

LEGENDS OF FLIGHT



LOCKHEED'S SUPER CONSTELLATION

Inspired by the Constellation's Legacy, the Elegance of Air Travel Returns with Boeing's 787 Dreamliner

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- The Lockheed Super Constellation, rated by some as the sexiest propeller driven plane, stars in the first-ever 15/70 3D IMAX® film, *Legends of Flight*. In its heyday, the Super Constellation was as streamlined as the fins on a Cadillac and many times faster. It had all the elegance of a Park Avenue model and the attitude of a B-movie starlet. Above all, the Super Connie epitomized all things American. Even when parked at a ramp it spoke volumes about modern intercontinental flight and the new thrill of flying. This plane brought people to airports just to look and dream. And, how its engines roared!

A total of 856 Connies and Super Constellations were built at Lockheed's Burbank assembly plant, a stone's throw from the movie studios and perhaps part of the reason this plane looked so good. Four types were built during the production range and each had the distinctive triple-tail design and graceful dolphin fuselage design.

What many first-time fliers didn't know or care about was that the Constellation's signature wing was effectively the same as that used on the lethal WWII P-38 Lightning. Nor would they know that the triple tail design was actually a move to save money by allowing the plane to fit into existing hangars. It cruised at over 300 MPH while passengers enjoyed sumptuous first-class meals. In the days of the Super Constellation – flying was a luxury and the passengers dressed and behaved like they might have been headed for a film premiere.

“When selecting planes to appear in *Legends of Flight*, the new film made for IMAX® and other Giant Screen theaters, there was no question when it came to the Constellation,” said director, Stephen Low. “To not feature this plane would be like leaving Marilyn Monroe out of a review of Hollywood’s most glamorous women. This plane was designed by Howard Hughes and his hand and imagination seep from every surface design and rivet hole. It’s a legendary plane in every sense.”

The criteria for feature inclusion, in this case, had more to do with the future of aviation than Lockheed’s melding of P-38 high performance wing design with the latest generation Wright Turbo 18-Cylinder engines. Early Constellation models and Super Constellations had engines rated at 2,500 HP. Later model Super Constellations were fitted with engines having power recovery turbines that boosted the rating to 3,250 HP. The final version, the L1649A Starliner had engines rated at 3,400 HP.

Nor is the icon’s pedigree or overall design elegance the reason it appears as a milestone aircraft in the latest IMAX-format flight film.

Legends is about the future of flight as enabled by the past. It celebrates the arrival of two important generational aircraft, the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Both of these super transports in its own way takes commercial aviation onto new service and environmental plateaus, each stretches performance and serviceability envelopes wider than ever before, and both – in their own ways – bring back the experience of flying as an important consumer deliverable.

How passengers arrive and how they are able to function at the end of an intercontinental flight is heavily dependent on aircraft design and systems – these new liners seek the standard for comfort and elegance set by the Constellation.

The Dreamliner’s very name conjures images of restful travel between continents and cultures. Cruising higher, faster, quieter, cleaner, more efficiently and safer than planes of the past, the 787 nevertheless seeks the same ambience the Constellations evoked through decades of service.

The Boeing Corporation has indicated that a primary 787 design goal was to provide passengers with an exceptional flying experience. Today, that also means knowing the aircraft they’re traveling on is environmentally friendly, makes use of

resources as efficiently as possible and offers the latest on-board amenities, comfort and safety,

In the heyday of the Constellation and its progeny – passengers still smoked on board, drank cocktails coast-to-coast and in some TWA models even sat around a piano bar in the tail section lounge. While times have certainly changed, the Super Connie's influence on style has never really gone away. The Dreamliner and Airbus A380 have modernized that influence and usher in a whole new era of flight; an era of new legends that owe much of their caché to at least one notable Legend of Flight, the urbane sophisticate of the skies – Lockheed's Super Constellation.

Legends of Flight is directed by Stephen Low and produced by The Stephen Low Company (producer Pietro L. Serapiglia), executive produced by K2 Communications (executive producers Bob Kresser and Jan Baird), and is in association with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The Stephen Low Company is a producer of leading 3D and IMAX entertainment and a distributor to IMAX theaters and other giant screen theatres worldwide. Award-winning filmmaker Stephen Low is the director of more than a dozen Giant Screen films including, *Across the Sea of Time*, *Mark Twain's America*, *Beavers*, *Titanica*, *Super Speedway*, *Fighter Pilot* and *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti* among many other classic titles.

Recognized as leaders in the Giant Screen industry, K2 Communications brings a wealth of success and experience in all aspects of production oversight, global distribution, and marketing. K2's distribution arm counts more than 65 large screen format films in its library for non-theatrical distribution, plus more than 25 films for digital theater distribution, and another five for Giant Screen theatrical distribution. The company has become one of the industry's leading resources for Giant Screen films and will be releasing its next 3D film, *Rescue*, in February 2011.

K2 Communications also operates the only comprehensive Giant Screen consumer/fan website, BigMovieZone.com. For more information, consult www.k2communications.com. For information on film, visit www.legendsofflightfilm.com.

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