

## **MONTY HALLS**

### **Profile**

### **Speaker, Ocean Adventurer, Writer, Film-maker & TV**

### **Presenter**

Motivational speaker Monty Halls is an adventurer in the finest traditions of British exploration. A former Royal Marines Officer and trained marine biologist, Monty has led teams through some of the most demanding environments on land and at sea. His adventures include discovering pre-historic settlements amid great white sharks, avoiding the bullets of poachers, and photographing a dangerous and rare crocodile underwater for the first time. An entertaining and dynamic force on the podium, Monty is able to address topics such as effective leadership, teamwork, risk, staying motivated, teams under stress, embracing change, and how to maintain the aim in a changing environment. Immensely versatile, Monty offers tailored talks for conference keynotes, award ceremonies, board meetings, motivational sales events, product launches and company away days. Monty enjoys the role of host or MC, and delivers hilarious after dinner speeches. Excellent photographs and film footage support all of Monty's talks.

Monty excels at entertaining his audience and delivers powerful business messages. He has an engaging personality and it is no surprise that the man who has been called 'the new Cousteau' and 'a cross between Indiana Jones and a male model' is increasingly in demand for TV presenting work.

Recent TV projects include 'Perfect Weapon' (National Geographic, 2008), 'All about Dung' (History Channel, 2008) and two acclaimed series called 'Great Ocean Adventure' (Channel 5, 2005-7). 'Great Ocean Adventures' revealed beautiful and often rare footage of marine life and yet was filmed on a very tight budget. Memorable moments include Monty diving among a frightening number of Giant Humboldt Squid – not one of his most relaxing assignments. Monty's most recent TV series is 'Monty Halls' Great Escape' on BBC2 (2009)

and this charts his experiences living in a remote, beautiful area on the West Coast of Scotland observing wildlife, renovating a cattle-shed to make a basic home and participating in the local community. A book called 'Beachcomber Cottage' written by Monty accompanies the series (BBC Books). Monty's style as a TV presenter exudes his enthusiasm, energy, passion and sense of fun - qualities and talents he brings to every speaking engagement.

No stranger to TV, Monty won a televised competition to find the ultimate high performer in Britain (*Superhuman*, Channel 4, 2004). Ten high achievers including athletes, entrepreneurs, models, and astronauts were selected from 2000 applicants and then given a series of extreme tests devised by experts in human performance. After twelve tests that pushed the participants to their mental and physical limits, Monty was declared the winner. Since then, Monty's TV work has included presenting a TV programme about Jules Verne's epic fantasy *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (C4, 2004) that cleverly popularized geology as well Verne's classic science fiction novel. The programme is a combination of swashbuckling science and raw adventure and aired to rave reviews. More recently, Monty co-hosted ITV's London Boat Show (2007). Monty has also published several books including *Dive: The Ultimate Guide* (2004) and presented a DVD *Totally Wrecked* about a dive expedition to explore the best wrecks in the world.

Monty Halls first made the news in early 2002 when he led a multi-national team of adventurers and scientists on an expedition to South East India to discover the ruins of a lost civilization beneath the sea. This established Monty as a new star of British exploration. In South Africa, Monty he led an international project seeking out sites of pre-historic settlements beneath the wild seas off the Cape of Good Hope. The team braved giant swells, cold waters and a significant shark threat to find several great caverns that are likely to hold some of the secrets of the origins of mankind.

Monty was the first to get an underwater picture of a rare crocodile species in the jungle pools of the mysterious Maya Mountains in Belize. In late 2001 he led a pioneering project 270 kilometers in sea kayaks up the inland shore of

one of Africa's great rift lakes, photographing new underwater species and contacting remote villages and indigenous peoples en-route. He has also led successful projects in Indonesia, Honduras and the Philippines. Monty has completed three circumnavigations of the earth seeking out the greatest encounters in the oceans. He has also led an expedition to the ten greatest shipwrecks in diving and memorable experiences included swimming with wild killer whales off New Zealand, and exploring an ancient Maori cave system. In 2003 Monty Halls was awarded the 'Bish Medal' by the Scientific Exploration Society for his services to exploration. Monty is passionate about conservation particularly of the world's reefs and shark population. He is patron of several international charities.

What is unusual about many of Monty's expeditions is that he often has to turn inexperienced individuals into effective teams that will cope with projects in extraordinary environments. Taking disparate groups, identifying a clear aim, and then creating the momentum and techniques to overcome any obstacle to achieve results – this a challenge Monty Halls has undertaken with characteristic gusto during a decade of projects. People tend to react to the team environment in certain ways, regardless of the setting or circumstances, and Monty believes that understanding these group dynamics are key to effective leadership. His teams operate in some of the most rapidly changing environments on earth, and yet must learn to flex, evolve and adapt to their surroundings.

Monty's presentations investigate:

- Group dynamics under pressure.
- Maintaining the aim in a changing environment.
- Dealing with risk and change
- Effective communication, leadership and team-building
- Getting it wonderfully right, and hideously wrong
- Leadership for tough times

His style is exceptionally dynamic, light-hearted, frequently hilarious, and open to investigation and questioning from the floor.