

# ENOUGH ROPE

## WITH ANDREW DENTON

This is edited version of transcript

For full transcript of interview, go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/enoughrope/stories/s1109981.htm>

Monday nights, 9.30pm, ABC TV



He sings, he dances, he acts, he flies, he's sexy, he's loaded, he's cool, he's here. Ladies and gentlemen,  
**Mr John Travolta.**

CHEERING AND APPLAUSE

Andrew Denton: Welcome.

John Travolta: Thank you.

Andrew Denton: I told you.

John Travolta: Oh, yeah.

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE AND CHEERING

John Travolta: Thank you. If you can't feel good about that, you can't feel good. Thank you very much.

Andrew Denton: I don't want to get the interview off to a bad start, but could you get off? You're making me look bad.

You are a renowned flying nut.

John Travolta: Oh, yes.

Andrew Denton: You've got your own Boeing 707, a beautiful old Qantas jet.

John Travolta: I do and I love it.

Andrew Denton: Can you take us into what is the magic of flying? What's the magic?



(pictured above is John's Florida home)

- John Travolta: Oh, that's a big question. There's so much to it. When I first started to love it, I loved the design of the aircraft and I loved viewing them from the ground, because I was a four-year-old. And I always would imagine where the people were going and, you know, what the inside of the plane was like and what it would be like to fly in one, and then, finally, I had the opportunity to do it and I fell in love with the flying experience.
- Andrew Denton: Yeah.
- John Travolta: And then I associated it, interestingly enough, with show business, because my mother and my sisters were flying off to do show business type events and I would see them off at the airport, so I started to connect the two of them.
- Andrew Denton: Yeah.
- John Travolta: Because in that day, they were very connected, you know, show business and travelling. So that's kind of the initial thing, and now I get a whole other kick out of it, being a pilot.
- Andrew Denton: What is the moment? I mean, is there an orgasmic moment of forward thrust, as it were?
- John Travolta: Yes, the take-off and the landing are two orgasmic moments for me.
- Andrew Denton: Yeah.

John Travolta: And in the 707, it's even more majestic because you have four very big engines thrusting forward, elevating you into...

Andrew Denton: Oh, tell it to me, John. Tell it to me.

LAUGHTER

John Travolta: And when you land, it's probably the after...glow. As it were.

Andrew Denton: Yeah, as it were. You grew up under the flight path, and is it true you collected flight schedules as a kid?

John Travolta: I did. I still have my collection.

Andrew Denton: No?

John Travolta: Yeah, I have collections from the 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s, and as a matter of fact, that was one of the reasons I was here, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Australia and the United States — the first flight happened 50 years ago on a Lockheed Constellation, and then, you know, since then it's been a tremendous relationship of flights and connection over there.



Andrew Denton: What's the plane that really does it for you, John? If you see it, you kind of...

John Travolta: Well, there's two. I did a charity event for Qantas for the Children's Hospital and they put the 707 that I fly and the Lockheed Constellation, which was the one that happened 50 years ago, and they put them nose to nose. Well, I was having a secret experience.

LAUGHTER

Andrew Denton: You've got to be — because if you're not, no-one is — you've got to be a member of the mile-high club.

John Travolta: Yeah. I am.

Andrew Denton: Yeah.

John Travolta: And I'm proud to say I became a mile-high member with my wife, so...

APPLAUSE

Andrew Denton: Now, what's amazing about you, you also have flown ultralights. Wouldn't it be easier just to make the noise of a plane while jumping off a cliff?

John Travolta: Not quite. (Laughs)

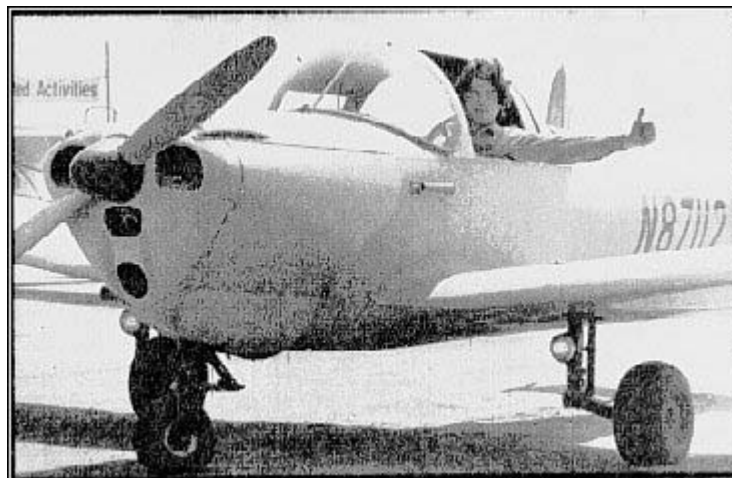
Andrew Denton: No?

John Travolta: But it is... I find the flying experience from whatever vehicle you're in is really quite marvellous, you know, so...

Andrew Denton: But even in a tiny, weeny, little, scary, about-to-crash, deathtrap plane?

John Travolta: Well, because it's a...it's a powered kite is what it is, but if you do it in the right conditions where there's no wind and you don't go too high or too far, it's quite an experience. One might think of it as flying like a bird or something and you hover over treetops and obviously it goes quite slow, and it's...it's another whole experience.

Andrew Denton: Yeah.



John bought this Ercoupe , his first plane.

John Travolta: So you go from the maximum experience, which is the jet experience, to the minimal experience, and there's joy in both, in my opinion.

Andrew Denton: And what about Jett? What's he like?

John Travolta: Jett is my...my baby, my... He's my first and he's my heart. And he's a very special boy. And he, uh...is very... He's Daddy's boy. And, uh...and we spend a lot of time together even though I'm pretty busy. He loves the outdoors and he loves to travel. He loves being on the plane. We fly in the ultralight together. And, uh...he, uh...he likes to climb trees and swim.

Andrew Denton: Do you let him fly the Boeing?

John Travolta: If he wanted to, he would. He's 12.

Andrew Denton: Wow.

John Travolta: No, he's sat on my lap and done...done the controls.

Andrew Denton: Do they sit up the back saying, "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"

John Travolta: You know what? Only in a car, not on a plane.

Andrew Denton: No, I wouldn't either.

John Travolta: They absolutely love being on the plane...

Andrew Denton: Yeah.

John Travolta: ..and don't wanna get off, usually.

Andrew Denton: Yeah, I can understand.

John Travolta: But in the car, they get bored.

Andrew Denton: Yeah.

John Travolta: Unless we're going fast.

Andrew Denton: And you wouldn't do that, would you, Mr Travolta?

John Travolta: Never.

Andrew Denton: Oh, right. What was your 50th like?

John Travolta: My 50th, it was quite spectacular. My, uh...my wife prepared it for a year. She prepped this big party unbeknownst to me. And it was in Mexico and she invited everyone in my life, including all the famous people I've ever known in the last 30 years. And I was pretty taken aback by it and dumbfounded because I didn't really know what to do with it. I felt like I had died and...that...that's what heaven was like — you just go to Mexico with a bunch of your friends and... But the highlights of the party were... Let's see, Barbra Streisand sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Other famous friends at the bash included Robin Williams, Meg Ryan, Sylvester Stallone, Dan Aykroyd, and Robin Gibb, who performed Travolta's favorite song, How Deep Is Your Love.

John Travolta: Oprah Winfrey greeted me as I arrived for the surprise moment. Tom Cruise brought out a peanut butter and chocolate aeroplane birthday cake. Um...and Carly Simon and Tony Bennett sang for me special songs.

Andrew Denton: Wow.

