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The Great Team behind Philippe Petit

Would you dare to help a friend accomplish a mission that is risky and life threatening? Philippe Petit is a prominent French high-wire artist whose magnum opus was to high-wire walk between the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York on August 7, 1974. Petit's dangerous dream would never have been possible without his friends' help and support. The 2009 Oscar winner for documentary film, Man on Wire, directed by James Marsh, shows that Petit's friends Annie, Jean-Louis, and Jim Moore played a pivotal role in achieving Petit's goal although they had various reasons for helping him.

First, Annie is one of the most encouraging women in Petit's life and was also his girlfriend. From the very beginning, Annie believed that Petit was a person who could make the impossible possible, so she gave him all kinds of emotional support. For example, whenever Petit performed his work, Annie always observed his practice; sometimes she even joined Petit walking on the wire, which was around 10-15 feet from the ground, in the practice camp, without any safety net. In the film, Annie mentioned, "My life was completely consumed by his, and he never thought to ask whether I had my own destiny to follow. It was quite clear that I had to follow his." Annie loved Petit and was motivated by his excitement and confidence about high-wire performances. Even she came to New York for watched the day Petit's walk in between the towers. For that reason, she always supported him in his every step.

Another important person who helped Petit to walk on the wire was his childhood friend Jean-Louis. He was the only person who understood Petit's obsession for the Twin Towers, but this act was much more difficult than the other performances they had done before. For instance, Jean-Louis did all the technical work to hang the wires illegally between two towers of the Notre Dame Cathedral and of Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia. He knew that Petit always came up with some extreme ideas, which would challenge his technical and logical expertise. In the film, Petit brought some pictures to give Louis ideas and said, "I have pictures, look and we can put the wire, I don't know where to put it, but we will find out with the pictures." The film also showed that Jean-Louis and Petit made a model of the Twin Towers and discussed their intended for the illegal high-wire act. Moreover, they decided that Jean-Louis would send the arrow from one building to another to connect the wire between the towers. Even though Jean-Louis knew that he had to face several difficulties with the New York security for all the illegal work he had done, he still supported his best friend and wanted to show Petit's talents in front of the world.

One more helpful person in Petit's mission was Jim Moore, an American man he met in New York. When Moore heard about Petit's plan to walk between the two towers, he reacted very positively and helped him in many ways. In the film, Moore said, "I never met high-wire walker before, so I had no idea....The time of the consequences of anything happening would be, it sounded like really adventure to get involved in." For example, he rented a helicopter to show Petit the upper view and took photos for his mental preparation. In order to get more information, he also gained access to the restricted area of the World Trade Center with Petit as a fake French photojournalist. Moore took all these risks for Petit because he believed this adventure was fun and would bring them fame.

Although these three significant people took huge unlawful and emotional risks in their lives, they still performed their tasks willingly to help Petit achieve his amazing goal. Great team work, patience, and motivation can bring success to anyone's life. Petit's friends knew that he was a great artist and the world should watch his unique performances. Unfortunately, after that event Petit broke up with his girlfriend, and did not continue his friendship with his other helpful friends; He starts a new life journey alone and decided to move forward. Man on Wire shows that nothing is impossible in this world. If one tries hard and has supportive friends, success will come someday.