

## AIR INDIA DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES HOTDOCS 2008

(Toronto, March 18) *Air India 182*, Sturla Gunnarsson's provocative film about the 1985 Air India tragedy, will have its world premiere at HotDocs 2008, singled out as the 2008 Festival's Canadian Opening Presentation. A deeply affecting look at the world's deadliest air-terror attack before 9/11, *Air India 182* will screen on Thursday, April 17 at 9:30 pm at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre.

*Air India 182* written and directed by Sturla Gunnarsson and produced by David York and Sturla Gunnarsson. The duo last teamed up for the International Emmy Award-winning post-apartheid love story, *Gerrie and Louise*. Judy Koonar is associate producer.

*Air India 182* is a first-person account of the Air India conspiracy and its tragic aftermath. The story is told by those who were directly involved, including families of those who died, key CSIS and RCMP investigators and the conspirators themselves. Their testimony is interwoven with reconstructions of key moments in the conspiracy, based entirely on court documents, de-classified CSIS reports and wiretaps. The film counts down the final weeks and hours before Air India 182 disappeared off Irish radar screens.

"This was a Canadian tragedy", says Gunnarsson. "The conspiracy was Vancouver-based, most of the victims were Canadian and it has profound implications about the way we think of ourselves and the society we live in. I hope this film goes some way toward distilling a very complex story and giving a voice to the Air India families, who are among the most gracious and dignified people I've met."

*Air India 182* is produced by 52 Media Inc. and Eurasia Motion Pictures Inc. in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with the participation of The Canadian Television Fund. The documentary will air nationally on CBC Television in early summer.

Sturla Gunnarsson's films have received international acclaim and won Genie, Gemini and Emmy Awards. His documentary *After the Axe* was nominated for an Oscar. Feature films include the epic *Beowulf & Grendel*, starring Gerard Butler, Sarah Polley and Stellan Skarsgaard; the comedy *Rare Birds*, starring William Hurt, Andy Jones and Molly Parker and the literary adaptation *Such a Long Journey*, starring Roshan Seth and Om Puri. His many documentaries include the *cinema verite* classic *Final Offer*.

David York has been producing entertaining and commercially successful television for 15 years. Dramatic films include *Mustard Bath*, a feature film shot in Guyana, directed by Darrel Wasyk and *Life with Billy*, an award-winning CBC television movie. In 1997, York and Gunnarsson produced *Gerrie and Louise*, which won the Donald Brittain Gemini Award for best documentary, as well as an Emmy. Since then York has produced many programmes for networks including CBC, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, Discovery Networks International and Living UK.

For more information

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For the producers of Air India 182