

SHAKING THE MAPLE LEAF

FADE IN:

INT. PILOT'S READY ROOM - DAY

Nine pilots in red flight suits sit in comfortable chairs each faces MAJ. STEVENS (36) at the front of the room. They all scribble notes on clip boards.

MAJ. STEVENS

As you all know, there's going to be some pretty important people at this show. Not just the Prime Minister, but the American President, British Prime Minister and the Australian and New Zealand ones too. Let's show them the Snowbirds are some of the best pilots in the world.

All the pilots confidently nod in agreement.

MAJ. BUXTON (30'S) has a grave look on his face, beads of sweat trickles down his forehead.

MAJ. STEVENS

Okay, let's rock and roll!

Excitedly the pilots rise from their seats then exits the ready room.

Maj. Stevens catches up with Maj. Buxton.

MAJ. STEVENS

You alright?

MAJ. BUXTON

Yes... yes, I'm fine.

Maj. Buxton smiles slightly then hurries on out.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Nine red white and blue Tutor jets sits lined up in front of a hangar. Nine pilots in their red flight suits struts up to their respective aircraft.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Maj. Buxton works his way through the check list, a troubled expression on his face. He wipes his brow with the back of his hand. He pauses, takes a photo out of his pocket.

The photo is of a beautiful woman in her mid twenties. She hugs a cute young girl about four years old. Both smile wide for the camera.

FLASHBACK

On a TV screen, a black hooded man holds the four year old girl in a tight grip, a huge vicious knife is pressed against her small neck. She looks terrified, big tears roll down her cheeks.

END FLASHBACK

He stares at the photo, puts it on the instrument panel then returns to the check list.

EXT. HUGE PARK - DAY

Thousands of people enjoy themselves, listening to live music, eating and shopping from the different vendors. Canadian flags are everywhere.

On a raised stage with a podium sits the different heads of state from various countries. The security around them is extreme. Beefy men in dark suits and black sunglasses constantly scans the open park.

The Canadian anthem crackles to life through a PA system. Then the cheery voice of an announcer addresses the crowds.

ANNOUNCER (O.S)

Please join us in the celebration
of Canada Day. Keep your eyes to
the west as the Canadian Snowbirds
will entertain and awe you with
their stunning performance.

The crowd stands, turns their heads towards the left.

A distant thunder grows louder, louder, until the nine Tutors flying in a diamond formation screams above the crowd.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Maj. Buxton concentrates on his flying.

WING COMMANDER (O.S.)
 (intercom)
 Power up!...Number nine, you need
 to catch up!

EXT. SKY - DAY

All nine planes rocket straight up into the sky. Red and white smoke-trails paints the sky as the Canadian anthem blares through the P.A. System.

EXT. HUGE PARK - DAY

The crowds, including the heads of state, all stand up, face the sky.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
 And here they come again in a Big
 Arrow formation.

The planes fly by, the crowd cheers.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
 And this is called the Downward
 Burst.

The planes descend, fan out in a beautiful formation.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Maj. Buxton braces himself against the positive G-forces.

EXT. HUGE PARK - DAY

The heads of state squint as they watch the impressive aerobatics in the sky. Smiles all around.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
 Folks, get your cameras ready, The
 Canadian Snowbirds are going to
 make a slow fly-by.

People in the crowd fiddle with their cameras.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Maj. Buxton glances at the photo on the instrument panel.

WING COMMANDER (O.S.)
(intercom)
Fly by. Keep it tight team!

Maj. Buxton stares at the photo of his wife and daughter.

FLASHBACK:

On a T.V. screen, the young woman and the little girl from the photo are both crying. The woman's face is swollen shut from bruises. The young girl cries out in fear.

YOUNG GIRL
Daddy... Daddy...

The black hooded figure leans in to face the camera.

BLACK HOODED FIGURE
(Arabic accent)
When you do the fly-by... I want
you to crash into the V.I.P. stage.
Take them all out. You do this and
the woman and girl will live.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Maj. Buxton pulls his helmet off. He sweats profusely.

He stares at the photo of his wife and daughter.

WING COMMANDER (O.S.)
(intercom)
Number nine! Keep tight! I repeat!
Keep tight!

Maj. Buxton picks up the photo. Studies it. He gently kisses it.

MAJ. BUXTON
Please forgive me...

He sticks the photo back onto the instrument panel.

WING COMMANDER (O.S.)
(intercom)
Number nine! Keep tight! What are
you doing? Stay in formation!

EXT. SKY - DAY

The nine planes make a slow fly-by to the delight of the crowd.

Suddenly one of the jets banks hard to the left, turns away from the park and its crowd.

The plane pitches down steep then suddenly drives straight into the ground. The earth trembles as the crashed jet erupts into a huge fire ball.

The V.I.P.'s and the rest of the crowds watch in stunned silence.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The curtains are drawn in the dingy room.

A television set blurts out a news bulletin.

REPORTER

The terrible accident left many at the scene traumatized. The pilot Maj. Mark Buxton has been described as being very distraught in the last week. As of right now, his family has yet to be located.

On the floor in the room in a pool of blood, lies Maj. Buxton's dead wife and daughter. Their throats slit from ear to ear.

FADE OUT:

THE END