

Everybody remembers where they were on the 11th of September 2001. The world was in a state of shock. Almost three thousand people lost their lives. 9/11 will forever remain a symbol of evil. This film shows a different side of 9/11, and is about people's capacity for good.

The Unexpected Visitors — 9/11 Silver Linings tells the story of Gander, a small town in Newfoundland that became synonymous with empathy, altruism, respect and tolerance. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, American airspace was closed and 255 passenger flights were rerouted to Canada. Thousands of people "fell from the sky", landing in Gander. A town with a population of 9,500 was asked to take in 6,140 unexpected visitors. And they did, for five days, with hospitality, self-sacrifice and compassion.

They set up camp beds in schools and club-houses, and took strangers into their own homes. Housewives cooked around the clock. In the hours of fear and uncertainty,

people became good friends. Some of these friendships remain to this day. One couple even married.

Among the people we get to know are Nick and Diane Marson who met one another during their stay in Gander, fell in love, and married a year later. They still feel some guilt that they found the love of their lives thanks to one of the most fearful events of recent history.

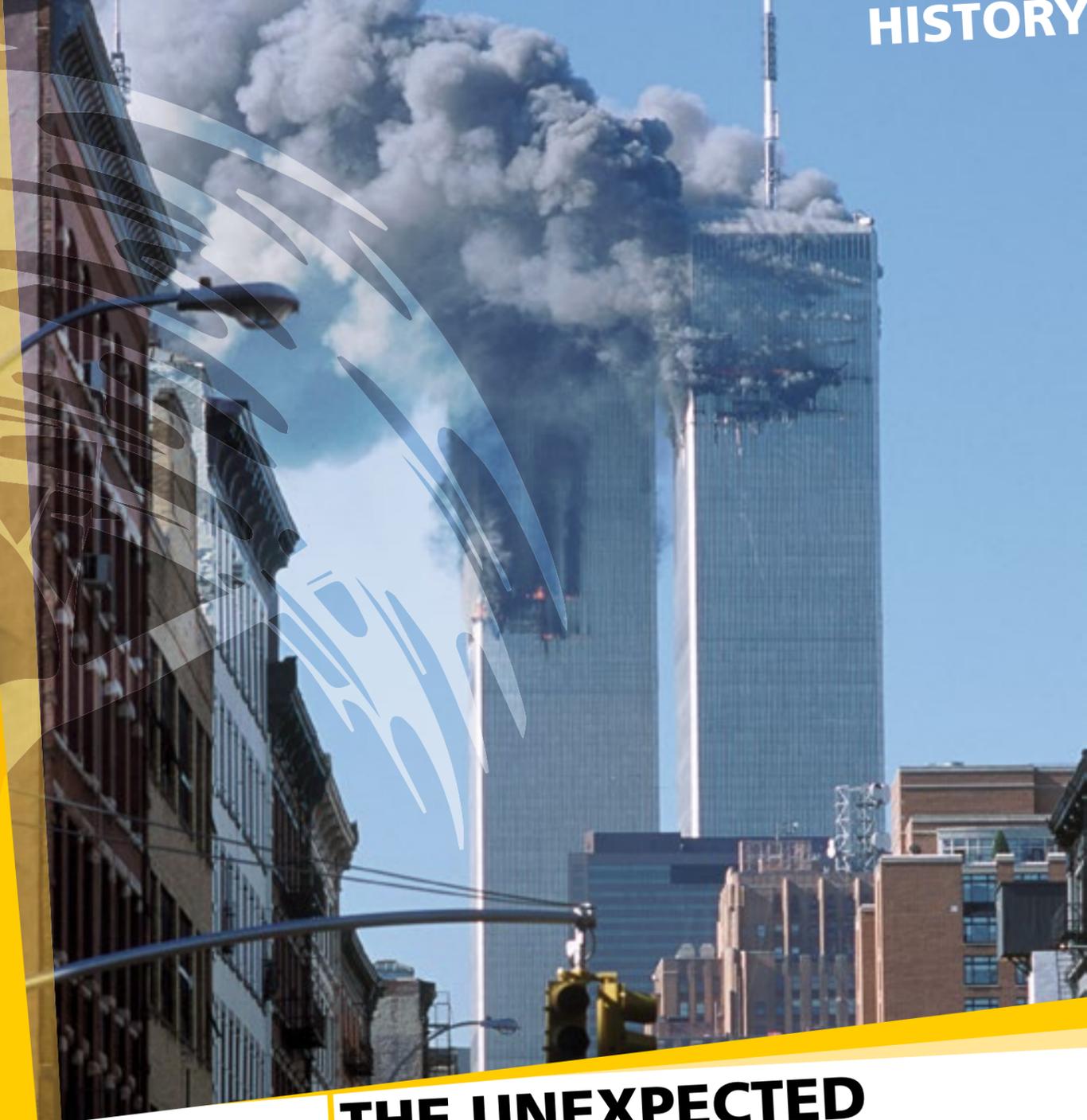
We also meet Mr and Mrs O'Rourke. Their time in Gander was spent desperately waiting for news of their beloved son Kevin, a New York firefighter. Gander resident Beulah Cooper tells the moving stories of the time the O'Rourkes spent staying with her, and how she tried to help them through their uncertainty over whether Kevin had been killed in the World Trade Center.

This film shows that the good in many humans cannot be stopped, even on a day on which some commit the "ultimate evil". This film may help to focus attention on those people who, on September 11th, were willing to make sacrifices for others and offer humanity, compassion and warmth.

A Terra Mater Factual Studios/Interspot Film Co-Production



HISTORY



THE UNEXPECTED VISITORS

9/11 SILVER LININGS

1 x 52 min. Written and directed by **Werner Boote**
HD Executive producer: **Eva Schmidt**

