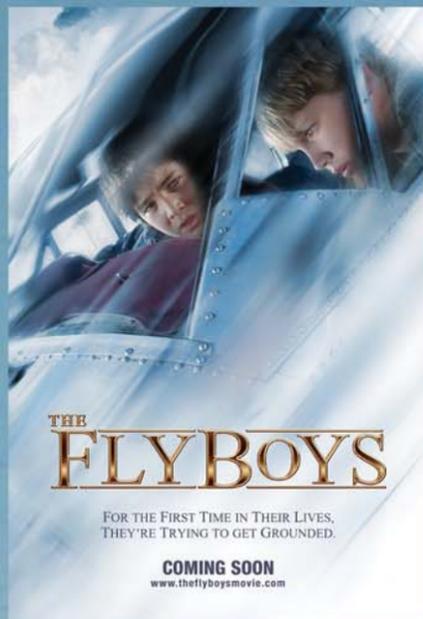


# ARIZONAFLYER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE WING

## The Flyboys

**Arizona producer unleashes an award-winning film combining youthful adventure and the mob with an Arizona location, local roads and scenery**



**Co-producer, stunt coordinator, stunt performer and actor Dan Urness of Mesa gives on-set instructions to the film's stars.**

**Heroes Jason (Jesse James) and Kyle (Reiley McClendon) discover the Twin Beechcraft 18.**

**Director of Photography Jim Orr sizes up the shot.**

**J. Todd Adams as the noticeably unfriendly Lenny.**

**Producer-Director Rocco DeVilliers with the stars.**

**S**et in the fictional town of Cooper, Arizona (and filmed in Arizona, southern Nevada and Utah), *The Flyboys* had won over 50 film festival awards nationwide by September, 2008, including three Arizona film festivals, in Tucson, Sedona and Lake Havasu. The film opened in theaters in Twin Falls, Idaho, and Park City, Utah, in mid-October and was scheduled to open in Arizona later in the month.

*The Flyboys* is the story of two boys from a small Arizona town who find their courage and ingenuity tested after they accidentally stow away aboard an airplane owned by the mob.

Though Cooper, Arizona, is fictional, other ties to the state are very real.

Dan Urness is a Mesa resident and graduate of the University of Arizona in Tucson (where both of his parents graduated, as well). He is co-producer of *The Flyboys* (along with Rocco DeVilliers, who also co-wrote the screenplay). In addition, Urness was the film's stunt coordinator, a challenging task in a film full of stars of all sizes and ages, with wild adventure in the sky, on the roads, sometimes combining the two, plus bicycle and foot chases. Urness in fact performs some of the stunts, and he also has a small role as one of the police officers.

Dan Urness served on the "Save the Cine Capri" Committee with Harkins Theatres owner Dan Harkins. Harkins Theatres is well known as the largest chain in Arizona and is also the sixth-largest in the US. The original Cine Capri was a 1960s Cinerama dome, which was leased by Harkins. The committee did not succeed in saving the original theater, but the enthusiasm generated by their efforts led to Harkins' new Cine Capri theater-within-a-theater at Scottsdale 101. This concept has been so popular, Harkins has now introduced it in several of its newest complexes.

Stephen Baldwin, who performs the prominent role of Silvio Esposito, also lived in Arizona for several years, during the run of the TV hit series *The Young Riders*.

In the film, Jason (Jesse James) and Kyle (Reiley McClendon) are recent friends from different sides of the track, who become embroiled in the adventure of their lives when they discover a mysterious airplane at the local small-town airport. The boys sneak aboard the plane for a look, but are forced to hide in the luggage compartment when two strange men show up. Jason and Kyle soon find themselves unexpectedly airborne over the open Arizona desert. After hours in the air, the boys unwittingly uncover a bomb in the luggage compartment. When they burst into the cabin to report their discovery, they find that everyone on board has bailed out. The boys must take the controls and



KEEP RIGHT >>



**A challenging highway landing scene was shot on Arizona's public highways.**

**Thugs Manny (Vince Cecere) and Sal (Frank D'Amico) contemplate the heroes.**

**Stephen Baldwin as Silvio Esposito.**

**Kyle and Jason put their soles to their pedals while the mob puts the pedal to the metal in a classic '69 Chevelle SS.**

**The heroes back in the open air.**

land the plane themselves. But their troubles are only beginning, as Jason and Kyle realize that they've foiled a heist to steal millions of dollars from the mob in this high-action, coming-of-age film.

Director Rocco DeVilliers drew his inspiration for *The Flyboys* from his grandfather, Don Novas. A crop duster from Blackfoot, Idaho, Novas owned many airplanes, including a P-51 Mustang, a T-33, and of course, a Twin Beechcraft 18, which plays a central role in this film. DeVilliers has fond memories of summers with his grandparents, hanging around the local airport. "I remember as a kid climbing into my grandpa's Twin Beech and playing in there with my cousins. We would make up all kinds of stories, and the Beech was our set. Having an airport full of my grandfather's planes as a playground was pure magic."

Don Novas passed away in 1997, and most of his aircraft were sold off. DeVilliers hoped to use his grandpa's Twin Beech in the film. However, the new owner didn't like the thought of another pilot flying the plane. Based on the demands of the script and the technical nature of the stunts, Dan Urness, co-producer and stunt coordinator for *The Flyboys*, enlisted the services of Skip Evans and his Twin Beech 18. One of the scenes Evans was hand-picked to perform depicts two twelve-year-old boys alone in the cockpit of a Twin Beech trying to land the airplane on a busy rural Arizona highway.

*The Flyboys* won these Arizona awards:

- Sedona International Film Festival**
- Winner: Audience Choice "Best Feature Film"
- Arizona International Film Festival**
- Winner: Jury Prize "Best Feature Film"
- Lake Havasu International Film Festival**
- Winner: Jury Prize "Best Feature Film"
- Winner: Jury Prize "Best Film of 2008"

Trailers, schedules and more information are at [www.theflyboysmovie.com](http://www.theflyboysmovie.com) and [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com). Additional cast and crew information, as well as viewer reviews and audience reactions, can be found at [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com). ■

