

## ABOUT THIS DVD

Dawn Flight was shot on 16mm film. It was a fairly new negative emulsion known as 7247. Unlike the ECO, or reversal film, that had previously been the standard in 16mm, this film was lower contrast and resulted in a muted, somewhat pastel look. Between that and the age of this film, the DVD does not have the high definition, crisp look that some might like to see. The absence of special effects, the incredible flying skill of the pilots and the exciting formation flights more than make up for the look of the picture itself. If coming technology permits an improved mastering of this film, owners of this DVD will be entitled to a greatly discounted trade-in and upgrade.

Information about the distribution of this special edition of Dawn Flight can be found at [www.bigyellowglider.com](http://www.bigyellowglider.com). You can also order additional copies of the DVD and some very interesting books and other products on that site.

You can reach the distributor at [info@bigyellowglider.com](mailto:info@bigyellowglider.com).

### Check out our other websites:

[www.tailwheelersjournal.com](http://www.tailwheelersjournal.com) for lovers of fun, seat o' the pants tailwheel flying.

[www.kestrelproject.org](http://www.kestrelproject.org). our non-profit teaching deserving kids to fly.

Dawn Flight, © 1975 Lawrence Lansburgh

Special Features, © 2011 Brian Lansburgh

### DAWN FLIGHT: The making of a classic aviation film

It was 1974 and two brothers who wanted to break into the film business decided that the best way to make a name for themselves would be to win an Academy Award. They set out to do it with a low budget live action short subject

.Larry Lansburgh had been through Air Force flight school and Brian Lansburgh was a former Coast Guard helicopter crewman. Their interest in aviation spurred their choice of a flying story. They came up with the story of a glider pilot. Larry would direct and Brian would photograph. They cast a young actor who was performing at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland. Denis Arndt had been a helicopter pilot in the Army and had flown in Alaska before settling on an acting career. He took a flight training course in gliders to prepare himself for the role. The ship he would fly was a Schweizer 1-26. It was a single seat glider and Arndt would have to do much of the flying himself. Three talented young glider pilots led by George Bernstein would provide most of the flying skill.

The tiny crew of film makers and pilots found the locations they needed in the hills of Pope Valley and Calistoga, California as well as Mission Ridge above a glider port at Fremont, California. Dozens of flights were required to capture the scenes depicting just two flights in the story.

Dawn Flight accomplished what the brothers had desired. It was nominated for an Academy Award in 1975 and helped launch the Lansburgh brothers' careers.

The production of the film was the subject of a cover story in "American Cinematographer", the journal of the American Society of Cinematographers. The brothers were hailed for this amazing production featuring some of the most dramatic flying scenes ever filmed.

**Denis Arndt** went on to a successful acting career in both film and television, including a role in the popular television series, "L.A. Law" as well as performances in "Boston Legal", "Ally McBeal" and "Basic Instinct".



For a complete list of his credits, log onto [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com).



After completing "Dawn Flight," **Larry Lansburgh** produced corporate videos and documentaries in Alaska, Hawaii, and South America.

He wrote, produced, and directed an acclaimed documentary called "*Dream People of the Amazon*," about the Achuar people, an indigenous Amazonian group who have used sophisticated and effective tactics to protect their pristine corner of the rain forest from outside exploitation. Larry now speaks about the Achuar at colleges and universities across the US and Canada. <http://www.AmazonSpeaker.com>

**Brian Lansburgh** directed a few more live action short subjects and a documentary series before turning his attention back to aviation. He created "The Acme Duck and Air Show Company", an acclaimed air show comedy act which he performed for 14 years. He flew camera planes for L3 Wescam, combining his skills of filming and flying. Brian operated Sunriver Soaring for three years where he taught advanced flying and soaring in the venerable Schweizer 2-32 sailplane. He has introduced thousands of delighted riders to the joy of soaring flight. His advanced flight instruction is featured on the website, "[www.tailwheelersjournal.com](http://www.tailwheelersjournal.com)". He and Janae Smith founded "The Kestrel Project", a nonprofit which uses a flight training program to instill confidence in young people ages 13 to 18 ([www.kestrelproject.com](http://www.kestrelproject.com)).



**DAWN FLIGHT** is now an aviation film classic and has been digitally re-mastered for distribution by the Sunriver Soaring webstore.

## ON THIS DVD

### DAWN FLIGHT

Many fans of this aviation classic have never seen this version. This is the longer version of the film as originally released theatrically. A shorter version was later distributed and is the version most viewed. The longer version includes the "hangar scene" described in the Special Features interview with Denis Arndt and Brian Lansburgh. This version has been digitally re-mastered in order to give it a slightly better look than the original.

### THE INTERVIEW

If you've ever wondered, "whatever happened to..." this part will be interesting to you.



The men who made Dawn Flight have all moved on and had interesting careers. This special feature will fill you in on what happened to some of them. Denis Arndt and Brian Lansburgh got together in Central Oregon to reminisce about the filming of Dawn Flight. They also flew together in Brian's Big Yellow Glider, the Schweizer 2-32.

### FILM MAKER'S COMMENTARY

If you've ever thought, "how'd they shoot that?" or, "I wonder where they shot that?", this Special feature will interest you. Brian Lansburgh runs the whole film and talks about how and where the parts of the film were done. The commentary is DAWN FLIGHT with an additional audio track in which Brian comments on how scenes were shot, where they were shot and other interesting details.