



THE HETTEMA GROUP



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM

Beyond All Boundaries

*Premiering November 6, 2009 at the
Solomon Victory Theater
The National World War II Museum*

Concept, Design and Production

Beyond All Boundaries, a five-year project – from concept to design and production – was commissioned by the National WWII Museum in New Orleans and led by 30-year industry veteran Phil Hettema and The Hettema Group's creative design team.

The cinematic journey incorporates state-of-the-art special effects all specially designed by The Hettema Group for the Solomon Victory Theater. The multi-sensory experience plunges audiences into another time, another place where they will feel the steam rising from the Guadalcanal's jungles, brush snowflakes from their cheeks while trailing troops in the Battle of the Bulge, and flinch at anti-aircraft fire as they fly with bomber crews above Nazi Germany. ***How is this possible?***

Behind the Scenes: Facts at a Glance

- **Tom Hanks** is the executive producer and narrator.
- **True stories of 44 individuals are voiced by 30 well-known actors including Kevin Bacon, Patricia Clarkson, James Cromwell, Blythe Danner, Viola Davis, Jennifer Garner, John Goodman, Neil Patrick Harris, Tobey Maguire, Chris Pine, Brad Pitt and Gary Sinise, among others.**
- **Of the 44 individuals featured, six are still alive today**, four of whom are WWII veterans.
- Immersing the audience in the full cinematic experience, the Solomon Victory Theater **screen is 120-feet wide**, dwarfing large screens in most traditional theaters.
- **9 Digital Cinema DLP Projectors** (a regular theater has only one projector).
- Full surround custom audio system features **27 speakers: 11 in the front of the theater, 4 surround speakers on the side walls, 4 surround speakers on the back wall, 4 overhead speakers and 4 subwoofers.**
- **250 special effects theater seats** are equipped with full range oscillating vibration. (The seats shake, e.g., when tanks are rolling.)
- **A B-17 aircraft nose lowers** from overhead rigging above the audience **in less than 12 seconds.**

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- **A 25-foot guard tower** rises ominously before the audience from a deep pit below the stage.
- **An anti-aircraft gun** rises, rotates and appears to fire above the audience.
- **Six full-sized "Dragons Teeth" tank traps** (large steel construction used to stop or disable tanks) appear in the D-Day beach sequence.
- **Special effect snow** falls on the audience (actually, soap bubbles).
- **305 archival photographs** are shown.
- **Approximately 517 film clips** of archival footage are shown.
- **More than 6,000: Number of hours spent researching** archival footage and stills.
- **75 images of original CGI art** appear on screen.
- **Master Show Control System** – This state-of-the-art cinematic experience is fully automated and designed to play, reset and standby for the next show all **at the press of a single button.**

The Hettema Group (THG) specializes in creative design, production and architecture for the world of experiential entertainment including museums, visitor centers, theme parks, and resort developments. Under the guidance of Phil Hettema, THG's creative design team combines strong conceptual thinking with high quality design, resulting in innovative solutions ranging from architecture and master planning to interactive, immersive, and theatrical presentations. (www.thehettemagroup.com)

The National World War II Museum tells the story of the American Experience in the war that changed the world – why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America's National World War II Museum, it celebrates the American Spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who fought on the battlefield and the Home Front. For more information, call 877-813-3329 or 504-527-6012 or visit www.nationalww2museum.org. Follow on Twitter at [WWIImuseum](https://twitter.com/WWIImuseum) or visit the [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WWIImuseum) fan page.

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