
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
SKY KING
HE DIDN'T GO UP THERE TO DIE.
HE WENT UP THERE TO LIVE.
THE UNTOLD STORY OF RICHARD "BEEBO" RUSSELL
AND THE Q400 THAT FLEW ON FAITH.
NYIFA
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS
WINNER
BEST DRAMA SCREENPLAY
NYIFA
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS
FINALIST
BEST FEATURE SCREENPLAY
LAFA
LOS ANGELES FILM AWARDS
BEST DRAMA SCREENPLAY
2026
BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL
THE GOLD LIST
2026
NYIFA
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS
WINNER
BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER
NYIFA
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS
WINNER
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

THIS REALLY HAPPENED

On August 10th, 2018...

A Horizon Air ground-service worker climbed into an empty passenger aircraft.

He had never been trained to fly.

Minutes later...

he was flying over Seattle.

Millions watched.

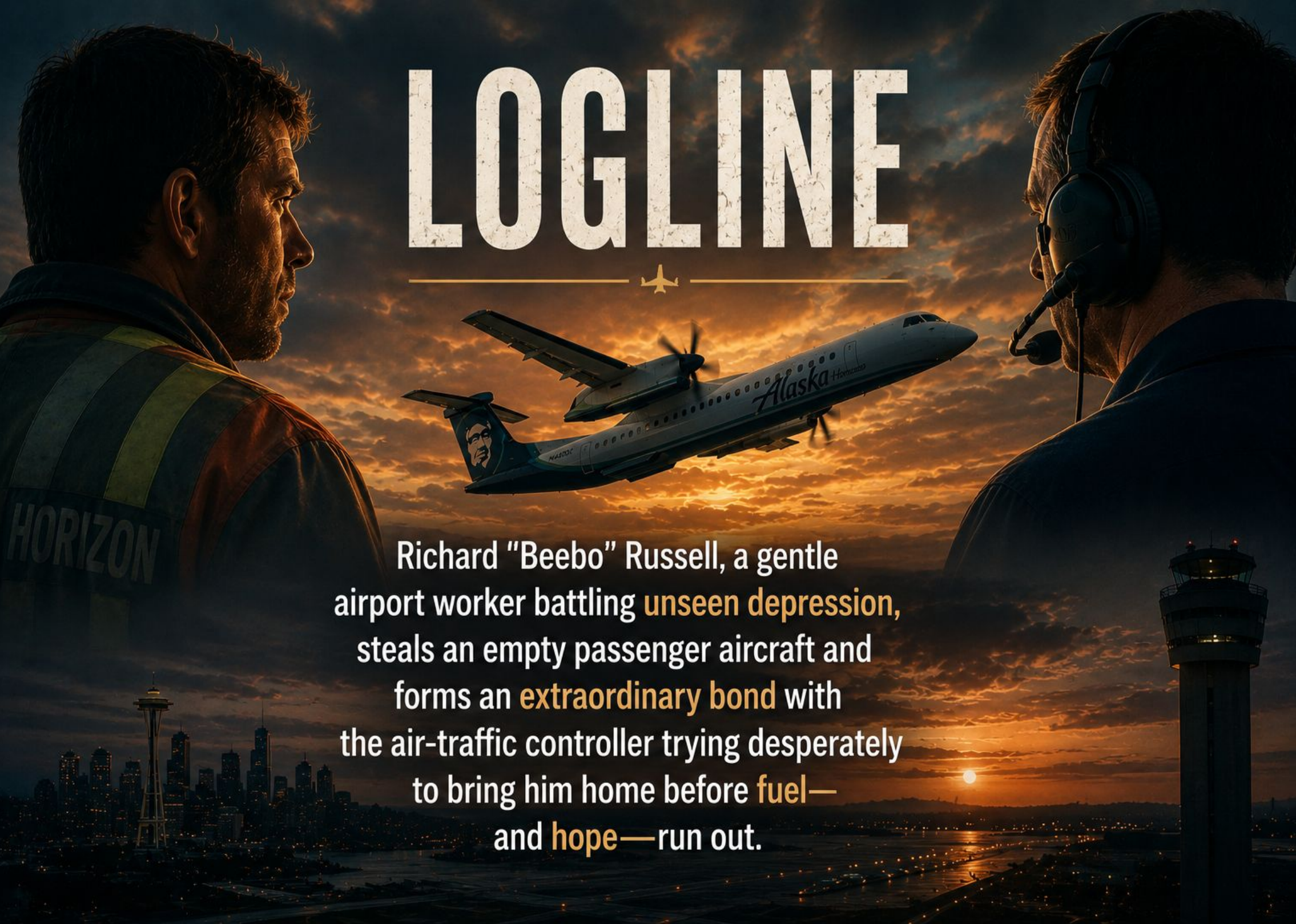
The world remembers the flight.

Almost nobody remembers the man.




THE FILM
A deeply emotional, edge-of-your-seat true story
about an ordinary man searching for one final moment of peace...
and the stranger on the radio determined to save him.

LOGLINE



Richard "Beebo" Russell, a gentle airport worker battling unseen depression, steals an empty passenger aircraft and forms an extraordinary bond with the air-traffic controller trying desperately to bring him home before fuel—and hope—run out.

WHY THIS FILM

SKY KING isn't about
a stolen airplane.

It's about loneliness.

It's about compassion.

It's about the people
we fail to notice...
until it's too late.

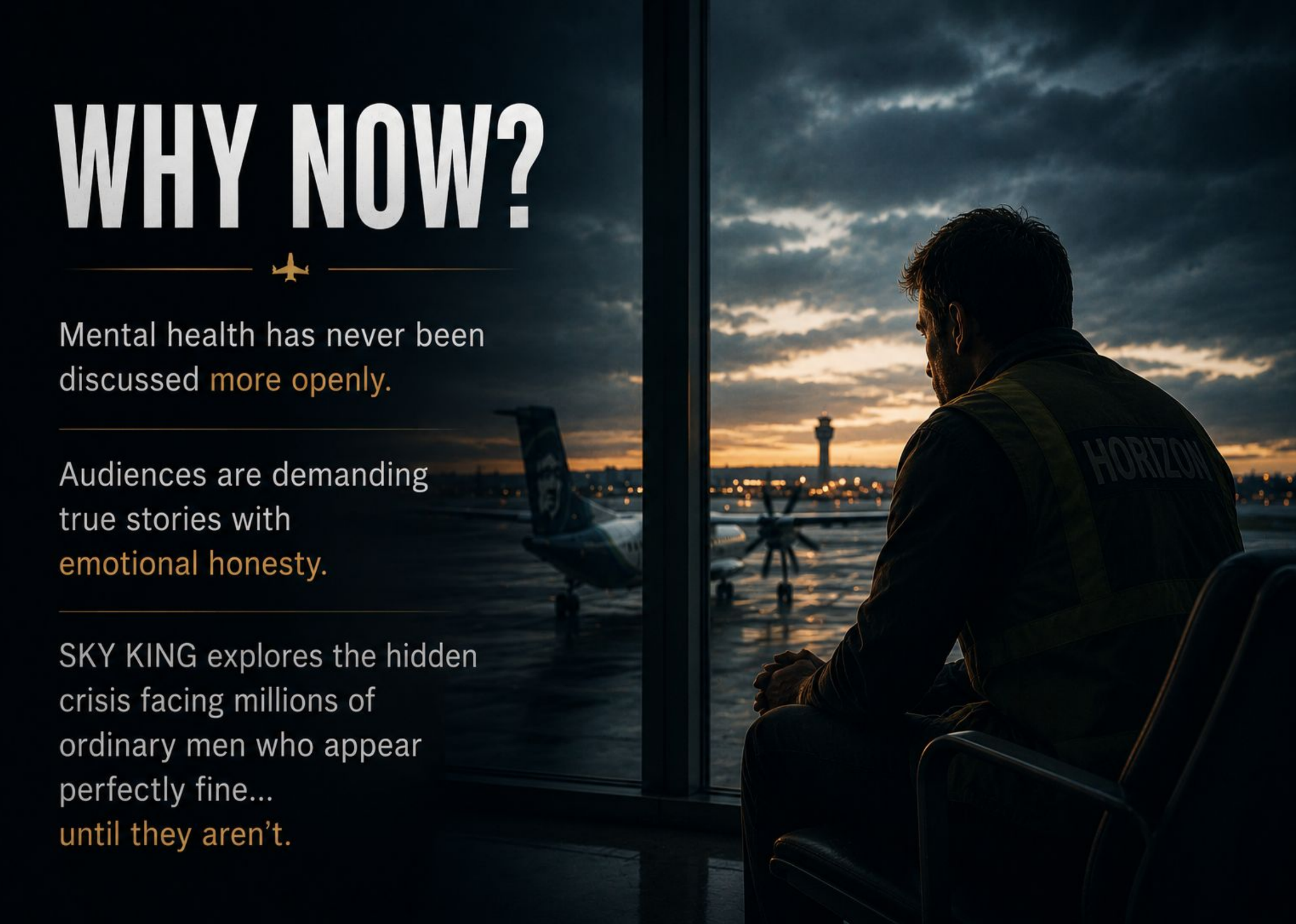


WHY NOW?

Mental health has never been discussed more openly.

Audiences are demanding true stories with emotional honesty.

SKY KING explores the hidden crisis facing millions of ordinary men who appear perfectly fine...
until they aren't.



WHY AUDIENCES WILL CONNECT

Everyone has known someone...
who smiled when they were hurting.

Richard becomes every
invisible person society overlooked.

Andrew becomes every person
who wished they'd said the
right thing.

Their conversation becomes
one of cinema's most intimate
survival stories.



THE TRUE STORY

AUGUST 10TH 2018

GROUND CREW WORKER

↓

STEALS HORIZON Q400

↓

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

↓

NORAD SCRAMBLED

↓

MILLIONS WATCH LIVE

↓

CONVERSATION HEARD AROUND THE WORLD




BEEBO
THE RELATIONSHIP
ANDREW
They never meet.
Yet they become the
emotional heart of the film.
One man trying
to disappear.
One man refusing
to let him.



RICHARD

KIND.
FUNNY.
CREATIVE.
INVISIBLE.

A man who spent years helping thousands of people fly...

without anyone seeing he was falling.

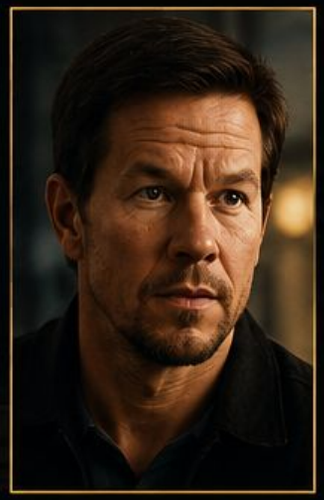
CASTING SUGGESTIONS

RICHARD "BEEBO" RUSSELL



BEEBO NEEDS AN ACTOR WHO CAN CARRY WARMTH, HUMOUR, VULNERABILITY AND ENORMOUS INTERNAL PAIN SIMULTANEOUSLY.

HE SHOULDN'T LOOK LIKE A MAN IN CRISIS.
HE SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE GUY YOU'D HAPPILY HAVE A BEER WITH AFTER WORK.



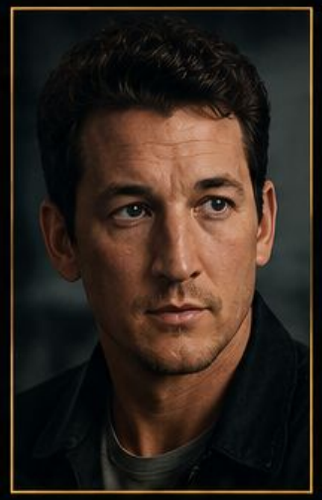
MARK WAHLBERG

BLUE-COLLAR AUTHENTICITY, HUMOUR, VULNERABILITY AND COMMERCIAL WEIGHT



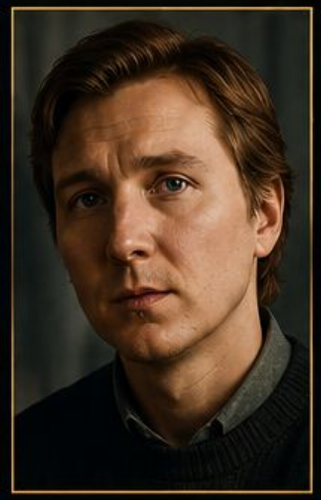
JEREMY ALLEN WHITE

RAW, RESTLESS AND EMOTIONALLY EXPOSED



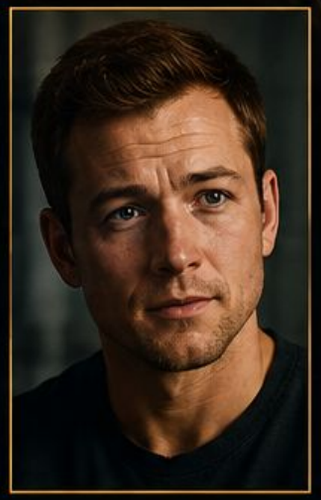
MILES TELLER

AVIATION CREDIBILITY, CHARISMA AND DRAMATIC DEPTH



PAUL DANO

EXTRAORDINARY INTERIORITY AND FRAGILITY



TARON EGERTON

WARMTH, LIKEABILITY AND EMOTIONAL RANGE



AUSTIN BUTLER

QUIET INTENSITY AND AWARDS CREDIBILITY



GLEN POWELL

EFFORTLESS CHARM MASKING SOMETHING DARKER UNDERNEATH

★ DREAM CAST:

MARK WAHLBERG

CASTING NORTH STAR:

WE DON'T CAST BEEBO AS A MAN CAPABLE OF STEALING AN AIRPLANE.
WE CAST HIM AS THE LAST MAN ANYONE WOULD EVER EXPECT TO DO IT.

MULTI AWARD WINNING SCREENPLAY

★★★★★

ANDREW

PROFESSIONAL.
PATIENT.
EMPATHETIC.

Forced to become
the last friend
a stranger would
ever have.



CASTING SUGGESTIONS

ANDREW FARLEY

SEATTLE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER



THE MAN EVERY AUDIENCE INSTINCTIVELY TRUSTS.
ANDREW ISN'T TRYING TO SAVE A PLANE.
HE'S TRYING TO SAVE A STRANGER.

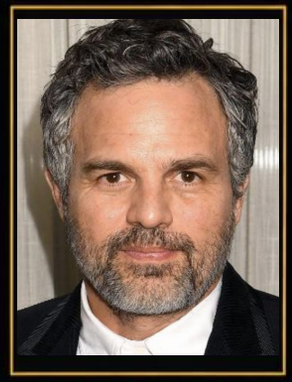
HE NEEDS AN ACTOR CAPABLE OF CONVEYING COMPASSION, INTELLIGENCE AND QUIET EMOTIONAL STRENGTH, WITH THE AUTHORITY TO COMMAND A ROOM AND THE HUMANITY TO CONNECT WITH ONE LOST SOUL OVER A RADIO.

CASTING OPTIONS



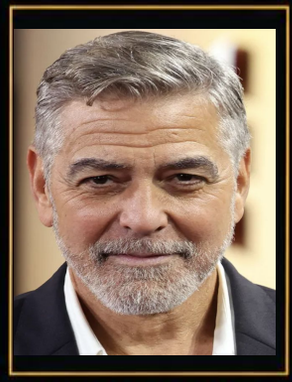
TOM HANKS

AMERICA'S EMOTIONAL EVERYMAN. WARMTH, EMPATHY AND IMMENSE DRAMATIC GRAVITAS.



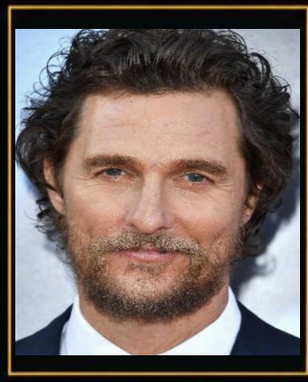
MARK RUFFALO

DEEP EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE WITH UNDERSTATED VULNERABILITY.



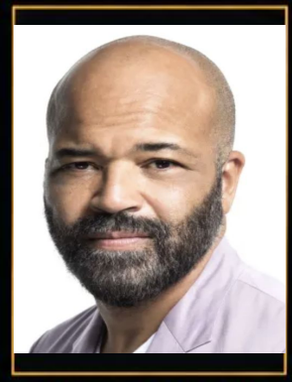
GEORGE CLOONEY

NATURAL AUTHORITY, CALM LEADERSHIP AND EFFORTLESS CHARISMA.



MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

EMPATHY, AUTHENTICITY AND EMOTIONAL CONNECTION UNDER PRESSURE.



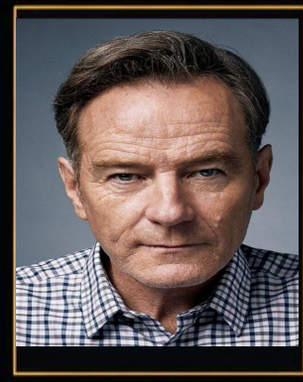
JEFFREY WRIGHT

QUIET INTENSITY, INTELLIGENCE AND REMARKABLE EMOTIONAL PRECISION.



MAHERSHALA ALI

COMPASSION, DIGNITY AND COMMANDING SCREEN PRESENCE.



BRYAN CRANSTON

AUTHORITY, HUMANITY AND THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IMMENSE EMOTION THROUGH RESTRAINT.

★ DREAM CAST

TOM HANKS

CASTING NORTH STAR

WE DON'T CAST ANDREW AS AN ACTION HERO.
WE CAST THE MAN WE'D ALL WANT ANSWERING THE RADIO IF OUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

CASTING SUGGESTIONS

SPECIAL AGENT ALBRIGHT

FBI CRISIS NEGOTIATOR



THE CALMEST PERSON IN THE ROOM WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

Albright is intelligent, composed and relentlessly focused. She brings strategic thinking, emotional insight and unwavering professionaliam to one of the most extraordinary crises in modern aviation. Rather than chasing headlines, she searches for understanding—becoming the voice of reason as events spiral beyond anyone's control.

She needs an actor capable of conveying authority, compassion and razor-sharp intelligence, with the quiet confidence to command every scene through restraint rather than volume.

CASTING OPTIONS



SUSAN MISNER

Sharp, credible and quietly commanding. Brings intelligence, authority and emotional realism.



GABRIELLE UNION

Powerful presence with warmth, empathy and unwavering confidence. Combines leadership with emotional precision.



REBECCA ROMIJN

Intelligent, composed and deeply grounded. Effortlessly believable under pressure.



VERA FARMIGA

Calm intensity, extraordinary emotional depth and commanding screen presence.



TESSA THOMPSON

Prestige, gravitas and emotional intelligence. A compelling combination of authority and humanity.



ROSAMUND PIKE

Exceptional precision, control and analytical strength, balanced by quiet emotional complexity.



VIOLA DAVIS

Unmatched authority, compassion and dramatic power. Every scene carries weight and authenticity.

★ DREAM CAST

VERA FARMIGA



CASTING NORTH STAR

WE DON'T CAST ALBRIGHT AS AN ANTAGONIST.

WE CAST THE PERSON EVERY AGENCY HOPES IS LEADING THE ROOM WHEN IMPOSSIBLE DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE.



CASTING SUGGESTIONS

JASON

AIRPORT GROUND CREW



THE FRIEND WHO ALMOST SAW THE STORM COMING.

Jason is the colleague everyone trusts. Funny, dependable and grounded, he brings warmth and humanity to the airport floor. His friendship with Richard becomes one of the emotional anchors of the film, carrying both the joy of ordinary life and the heartbreak of wondering if more could have been done.

He needs an actor capable of balancing humour, authenticity and quiet emotional depth, someone who feels like a genuine lifelong friend rather than a supporting character.

CASTING OPTIONS



YASIIN BEY (MOS DEF)

Soulful, intelligent and effortlessly human. Brings warmth, wisdom and emotional authenticity.



GUY TORRY

Natural humour, lived-in authenticity and blue-collar relatability. Instantly believable as Richard's closest friend.



EMORY COHEN

Subtle, grounded and emotionally rich. Able to communicate loyalty and heartbreak with remarkable restraint.



JOHN DAVID WASHINGTON

Quiet confidence, intelligence and commanding screen presence, bringing dignity and emotional control.



BRIAN TYREE HENRY

Extraordinary humanity, vulnerability and emotional weight. A powerful dramatic presence capable of carrying immense feeling through silence.



LIL REL HOWERY

Warm, approachable and deeply empathetic. Blends natural humour with genuine emotional sincerity.



STERLING K. BROWN

Authority, compassion and emotional precision. A commanding dramatic actor capable of elevating every scene.

★ DREAM CAST

BRIAN TYREE HENRY

CASTING NORTH STAR

WE DON'T CAST JASON AS COMIC RELIEF.

WE CAST THE FRIEND EVERY ONE OF US HOPES WE'D HAVE WHEN LIFE BECOMES TOO HEAVY TO CARRY ALONE.

VISUAL STYLE



- HUGE CINEMATIC IMAGES.
- NATURAL LIGHT.
- 35MM GRAIN.
- GOLDEN-HOUR SKIES.
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST BLUES.
- QUIET INTERIORS.
- LARGE-FORMAT AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.
- THE SCALE OF DUNKIRK.
- THE HUMANITY OF MANCHESTER BY THE SEA.















TONE

SULLY

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

UNITED 93

PATRIOTS DAY

FIRST MAN

THE WHALE

NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE AVIATION FILMS.

BECAUSE THEY'RE DEEPLY HUMAN.


SULLY


MANCHESTER BY THE SEA


CAPTAIN PHILLIPS


UNITED 93


PATRIOTS DAY


FIRST MAN


THE WHALE



CINEMATIC MOMENTS

INSTEAD OF PLOT. SELL MOMENTS.

1. THE IMPOSSIBLE TAKEOFF.
2. THE FIRST RADIO CALL.
3. THE BARREL ROLL.
4. THE F-15 INTERCEPTION.
5. THE SUNSET OVER PUGET SOUND.
6. THE FINAL DESCENT.
7. THE SILENCE AFTERWARDS.















WHY THIS IS DIFFERENT

- ✕ **THIS ISN'T**
  A DISASTER MOVIE.
- ✕ **THIS ISN'T**
  A HIJACKING THRILLER.
- ✕ **THIS ISN'T**
  AN ACTION FILM.

IT'S A CONVERSATION.

ONE THAT CHANGED
EVERYONE WHO HEARD IT.



AUDIENCE

A UNIVERSAL STORY.
POWERFUL CONNECTIONS.



PRESTIGE DRAMA

Viewers who love character-driven, high-quality dramas with emotional depth and cinematic storytelling.



AWARDS AUDIENCE

Academy voters and festival goers who champion exceptional true stories told with humanity and craft.



ADULT DRAMA

Adults seeking intelligent, emotional stories about real people facing extraordinary circumstances.



STREAMING

Global streaming audiences who value gripping, emotional true stories they can't stop talking about.



TRUE STORY FANS

Fans of real-life stories that inspire, move and remind us of the resilience of the human spirit.



AVIATION COMMUNITY

Pilots, crew and aviation enthusiasts with a deep connection to the world of flight and its heroes.



MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

Viewers who value stories about strength, vulnerability and the power of connection.



DIFFERENT WORLDS. ONE STORY THAT SPEAKS TO ALL OF THEM.

BOX OFFICE

FILMS PROVING AUDIENCES EMBRACE GROUNDED HUMAN AVIATION DRAMAS.



SULLY

WORLDWIDE
$240M
BUDGET
$60M



CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

WORLDWIDE
$220M
BUDGET
$55M



PATRIOTS DAY

WORLDWIDE
$51M
BUDGET
$45M



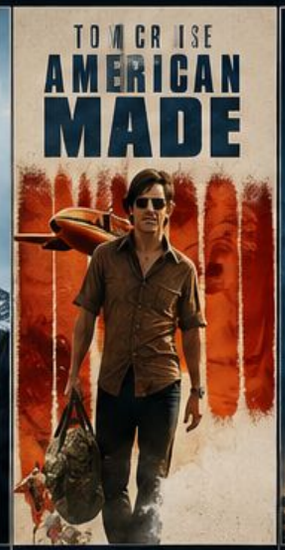
UNITED 93

WORLDWIDE
$76M
BUDGET
$15M



FLIGHT

WORLDWIDE
$161M
BUDGET
$31M



AMERICAN MADE

WORLDWIDE
$135M
BUDGET
$50M



FIRST MAN

WORLDWIDE
$127M
BUDGET
$59M



TOP GUN: MAVERICK

WORLDWIDE
$1.49B+
BUDGET
$170M



EACH DEMONSTRATES THAT AVIATION REMAINS ONE OF CINEMA'S MOST CINEMATIC SETTINGS WHEN PAIRED WITH COMPELLING HUMAN STORIES.

AWARDS POTENTIAL

ACADEMY RECOGNITION FOR
A POWERFUL, HUMAN STORY.



ACADEMY AWARD PERFORMANCES.

Outstanding lead and supporting performances that stay with audiences long after the credits.

BEST ACTOR.

A transformative lead performance.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR.

A powerful supporting performance that elevates the story.

ADAPTED / ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY.

A compelling script rooted in real events and extraordinary human experience. (Depending on legal basis and credits.)

ORIGINAL SCORE.

An emotive, unforgettable score that enhances every beat.

FILM EDITING.

Tight, immersive editing that builds tension, emotion and momentum.

SOUND.

Immersive sound design that puts you inside the story.

CINEMATOGRAPHY.

Stunning, atmospheric visuals that capture the beauty and intensity of flight and life.

STATUS

AWARD-WINNING FEATURE SCREENPLAY

WINNER – BEST FIRST-TIME SCREENWRITER
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

WINNER – BEST DRAMA SCRIPT
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

WINNER – BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

WINNER – BEST SCREENWRITER
WORLD CLASS FILM AWARDS

WINNER – BEST DRAMA SCREENPLAY
LA FILM AWARDS

★ MULTIPLE SCREENPLAY COMPETITION SELECTIONS AND AWARDS



SKY KING

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

PACKAGE STATUS

- ✓ FEATURE SCREENPLAY COMPLETE
- ✓ PREMIUM STUDIO PITCH DECK COMPLETE
- ✓ CHARACTER LOOKBOOK COMPLETE
- ✓ INVESTOR & PRODUCER PRESENTATION MATERIALS COMPLETE

CURRENTLY SEEKING

- PRODUCING PARTNER
- DIRECTOR
- LEAD CAST
- LITERARY REPRESENTATION
- STUDIO / FINANCING PARTNER



"SKY KING HAS ALREADY BEGUN BUILDING INDUSTRY RECOGNITION.
THE NEXT STEP IS BRINGING THIS EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY TO THE SCREEN."




Paper
GIANTS
Big ambitions. Page after page.
All imagery is fictionalised for dramatic effect. All questions and requests submitted to marvel@papergiantsfilms.com