

FLIGHT LINE



Fall 2015



OLYMPIC FLIGHT MUSEUM

Olympia Regional Airport



Volume 17, Issue 3

The museum's Goodyear FG-1D Corsair
and North American P-51 Mustang
fly in formation at the
2015 Olympic Air Show
Photo Courtesy Preston Fiedler



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LOCATION

Northeast Corner of the Olympia Regional
Airport (OLM)
Exit #101 from Interstate 5
7637-A Old Highway 99 SE
Olympia, WA 98501

EXHIBIT HOURS

Fall Hours: Open Tues.-Sun. 11:00 am
to 5:00 pm. Winter Hours: Open Wed.—Sun.
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

ADMISSION

Museum Members Free
Adults \$7.00, AAA Member discount
Youths 7-12 \$5.00
Children 6 and under are free
Persons under age 16 must be accompanied by
an adult. Facility is wheelchair accessible.

GROUP AND SCHOOL TOURS

Educational Rates for tour groups of 10 or more:
\$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 Youth
Call (360) 705-3925 for reservations

FACILITY RENTAL

The museum facility is available for meetings,
receptions and banquets.

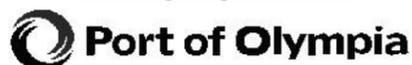
MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Open during regular exhibit hours; museum ad-
mission is not required. Members receive a
10% discount on all purchases.

T-28 and UH-1 MOBILE EXHIBITS

Mobile airframe and cockpit exhibits are avail-
able for rent or participation at events. Call
(360) 705-3925 for details.

CONTRIBUTORS AND
CORPORATE SUPPORTERS
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FROM THE DESK OF:

Teri Thorning, Executive Director



Falling leaves signal the end of the flying season and a reminder of how quickly the year passed by. We have enjoyed many great milestones in 2015, such as hosting two V-22 Osprey at the Olympic Air Show, sending the new mobile UH-1 Huey out to community events, and expansion of museum displays. With the days becoming shorter, I thought you might appreciate some suggestions for some great aviation movies as selected by Kenny Nall of Scene Stealers. While there are many other aviation films that could easily be added to the list, I hope this will get you thinking about putting your feet up on a dark winter evening and being entertained by some great aviation films.

Special highlights are planned for this year's Fall Military Collectibles Show! Not only will retired and active Veterans be admitted for half price (\$2.50!), but all vendors and guests will be treated to an afternoon dessert, and an appearance by a distinguished veteran for a photo op in the museum's Corsair. The south sound squadron of the Civil Air Patrol will be presenting the colors at 11:00 a.m. Details are still being developed, and I hope you can join us for this special event.

Please know how much we appreciate your support and interest in our activities. We look forward to your visit!

Teri Thorning

BUSINESS NOTES:

- The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 to 5:00 pm during the Fall. We will also close Tuesday's during the winter months.
- The **Volunteer Restoration Crew** meets every Wednesday evening. Currently the crew is working on mobile T-28 Trojan maintenance and mobile UH-1H detailing. They will be starting another big project after a winter break. Please let us know if you are interested in contributing.
- Our **heated** museum is available for your winter gatherings! The calendar does fill quickly, so call us today for availability and pricing.
- The **South Sound RC Swap Meet** is Nov. 7. Please visit www.rcsouthsound.com for information and table rentals.
- The museum's **gift store** is being stocked with great gifts for the upcoming holiday season. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases!
- If you buy items from **Amazon**, you can authorize a 5% donation to the museum. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>.
- Mark your calendar for **February 20** when we'll host the annual **Paper Airplane Flight School!** This spirited event is a community favorite.
- The 2016 **Olympic Air Show** will return to Father's Day Weekend, June 18—19, 2016.
- *Thank you* to those who have renewed your membership; your support keeps us operational and is a positive investment for our community!
- Questions or comments about FLIGHTLINE content? Give us a call!

THE OLYMPIC FLIGHT MUSEUM WILL PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING VETERANS DAY EVENTS

Sat., November 7: 50th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Observance, Auburn. The museum's mobile UH-1H helicopter will be a parade participant under the leadership of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc. For information about the parade, please visit the community calendar at www.auburnwa.gov/Things To Do.

Tuesday, November 10: Washington State Dept. of Labor & Industries Veterans Day Celebration and Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.; the museum will set up a small display of historical artifacts.

Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony at the Olympia Capitol Rotunda, 11:00 a.m.; several museum volunteers will attend and he honored at this traditional ceremony.

Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day Parade, Elma VFW, 1:00 pm; the museum's mobile UH-1H will be a parade participant.

THE MUSEUM'S BOEING STEARMAN FEATURED IN FILM FILMING 'THE ROCKET: BULLDOG SUNRISE'

at the Olympic Flight Museum

The sky and what is beyond it has always captured my attention and imagination. My love of flight and the vehicles that propel us to these heights have been of great inspiration to me and has influenced much of my life. As a youth it lead me to become a cadet with the Civil Air Patrol and later work as a firefighter on many unique flight lines while serving in the U.S. Air Force and while working as a civilian on military bases in the Caribbean and the Pacific. *Continued next page* →

Flight has also deeply inspired my creativity and storytelling. This year I started filming the prologue of a proposed episode of a Sci-Fi series called *The Rocket*, a science fiction adventure series set in the 1920s. The episode titled 'The Rocket: BULLDOG SUNRISE' is set in the year 1928 and features a RAF Bristol Bulldog in a number of aerial scenes within the story to include a combat and crash sequence. To achieve this, I visited the Olympic Flight Museum and was immediately drawn to the Boeing Stearman biplane. In its perfectly restored condition at the museum the early 1940's aircraft possessed many similar visual features as the aircraft required in the story.

To achieve filming aerial sequences for the sky over England in 1928 at the Olympic Flight Museum in Tumwater I used two chroma key screens and two cameras to capture hundreds of photographs and video of the actress Abie Ekenezar (Z Nation, Grimm) performing her scenes as commando pilot Ajani Gail in the cockpit of the biplane with co-star Sophie Aldred (Doctor Who) having recorded her footage for the scene in September.

During post production I will be using a combination of miniature and 3D VFX techniques to alter some of the physical elements of the perfectly restored Boeing Stearman to achieve the visual illusion of a brand new RAF Bristol Bulldog flying across the English countryside with a commando pilot searching for her target! Being able to use the Boeing Stearman biplane was a amazing experience and I had a great time being able to capture the details of such a beautiful aircraft for our show.

I would like to thank Teri and the rest of the volunteers at the Olympic Flight Museum for their help in the production of *The Rocket: BULLDOG SUNRISE* and look forward to my next visit!

Joshua S. Johnson

www.visualfreelancer.com



TOP TEN AVIATION MOVIES

By Kenny Nall

Aircraft and its subsequent films can convey the wide range of human emotions, achievements, and disasters. I must say this wasn't a difficult list to produce, but it was hard to narrow down the list and include everything I thought was necessary. Aircraft films certainly come as period pieces due to the influence of technology. The first few films about aviation pertained to the achievement and the wonder of flight. Along with the flying of aircraft comes the issue of risk and possibly tragedy. I mainly chose films centered on airplanes for sake of convenience. This is a more informative list than an analytical one. These films range span across many genres and I hope you enjoy it. I'll start with number 11.

11. United 93 (2006) /Enola Gay and the Atomic Bombing of Japan (1995) Not an easy way to start out a list, but entirely relevant. The desperation, evil, and disaster of humanity can be linked to airplanes. These two events were catastrophic in their own right can be related and symbolized in the imagery of planes. In a society where most everything (especially anything dealing with technology and engineering) is taken for granted, most forget a what a world without planes would be like and the wonder and devastation that can be involved with them. The first movie is Paul Greengrass' emotional recreation of that fateful flight on Sept. 11, 2001 where passengers fought back. The second is a documentary about the droppings of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

10. The Spirit of St. Louis (1957) Many consider famous aviator Charles Lindbergh's 1927 transatlantic flight to be the single biggest achievement in aviation since the invention of the airplane itself. Jimmy Stewart starred in this film biopic of the man and his career leading up to his historic flight. Believe it or not, the movie was directed by Billy Wilder ("Some like it Hot," "The Apartment," "Sunset Boulevard"), who was not known for biographical films. Aviation had become a trend for many big time stars of the day. John Wayne, Gregory Peck, and William Holden all did films about aircraft warfare in World War II.

9. Airport (1970) /The Hindenburg (1975) /Black Hawk Down (2001)

I chose "Airport" over Harrison Ford in "Air Force One" and coupled it along with "The Hindenburg," which was released at around the same era. Both fit nicely into the genre of 70s disaster movies. "Airport" helped define the genre, starring virtually every actor in Hollywood, and focusing on a suicidal bomber who plots to blow up a Boeing 707 in flight. For my own purposes, I have paired "The Hindenburg" (A highly speculative thriller starring George C. Scott and Anne Bancroft and directed by Robert Wise about a conspiracy leading to the destruction of the German airship) with "Black Hawk Down," so this list isn't be prejudiced against non-airplane aircraft and because both are about tragic groundings. Ridley Scott's "Black Hawk Down" is based on the book by Mark Bowden that depicts the Battle of Mogadishu, where RPG-armed Somali militia shot down two Black Hawk helicopters, and the resulting rescue took 15 hours.

8. Dark Blue World (2001) This film is more of a love story than anything. It tells of a love triangle between a girl, refugee Czech pilot who fought for the British Royal Air Force, and his commander, who evade the Nazis following their takeover of Czechoslovakia. "Dark Blue World" has an accurate view of airplane combat in World War II and provides an interesting human story as well. It is still the most expensive Czech movie ever produced.

7. Airplane! (1980) Despite most aircraft films being epic and dramatic in nature, I've included this comedy classic, a movie that satirizes the above-mentioned disaster films, and a film which some list as the best comedy of all time. Rather than use the A-List celebrities that disaster flicks used, Jim Abrahams and the Zucker brothers instead utilized the bottom of the rung. B-List celebs such as Leslie Nielsen, Robert Stack, Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar populate the cast of "Airplane!" This just proves my point that airplanes can be tragic, larger-than-life, awe-inspiring, and ... downright funny.

6. Battle of Britain (1969) This film, with its megastar cast—including Laurence Olivier, Trevor Howard, Robert Shaw, Christopher Plummer, Michael Caine, Edward Fox, and Ian McShane—shows the immensity of air warfare. This wasn't just one battle or dogfight—this was an entire war in the sky. The battle over one nation began after Britain's retreat from France and its preparation for the attack on its own country. The win by the hugely outnumbered British RAF pilots over the German Luftwaffe was a big moment. This film may not be entirely accurate, but it shows the sweeping scale of airplanes and their combat. "Battle of Britain" is so popular that it is still shown on British television regularly.

5. Top Gun (1986) Where should I begin with this one? This movie set the bar for airplane movies who want to be cool. "Top Gun" is certainly the movie that I've seen the most on this list. This movie is sort of all over the place if you really think about it. It was a fairly accurate, albeit corny movie. One of the MiG planes they used wasn't really a Russian plane at all. Actually, the so-called MiG 28 jet they used in the film doesn't even really exist at all. It's decent accuracy is due to the fact of how much it leaves out, but no one really cares about veracity in films do they? "Top Gun" certainly catapulted Cruise to new heights and paved his path to superstardom. I could talk about this film for hours, but no one wants to hear that.

4. Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress (1944) This WWII non-fiction film was made as a morale-builder during the war and was also the foundation for a 1990 Hollywood movie starring Matthew Modine, David Strathairn, and Eric Stolz. The documentary, directed by William Wyler ("Ben-Hur," "Roman Holiday," "The Best Years of our Lives") tells of a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and its crew that flew 25 complete missions in World War II for the United States Air Force. It was the first aircraft to do so. It's certainly not a spectacular film to marvel at, but the actual airplane itself is. It goes into detail about the crew of the plane and what it felt like to achieve such a feat and features 16 mm color film of actual battles.

3. Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) A joint American-Japanese film (with three directors!) recounting the events of Pearl Harbor, this film won the Academy Award for Best Special Effects. For awhile, even famed director Akira Kurosawa filmed sequences for the movie before the studio handed that side of the production over to another director. (Imdb says that Kurosawa tried to get himself fired after learning that "Lawrence of Arabia" director David Lean was not in charge of the American side of production, as the studio promised.) The thing to point out is that while the modern-day "Pearl Harbor" starring Ben Affleck may be a more exhilarating tale of friendship, betrayal and love, "Tora! Tora! Tora!" is clearly the more accurate of the two. At the time, critics reviewed the film poorly and Roger Ebert called it the "deadest, dullest blockbuster ever made," but I know that is not a valid claim as of today.

2. Hell's Angels (1930)/The Aviator (2004) It was a no-brainer to stick these two films in this spot. These two are great films in general and related for obvious reasons. "The Aviator" is easily my favorite film on here. It provides us with an interesting perspective on who millionaire Howard Hughes (Leonardo DiCaprio) was and his obsessive fixation on the aircraft he built, while touching on many other details about this remarkable man. Director Martin Scorsese does a brilliant job of bringing Hughes' passion for airplanes to the forefront and leaves the other things in his life where they should be. It's undoubtedly one of the best biopics made in recent history. Hughes' own masterpiece "Hell's Angels," set the bar for epic filmmaking and as a director and a perfectionist, delivers. Hughes focused the film on pilots who fought in WWI, and though the film has a love story and other subplots, Hughes smartly lets the airplanes take center stage with some incredible dogfight footage.

1. Wings (1927) This is the only film on the list that won a Best Picture and therefore it's at the top of this list. However, it was the first-ever Best Picture award given, and it is the only silent film to win. There's no better way to let the aircraft take its place in the center of the film than by having the audience in awe of just the images shown. "Wings," like "Hell's Angels," centers on WWI pilots and a love story. The film had a budget of 2 million dollars, an amount unheard of at the time. I believe that "Hell's Angels" and "Wings" are seen as attempts to achieve the impossible—filming while on an airplane, about airplanes—and they clearly set the bar for filmmaking of any genre.

*Kenny Nall, www.scene-stealers.com
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OLYMPIC FLIGHT MUSEUM
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The museum's Boeing Stearman shines in the morning sunlight at the 2015 Olympic Air Show

Photo Courtesy Coleen Easley
Olympia Camera Club



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