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State Historical Society to Host Final Smithsonian Sunday Program on Feb. 8

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society will host a special webcast of the Smithsonian Channel program entitled “I was a Jet Set Stewardess” at 2 p.m. CST on Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The program, in the center’s education room, was produced by the Smithsonian Channel and is offered to the Historical Society through the Smithsonian Affiliations program.

In the 1960s, jetliners changed passenger travel forever. They also changed the lives of a few fortunate women. Go back to this golden age of commercial flight, when pilots looked like movie stars, passengers ate seven-course meals, and young, charming stewardesses became the glamorous faces of the industry. Through interviews and anecdotes, the evolution of the "air hostess" is detailed, how they became icons for a generation and why the jet set era opened new career horizons that many women could only dream of.

“This is a very interesting and entertaining program,” said Jay Smith, director of the Museum of the State Historical Society. “There are many film clips and interviews that will take viewers back through time. The video will be fun for everyone and some will be shocked at how much has changed in terms of culture, fashion, and the changing roles of both men and women over time.”

“I Was a Jet Set Stewardess” will be the last in the series of “Smithsonian Sundays” as the program will be undergoing some changes that will debut in April. A future announcement will detail upcoming programming partnerships with the Smithsonian.

“We want to be clear that we remain a Smithsonian Affiliate, and we look forward to many years of collaboration with our nation’s largest museum,” said Smith. “We are working on several new initiatives with our partners at the Smithsonian and believe that this is a good time to refine the Smithsonian Sunday program.”

There is no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries. “I Was a Jet Set Stewardess” was originally broadcast in 2014.

The State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013, and it is the only affiliate in South Dakota. Since 2013, the museum has hosted a “Smithsonian Sunday” program on the second Sunday of each month.

About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

About Smithsonian Affiliations

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.