

# Star Tribune

NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES

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## Modest Goodall almost steals the show

By Jeff Strickler  
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Movies and primates make good partners. The animals can play villains ("King Kong"), heroes ("Mighty Joe Young") or even sidekicks ("Tarzan"). They've starred in adventures ("Congo"), comedies ("George of the Jungle") and, of course, sci-fi (a couple more "Planet of the Apes" movies and they'll have their own genre).

But "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees" is different, and much of the credit goes to the presence of the legendary researcher. Indeed, an earlier Ornnimax documentary — "Mountain Gorillas" — took a similar

### REVIEW

#### Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees

★★★ out of four stars.

Not rated.

approach in examining the work of the late Dian Fossey.

Producer Mike Day and director David Lickley realized that they were dealing with two equally interesting subjects. Yes, they wanted to provide educational documentation of the chimps' behavior, especially the way it mirrors human behavior. And they've done that, getting the large-

format cameras closer to the animals than we've seen in any previous nature films.

But they also do a good job of teaching viewers about Goodall, exploring what has driven her to devote her life to researching and protecting African wildlife and reminding us of some of her remarkable discoveries since she first arrived at Gombe Stream National Park in July 1960.

The movie marks yet another technological breakthrough in the large-frame format.

#### REVIEW continues on E10:

— Old "home movies" are combined with new footage.

### REVIEW from E1

## Chimps are focus of film

The filmmakers took 40-year-old home movies and, using computer enhancement to fill in the gaps, blew it up to produce images that are six stories tall and seem just as sharp as the footage shot last year.

This made it possible to juxtapose footage of Goodall and

chimps shot four decades ago with present-day shots of her and, amazingly, some of the same chimps. In a voice-over narration, Goodall notes that she and one chimp were young then, and now both are grandparents.

Goodall comes off as extremely modest. When she does talk about her accomplishments, it's often to poke fun at herself. She tells an anecdote about how the chimps she studied became famous thanks to media coverage that was inspired, in part, by the fact she named each of the animals she studied. She

gave them names only because she didn't know that she was supposed to assign them numbers.

"They became famous because I didn't know what I was doing," she says.

Lickley — who also directed the nature documentary "Bears" currently showing at the Minnesota Zoo Imax theater — isn't going to let Goodall off that easy. The film highlights several discoveries that changed long-held scientific beliefs. Goodall was the one who first observed primates using tools, and the one who went on to prove that

it was a learned behavior. On a darker note, she also was the first to witness a primate war — a humanlike behavior that stunned scientists.

Despite her stature, the chimps — lovable bundles of energy — are the highlight of the film. Far from intimidated by the camera, some actually seem to be performing for it. No wonder Hollywood has such a long-standing fascination with them: They're hams.

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