

## 8 Seconds with Yoko Ono

Did you happen to see the 1998 hit movie '**Sliding Doors**' in which Academy Award winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow played the central character Helen?

If you did, you may recall the story alternates between two parallel universes that define Helen's life depending on if she takes or misses a London train as two doors are about to close.

The final scene reveals a pivotal moment for viewers to reflect upon how Helen's decision in making or missing that train impacted upon both of her lives throughout the movie.

### **QANTAS FIRST CLUB LOUNGE**

Recently, I experienced a 'sliding doors' moment upon leaving the Sydney Qantas First Club Lounge to board an eight hour international flight to Singapore.

After descending the lounge escalator, I should have turned left, however I turned right. I found myself at gate 10 in front of a customs officer checking the documents of passengers who were flying onward to Los Angeles.

Once she assessed I was at the wrong gate, she smiled and pointed in the opposite direction saying my flight was boarding in about 15 minutes.

### **John Lennon's Widow**

As I turned around and started to walk towards gate 25, I looked up to see the unmistakeable super star of pop culture, music and art, **Miss Yoko Ono**.

I had seen a television news story that Yoko was in Sydney for her art exhibition entitled '*War is Over*'. I instantly recognised her as she walked towards gate 10 to board the Air Bus 380 flight from Sydney and 14 hours across the Pacific Ocean to Los Angeles.

Growing up in California, I had seen Yoko's picture during the 1970's once she and John Lennon became front page news. The next time I heard her name mentioned was on that fateful day of 8 December 1980 when John Lennon was murdered in front of his New York City apartment.

John Lennon's death was a global news story for months and years afterwards. Yoko's face and life story with John, (whom many believe was the most famous of the four Beatles) appeared regularly in TV updates and papers of the times.

### **Relaxed and Present**

What I first noticed was her relaxed stride as she walked with a Qantas First Class Lounge Manager who towered over Yoko. Dressed in a lovely blue suit, she was wearing her trade mark hat set in a charcoal grey mixed tweed pattern and trademark dark glasses.

As Yoko and her Qantas chaperon walked towards me, I smiled from about 15 feet out as we were about to stride past each other. As if sent via sms, she glanced up from behind her glasses and winked as if to say, '**thank you for your kind smile today'**.

I looked behind me to see if anyone was there and realised that Yoko's wink was for me. It all happened in about eight seconds yet a personal experience to relish for a lifetime.

If I had made a left turn at the bottom of the escalator and walked to gate 25 instead of gate 10, I would have missed Yoko and this story would never have been written.

### **When was the last time you made a wrong turn, yet it was the right one for the path and journey you were suppose to be on?**

**Rob Salisbury** B. Com., CSP, keynote speaker, sales trainer, facilitator and MC hired nearly 2100 times by global firms, Universities and Associations.  
Call him at **SRI Singapore +65 9017 1825** or **SRI Australia +61 412 414 835**.  
His free e-books can be downloaded from [www.strategicresources.com.au](http://www.strategicresources.com.au)

