Josh Gates – A Modern Day Adventurer

*By Marilynn Reeves*

I’m what you’d call an ‘armchair adventurer’ – which is to say I love sitting back in the comfort of my living room and watching the other guy do all the hard work. About four years ago I found my ideal alter-ego. On Travel Channel’s *Expedition Unknown* Josh Gates does just that.

With a degree in Archeology from Tufts University, Josh is a forty-one-year-old redhead who stands 6’2” and is built roughly like a retired fullback. His winning smile and outgoing personality capture the hearts of the ladies and the apparent good will of everyone he encounters.

I’m sensing the possibility of some Scottish heritage here. In fact, in one episode he donned a kilt and proved his manhood by consuming a hefty helping of haggis. I’ve also seen him eat bugs and the still squiggling legs of a baby octopus, not to mention the unbelievably grotesque looking boiled head of a goat. But that’s during his off-hours.

During his day job, Josh is known for his Learning Excursions. He travels the world seeking lost treasures, unsolved mysteries, and just about any adventure that will put his life in peril and test his apparently unquenchable thirst for uncomfortable situations.

He has scaled down a cliff of frozen tundra – which happened to be breaking away in chunks at the time – to search for the remains of a wooly mammoth. In the episode ‘Africa’s Cursed Lake of Gold’ Josh Gates ventured into the wilds of Namibia to take a treacherously deep dive into Lake Otjikoto searching for lost World War I treasure.

One of my favorite episodes was the two-part ‘Legend of the Snake King’ where he joined Archaeologist Dr. Richard Hansen trekking deep into the Guatemalan rainforest. Together they searched for the hidden tombs of the mysterious Snake Kings in the ancient Mayan city of El Mirador.

There are many more episodes, too numerous to mention. Some have also been aired on the Discovery Channel. But whether you watch them on the Travel Channel or Discovery, if you love hair-raising acts of derring do to satisfy your thirst for adventure, with a bit of history and culture thrown in, I highly recommend that you track down Josh Gates and *Expedition Unknown*. I think you’ll be glad you did.