

MONTY HALLS

Profile

Speaker, Ocean Adventurer, Writer & TV Presenter

Motivational speaker **Monty Halls** is an adventurer, a former Royal Marines Officer, a professional diver and a trained marine biologist. Monty has led teams through some of the most demanding environments. His adventures include discovering pre-historic settlements amid great white sharks, avoiding the bullets of poachers, and photographing a dangerous, rare crocodile underwater for the first time. A popular TV presenter, his two series of 'Monty Halls' Great Escape' for the BBC have won him new fans.

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, co-operation 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 popular, hilarious after dinner speeches. Excellent photographs and film footage support all talks.

Monty excels at entertaining his audience and delivers powerful business messages. He has an engaging personality and has variously been called 'the shark whisperer', 'the new Cousteau' and 'a cross between Indiana Jones and a male model'.

'Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape' begins in April 2010 on BBC2. This follows Monty's experiences living in the Outer Hebrides for six months working as a volunteer wildlife ranger. Living in a restored crofter's cottage on the island of North Uist, Monty and his dog Reuben (the real star of the show!) explore the natural beauty of the area. Other TV credits include 'Monty Halls' Great Escape' (BBC2, 2009); '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. Earlier TV work includes 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' (C4, 2004) and appearing in Channel 4's 'Superhuman' where Monty won a competition to find the ultimate high performer in Britain. (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.)

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 and every expedition that he has lead.

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 undertakes with characteristic gusto. 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 typically investigate:

- Leadership for tough times
- Group dynamics under pressure
- Co-operation within teams and staying motivated
- 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

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

Monty has published several books including *Dive: The Ultimate Guide* and *Great Ocean Adventures* as well as a book about Beachcomber cottage and his life-changing adventure living on the West Coast of Scotland for the first *Great Escape* series.

Monty Halls first made the news in 2002 when he led a multi-national team of adventurers and scientists to SE 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. In Belize, Monty and his team were the first to get an underwater picture of a rare crocodile species in the jungle pools of the Maya Mountains. In late 2001 he led a pioneering expedition 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 including Help for Heroes, The Shark Trust, The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and he is Honorary Ambassador to the Galapagos Conservation Trust.

Monty's passions are writing, filming and photographing the underwater world, lecturing on team dynamics and leadership, and – despite overwhelming evidence that the best days are behind him – playing rugby - where he displays the acceleration of a sedate heifer and the turning circle of a cross-channel ferry.