



Evergreen Aviation Museum
The Captain Michael King Smith Educational Institute

For release: Dec. 17, 2004

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Local Aviation Museum Teams with Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator*

The Evergreen Aviation Museum provides technical consulting as well as audio and visual footage featured in "The Aviator".

MCMINNVILLE, Ore.— Sat., Dec. 25, 2004, the contributions of McMinnville's Evergreen Aviation Museum will debut on the "big screen" and call to completion nearly two years worth of coordinating with Martin Scorsese's production group for *The Aviator*.

The blockbuster film, *The Aviator*, depicts the life of famous millionaire Howard Hughes and his contributions to modern aviation. The movie, scheduled to release in Oregon on Dec. 25, includes Evergreen Aviation Museum's largest attraction, the famous *Spruce Goose*, which was built near the end of World War II by Howard Hughes. The Hughes Flying Boat or *Spruce Goose* was a forerunner of modern aviation, an American icon that blazed a new trail in mechanical and engineering designs that led the way to large capacity aircraft. The film includes its inception as well as its famous, brief flight over the Pacific Ocean Nov. 2, 1947.

The film has a star-studded cast including Leonardo DiCaprio as Howard Hughes, Cate Blanchett as Katharine Hepburn, Kate Beckinsale as Ava Gardner, Alec Baldwin as Juan Trippe, Gwen Stefani as Jean Harlow, and Alan Alda as Sen. Ralph Owen Brewster.

The Evergreen Aviation Museum provided technical consulting about the *Spruce Goose*. During multiple visits with the Museum's Director of Collections, Katherine Huit, *The Aviator's* production company created reproductions of engineering drawings and photographs which

resulted in props and miniature models in the movie. The production crew took photographs of the interior of the *Spruce Goose* and the Museum provided technical consulting for paint color and aircraft details during the production stage. Additionally, a portion of the film features the Museum's exclusive archival color film. The featured footage shows the large sections of the *Spruce Goose* fuselage and wings moving from Culver City to Long Beach, CA. The Museum also provided engine sounds and the historical MacNamara radio broadcast audio.

“Our involvement with *The Aviator* is a testimony to production companies becoming involved with non-profit museums to create films,” said Huit. “The Evergreen Aviation Museum has been really honored to be a part of this process. It’s wonderful for tourism and terrific for preserving history for future generations.”

The museum is in the process of releasing it's own *Dream to Fly* documentary narrated by Walter Cronkite, which chronicles the fascinating journey of the Hughes Flying Boat from conception to its final home at Evergreen Aviation Museum. It includes Hughes' struggles and ultimate triumphs in aviation design. The documentary will begin airing on *Discovery Wings* in January 2005, and international distribution on home video and DVD will begin soon after.

The Evergreen Aviation Museum is best known as the home of the world's largest wooden airplane, the *Spruce Goose*, SR-71 *Blackbird* and Grumman F6F-3 *Hellcat*. In addition, there are more than 60 historic aircraft and exhibits on display, along with artwork, traveling displays, the newly remodeled Spruce Goose Café and the museum store. The Evergreen Aviation Museum's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily except when it is closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter. The Museum is located at 500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way, across the highway from the McMinnville Airport and about three miles southeast of McMinnville, Ore., on Highway 18. Regular visitor admission is required. Call (503) 434-4180 for more information, and visit www.sprucegoose.org.

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SPECIAL EVENT ADVISORY

The Ultimate Holiday Gift – The Aviator Event

WHAT: In celebration of the release of *The Aviator*, the Evergreen Aviation Museum will be hosting a very unique fundraising event on Thursday, Dec. 30 at 5:30 p.m.. Patrons can purchase tickets at two levels and proceeds from the event will further the maintenance and restoration of the Hughes Flying Boat, as well as support the facility that houses it. Limited tickets are available. Tickets must be pre-purchased by Wednesday, December 29, 2004 via phone at 503.434.4007 or via email at melody.elerath@sprucegoose.org. The Evergreen Aviation Museum is a 501(c)3 Oregon Nonprofit Institution.

Christmas Package:

Cost: \$75/individual \$60/Evergreen Aviation Museum member

- 5:30 p.m. Reception at the Museum
- Spruce Goose* Post-Flight Presentation
- Guided tour of Museum gallery
- Spruce Goose* souvenir
- 7:30 p.m. Private screening of “The Aviator” at McMinnville’s Cinema 10
- Complimentary beverages and popcorn

All Access Aviator Package:

Cost: \$250/individual \$200/Evergreen Aviation Museum member

- Christmas Package +
- Tour the *Spruce Goose*, view the leading edge, and interior of wings
- Photo souvenir in Howard Hughes’ seat

WHEN: Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Evergreen Aviation Museum
3 miles SE of McMinnville on Highway 18

CONTACT: Melody Elerath, Development Department, (503) 434-4007