

Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines

Directed and Produced by Tristan Loraine

Fact Not Fiction Films Ltd © 2007

Duration: 93 minute feature documentary
Shooting format: XDCAM HD
Format: HDCAM
Production period: November 2006 - August 2007
Budget: US\$ 400,000
Website: www.welcomeaboardtoxicairlines.com

Film Premiere:

25th Festival International du Film d'Environnement, Paris, 23 November 2007



Longer synopsis: 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines' tells the very real and ongoing story of what some airline crews claim is the biggest cover up in aviation history. Passengers and crews for nearly fifty years have been supplied with unfiltered air to breath, taken directly from the engines, even though this air supply is known to become contaminated with neurotoxins, carcinogens and other hazardous chemicals. With unique access into the aviation industry, the film maker, a former airline captain, reveals for the first time in this unique feature length documentary the serious exposure consequences on flight safety, passenger and crew health, of those who have and continue to be unknowingly exposed.

The filmmaker was an airline captain in 2001 when as a union representative he received a call that changed his life. The caller, Dave Hopkinson, was a work colleague and airline captain told Tristan he had been exposed to toxic fumes in the cockpit of a Boeing 757; passengers and crews were known to be exposed to these fumes; the airline industry was not informing the travelling public of these problems and that Tristan should investigate these matters further. In 2007 after six years of research, Tristan whose own health had also been affected by fumes in the cockpit of a Boeing 757 releases 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines'. The documentary film with unique access to the aviation industry reveals the facts and scandal of contaminated air exposures on aircraft. An issue many call the asbestos of the aviation industry. For 50 years the aviation industry has kept from the travelling public the serious health and flight safety issues relating to contaminated air exposures which continue to plague the aviation industry. The film looks at the history, the politics, the serious health effects and the flight safety issues of contaminated air on aircraft and tells the viewer exactly what the airlines forget to mention in the pre flight safety briefing.

Brief synopsis: 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines' tells the very real and ongoing story of the air passengers and crews breathing becoming contaminated with carcinogens and neurotoxins and the serious health and flight safety consequences which are occurring around the world on commercial aircraft as a consequence of these exposures.



Director Tristan Loraine and Sound mixer, Sally Penwill

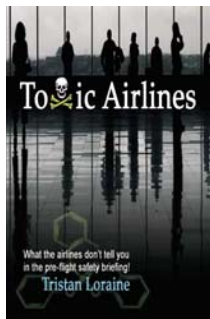
Documentary theme song: The theme song for 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines' has been written, produced and sung by 18 year old Yorkshire girl Kate Garbutt. Fact Not Fiction Films Ltd the production company behind 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines' discovered Kate who had been performing since the age of 4, busking in Brighton and asked her to get involved in producing theme songs for the current and forthcoming Fact Not Fiction Films' documentaries.



Supporting material: This issue has received a lot of attention over the past 15 years, however has not yet been resolved due to the aviation industry vested interests controlling what actions have taken place. Over the past decade a number of determined aircrew including the film maker have actively sought to move the issue forward, an issue that many state is a cover-up on the scale of smoking, asbestos and similar issues. A number of initiatives have recently taken place designed to coincide with the release of the documentary.

Supporting material include:

- Novel written by Tristan Loraine. 'Toxic Airlines' a fiction based upon fact account of the 'asbestos of the skies' which has just finished first draft of the screenplay.



Review:

'Tristan Loraine (author of Toxic Airlines) is doing to the airline industry what Erin Brokovich did to the US Chemical companies'. Corporate Watch:
www.toxicairlines.com

- Reference Manual: Aviation Contaminated Air Reference Manual: 844 page fully sourced reference manual for those wanting to know the history of the aviation contaminated air issue: S Michaelis 2007 (www.susanmichaelis.com)
- 'Aerotoxic Association' launched in 2007 as a global support network for passengers and aircrew globally who are suffering the effects of contaminated air exposure.
- DVD 2003: AOPIS: 'Contaminated Air: An Ongoing Health and Safety Issue.'
- Global Cabin Air Quality Executive (www.gcage.org) set up to represent over 450,000 airline crews specifically to address the issues raised in 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines.'

Top Ten FAQs:

1. Why did you make this film? We have tried for years to get the industry to sort this problem out and it was time the passengers were told what was going on, so I put my money into the film to make sure the story got told.
2. How can people get exposed to contaminated air? The air passengers and crews all breathe is taken from the engines. If the air gets contaminated then everyone will be supplied with contaminated air as this air is not filtered.
3. How many planes have crashed because of contaminated air? Nobody knows as aircraft have no form of contaminated air detection system and many of the chemicals within contaminated air can be odourless like carbon monoxide. So if the air is contaminated and a plane crashes due to pilot error nobody knows if these errors were due to these exposures. Also, its not just crashes we should think about. The health issues are also extremely important.
4. Can passengers be affected on one flight? The film interviews passengers who only had one exposure which changed their lives.
5. How do I learn more about these problems? One of the films technical consultants has written an 844 page reference manual on these issues entitled the Aviation Contaminated Air reference Manual.
6. Why have so few people heard of this problem? Simple, the airline industry doesn't appear to tell passengers when these exposures occur.
7. If you had to fly, what aircraft would you fly on? Boeing 787.
8. How many people have been affected? Nobody knows but the problem is not rare.
9. What's next? We are in pre-production on a feature film called 'Toxic Airlines'
10. What could be done to resolve this problem? You'll have to watch the film!

Press coverage: The issue of contaminated air in aircraft has received considerable press over the years, however this has increased in recent times due to the activities listed above and the fact that the issue is being brought more into the public eye. Numerous major international networks have asked the filmmaker for the right to utilize selected material from the production of 'Welcome Aboard Toxic Airlines' as the filmmaker is seen as a leading international figure in this issue. Recent coverage was undertaken by the Nine Network Australia 'Sunday' program.

Please visit www.welcomeaboardtoxicairlines.com for more details.

Production team:

Director / producer: **Tristan Loraine**

Production Manager and Technical Consultant: **Susan Michaelis**

Principal Cinematographer / DOP: **Anna Carrington**

Trinity Greer
Cinematographer/DP

Melanie Gäbel
Sound Mixer

Special Effects:

Robin Lambert
Cinematographer/DP

Sally Penwill
Sound Mixer

BF Animations and
Insert Graphics

Lesley Pinder
Camera Operator

Campbell Michaelis
Sound Mixer

Judith Murawski
Technical Advisor

Benjamin Foot
Camera Operator

Contact details:

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