

'Wild Chimpanzees' tribute to Goodall's work

By Margaret A. McGurk
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Early in *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees*, old black and white footage shows a baby chimp reach out and touch the nose of a young Englishwoman.

The chimpanzee was Fifi, the first of the wild group to make physical contact with Jane Goodall. Fifi is still alive and raising babies, thanks to Dr. Goodall, who went on to worldwide fame based on her up-close research, documented in early National Geographic television programs.

Her work has been immortalized in giant Imax format, with vivid images of the current chimpanzee group at Gombe National Park in Tanzania, blended with archival footage and some computer graphics.

Dr. Goodall was not a scientist when she signed on with anthropologist Louis Leakey to observe chimpanzees in their natural habitat; she did not even have a Ph.D. then.

But the Imax film makes the point that she is more than a nice lady who loves animals. She overcame professional disdain to win respect for her discoveries. Among the behaviors she documented was tool use by chimpanzees; some of the movie's most intriguing moments show chimps stripping twigs from trees to "fish" in logs for termite snacks.

Though it does include the brief science lessons typical of Imax productions, the movie is more a tribute to Dr. Goodall's work than an introduction to wildlife studies. The cameras reverently follow her into the forests to commune with the apes (and dodge rocks thrown by some).

The movie also shows her with Tanzanian staff she has trained to continue her work, including a jungle refuge for orphaned chimpanzees and introduces her educational network, called Roots and Shoots, designed to instill children with respect for the natural world.



Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees

Rating:
(Unrated)

Cast:
Narrated by Jane Goodall.

Director:
Directed by David Lickley.

Time
40 minutes.

Playing at:
Robert D. Lindner Family
Omnimax Theater at the
Cincinnati Museum Center.

For information about Jane Goodall's work go to www.janegoodall.org and www.exn.ca/Gombe.