration, landscapes and human relationships. Filming has already taken place in Ireland, Nepal (Himalayas) and Austria. The production will now spend ten days filming in high-altitude locations in Valais, notably in Saas-Fee, near Gandegg Hut and near Mönchsloch Hut.

For the Valais Film Commission, this production represents a significant milestone: it is the first high-altitude mountain shoot hosted in the canton as part of an international production of this kind. It also demonstrates the region's ability to accommodate major productions requiring specialised expertise, complex logistics and extensive experience in dealing with altitude and mountain conditions. « *The Flying Mountain* » is a project that transcends borders, both in its story and in the way it has been conceived. The work carried out during the preparation phase, particularly through research trips to Kham, Ireland and Nepal, has helped shape a film that is deeply connected to the territories it explores. Valais brings an essential dimension to the project, and we are delighted to bring together partners and expertise from several countries around this production," says Katrin Renz, producer at tellfilm.

Valais expertise supporting an international production.

The shoot also provides an opportunity to showcase the expertise available in Valais to support productions working in particularly demanding environments. Valais mountain guides have been brought on board to provide guidance and ensure the safety of the crews at the various filming locations.

« Hosting a high-altitude mountain shoot of this scale is a first for us and provides concrete evidence of our ability to support productions in complex conditions. Beyond the landscapes, it is the expertise of our professionals, particularly in the mountain sector, together with the collaboration between the various local stakeholders, that makes this type of project possible, » says Tristan Albrecht, Head of the Valais Film Commission.

The presence of Valais mountain guides alongside the production team illustrates the complementarity between film expertise and Alpine know-how. The shoot has required specific preparation to consider altitude, access to the locations and the weather conditions inherent to high-altitude environments.

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A long-standing team and an international co-production.

With this feature film, Nicolas Steiner is also continuing his collaboration with a long-standing team of colleagues, brought together once again for this new project. The co-production with Austria and Ireland, together with the decision to shoot in English, Gaelic and Tibetan, gives the film a distinctly international dimension. The cast further reinforces this international outlook, with Irish actors Barry Ward and Moe Dunford playing the two brothers, alongside Tibetan actress Thinley Lhamo in the leading female role.

The arrival of this production highlights the potential of the canton as a filming destination for productions seeking Alpine landscapes, local expertise and the ability to work in challenging professional environments.

Synopsis

« The Flying Mountain » tells the story of Liam and his brother Pad, who return home following the death of their authoritarian father, known as “Captain Daddy”. Having gradually drifted apart over the years, the two brothers embark on a journey that will rekindle their bond and force them to confront their past. A disillusioned topographer and computer scientist, Liam discovers a mysterious “white spot” in Kham, western China: an unknown mountain range that is either missing from or contradicted by the available data. Intrigued, he decides to set off on an expedition to uncover the mystery. Pad, a passionate surfer and deep-sea diver, is meanwhile confronted with an old gambling debt. Nevertheless, he joins his brother in search of adventure — and perhaps a chance at reconciliation.

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