

Press Release

May 2008

Productions

We have been busy working on a new series called Tribal Treks for Brenco Media, and conducting principal photography on the new Butchart Gardens High Definition video and the Victoria Harbour Safety video and developing new show ideas. As well we have just completed our documentary entitled "The Immortal Beaver" (www.theimmortalbeaver.com) for History Television. The program airs on **May 20th, 2008 at 9pm ET/PT & May 24th, 2008 at 8pm ET/PT!**

Please visit www.webfilms.ca/beaver.htm to view trailer

Gear

Production

Gamut Productions has just acquired the Panasonic AJ-HDX-900P High Definition video camera. This 100-megabyte per second camera is a full 2/3" 3CCD chip camera capable of shooting all frame rates and formats including 720 24p, 30p as well 1080p and 1080i.

Many local producers have already taken advantage of the superior features of one of the most requested High Definition Cameras.

Post-Production

We are the only company on Vancouver Island currently capable of shooting and editing in a full 4:2:2 High Definition environment. Our HD camera combined with our new High Definition Panasonic AH-1400 deck and our new Mac Pro with Kona 3 Card & means we are capable of virtually every option in cross-converting any frame rate or formats in either Final Cut Studio 2 or Avid Xpress DV.

Personnel

Gamut Productions is pleased to announce that Mike Wavrecan has joined the Gamut team. A very experienced producer and editor, Mike has worked most recently for Arrow Productions, and prior to that many years with Pan Productions. Mike has already cut several of our productions, and is currently in development on several new projects.

Please feel free to get in touch with us to discuss your project.

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ARTS

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Victorians fly high with 'true aviator' Harrison

Indiana Jones star not unlike the action hero he plays, filmmakers discover in Beaver documentary



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There are movie stars who would kill for the chance to work with Harrison Ford.

No wonder director David Mulvihill and producer Steve Hamner were making an air last year when Hollywood's biggest movie star agreed to appear in their homegrown documentary.

It was because the partners in Victoria's Hamner Productions were celebrating something dear to the historically creative couple's heart — the film *The Invisible*. The Invisible Beaver, their portrait of the beloved de Havilland Canada bush plane, Ford is also a previous prize pilot who once served aboard, including a DHC-2 Beaver, which he keeps in a Santa Monica hangar.

One of the things I thought about flying is that when I'm up here I'm another pilot in another airplane — not a movie actor," says Ford, being much in the line that premiere May 30 at 8 p.m. on History Channel.

The locally made film takes flight just three days before the opening of Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Crystal Skull.

"Harrison has a real secret spot for the Beaver," says Mulvihill, who learned Ford is not unlike Indiana Jones.

"He loves to go off and do service flying. He flies into mountainous areas of Montana, because stranded bikers and tribes tend to hang around there. It's a true aviator."

The Invisible Beaver is a comprehensive, engaging

tribute to the famous bush plane first built in 1947. It was constructed as a safe, high-performance machine that could fly deep into the wilderness and do stunts like off-road landings on small lakes and glaciers, loaded with archival material and interviews with aviation experts, the documentary focuses on its remarkable history.

Although de Havilland halted production in 1967 after 1,782 Beavers had rolled off the assembly line, hundreds were purchased by the U.S. military and stayed in its inventory. Demand remains as high for the tough little plane, used for everything from crop dusting to military operations. But, several Beavers have been rescued from obsolete, forgotten and airless "boneyards."

Featuring footage from films such as *Men in Wolf and Six Days, Seven Nights*, which featured Ford as a small-craft pilot, the documentary's centerpiece is *Wing Air's* local restoration of one such wreck, a retired U.S. Army Beaver.

The film chronicles the discovery of the wrecked de Havilland DHC-2 in the Arizona desert, its journey to Victoria and its restoration. It chronicles the first flight of the reborn "high-tech aircraft" across Canada to the original de Havilland factory in Downsview, Ont., for a 60th anniversary film. There to meet *Olivia* is Harold Hamrick, the central figure.

Wing's ownership inspired the filmmakers to learn more about the Beaver and make the documentary.

"They wanted to make *Olivia* into a poster girl for the Beaver," Hamner recalled. "We avoided it was a beautiful machine to tell the heroic story of the little engine that could."

The film was an ideal opportunity for Mulvihill to spread the wings as a director. He had often relied on Beavers to reach remote locations during 25 years as a globe-trotting camera operator.



Harrison Ford and filmmakers Arwen Hamner and David Mulvihill stand in front of one of Ford's airplanes in his Santa Monica hangar.



Don Berends of Wing Air shows off *Olivia*, the de Havilland Beaver whose modern makeover is described in the *Invisible Beaver*.

"I've always had the Beaver. It's a wonderful safe. It can give anyone."

The filmmakers were excited about being able to get Ford aboard their labour of love. Since he had become so familiar with the Beaver he decided to buy his own after

making *Six Days, Seven Nights*, then assumed the film's aerial director, Steve Stafford, after seeing *Just Another Day*, a short he had made with Ford.

Another helpful connection was Paul's (aka Paul Brown), the retail trader on whose plane he got his foot in the

door. He said they had just returned to Victoria after shooting the 60th anniversary event when they heard from Ford.

"He said, 'I've got a truck before I fly. Indiana Jones if you can get down here.'"

He described the star as a

self-learner, an inveterate spender and "cool guy."

When they arrived at his Santa Monica hangar, Ford showed up himself to greet them.

Said Mulvihill: "He shows up in a golf cart and says, 'Hey

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