

LEGENDS OF FLIGHT



MIKE CARRIKER: LEGEND PERSONIFIED

Boeing test pilot flies audience through newest IMAX® aviation film

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- What makes an aviation legend? In the case of Mike Carriker, Boeing Chief Test Pilot for the 787 Dreamliner program, it's being flight rated in more than 100 aircraft, from high performance gliders to historic bi-planes and even the most advanced passenger jet, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

As pilot-host of the newest K2 Communications' 3D film for IMAX® theaters and Giant Screen cinema venues, *Legends of Flight*, Carriker, with the audience, visually explores several unique airplanes, each significant for different reasons, each responsible for taking man closer to the reality of natural flight. In this capacity he also serves as educator and enthusiast, bringing the audience to a greater understanding of why the Dreamliner and to a similar extent, the Airbus A380, are achievements that would be unmet had earlier designs and materials advances not occurred.

“With the Dreamliner, it is not simply a case of making improvements or pushing the bar higher than before. This aircraft is a significant step forward in flight, as were the Harrier jump-jet, Lockheed Constellation and other featured airplanes used in the film. While advanced materials and design enhancements are partially responsible for the Dreamliner's physical presence, it is this airplane's connection to natural flight and its environmental focus that separates it from the past,” said Carriker.

Throughout the history of flight, inventors and engineers have worked to mimic the properties and techniques that enable winged creatures to fly nearly effortlessly. Today, the use of composite materials and variable wing structures permit light-weight, bird-like structural strength and enhance the systems that govern flight agility and

performance. To best illustrate the approach to natural flight, the film makes use of SANDDE™ animation (Stereoscopic Animation Drawing Device) technology to connect the organic nature of flight with what comes to the audience in High Definition 3D.

Exhilarating IMAX flight sequences combine with Carriker's informative presentation about the lightweight property of wood and why it permitted such robust airframes even at the virtual dawn of flight. He then connects the past with modern carbon-based materials technologies along with intermediate stops at threshold moments in aviation design and aircraft manufacturing. The result is a fascinating and educational appreciation of the milestone events that now usher in a new and important age of environmentally conscious flight exemplified by the Boeing 787.

"In *Legends*, Stephen Low demonstrates that materials and manufacturing must come together with design before a meaningful aircraft can be launched. The Dreamliner's extensive use of carbon laminate, carbon sandwich, fiberglass, aluminum and aluminum/steel/titanium structures are smart advances and enable this airplane to more closely emulate natural flight properties. This could not have been the case even a decade ago," Carriker added.

As the world begins the second century of powered flight, care for the environment inside and outside the aircraft is of optimal concern. The newest generation of planes offer a 20 percent relative fuel use per seat improvement, with better performance and efficiency. Improved fuel use means fewer emissions. The Dreamliner is also quieter inside and outside.

By linking the graceful power of an albatross on the glide to a soaring glider; by heralding the achievements of wooden crates that took daredevils aloft; by recalling the glamour of early commercial aviation and the raw emotion of military air power – *Legends of Flight* ties the past with the present.

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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