

LEGENDS OF FLIGHT



SANDDE™ ANIMATION MAKES MAGIC HAPPEN

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- Developed by IMAX® co-founder, Roman Kroitor, SANDDE™ (Stereoscopic Animation Drawing Device) enables animators to draw in space. Using a wand-like hand control, an animator can model and animate characters and objects, seeing the creation emerge and move or fly in 3D and in real-time.

The technology liberates animators from many of the constraints of conventional 3D animation, enabling better creative flow and the creation of models and animations with greater organic look and feel. For segments of *Legends of Flight*, SANDDE is used to help re-create the magic of flight and explain the wonders of high-tech aircraft design for the Giant Screen audiences.

Throughout the history of flight, inventors and engineers have worked to mimic the properties and techniques that give the gift of near effortless flight to winged creatures. The leading-edge aviation innovators in the film are keen examples, applying composite materials and variable wings to better achieve bird-like strength, weight and flight agility. To illustrate these innovations, filmmaker Stephen Low settled on the SANDDE animation technology as a perfect tool - a way to bring the organic nature of flight alive in 3D for audiences.

In the film, Boeing Chief Test Pilot for the 787 program and pilot-host, Mike Carriker, escorts the audience on a unique journey through aviation history to explore together the ultimate flying experience and to understand why modern flight looks to nature for its inspiration. In designing a new aircraft, engineers must faithfully adhere to proven aerodynamic principles. Because of advanced materials development and state-of-

the-art manufacturing, those principles can now accommodate flight parameters embodied in nature and the birds that first inspired man to dream of powered flight.

Carriker's flight plan takes the viewer for a soaring flight in a high-performance glider - the epitome of non-powered flight as dependent as gliding avian pilots on the air itself for altitude and momentum control.

From the peace of silent thermal climbs, Capt. Carriker then straps the audience into the threatening cockpit of a Harrier Jump Jet as it too soars aloft, absent the grace and serenity of the glider. The Harrier's violent blast of red hot engine exhaust lifts the advanced fighter plane from rest to strategic altitude, and with the flick of a control lever – from hovercraft to lethal attack plane.

With the help of SANDDE animation and advanced large format, high definition 3D film, *Legends* gives an inside look at the milestone events that have taken powered flight from the sands of Kitty Hawk to the Boeing assembly plant outside Seattle, Washington. The film explores how design concepts have been ever-expanded and innovatively applied.

Carriker's invitation to fly the future culminates with the experience of his test flight in the iconic Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a transport jet for tomorrow that relies on a pedigree now one-hundred years in development. The film invites the viewer to understand the drama of first flight with people who have put their careers at risk to once again try to build a better airplane. Through equally advanced film and camerawork, *Legends of Flight* tells the story of flight from a perspective not often appreciated.

Unless an aircraft can be built, then flown, its design is merely conjecture. The film begins with the premise that design theory and manufacturing skills must align if new aircraft, important aircraft, are to take to the skies. Such is the case with the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

The production's work with SANDDE involved several animators and was undertaken in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada.

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.

###