



THE LANDING

In an Era of 'Fake Realities,' The Landing is a Riveting Psychological Thriller Not to be Missed

Award-Winning Film is Official Selection of the Austin Film Festival, Oct. 26-Nov. 2

AUSTIN, Texas — Oct. 10, 2017 — For Immediate Release — The boundaries of entertainment and “fake news” blur in this spellbinding psychological thriller, an official selection of the 24th annual, **2017 Austin Film Festival**, Oct. 26 – Nov. 2.

On the 25th anniversary of the ill-fated Apollo 18 mission – which singularly and officially ended the U.S. space program’s moon race – a documentary filmmaker tracks down disgraced astronaut hotshot Bo Cunningham (**Don Hannah**), the flight’s sole survivor, who has lived in near seclusion for decades. But the disturbing story pieced together by him and others involved in the notorious incident seem to raise more questions than are answered ... Leaving us all to wonder, how far would you go for murder?

Filmed over the course of 25 years, initial photography for ***The Landing*** was completed in 1992. In 2015, the original cast returned to reprise their roles and complete the film. Interspersed throughout is real-life archival news reel footage, as well as footage filmed to achieve a vintage look, further blurring the film’s lines of reality.

“Presented as a documentary, the movie demonstrates how unsettlingly easy it is to reshape people’s memories,” say **co-writer/directors David Dodson** and **Mark Dodson**, who explain that many viewers of the award-winning film were convinced it was a real documentary regarding actual historic events. “It’s one of the abiding themes of the project and particularly germane in today’s cultural and political climate, amidst the whole ‘fake news’ and ‘alternative facts’ lunacy.”

LOCAL TO AUSTIN ... Actor **Jeff McVey** (who plays astronaut Al Borden) was born and raised in Austin and – following an acting career – became a professor of chemistry at Texas State University, where he teaches today. During a U.S. Air Force career, McVey was part of the elite Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service under Military Airlift Command (today under Special Operations Command), training in 1975 as a pararescuer for NASA’s Apollo-Soyuz mission (the first, manned U.S.-Soviet space flight, which utilized an unnumbered, surplus Apollo Vehicle and marked the end of the Space Race that began in 1957 with the Sputnik launch). Los Angeles-based co-writer/directors **David Dodson** and **Mark Dodson** both were born and raised in Dallas (and spent a great deal of their childhood on their grandparents’ ranch in Hamilton, near Austin).

Festival Screenings

Fri., Oct. 27 @ 9 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church, Bethell Hall, 301 E. 8th St., Austin

Wed., Nov. 1 @ 10 p.m.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - Village, 2700 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 701, Austin

***The Landing* is also in the Dark Matters competition**
Winners/additional screenings to be announced Oct. 28

DVD screener available by request or view *The Landing* online at:
<https://vimeo.com/183237067> / password: Landing2016
For media review purposes only. Please do not post or share.

More About *The Landing* ...

In 1973, the United States' manned space program experienced an extraordinary tragedy, an event that – despite its place as one of the most disturbing episodes of the “space race” – was nevertheless all but ignored during the emerging Watergate scandal which ultimately claimed the presidency of President Richard M. Nixon.

Returning from a successful lunar landing mission, NASA's Apollo 18 suffered a computer error which forced command module pilot Bo Cunningham to take the controls and fly the spacecraft to an emergency landing in the remote Takla Makan Desert of western China, far from the intended splash-down target in the Pacific Ocean. Thirty-six hours would pass before NASA located the spacecraft, by then the site of a national tragedy.

What really happened during the astronauts' time in the desert, the inquiry that followed and the mystery surrounding the event, is the subject of ***The Landing***, a riveting investigation into the notorious conclusion of Apollo 18, the United States' final mission to the moon. Interviews with witnesses and participants, conducted on the 25th anniversary of the incident, reveal new layers of the mystery that continues to surround events which nearly destroyed an American institution.

A production of Los Angeles-based **Rocket 66 Entertainment**, ***The Landing*** was co-written, produced and directed by **David Dodson** and **Mark Dodson** and stars **Don Hannah** as Bo Cunningham; **Warren Farina** as Ed Lovett; **Jeff McVey** as Al Borden; **Cindy Lou Adkins** as Kate Borden; **Page Hannah** as Sandy Cunningham-Bates; **Arlene Hughes-Martinez** as Joan Lovett; **Robert Pine** as Congressman Pete Pellarin; **Craig Stepp** as Mike Russo; and **Joe Santaniello** as Fred Calder. **Don Hannah** served as executive producer and producer and **Natalya Papach** co-produced. Music by **Brian S. Carr**. Not rated. Running time: 83 minutes. B&W/color. Shot on 16mm and 8mm with Red Epic and Arriflex cameras and lenses (aspect ratio: 1.85.1).

The Landing won Best Director at the **2017 Boston Sci Film Festival**; Best Thriller at the **2017 Burbank International Film Festival**; Best Feature at **2017 Escape Velocity**, Washington, D.C.; and was an official selection at the **2017 Seattle International Film Festival** in the New American Cinema Competition.

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For screeners, artwork or to schedule an interview:

Greenleaf & Associates – 323.660.5800

Vicki Greenleaf – Vicki@GreenleafAndAssociates.com