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APOLLO 18  
LUNAR LANDING MISSION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION





NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

TELS. WO 2-4155  
WO 3-6925

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY  
MAY 21, 1973

RELEASE NO: 73-83K

PROJECT: APOLLO 18

(To be launched no  
earlier than May 22)

contents

# the LANDING

TRUTH IS DEAD

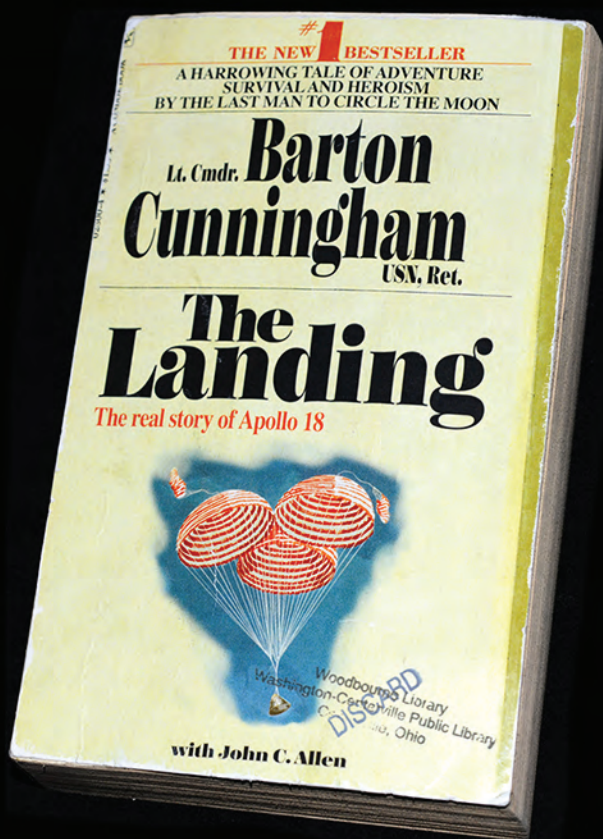
WRITERS, DIRECTORS, EDITORS-----	DAVID DODSON MARK DODSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER-----	DON HANNAH
GENRE-----	DRAMA DOCUMENTARY
COUNTRY/LANGUAGE-----	USA/ENGLISH
YEAR-----	2016
RUNNING TIME-----	84 minutes
FORMAT-----	2K, 1.85:1, HD
PRODUCTION COMPANIES-----	Rocket 66 Entertainment The Landing, LLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mark Dodson  
 Rocket 66 Entertainment  
 Telephone: 818-808-2942  
 Electronic Mail: themarkdodson@gmail.com





*The Controversial Non-Fiction Bestseller  
Is Now An Unprecedented Motion Picture*



ROCKET 66 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
A FILM BY DAVID DOOSON & MARK DOOSON THE LANDING DON HANNAH JEFF MCVEY WARREN FARINA  
JOE SANTANELLO ROBERT PINE CINDY ADKINS CRAIG STEPP ARLENE HUGHES-MARTINEZ PAGE ADLER  
MUSIC BY BRIAN CARR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRIAN COOKE PRODUCED BY DAVID DOOSON MARK DOOSON  
DON HANNAH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DON HANNAH WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DAVID DOOSON & MARK DOOSON

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION



JUNE 3, 1973

RELEASE NO: 73-123J

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## -- URGENT --

As Apollo 18 returned to earth in May 1973, the world celebrated the mission as an inspirational conclusion to man's first, bold exploration of the moon.

Disastrously, however, NASA's final lunar mission landed not in the Pacific Ocean as planned but far off course, in the remote Takla Makan Desert of western China. There its three astronauts - commander ED LOVETT, lunar module pilot AL BORDEN, and command module pilot BO CUNNINGHAM - salvaged the spacecraft's parachutes, built a camp, and waited for NASA to find them.



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JUNE 2, 1973

-- CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE --

Thirty-six hours later, Lovett and Borden were dead. The final chapter of the Apollo moon landings had ended in tragedy...

Now, in 1998, the sole survivor of Apollo 18 lives a reclusive life deep in the Colorado Rockies. And on this, the 25th anniversary of the controversial mission, Bo Cunningham has agreed to sit for his first interview since he published his own account decades earlier.

More remarkable still, also speaking out is an unprecedented roster of participants and witnesses:

- FREDERICK CALDER, NASA Flight Director
- PETE PELLARIN, the chairman of the Congressional committee established to investigate the incident
- MICHAEL RUSSO, the FBI agent in charge of the criminal inquiry
- JOAN LOVETT, astronaut Ed Lovett's widow
- KATE BORDEN, astronaut Al Borden's widow, and
- SANDY CUNNINGHAM-BATES, crew member Bo Cunningham's sister.

What happened in the desert while the world was blind to the fate of Apollo 18? Was it something other than the tragic accident that the government's investigation described? What might be the real reason three American "heroes" found themselves marooned, days from rescue...?

These new interviews - interviews that reveal new facts and challenge the veracity of Bo Cunningham's famous book - deepen the mystery surrounding an event, THE LANDING, that nearly destroyed an American institution.

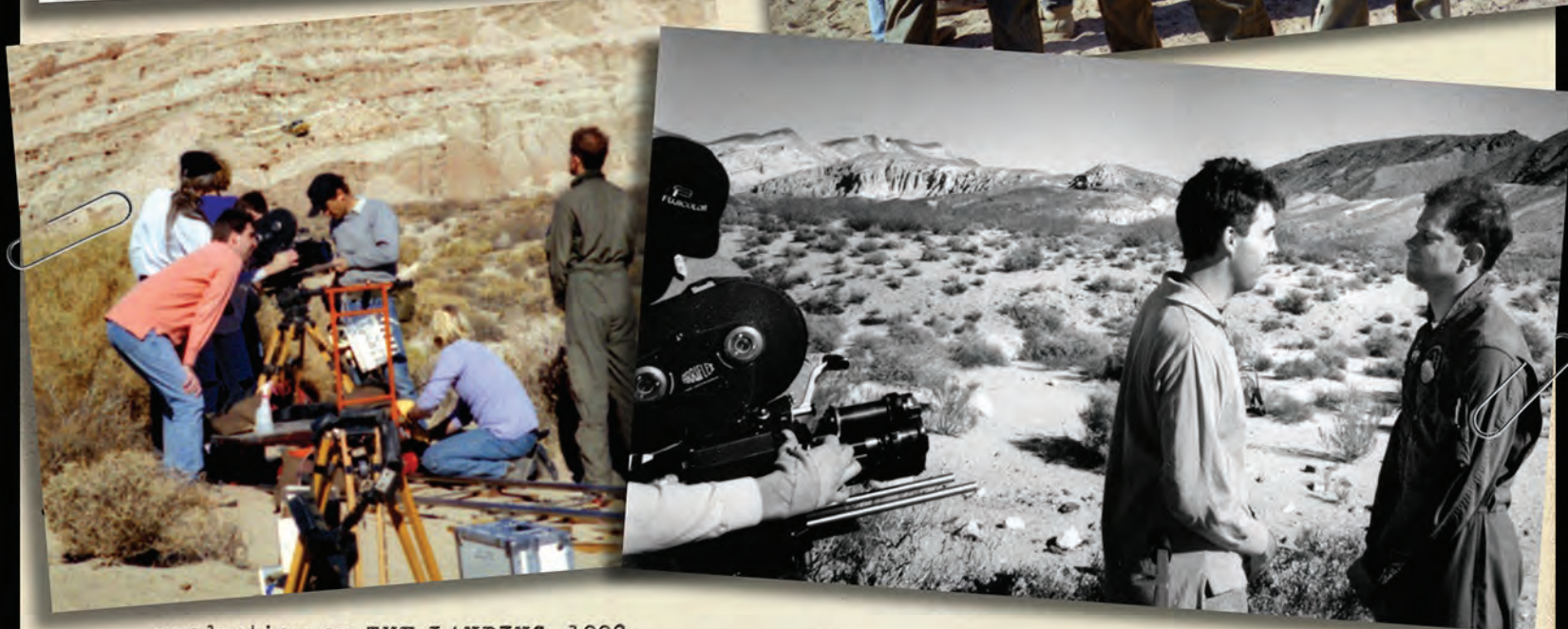




# PRODUCTION NOTES

(continued)

Alongside Don Hannah, JEFF McVEY and WARREN FARINA were cast as fellow Apollo 18 crew members Al Borden and Ed Lovett. Production began with two separate shoots in 1992 -- one in the winter, one in the summer.



production on THE LANDING, 1992  
Red Rock Canyon State Park, California





# PRODUCTION NOTES

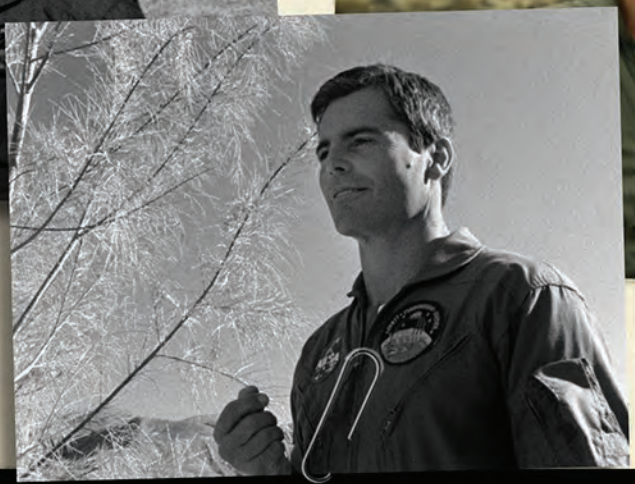
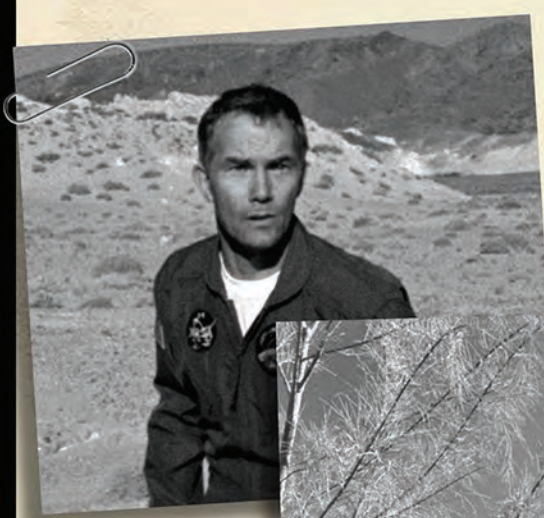
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24 YEARS LATER



DON HANNAH as Bo Cunningham  
in "The Landing," 1992/2015

Production continued nearly two and a half decades after photography wrapped for the first time, when the principal cast returned to Los Angeles for the conclusion of the project.



WARREN FARINA and JEFF McVEY as  
Ed Lovett and Al Borden 1992/2015





# PRODUCTION NOTES

(continued)

## THE INTERVIEWS

Reconstructing the early 1970's world of NASA, Cocoa Beach, and the lives of those who lived and worked in the early days of America's manned space program, required dedicated attention to detail. In addition to the months spent in research and in curating hundreds - if not thousands - of archival photos and historical documents, the filmmakers conducted hours of interviews, a year-long improvisation in which director and actor alike worked to uncover the hidden dimensions of a story begun a quarter of a century earlier.

WARREN FARINA as  
Ed Lovett



JOE SANTANIELLO as Fred Calder (top)  
ROBERT PINE as Pete Pellarin (bottom)





# DIRECTORS' NOTES

Every documentary is a work of fiction.

The observer and the observed each occupy different worlds.

Truth is an act of perspective. In their feature film, *THE LANDING*, David Dodson, Mark Dodson, and Don Hannah, explore this essential phenomenon, examining the nature of truth, not simply as a matter of witness perspective, but as a disposable commodity in modern culture. Audiences have themselves responded to this phenomenon. At one screening a viewer described *THE LANDING*'s protagonist as "a murderer," another viewer described him as "innocent, but misunderstood." Each saw the same evidence.

David Dodson and Mark Dodson have created an unimpeachable reality to contain the stories in *THE LANDING* and, in doing, have invited viewers to confront not just the memories of those telling its story but their own memories as well.



director MARK DODSON



director DAVID DODSON





# MUSIC

notes by BRIAN S. CARR, composer

## THE SCORE

Developing an approach to the score for THE LANDING was one of those rare experiences where one is reminded that magic can exist, and that it has nothing to do with budgets or deadlines but with the alignment of ideals and a genuine enchantment with them.



BRIAN CARR in his studio

It is easier, however, to remain enchanted with those ideals if the ingredients are authentically inspiring. Such was the case with the vintage synthesizers used in THE LANDING's score.



There are no digital, software, or modeling synthesizers in the music. Analog instruments such as vintage Moogs, a Prophet 5, and a Swarmatron

(continued)





# MUSIC

notes by *BRIAN S. CARR, composer*

(continued)

generated all synthesized sounds. What's unique about analog synthesizers is not only the dense, harmonically rich, and colorful tones they generate - but also the expressiveness of the instruments' wonderfully conceived filter knobs, wheels, and ribbon controllers when recorded during real-time performance. Such features, in my estimation, have not yet been satisfactorily replicated by software synthesizers and midi controllers.

BRIAN CARR  
in his studio



Adding to this alignment of ideals was the adventurous and inexhaustible passion for film music that David Dodson and Mark Dodson brought to the project. Their expansive sense of how music can connect with various elements of a scene resulted in a fearless and collaborative exchange that any composer would be truly grateful to experience with a filmmaker.





# MUSIC

notes by BRIAN S. CARR, composer

## SAN FRANCISCO

When Mark and David asked me to look into re-recording the John Phillips classic "San Francisco," for the film, my palms began to sweat a bit since the song is iconic, was recorded in the 1960's and, due to how the song functions in the film, needed to authentically communicate the spirit of that era. And if there is anything that nine seasons of producing sound-a-likes on FAMILY GUY taught me, it is that this was a precarious production situation to be in, and that the highest priority was to start with exactly the right artist or band.

Luckily, after just a few phone calls, my friend Tanya Porter (on whom I rely periodically to function as a music supervisor), directed me to the Los Angeles-based band King Washington. Within the first few seconds of hearing them, my palms dried somewhat.

KING WASHINGTON at  
East West Studios, Studio 3



We went to Hollywood's East West Studio 3 to record our version, which is exactly the room in which Lou Adler and Scott McKenzie recorded their original. Happily, King Washington's talent and professionalism resulted in a "San Francisco," that far exceeded our expectations and which truly embodies the Summer of Love.





# CAST



WARREN FARINA  
as Commander Ed Lovett



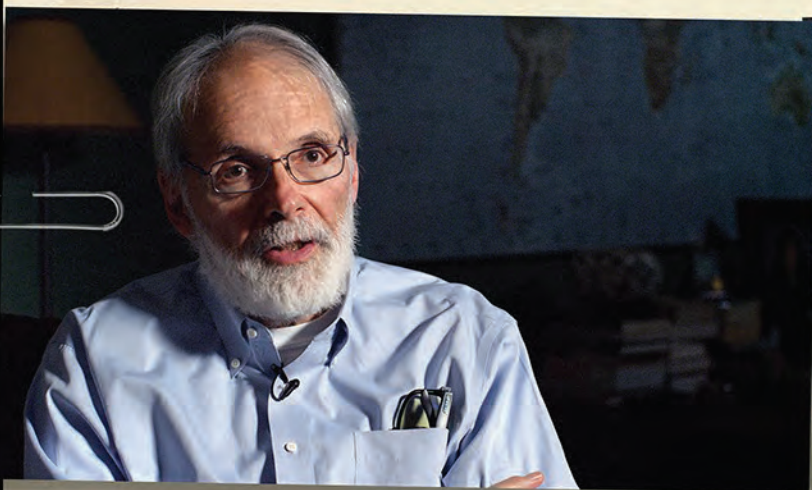
DON HANNAH  
as Command Module Pilot Bo Cunningham



ROBERT PINE  
as Former U.S. Congressman Pete Pellarin



JEFF McVEY  
as Lunar Module Pilot Al Borden



JOE SANTANIELLO  
as NASA Flight Director Fred Calder



ARLENE HUGHES-MARTINEZ  
as Joan Lovett





# CAST



CINDY LOU ADKINS  
as Kate Borden



CRAIG STEPP  
as FBI Special Agent Mike Russo



PAGE HANNAH  
as Sandy Cunningham-Bates

the CREW of APOLLO 18  
ED LOVETT - BO CUNNINGHAM - AL BORDEN







# CREDITS

written, directed & edited by DAVID DODSON & MARK DODSON  
produced by DAVID DODSON, MARK DODSON, DON HANNAH  
executive producer DON HANNAH  
co-producer NATALYA PAPACH  
associate producers PLACIDA ARMIJO, PETER DODGE  
MARK CUNNINGHAM, BUCK MARTINEZ  
DOG HENRY PRODUCTIONS, DAN LYNCH  
JEFF McVEY, MICHAEL P. McINERNEY  
CAROLE D. McINERNEY, MICHAEL F. McINERNEY  
CARRIE J. McINERNEY  
music by BRIAN S. CARR

## CAST

Bo Cunningham DON HANNAH  
Al Borden JEFF McVEY  
Ed Lovett WARREN FARINA  
Kate Borden CINDY LOU ADKINS  
Sandy Cunningham-Bates PAGE HANNAH  
Joan Lovett ARLENE HUGHES-MARTINEZ  
Pete Pellarin ROBERT PINE  
Fred Calder JOE SANTANIELLO  
Mike Russo CRAIG STEPP

A ROCKET 66 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION





## DIRECTORS BIOS

### DAVID DODSON - WRITER/DIRECTOR

David directed his first feature film in 2013: the romantic comedy, 8 First Dates. The film was the year's No. 1 comedy, winning the Russian 'Oscar' for Best Comedy of the Year.

In 2015, David directed his second feature, the final chapter of the most successful comedy franchise in Russian cinema history, "Lyubov v bolshom gorode 3.". The film opened at No. 1 and became one of the highest-grossing comedies in Russian and Ukrainian history.

David has also edited several more Russian language films for director Marius Weisberg. Each of the films that David has made with Weisberg has opened No. 1 at the box office and remained there for weeks.

In 2008 David edited the Howard McCain feature, Outlander, distributed by The Weinstein Company, as well as directing special scenes for the movie, working with actors such as John Hurt, Ron Perlman, and Jim Caviezel.

In his award-winning career as a film editor, David Dodson has cut everything from commercials to music videos to feature films. David was nominated for an MTV VMA Award for his work on the Queens of the Stone Age video, "No One Knows.."

### MARK DODSON - WRITER/DIRECTOR

While continuing his long career at The Walt Disney Company, Mark co-wrote and co-directed The Landing, his first feature film. He recently completed his debut novel, Milagro.

\* \* \*





Official Apollo 18 Insignia



This photograph not for release  
before Sunday, May 13, 1973