

"Golden Wings: Fifty Year Flight Path" is an award-winning documentary that delves into the rich tapestry of a family legacy intertwined with the evolution of the aviation industry. Directed by Caleb Mills Stewart, this compelling film celebrates the extraordinary career of his mother, Robyn Stewart, who has dedicated fifty years as a flight attendant for American Airlines.

The documentary not only chronicles Robyn's journey from the early 1970s, navigating the stringent norms of the aviation industry, to becoming a celebrated veteran in the field but also pays homage to the family's deep-rooted connection to American Airlines. Robyn's father, a WWII veteran, was a pivotal figure in the airline's history, designing and directing the pilot training program for the iconic Boeing 747 jumbo jet. His legacy set the stage for Robyn's groundbreaking career, making their story a unique intergenerational saga of dedication, resilience, and pioneering spirit.

Through intimate interviews, rare archival footage, and heartfelt personal narratives, "Golden Wings" captures the essence of a family whose contributions have left an indelible mark on aviation history. The film is a touching tribute to the bravery, humility, and unwavering spirit of flight attendants, highlighting the significant cultural and industry shifts over the decades.

As an award-winning documentary, "Golden Wings" not only showcases the professional achievements of Robyn Stewart but also the personal sacrifices and triumphs that defined her career. It's a story of perseverance and passion, set against the backdrop of a changing world, seen through the eyes of those who lived it.

Join us in celebrating this remarkable journey of a family legacy that continues to soar, inspiring future generations to dream big and fly high..

Director Biography - Caleb Mills Stewart

Caleb Stewart began his journey in the arts at the tender age of 13, quickly finding his passion in acting. This led him to take on multiple roles as a writer, producer, and actor in

his first film project, "Tequila Mockingbird," in 2013. His multifaceted involvement in film production showcases his versatility and commitment to storytelling, establishing him as a creative force in the industry. Over the years, Caleb has continued to develop and produce content that engages and inspires, making significant contributions to film and entertainment. He can be contacted at (562) 523-9620 or via email at calebmills99@gmail.com

Director Statement

Director's Statement for Caleb Stewart

Finding Humanity in Every Story

Hey there! I'm Caleb Stewart, and my obsession with the human experience started when I was just a kid. By 13, I was already diving into acting and making movies (namely an Indiana Jones ripoff with the family camcorder in my backyard.)

My first professional project, "Tequila Mockingbird," wasn't just a web series—it was my playground for exploring the wild and wonderful world of human emotions and relationships, all with a comedic spin.

A Multifaceted Approach to Storytelling

I love wearing many hats in the film world—writer, producer, actor. This lets me view stories from every possible angle, making them richer and more nuanced. Great storytelling is about understanding every facet of film production, and my varied roles have armed me with the skills to create authentic, compelling narratives.

Inspiration from Real-Life Stories

Documentaries like “The Stories We Tell,” “Dark Days,” and “Grey Gardens” have shown me the magic of capturing raw, unfiltered humanity. These films are a masterclass in vulnerability and the beauty of imperfection. I aim to bring that same emotional depth and authenticity to my work, creating films that hit audiences right in the feels.

Commitment to Social Impact

I'm drawn to stories that tackle social issues and push for change. Whether it's the chilling exploration of gun violence in “Bowling for Columbine” or the touching story of Matthew Shepard in “Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine,” I’m committed to using my platform to shine a light on crucial societal topics. My goal? To spark dialogue, inspire action, and use film as a force for social justice and human connection.

Celebrating Creativity and Individuality

Every project I take on is a celebration of the unique human spirit. Inspired by the bold creativity of Isaac Mizrahi in “Unzipped,” I strive to infuse my films with a distinct voice and style. I believe in the power of originality and the beauty of embracing one’s true self, and I bring that philosophy to every frame of my work.

Redefining Legacy Through Film

As a 43-year-old gay filmmaker, creating this documentary has been a personal journey into legacy and family. In a world where traditional notions of family and success dominate, I’m reimagining what it means to leave a lasting impact. This film isn’t just a project—it’s my way of adding to my family’s legacy, a creative offspring born from passion and dedication. Documenting my mother’s remarkable career has taught me that legacy is defined by the stories we tell and the lives we touch. This realization has added a new layer of purpose and emotional depth to my work, helping me connect with audiences on a

deeply human level. I hope this film honors my mother's journey and inspires others to leave their unique mark on the world.

Connecting Through Compassion

Films like "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" and "All That Breathes" remind me of the power of compassion and empathy. I'm moved by stories that celebrate kindness and selflessness, and I strive to create films that foster understanding and connection. I believe that through empathy and compassion, we can bridge divides and build a more harmonious world.

A Lifelong Journey

My film journey is just getting started. Each project is a step toward deeper understanding and greater artistic expression. I'm dedicated to continuing this path, exploring new stories, and pushing the boundaries of my creativity. Join me on this adventure, let's delve into the depths of humanity through cinema, and be inspired by the stories we uncover together.

GOLDEN WINGS TRANSCRIPT

00:00:09:12 - 00:00:42:12

Caleb Mills Stewart

Welcome aboard this special flight of Golden Wings. This is your director, Caleb Mills Stewart speaking. While pilots must retire at age 65. Flight attendants can score as long as their wings allow for 53 years. My mother, Robyn Stewart, has done just that through industry turbulence and personal challenges. She's remained airborne. So please fasten your seat belts and prepare for a multi-generational journey through time, all at 30,000ft.

00:00:42:14 - 00:01:09:16

Caleb Mills Stewart

Thank you for joining us. And enjoy the film.

00:01:09:18 - 00:02:00:13

Robyn Stewart

My name is Robyn Stewart, and I've applied internet for American Airlines. I have been applying for American Airlines since 1971. So that's 52 years. I wanted to become a flight attendant because I wanted to fly free. I've been used to flying free with because my dad was was flying for American Airlines when I was a young child, and we were able to go on so many fun trips, and I wanted to continue to do that.

00:02:00:15 - 00:02:09:04

Robyn Stewart

My favorite thing about flying is going wherever I want.

00:02:09:06 - 00:02:09:19

Robyn Stewart

I went to.

00:02:09:19 - 00:02:19:20

Robyn Stewart

Rome last week. I'm going to run again next week.

00:02:19:22 - 00:02:31:21

Robyn Stewart

And the following week, I'll be going to Tokyo.

00:02:31:23 - 00:02:44:06

Robyn Stewart

Frankfurt, Germany.

00:02:44:08 - 00:03:16:16

Robyn Stewart

So, because I have the seniority that I have, I can pick and choose my schedule. And it's taken me a long time to get here, but it's been worth it.

00:03:16:18 - 00:03:19:11

Caleb Mills Stewart

Did you think that you'd be a flight attendant for 50 years when you started?

00:03:19:12 - 00:03:51:02

Robyn Stewart

Oh, no. I did not think I'll be a flight attendant more than 2 to 5 years. Well, I was hired. We had to be a certain way. We could not go over a weight limit. We had to wear girdles. We

were subject to girdle checks. We were also subject to a parent's checks to make sure we had our makeup done right and our hair done and our nails done.

00:03:51:04 - 00:04:36:20

Robyn Stewart

They stopped doing girdle checks. Not long after I graduated in 1971. When I graduated. I was issued a stewardess manual, but that changed. We had just merged with Trans Caribbean Airlines and Trans Caribbean Airlines already had male flight attendants, so it was no longer a stewardess manual. Shortly after I graduated, the white, scale continued. I know until the 80s because after each one of my pregnancies and the last one being in 1982, I was subject to being put on a scale and make weight requirement.

00:04:36:22 - 00:04:58:16

Robyn Stewart

And I want to say it was probably close to 1990 when they did away with the white check. And to CR Smith Museum, it has become a very big attraction in the Dallas-Fort worth area. CR Smith was the founder and president of American Airlines

00:04:58:22 - 00:05:02:16

Caleb Mills Stewart

CR Smith became president of American Airlines in 1934.

00:05:02:16 - 00:05:07:11

Robyn Stewart

He was a very innovative hands on leader. He would remember your name.

00:05:07:13 - 00:05:20:13

Caleb Mills Stewart

By the end of his tenure, he knew the name of every American Airlines employee. In spite of the creation of the DC three, the first transcontinental airliner for American Airlines.

00:05:20:15 - 00:05:35:12

Robyn Stewart

If you were fortunate enough to be on a flight that he was on stewardesses, he would give us \$50, which was a very big deal back then.

00:05:35:14 - 00:05:39:22

Caleb Mills Stewart

What did your father do for American families? What was his name? What did he do? How many years did he work there?

00:05:39:23 - 00:06:33:07

Robyn Stewart

My father's name was Jay Ricks. He was with America for 35 years. And I guess I didn't realize what all he had done and how respected he was until I came to work for American in 1971. The Boeing 747 was being manufactured, and he was constantly in Seattle working with Boeing on creating a training program for our pilots that was groundbreaking and not in the airline industry, and we ended up training pilots for the other airlines, too, in our program that he basically wrote and designed and directed.

00:06:33:09 - 00:06:59:16

Robyn Stewart

In 1971, B747 had just come into our fleet. When I graduated, I was only trying on the 727.

00:06:59:18 - 00:07:05:08

Robyn Stewart

And the 707.

00:07:05:10 - 00:07:26:06

Robyn Stewart

I was sent back to Dallas to train on the 747 to fly out of Canada.

00:07:26:08 - 00:07:46:15

Robyn Stewart

And I turned around. We called it the Midnight Rocket. And there were some crazy things that happened on that flight. But it was it was, a great experience. And to go back and train out on the the airplane that my father had been so involved with.

00:07:46:17 - 00:07:49:09

Caleb Mills Stewart

Was your father proud of you when you got hired for American?

00:07:49:14 - 00:08:08:17

Robyn Stewart

My my father was so proud of me when I was hired with American. So many women of my era there, their fathers did not want them to become stewardesses. That my father was all for it. And he was so supportive.

00:08:08:21 - 00:08:11:19

Caleb Mills Stewart

Why didn't they want them to become stewardesses?

00:08:11:21 - 00:08:21:14

Robyn Stewart

I guess they thought they were loose women, I don't know. There was a kind of a reputation that stewardesses had.

00:08:21:16 - 00:08:40:14

Narrator:

It was a reputation that, if not perpetuated by the airlines, was definitely condoned for certain types of ads shown in the 70s, like this one you see here from National Airlines.

00:08:40:16 - 00:08:55:17

Robyn Stewart

But it wasn't true. It was. It was fiction. It fictionalized my.

00:08:55:19 - 00:09:03:01

Robyn Stewart

It wasn't real---

(The film seems to distort as loud metallic sounds drown out everything else. We then see a homemade video of the second plane hitting the north tower as seen from a park. People scream and wail)

00:09:03:03 - 00:09:51:04

Robyn Stewart

I was at home. Sleeping in because I was supposed to go to Santiago, Chile that evening. The flight left at 7 p.m., so, I was trying to sleep in and my husband, Henry was getting ready to leave for work when we saw the coverage of what had happened in New York.

00:09:51:06 - 00:10:01:18

Robyn Stewart

And needless to say, we were glued to the TV and. It just I was I was so grateful that I was home.

00:10:01:20 - 00:10:04:04

Caleb Mills Stewart

Why were you grateful you were home?

00:10:04:06 - 00:10:28:15

Robyn Stewart

Because of the uncertainty. Of what? What was happening to my colleagues and because they shut down the, airspace and. They had to land, A.s.a.p., wherever they were. And.

00:10:28:17 - 00:10:56:02

Robyn Stewart

It was quite frightening. And some of them we lost contact with on the radar job changed tremendously after 911. I remember my first flight back, which was also to Santiago. It took. We were four hours late because of all the, checks I had to do. All people, they had to run all kinds of back ground checks on each passenger.

00:10:56:04 - 00:11:22:11

Robyn Stewart

And that that was time consuming and tedious. And also there was, what came about with, all the liquids, the screenings for mental screenings, which they had done previously.

00:11:22:13 - 00:11:28:04

Caleb Mills Stewart

What were some of the life changes you've had during your career? The biggest life changes?

00:11:28:06 - 00:12:00:18

Robyn Stewart

One of the biggest life changes was in, 2013 when, I had a problem with drinking alcohol, which is kind of a, occupational hazard with this job because you want to always you think you always need to go to sleep, and you might have to sleep during the day. So you might have a little drink to help you go to sleep.

00:12:00:20 - 00:12:29:23

Robyn Stewart

In October of 2013, I went to work under the influence and my coworkers noticed. Probably the passengers noticed. And if it's unsafe to have someone that's that doesn't have all their faculties on the airplane, because if something should happen and you have to evacuate, I would have been of no use. I would have been in the way.

00:12:30:01 - 00:13:00:19

Robyn Stewart

So consequently, I was removed from service that day. I was escorted off the airplane by American Airlines Management, and, I was taken to American Airlines Medical, where I was, breathalyzed. And I failed. So consequently, I was, pretty much fired. They took my, I.D. away from me. They took my training manual away from me.

00:13:00:21 - 00:13:38:18

Robyn Stewart

And on the, equipment that had been issued to me by American Airlines was, confiscated, and and then I, through the help of my union, I was able to go to rehab. And upon completion of four weeks of rehab and passing a medical exam, I would be reinstated with

the stipulation that I would be drug and drug and alcohol tested, for two years, which could even be before I fly.

00:13:38:20 - 00:14:02:05

Robyn Stewart

And if I, if I failed, then that was the end of my career.

(the screen glitches and goes dark.)

(the sound of the interior of an airplane a cruising altitude fades in)

(more darkness)

(the scene change to a bright blue sky with birds chirping. inspirational music plays)

00:14:02:07 - 00:14:15:19

Robyn Stewart

So I did successfully go to rehab, and it's been the best thing that ever happened to me. I can't thank American Airlines enough for giving me that the second chance.

00:14:15:21 - 00:14:17:20

Caleb Mills Stewart

And how long have you been sober now?

00:14:17:22 - 00:14:27:01

Robyn Stewart

I've been. I've been sober now for, ten year, almost ten years, maybe ten years. October 10th, 2023.

00:14:27:03 - 00:14:31:09

Caleb Mills Stewart

Great.

00:14:31:11 - 00:14:38:15

Caleb Mills Stewart

What was another, big life change that happened around 2014?

00:14:38:17 - 00:15:13:11

Robyn Stewart

And, February 24th, to be exact. I had just gotten to Frankfurt, Germany, as every flight attendant crew members. Worst nightmare. That something happens at home and you're way far away.

(a video of an empty hotel room plays. It is a lonely place)

Which I was. And I'd gone to the hotel and I tried to call my husband, which we always. We talked to each other several times during my time away on layovers, and I was unable to get Ahold of him.

00:15:13:13 - 00:15:56:14

Robyn Stewart

And deep down, I knew right then that something bad had happened. And then I called his work and he had not shown up for work. So deep down in my heart, I knew that probably

the worst thing that can happen was, was it was about to become true. And sure enough, he was found in our home. I found out that that he had passed away.

00:15:56:16 - 00:16:19:16

Robyn Stewart

(Somber music plays over a slideshow of Stewart family photos featuring Henry Stewart at various stages of his life.)

00:16:19:18 - 00:16:52:12

Robyn Stewart

And then I had to make that long flight home alone. And it was tough, but I, I can't thank my, my colleagues and and the people that work for American Airlines, which is so kind. The people in the hotel were so kind. You really know how much people care when something like that happens. It was just the good that came out of such a bad situation.

00:16:52:14 - 00:17:21:07

Robyn Stewart

When I arrived at DFW airport, I was met by, management from American Airlines. I was met by, people from the union. I was met by coworkers with plane with flowers. And it was it was just incredible, the pouring out of love that they showed from. And at that time.

00:17:21:09 - 00:17:34:09

Narrator

Henry and Robin, shared 43 beautiful years together.

(We see a picture of Henry and Robyn together circa 2012. Posing for the camera inside a restaurant. Happy and in love after 4 decades of marriage)

00:17:34:11 - 00:18:00:20

Robyn Stewart

People ask me all the time, where are you going to retire? My answer is, as long as I feel like I can do my job, which I have to go back every year and, pass training to prove that I can and still able to evacuate an airplane, which I can do just fine. I'm very active. I'm staying very active so I can fly until.

00:18:00:22 - 00:18:19:00

Robyn Stewart

But I'm not the only flight attendant I believe right now is, a lady company. Nash. And she is 87 years old. I would love to fly home. Maybe seven if. If I still feel the way I do now.

ABOUT FESTIVAL

Herzlich Willkommen bei den MÜNCHEN FILM AWARDS!

Munich Film Awards (MFA) is a fresh face in the illustrious film festival culture of Germany. Hosted in the heart of Munich, MFA strives to redefine what a film festival can be by creating a stimulating environment where creativity, originality, and inspiration take centre stage. Our film festival allows filmmakers from across the globe to push boundaries and showcase their unique voices through the shared cinematic experience.

We are very proud to be ranked as one of the Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals on FilmFreeway. Our festival ranks in the top 1% of more than 11,000 film festivals and creative contests around the world, and we are qualified by the IMDb.

MFA's hand-picked judging body is comprised of esteemed filmmakers and industry professionals from multiple cultural backgrounds, as we believe having different perspectives is vital in today's diverse cinematic landscape. MFA gives independent filmmakers the special opportunity to have their films reviewed by these prestigious individuals.

At MFA, the support of independent filmmakers is our primary objective. We endeavour to promote young, talented filmmakers by exposing their works to larger audiences. In doing so, we foster a distinctive space that allows filmmakers to prosper through expert judging, unique marketing, and distribution networking. MFA acts as an event where independent filmmakers can forge fresh relationships and partnerships with fellow creatives and reach new heights together.

In 2023, our virtual event had attendees from 126 different countries, allowing filmmakers to have their works exposed to audience members from all corners of the Earth. We plan to host a physical events alongside a virtual event, allowing even more audience members to become engaged with refreshingly novel cinema.

MFA accepts films from all genres across the globe. Every filmmaker accepted into our curated selection of films will have the opportunity to win awards, cash prizes, and more!

"Our team has had the opportunity to be a part of over 100 festivals and the Munich Film Awards is one of the best experiences I have had in my career!" - Michael Davis

Awards & Prizes

The judges of the festival will carefully select the films to be nominated for awards, and create a selection of nominated films to be screened in front of a live audience. The fantastic event will give filmmakers

opportunities to watch their films on the big screen as well as the opportunity for networking.

The winners will be announced at the event, on our website, and on social media a month prior to the event date. The selected high-quality films will have a chance to win awards such as trophies, certificates, gift cards, and cash prizes starting at \$200!

Rules & Terms

Our Rules and Guidelines for 2024 Submissions:

Your submission implies that you have the legal right to represent and submit this film for consideration, along with your acceptance of MFA regulations.

- 1) Non-English films are required to have English subtitles
- 2) Student Films will require proof of student ID to qualify for the discounted rate. Any non - student films submitted into the category will be disqualified! The project must also be completed while enrolled in education.
- 3) Features are any film over 45 mins. Short films are 45 mins and under.
- 4) To submit a film or script, you must have created the project yourself, own the rights or have permission from the owner of the content to submit the film to us.
- 5) We do not send out physical tickets. The submitting filmmaker's name will be on a list at our ticket desk. Any purchased tickets will be on this list as well.
- 6) Films must be 2018 or newer to qualify for an award.
- 7) Our festival is run by a small group of volunteers, film enthusiasts, and professional film judges. Every effort is made to provide great communication and fun festival experience. If there is anything we can

assist with, please send us an email and we will contact you back within 24 hours.

8) MFA reserves the right to refuse acceptance of submissions deemed by the festival to be inappropriate and violating the Rules and Terms. Should you wish to question MFA about the decision, you can contact us by email.

9) One entry fee per category. The same film can be entered into one or more categories, but each category requires an entry fee.

10) All fees are non-refundable

11) If selections fail to reply to emails from the notification date until the start of the festival screening, their entries will be subject to disqualification.