

## **Nicolas Vanier - Biography**

Born in 1962, Nicolas is famous world wide for undertaking some of the most challenging experiences in the world. His stories and books have inspired people all over the world. Following his first adventure in Lapland, here are just some of Nicolas's impressive achievements:

### **1982**

Expedition on foot to Lapland.

### **1983**

Crossing the North Quebec wilderness from Schefferville to Ungava Bay following the trail of the Montagnais people by canoe.

### **1986/87**

For a year and a half, Nicolas and his team joined the history of the large pioneers of the west: They trekked 7000 km through the wildest zones of the Rockies and Alaska, from Wyoming to the strait of Bering using 12 horses, 24 huskies, a raft and two canoes. Three films of this crossing have been made: 'Caravan', 'Rivers open' and 'Division of water' and in 1988 two books: 'the historical triathlon' and 'Northern Loneliness'.

### **1990/1991**

Trans-Siberia expedition - a complete south/north crossing of Siberia over one and half years, covering 7000km of tundra wilderness from Mongolia to the Artic Ocean and involving many traditional forms of transport - horses, sledges with dogs, reindeers, ponies and canoes. A film covering his journey 'In the north of the winter' was then made along with his book 'Transsibérie, the wild myth'.

### **1993**

Nicolas Vanier shared the life of a family of Even nomads, stockbreeders of reindeers and nomads in the Siberian Arctic. He tells this story in 'the life in north'.

### **May 94**

Publishing of his novel: 'White Loneliness'.

### **1994-1995**

Nicolas spent one year with his wife and eighteen month old daughter crossing the Rockies and the Yukon on horseback, staying in a cabin they built themselves then travelling by sled dogs on a 2500 km trip to Alaska. His book 'the child of the snow' was then published and a full-length film covering the journey made available on DVD on 20 December 1995.

### **1999**

The WHITE ODYSSEE saw Nicolas follow a journey across the whole Great North Canadian wilderness from Skagway in Alaska to Quebec, covering 8600 km in less than a hundred days with his team of sled dogs. A 90 minutes full-length film along with the book 'L'Odysee Blanche', with editions from Robert Laffont, tracks his trails.

### **2000**

Nicolas set up an organisation called 'Les Fauteuils Glissants' which aims to enable physically handicapped people to sledge with dog teams and to prepare for the major sled-

dog races in Alaska.

## **2003**

In the winter of 2003, Nicolas started to shoot his first full-length fiction film in the Yukon called 'Le Dernier Trappeur' (The Last Trapper), produced by MC4.

## **2004**

'Le Dernier Trappeur' was released in cinemas (The Last Trapper, 2.3 million tickets sold).

Nicolas published an illustrated children's book 'Le Dernier Trappeur' and also a photo book 'Le Dernier Trappeur'

Publishing of his novel 'L'Or sous la neige' (Gold beneath the snow)

## **2005**

Nicolas set up the GREAT ODYSSEY in the French Alps, the toughest international sled dog race in the world because of the topography of the mountain it covers. The race brings together each year 20 of the best mushers in the world. They stride 900 km in Savoie and Haute Savoie and mount over 25 000 m.

## **2005-2006**

Nicolas crossed Siberia from Lake Baikal to Red Square in Moscow, covering 8000 km. The SIBERIAN ODYSSEY aroused a live interest in a very large audience and was the subject of a movie and books 'L'Odyssée Sibérienne'. This adventure was followed by many children at school, within the framework of a huge operation of environmental education. TF1 (French biggest television channel) broadcasted the movie 'L'Odyssée Sibérienne' in prime time at Christmas 2006. Two books for children were published, so as a big pictures book and a video game.

Nicolas published a compilation of memories and anecdotes from his expeditions in 'Mémoires Glacées' (Frozen Memoirs)

The French Board of Education put him in charge of setting up a wide environmental operation in schools.

## **2008**

Nicolas directed his second featured film 'Loup' (Wolf), adapted from his 2008 novel. The plot takes place in Siberia, among the Evens, and was inspired by his own experience.

## **2009**

Nicolas established a resort in French Vercors. The 'Camp Nicolas Vanier' offers a wide range of outdoor activities for the whole family, such as dogsledding, horseback riding, hiking, canicross, ecosystem discovery... With accommodations inspired by Nicolas's experience in Great North, conceived with the highest respect of nature, the Camp brings a concrete and educational answer to the environmental problems.

Release of the movie 'Loup' (Wolf, 1.2 million tickets sold)

## **2010**

Nicolas was charged by property developer Nexity to coordinate working groups of specialists (architects, town-planners, veterinaries, energy and health researchers...) with the purpose of creating the ecodistrict Hoche, close to the business district La Defense. This project was meant to be environmentally and socially exemplary.

## **2011**

Nicolas publishes 'La Passion du Grand Nord' (My passion for the Great North). Sharing his most beautiful pictures and most impressive memories, skimming over 30 years of expeditions, Nicolas tells his passion for the Great North.

Publishing of 'Mohawks et les Peuples d'en haut' (Mohawks and the Peoples from above), first volume of his novel 'Le Grand Voyage' (The great Journey). During his initiatory journey through the Northern countries, Mohawks will discover the ultimate meaning of the Great Journey and the meaning of life at the same time.

## **Winter 2011**

Nicolas starts shooting the adaptation of his novel 'L'Or sous la neige' (Gold beneath the snow), which tells the incredible but true story of the Klondike Gold Rush. At the tail end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the young American Matt leaves everything behind to set up for Alaska attracted, like one hundred thousand people, including the famous writer Jack London, by the recent discovery of gold there. An old trapper teaches him the survival skills he'll need as he discovers these territories. As he learns from his mistakes, Matt grows to love this 'high country'. Soon, he will have to choose between gold and this beautiful land itself, between the civilization he left behind and a new world.