

## **AIR INDIA 182**

### **ACCLAIMED FILM ABOUT AIR INDIA BOMBINGS NOMINATED FOR DONALD BRITAIN AWARD**

After an explosive premiere at the Hot Docs Festival where it was hailed as “compelling, poignant... the definitive film about the Air India tragedy and the most important documentary of the past few years”, **AIR INDIA 182** was broadcast commercial-free in primetime by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the anniversary of the flight's departure from Canada 24 years ago.

Now, **AIR INDIA 182** has been nominated for the Donald Brittain Award for Best Social and Political documentary at the 2009 Gemini Awards. The Awards ceremony will be televised nationally in Canada on Nov. 14, 2009

The powerful, intelligent and provocative film recounts the final hours, days and weeks before the plane disappeared off Irish radar screens. It reveals the story of how Canada's first major counter-terrorism operation failed to thwart the conspiracy and lays bare the 'perfect storm' of errors that resulted in the world's most lethal act of aviation terrorism before 9/11.

Filmmaker Sturla Gunnarsson gained unprecedented access to those directly involved, including the families of those who died and to key CSIS and RCMP investigators. Court documents, de-classified CSIS reports and inquiry transcripts provide the factual framework for the dramatic reconstructions. Family members speak directly of their tragic loss and express outrage at the failure of Canadian authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

“The conspiracy was Vancouver-based, most of the victims were Canadian and it has profound implications about the way we think of ourselves and the society we live in,” says Gunnarsson. “I hope this film goes some way toward distilling a very complex story and giving a voice to the Air India families, who are among the most gracious and dignified people I've met.”

**AIR INDIA 182** is written and directed by Sturla Gunnarsson, and produced by Gunnarsson and David York. It was honoured at Hot Docs 2008 as the Festival's Canadian Opening Presentation, where it had its world premiere. **AIR INDIA 182** is produced by 52 Media Inc. and Eurasia Motion Pictures Inc. in association with CBC Television.

Website: [www.airindia182.com](http://www.airindia182.com)  
Historical background [www.cbc.ca/airindia/](http://www.cbc.ca/airindia/)

## **AIR INDIA 182**

97 MINUTES

### **SYNOPSIS**

On June 22, 1985, Air India 182 left Montreal, bound for Delhi via London Heathrow. It never made it.

Four hours after takeoff, 200 miles off the Irish coast, a bomb ripped through the baggage compartment and the plane disintegrated at 30,000 feet, killing all 329 people on board. It was the most deadly act of air terrorism in history before 9/11 and the majority of the victims were Canadians.

The bombing was the result of a Vancouver-based conspiracy whose members were under investigation by CSIS in the months leading up to the explosion.

Air India 182 is a first-person account of that conspiracy as told by those who were directly involved, including families who lost loved ones on Flight 182, key CSIS and RCMP investigators and the conspirators themselves (through wiretaps and a taped interrogation).

Intimate, direct-to-camera testimony is interwoven with reconstructions of key moments in the conspiracy based entirely on court documents, de-classified CSIS reports and wiretaps. The film counts down the final weeks and hours before Air India 182 disappeared off Irish radar screens and Canada sleepwalked into the era of international terrorism.

Air India 182 was shot in Vancouver and Duncan, British Columbia, Toronto, Cork, Ireland and London, England.

## **AIR INDIA 182**

**STURLA GUNNARSSON**, WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Born in Iceland and raised in Vancouver, Sturla Gunnarsson is one of Canada's best-known and most prolific film-makers, equally at home directing feature films, documentaries and television drama. His films have been recognized with a multitude of awards, including Emmy, Genie and Gemini Awards, a Prix Italia, many Best of Festival Awards and an Oscar nomination. His films have also been featured and recognized in film festivals around the world.

His last documentary film, also co-produced with David York, was the post-apartheid love story, **GERRIE & LOUISE** (1997). Set in South Africa in during the 1997 Truth Commission, it was described by the New Republic's Stanley Kaufmann as "the gripping account of a journey through delusion to enlightenment." Also commissioned by CBC Television, **GERRIE & LOUISE** received scores of accolades including International Emmy and Gemini Awards and the Donald Brittain Award for Best Feature documentary.

Previous documentaries include the Genie Best Feature-Length Documentary cinema verite classic, **FINAL OFFER** (1984) and the Oscar-nominated **AFTER THE AXE** (1982).

Gunnarsson's approach to documentary filmmaking is to "find the truth and tell the story." The films are infused with a sense of history and personal narrative.

"I've been thinking about this story since before it happened. I grew up in Vancouver and have close family ties to the Sikh community there. I was aware of the rising tide of violence and intimidation and the struggle for control of the temples. The conflict that led to the bombing of Air India had its roots 500 years and 15,000 miles away but somehow Vancouver had become its battleground and Canadians who had little knowledge of or interest in it had become its victims. This film was an attempt to make some sense of that."

Recent feature films include the medieval epic **BEOWULF AND GREDEL** (2006), starring Gerard Butler, Stellan Skarsgaard and Sarah Polley; the comedy **RARE BIRDS** (2001) starring William Hurt and Molly Parker and an adaptation of Rohinton Mistry's Booker short-listed novel **SUCH A LONG JOURNEY** (1998), starring Roshan Seth, Om Puri and Naseerudin Shah. Between them, the films received over 20 Genie nominations and were among the top grossing Canadian films in the years they were released.

Television drama includes **SCORN** and **100 DAYS** in the Jungle, each of which won Gemini Awards for best television movie, as well as **DAVINCI'S INQUEST**, for which Gunnarsson won a "Best Directing" Gemini, **INTELLIGENCE** and the Canada/UK WW2 aviation mini-series **ABOVE AND BEYOND** starring Richard E Grant, Lianne Baliban and Josh Ackland.

Gunnarsson was elected president of the Directors' Guild of Canada's 2008/2009 National Executive Board in April, 2008.

## **AIR INDIA 182**

### **DAVID YORK, PRODUCER**

David York has been producing high quality, entertaining and commercially successful television for 15 years.

Producer/writer York began his career in the mid-eighties as a production manager on performing arts and IMAX films and commercials. In 1992, he produced **MUSTARD BATH**, a feature film shot in Guyana, directed by Darrel Wasyk. In 1993, he produced **LIFE WITH BILLY**, a television movie for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. **LIFE WITH BILLY** was honoured with three Gemini Awards for Best Director, Best Actor and Best Actress the following year.

In 1996/97, York and Phyllis Brown produced the feature length documentary **GERRIE AND LOUISE**, directed by Sturla Gunnarsson, about an unlikely marriage set against the opening weeks of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The film premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and in 1997 was awarded an International Emmy for Best Documentary. It was also awarded the Donald Brittain Award for Best Feature Documentary at the 1998 Gemini Awards.

Since then, York has produced or executive produced many long running series, including **DOGS WITH JOBS, BIRTH STORIES, GENE HUNTERS, 90 DAYS IN HOLLYWOOD, ELOVE, FRONTIERS OF CONSTRUCTION**, and **BLUEPRINT FOR DISASTER**. These shows were commissioned by networks including CBC, Life Network, Oxygen, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Health, Discovery Channel, Discovery Networks International and Living UK and have been sold around the world.

David York formed 52 Media Inc. in June 2006. The company's first shows in production are **FIRST COMES LOVE** starring comedienne Elvira Kurt, produced with Paperny Films, for LOGO, **STUCK** for W Network and Air India 182 in partnership with Eurasia Motion Pictures.

## **AIR INDIA 182**

**NICK HECTOR**, FILM EDITOR

“Without a doubt the best documentary editor in the country” - Allan King

Nick Hector is an award winning and prolific Canadian film editor.

Hector’s work has been screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Hot Docs, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Jerusalem, Prague, Leipzig, Singapore, Phoenix, Montreal, Sydney, Palm Springs, and many more.

In this past decade, Hector has collaborated with legendary filmmaker Allan King, exclusively cutting all of his films since King’s return to the documentary. One of these films, **DYING AT GRACE**, was recently described by the Toronto International Film Festival as “one of the best films ever made in this country”.

A nine-time Gemini /Gemeaux nominee, Hector has won Geminis for his work on Yvan Patry’s HotDocs Best of Festival **CHRONIQUE D’UN GENOCIDE ANNOUCE** in 1998 and Allan King’s TIFF Top Ten Canadian Film and Gemini Award-winning **DYING AT GRACE**. Hector also won the HotDocs Best Editing Award for Yvan Patry’s **HAND OF GOD**.

Other credits include Tim Southam’s Genie-nominated **DROWNING IN DREAMS**; John Haslett Cuff’s Gemini-Award winning **CRIMES OF THE HEART**; Min Sook Lee’s 2005 HotDocs Best Canadian Feature **HOGTOWN** and Allan King’s TIFF Top Ten Canadian Film for **MEMORY FOR MAX, CLAIRE, IDA AND COMPANY**. He has also co-produced several films including **EL CHOGUI**, **WAR SURGEON** and **ACTUALITY**.

Hector is currently consulting on a documentary about a hospice for children with AIDS in Vietnam.

**AIR INDIA 182** is Hector’s first collaboration with Sturla Gunnarson.

## **AIR INDIA 182**

**TONY WESTMAN**, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Director of Photography Tony Westman is one of the best gifts the USA ever made to Canada. He moved here from Seattle, Washington, in 1966 to attend Simon Fraser University, where he studied Political Science/Sociology/Anthropology. It was not until he studied at a SFU film workshop that he fell in love with film, studied the genre and started working at the National Film Board where he made many documentaries.

He taught film at Simon Fraser and Emily Carr film programs, and worked for Aldrich/Pears Associates, designing the Horizons Theatre for the Saskatchewan Pavilion at Expo 86, where he also produced its popular interactive live actor/film programme.

Hollywood beckoned in 1989 when he was invited to work on 35 episodes of the MacGyver series for Paramount with Henry Winkler. Many TV shows following, including 12 episodes for **UC: UNDERCOVER** for which he was awarded the Canadian Society of Cinematography Award in 2002 for **SIEGE**.

Among his many features are the 1993 film **NEEDFUL THINGS** and the 1996 feature **ALASKA**, both directed by Fraser Heston and produced by Castle Rock Entertainment. He has worked on a number of films with Sturla Gunnarson, including **THE DIARY OF EVELYN LAU**, Sandra Oh's first feature film in 1993 and the Alliance Atlantis movie **SCORN** in 1999.

Tony Westman is based in Vancouver.

He's ready for his next great adventure.

**AIR INDIA 182**

## HEAD CREDITS

52 Media and Eurasia Motion Pictures Present

AIR INDIA 182

Edited by	NICK HECTOR
Directors of Photography	TONY WESTMAN KIRK TOUGAS (interviews)
Production Designer	IAN BROCK
Costume Designer	SHEILA FITZPATRICK
Original Music Composed by	JONATHAN GOLDSMITH
Associate Producers	JUDY KOONAR CORNELIA PRINCIPE
Producers	DAVID YORK, STURLA GUNNARSSON
Written and Directed by	STURLA GUNNARSSON

THIS FILM IS DEDICATED TO THE FAMILIES OF THE 331 PEOPLE  
WHO DIED IN THE AIR INDIA BOMBINGS

## TAIL CREDITS

Production Manager	BRYN HUGHES
First Assistant Director	WENDY ORD
Story Consultant	BARRY STEVENS
Research	WENDY GLAUSER
Archival Research	JUDY RUZYLO
Additional Cinematography	MICHAEL ELLIS
Casting	MARSHA CHESLEY (Toronto) LYNNE CARROW (Vancouver)

## THE FAMILIES

MANDIP SINGH GREWAL  
RENÉE SAKLIKAR  
NICOLA KELLY  
BHANU SAKLIKAR  
SHAILA NADKARNI-BIDE  
PARKASH BEDI  
LATA PADA  
EISHA MARJARA  
DR. PADMINI TURLAPATI  
AMITA MARJARA  
AMARJIT BHINDER  
HARINDER MARJARA

KALWANT MAMAK  
DIANNE BEAUCHESNE

## CAST

INDERJIT SINGH REYAT	GURPREET SINGH CHANA
TALWINDER SINGH PARMAR	BALJINDER SINGH
HARDIAL SINGH JOHAL	SARABJEET SINGH
SURJAN SINGH GILL	ANKUSH KAPOOR
RUPUDAMAN SINGH MALIK	RODNEY AHLUWALIA
MIKE QUINN	JUSTIN WARD
DOUG HENDERSON	ADAM D. MILLARD
RAY KOZBEY	JODIE GRAHAM
HARJAS BADYAL	DANIEL PETERS
HEMANT BHATIA	NATASHA RAMCHARAN
NADEEM BHATTI	SATNAM RAYAT
YOGINDER CHAHAL	SORNA RAJENDRAN
BOBBY COLE	AMEENA ROBERT
SUKHMEET SINGH DHILLON	ANESA ROBERT
GURVINDER DHILLON	ANURAG SANDHU
SIMRAT DHILLON	CHARANJIT SANDHU
GURPREET SINGH DHILLON	SAMVEDAN SANDHU
SUKHMEET SINGH DHILLON	AMANDEEP SEKHON
GAURAV DHINDSA	SRIJITA SENGUPTA
DWAYNE EDWARDS	MUKESH SHARMA
JAGVIR GEHAULT	NAYANA JOOGOO SINGH
NATTALIA HADDEN	MOHENA SINGH
ROYA HAKAMI	BALWINDER SINGH
MICHAEL HAMPER	GITA SINGH
NITIN JADHAV	RADHA SINGH
JAGJIT KAUR	SUKHINDER SINGH
PARMEET KAUR	MOHENA SINGH
HARBANI KAUR	BALWINDER SINGH
JOHN KENNEDY	LEELA SITAHAL
BALJINDER LAILNA	ARCHANAA SOOD
RENU LAKHANI	ANKUSH SOOD
NIPIN MALHOTRA	ROCKY SOOD
ALASTAIR MARTIL	MUKESH SHARMA
JOANNE MICHIELS	MILOS STRASKY
KAMAL NANDI	STEVEN SURGRIM
SAHAR PARVAIZ	ABBAS SYED
KRISTA PATTON	RADHA TAILOR
RICH PERSAD	GILLES TANGUAY

THE DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA  
IATSE 667  
IATSE 669  
NABET 700

In association with

THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
Director of Documentaries: Mark Starowicz  
Area Executive Producer Independent Documentaries: Michael Claydon



Produced with the participation of  
CANADIAN TELEVISION FUND  
ROGERS DOCUMENTARY FUND  
CANADIAN FILM OR VIDEO PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT  
ONTARIO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
FILM AND TELEVISION TAX CREDIT

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52 MEDIA / EURASIA MOTION PICTURES

**AIR INDIA 182**  
**INTERVIEW SUBJECTS**

**MANDIP SINGH GREWAL**



LOST HIS FATHER, DAJLIT SINGH GREWAL

**NICOLA KELLY**



LOST HER MOTHER, BARSA KELLY

**SHAILA NADKARNI-BIDE**



LOST HER SONS, DEVIN AND RAHUL

**PARKASH BEDI**



LOST HIS WIFE, SAROJ, SON, JATIN,  
AND DAUGHTER, ANU

**RENEE SAKLIKAR**



LOST HER AUNT, ZEBUNNISA JETHWA, AND  
UNCLE, UMAR JETHWA

**LATA PADA**



LOST HER HUSBAND, VISHNU,  
AND DAUGHTERS BRINDA AND ARTI

**BAHNU SAKLIKAR**



LOST HER SISTER, JEBUNNISA JEWTHA,  
AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, UMAR JEWTHA

**DR. PADMINA TURLAPATI**



LOST HER SONS, SANJAY AND DEEPAK

**AMARJHIT BHINDER**



LOST HER HUSBAND, CO-PILOT CPT.  
SALTWINDER SINGH BHINDER

**HARINDER S. MARJARA**



LOST HIS WIFE, DAVINDER, AND DAUGHTER, SEEMA

**EISHA MARJARA**



LOST HER MOTHER, DAVINDER, AND SISTER, SEEMA

**AMITA MARJARA**



LOST HER MOTHER, DAVINDER, AND SISTER, SEEMA

**KALWANT SINGH MAMAK**



LOST HIS WIFE, RAJINDER

**JACK HOOPER**



DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CSIS (RETIRED)

**DOUG HENDERSON**



RCMP AIR INDIA TASK FORCE (RETIRED)

**JOHN SCHNEIDER**



RCMP AIR INDIA TASK FORCE (RETIRED)

**MICHAEL QUINN**



SHANNON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

**DIANNE BEAUCHESNE**



LOST HER FATHER, GASTON

**DANIEL BROWN**



SEAMAN, LAURENTIAN FOREST

**UJJAL DOSANJH**



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, FORMER PREMIER  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**MARK TATE**



RAF RESCUE/RECOVERY