

LEGENDS OF FLIGHT



THE NEWEST IMAX®-FORMAT AVIATION FILM USES ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES TO EXPLAIN THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MODERN FLIGHT

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- Why should the general public care about the production and distribution of a new IMAX® format film about an airplane? After all, one airplane is like another. They all have wings and some sort of power source; some seat more than others and some have longer range or more impressive performance. Beyond that, is there a significant difference? The answer to these and similar questions is a definitive, yes!

Indeed, not all airplanes are created equal and a century of flight has not dampened the public's enthusiasm for airplanes and those who fly them. Even in today's wired world one can still find inquisitive people sitting on the hood of their cars adjacent to a rural runway or sipping a beverage at a restaurant table with a view of take-offs and landings. Worldwide, there remains a fascination with flight. Leonardo de Vinci knew this as does a contemporary IMAX film artist, Stephen Low, director of the newest and most technically advanced large format aviation feature film, *Legends of Flight*.

The film is set in the context of aviation history and highlights notable 20th Century aircraft – airplanes whose design and manufacture crossed the threshold of progress leading up to what has been called the most advanced passenger airplane ever. By highlighting earlier designs and manufacture “Legends” tells the tale of aviation progress and introduces the concept of natural flight emulation as depicted by the spectacular Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

“It is somewhat ironic that the 787 has been named the Dreamliner,” said K2’s Mark Kresser. “It is the ever-present dream of flight that first caused artists and engineers

to speculate about manned-flight, long before materials or manufacturing technologies existed that would permit the development of the air machines that infected their imaginations.”

Today’s modern commercial and military aircraft are the progeny of those past dreams and have clearly served to inspire shifts in airframe design, systems controls, wing architecture and the basic understanding of flight control surfaces. Together with power sources, these are the basics of flight.

“Our film makes clear to the viewer that with advanced science and materials, aeronautics can begin to truly mirror natural flight. Exotic materials, advanced production techniques and global business assets have permitted Boeing – and to a similar extent Airbus – to design and build graceful, efficient, powerful and eco-friendly long-range passenger airplanes that more closely emulate the lift and economy of energy so evident in nature’s greatest flyers – particularly the Albatross,” added Kresser.

The film makes use of advanced High Definition and 3D technologies to lend the production even greater visual and informative impact. The generous use of SANDDE™ animation helps illustrate for the viewer how natural avian designs can now be interpreted by advanced computer systems which in turn help to define engineering parameters and manufacturing techniques. What the dreamers of yesterday sketched on paper can now be drawn by a computer and interpreted by manufacturing and assembly software as never before.

The Dreamliner is the culmination of much more than a blending of past designs and a nod to the economic necessities of modern air travel and cargo shipment. It is the fulfillment of man’s desire to fly like the birds, safely, efficiently and in comfort. Similarly, “Legends” is much more than another airplane documentary. It is the first large format aviation film to incorporate the active use of computer animation as a tool of discovery.

“To illustrate the film’s educational potential, one scene features Boeing Chief Test Pilot for the 787 program, Mike Carriker, using a computer crayon to outline an Albatross wing. That sequence melds to an active scene that shows a high-performance sailplane soaring high over the mountains. Its wing and that of the albatross are similar and the connection to natural flight clearly made,” Kresser added.

So, for the general public, frequent flier, aviation enthusiast or IMAX film buff – *Legends of Flight* – set to premiere at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum June 8, 2010 – will be a step forward in their understanding of how aircraft fly and why the Dreamliner in particular is like no airplane to come before.

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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