**A3905 AIR AMERICA (USA, 1990)**

**Credits:** director, Roger Spotiswoode; writers, John Eskow, Richard Rush

**Cast:** Mel Gibson, Robert Downey, Jr., Ken Jenkins, Burt Kwouk.

**Summary:** Action/adventure/comedy set in Laos in 1969. Billy Covington (Downey) is a reckless radio station traffic reporter in L.A. who loses his pilot’s license but is recruited by the CIA to fly for Air America based in Vientiane, Laos. There he is teamed with Gene Ryack (Gibson), another wild man. Profits from the drug refining operations of a US puppet Laotian general pay for CIA operations.


“‘Air America’ movie doesn’t say U.S. fought for drugs in Laos” *New York times* (Sep 22, 1990), sec. 1, p. 22.


Baker, Martha. “Film work more creative than plot of ‘Air America’” *St. Louis post-dispatch* (Aug 13, 1990), p. 5D.

Bart, Peter. “‘Air America’ hits turbulence” *Variety* 340 (Sep 10, 1990), p. 1+ [2 p.]

Cieutat, Michel. “Air America” *Positif* 359 (Jan 1991), p. 44.

Clark, Mike. “Gibson puts on an amusing ‘Air’” *USA today* (Aug 10, 1990), p. 2D.


Cockburn, Andrew. [Air America] *In these times* 14/35 (Sep 19, 1990), p. 17.

Coto, Juan Carlos. “Air America doe a nose-dive” *Miami herald* (Aug 10, 1990), p. 5G.


Devine, Jeremy M. *Vietnam at 24 frames a second [GB]* (p. 324-7+)


[Reprinted in *Film review annual 1991*]


[Reprinted in *Film review annual 1991*]


Hagen, Bill. “‘Air America’ doesn’t get off the ground” *San Diego union-tribune* (Aug 10, 1990), p. C1.


Holzl, Gebhard and Peipp, Matthias. Fahr zur Holle, Charlie! [GB] (p. 147-53, 249)


Jennings, Phillip (see under Kann, Peter R.)


[Reprinted in Film review annual 1991]

Lanning, Michael Lee. Vietnam at the movies [GB] (p. 163)


Leepson, Mark. “Air America” Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 4-5) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 9)


Meisel, Myron. “Gibson, Downey take to the skies in ‘Air America’ Film journal 93 (Jul 1990), p. 6+ [2 p.]


Noel, Jacques (see under Dewasse, G.)


Pede, Ronnie. “Air America” Film en televisie + video 403 (Dec 1990), p. 29.

Peipp, Matthias (see under Holzl, Gebhard)


Rainer, Peter. “‘Air America’ stalls in finding its focus” Los Angeles times (Aug 10, 1990), Calendar, p. 8. [Reprinted in Film review annual 1991]


Ryan, James. “‘Air America’ was worth the misery, says Robert Downey, Jr.” Seattle post-intelligencer (Sep 4, 1990), p. B12.
Schickel, Richard. [Air America] Time (Sep 10, 1990), p. 82.
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1991]
Schnelle, Frank. “Air America” EPD Film 8 (Jan 1991), p. 32.
“Still untold: The real story of Air America in Indochina” [Letter] Los Angeles times (Sep 2, 1990), Calendar, p. 83.
“Taking flak: is Air America bad history?” Time 136 (Sep 10, 1990), p. 82+
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1991]
Toumarkine, Doris. “Air America” Film journal 93 (Sep 1990), p. 19.
Travers, Peter. “Air America” Rolling stone 586 (Sep 6, 1990), p. 36.
[“Air America’ flies into pilots’ flak” Insight on the news (Sep 10, 1990), p.]
Yakir, Dan. “Gibson, Downey take off as wartime CIA pilots: Spottiswoode directs ‘Air America’” San Francisco chronicle (Aug 12, 1990), Sunday datebook, p. 25.