

The Ship Press Pack

CONTENTS

Press release

Did you know ?

Quotes from the crew

Website details

Cook and the Southern continent - a history timeline

Participants' details

Book & CD details

Production biographies

South Sea Adventure in the Wake of Captain Cook

Captain Cook's epic voyage of discovery in Australia and the south seas was the 18th century equivalent of flying to the moon. More than 230 years later, a ground-breaking BBC TWO documentary series, ***The Ship***, throws new light on historical and scientific aspects of Cook's original voyage by undertaking a distinctly 21st century adventure.

Forty one volunteers join 15 working crew on the *Endeavour* - a perfect replica of Cook's original ship - where they get to grips with the rigours of life on an 18th century tall-ship. Award-winning documentary film-maker, Chris Terrill is on board as part of the crew to capture the insights and human dramas during the six week long voyage. Also on board are British and Australian historians together with scientific specialists including a botanist, botanical artist and astronomer, who put their book-learning to the acid test.

Cook's voyages had a major impact on the native peoples of Australia and new Zealand. Their side of the story unfolds on board the *Endeavour* through the Aborigine and Maori crew members and their exchanges with native people on land and sea.

"***The Ship*** is a fresh new concept in the history documentary genre which I believe will make compelling viewing, not only for those already fascinated by history, but also those new to the genre," says ***The Ship***'s BAFTA award-winning executive producer, Laurence Rees. "This is not a case of trying to replicate the past. It is about how the past can illuminate the present and vice versa. Both the specialists and the volunteer recruits on board learn something new about themselves and about our century, but they also learn about the psychology and the sheer physical hardships of life for the 18th century sailor."

The Ship interweaves drama reconstruction of key moments in Captain Cook's original voyage with the 21st century adventure, exploring the similarities, but also the wide gulf between the past and present.

"We were not trying to be 18th century sailors", says ***The Ship***'s director and cameraman Chris Terrill - "we are who we are - but we were trying to discover what it was like for those incredible seafarers as they sailed into the unknown. These were six extraordinary weeks of personal and historical discovery. I always thought of Cook standing next to me. We were divided by time, but united by geography."

The Ship airs on BBC TWO from Tuesday, August 20. It is accompanied by a BBC book, *The Ship: Retracing Cook's Endeavour Voyage*, and www.bbc.co.uk/history takes the experience forward with a package of articles, features, on-line chats and 3-D models.

The Ship is a BBC production for BBC TWO in association with the History Channel. The consultant academic for the series is Professor Glyn Williams.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Cook did not discover Australia. Much of it had already been mapped by the Dutch and named New Holland. He did discover and chart the eastern seaboard of the Australian continent, and was also the first European to chart the Society Islands and New Zealand.
- The *Endeavour* - official title HM Bark *Endeavour* - started life as a merchant coal ship from Whitby called the *Earl of Pembroke*. Its rig contained 18 miles of ropes.
- Cook took nearly 100 crew aboard the *Endeavour* - he anticipated that he might lose as much as a third of them during the voyage due to disease, injury and the sea itself. Unbelievably, most sailors couldn't swim.
- The average career span of a long voyaging sailor was just 10 years. However, his diet provided him with a massive 5,000 calories a day.
- The *Endeavour's* provisions included 34,666 pounds of bread, 1,200 gallons of beer, 1,500 pounds of sugar and 6,000 pieces of pork.
- Seats of ease were wooden toilet seats which hung over the edge of the ship's bow. Answering the call of nature in rough seas was a hazardous task.
- Royal Navy hammocks of the time were a mere 14 inches apart.
- Precautions against scurvy on the *Endeavour* included sauerkraut, dried tablets of portable soup, malt and a rob [extract] of lemons and oranges. Although Cook put into practice progressive dietary measures, he did not find the cause nor the cure for scurvy. This was the achievement of James Lind in 1750s although his work was not recognised for decades: limes were finally introduced officially on Royal Navy ships in 1794.
- Joseph Banks, an influential botanist on board the *Endeavour*, discovered a staggering 1,400 new species during the voyage. He was accompanied by a greyhound and his faithful spaniel, Lady, who died just a week before the three-year voyage was completed.
- There were no less than 41 deaths on the *Endeavour* voyage. However the vast majority of them were not due to accidents or illnesses associated with the sea but from malaria and dysentery caught at Batavia (present day Jakarta) - the ship's final landfall in the South Seas before returning to England.
- Botanical artist Sydney Parkinson famously finished 94 botanical drawings in 14 days during the *Endeavour* voyage but died on the return voyage.
- Cook, Banks and Parkinson recorded Aboriginal languages and long, detailed accounts of indigenous cultures in their journals. Some of these documents are used in Australian Courts today to help settle land ownership disputes.
- On his return to England, it was the botanist Banks, not Cook, who became a major celebrity and the toast of metropolitan society. However, after Cook's second voyage, the explorer was celebrated in his own right and after his untimely death, mugs, wallpaper and countless works of art carried his portrait - an early example of merchandising.

- Astrological coincidence may have been Cook's downfall. His visit to Hawaii in 1779 coincided with a major religious festival, during which the locals recognised him as their god Lono. Tragically for Cook, the illusion faded when his ship had to make a hasty return to the island for urgent repairs. He was murdered on the beach following a heated argument.

THE 21ST CENTURY ADVENTURE - CREW MEMBERS TALK

Iain McCalman - Professor of History, National University of Australia, Canberra

“We mostly live in our imagination, we mostly live through texts. . .We don't know what it's like to have to get up aloft and furl a sail or ungasket a sail. It's an impossible fantasy for most people to go back, physically back in time into the vehicle of the very period that they're studying and that's what we're going to be doing on this voyage. It's a fantasy come true.”

Jonathan Lamb – Professor of Humanities, Vanderbilt University

“The project was invaluable: in my work I had sentimentalised life on board an 18th sailing ship – billowing sails, exotic shores, deep blue seas. I had even sentimentalised the food, the work on watches, washing on deck... However, in reality, I soon found out that you cannot sentimentalise salt pork with bristles still in it, or cracking your head against a beam every time I got up for night watch, and nothing to wash in but the water that came up in a canvas bucket hauled over the side. But the harsher sides of life at sea made the landfalls exquisite. This taught me why so many ‘paradises’ have been discovered by navigators in the eighteenth century. This was a rare insight into my very own area of research and I could only have learnt it by going on the voyage.”

Claire Edwards – Doctor

“All the women on the ship are gutsy women... There's no job that is closed to a woman anymore; the sky's our limit. I don't see any reason why we can't do this.’

Caroline MacDermott – Ship's cook

“People have had quite a huge culture shock in eating the eighteenth century diet. I think a lot of people are missing their junk food, their Coca-Colas, and things with heaps of sugar in it. The eighteenth century diet is not what people today would choose to eat, but in fact in some ways they are getting a far healthier diet.”

Thomas Hoblyn - Botanist & Kew Graduate

“There's still a large proportion of plant species undiscovered by the Western World. As we all know these forests are being destroyed and plants, which could be beneficial to Man, could be lost forever. Whereas, the Aborigines - they use them and they know them all.”

John Gilbert - Navigator from the Royal Institute of Navigation

“I do admire the people who ventured forth into completely unknown oceans, where they knew nothing about where anything was, without the sort of basic tools that we take for granted - accurate time, accurate position finding equipment, experts at most ports to help you. They had to do everything themselves. There are three of us and together we are just about sort of starting to cope with it after a week.”

Rico - Aborigine crew member

“Captain Cook isn’t our hero. We all had our laws, our customs, our traditions. Our society was running fine before Captain Cook and Australia was colonised.”

Mickey Goble - Royal Navy Radar Operator

“I thought before I got on board this was going to be a lot of hard work and it’s even more than I thought it was going to be. A lot of these people have never lived with discipline or always been told what to do. Being in the Navy has given me a certain insight into people in general - I’m not an anthropologist, I’m not university educated, I’ve just been around a bit.”

Andrew Lambert, Professor of Naval History, King’s College London

“I learnt more about a square-rigged ship than any book could offer. More than this, the voyage was a priceless opportunity because it taught me the importance of the teamwork, small group loyalties and comradeship on Cook’s ship – when we worked aloft, we relied on each other.”

John Jeffrey, Navigator from the Royal Institute of Navigation

“Cook’s first voyage has a lot more to be admired about, and was a lot more difficult and bolder, than the Apollo programme to put men on the moon. The astronauts were in continual contact with Houston, they went where reconnaissance had already been carried out, everyone knew what to expect on the moon with reason. However, once Cook left Plymouth, he was on his own. He came out here absolutely ‘blind’, yet managed to keep a crew, a ship, a scientific research programme and an exploration programme all humming, all working for three years. What a star !”

Hear more insights from the crew via Digital Satellite and the BBCi history website...

www.bbc.co.uk/history

Discover more about the life and voyages of Captain Cook as well as the 21st century crew with the BBCi History website.

Visitors to the site can tour a 3-d model of Cook’s most famous ship, HMS *Endeavour* and play the interactive ‘navigation’ game. They can also track the course of advances made throughout history, from the early Chinese compass to Harrison’s chronometers.

Leading authorities investigate the key themes of 18th century exploration in feature articles that answer the key questions. 'Discovery' is interpreted in a post-colonial context - the impact upon Maori society is examined as well as the effect which Cook's expertise in charting 'new' territories had on a European view of the world.

In an expanded 'Exploration' section of the website, not only are the famous explorers - Magellan, Columbus, Da Gama - accounted for, but new stories are told of Polynesian explorers and there's a new take on the first European to set foot on North American soil.

On Digital Satellite, there's an interactive video interview with those who took part in the 21st century adventure which will air after programme four.

COOK & THE PACIFIC – A TIMELINE

1567 to 1606 - The Spanish undertake three voyages across the Pacific specifically to find the Great Southern Continent (*Terra Australis Incognita*) a hypothesised landmass believed to exist by geographers since the 2nd century AD. They discover some of the many Pacific islands.

1606 to 1623 - The Dutch become the first Europeans to discover and map the parts of the western and southern coasts of present-day Australia, eventually naming their discovery New Holland.

1642-3 and 1644 - The Dutchman, Abel Tasman, makes two voyages in the region of New Holland. In the first he discovers present-day Tasmania as well as part of the east coast of present-day New Zealand, which he sights from his ship but does not land at. In his second voyage he navigates the northern coast of New Holland.

1688 and 1699 - The buccaneer William Dampier becomes the first Englishman to reach New Holland, touching at its north and west coasts in the course of his voyages around the world.

1728 - James Cook, the son of a farm labourer, is born on the 27th October in Marton-on-Cleveland in Yorkshire.

1755 - Cook joins the Royal Navy after a successful apprenticeship in Whitby on the merchant ships of John Walker.

1758 to 1762 - Cook serves in Canada during the Seven Years War between Britain and France. Later (1763-67) Cook becomes a hydrographic surveyor for the Royal Navy and charts much of the Newfoundland coastline.

1764 to 1766 - Commodore John Byron leads a Royal Navy expedition to the Pacific in order to forestall discoveries there by Britain's chief European rival, France. During his passage across the Pacific, the Great Southern Continent is thought to be sighted.

1766 to 1768 - Captain Samuel Wallis is instructed by the Admiralty to head a naval expedition to find the Great Southern Continent. He becomes the first European to reach Tahiti. In 1768 the low-ranked Cook receives his commission as lieutenant and is appointed to command *Endeavour*. He and his crew set off to Tahiti participate in an international scientific project: the observation of an eclipse of the sun by the planet Venus. However, the secret instructions from the Admiralty, which Cook carries with him, require that he thereafter searches for the Great Southern Continent.

April to July 1769 - After re-provisioning stops at Madeira, Rio de Janeiro and Tierra del Fuego, the *Endeavour* reaches Tahiti. A fort is set up ashore and the observation of

the eclipse carried out on June 3rd. Afterwards Cook charts the island. From July to August, Cook charts and names the island group neighbouring Tahiti, the Society Islands.

Aug to Sept 1769 - Cook heads due south in search of the Great Southern Continent. Finding nothing, he changes course due west in search of present-day New Zealand. A small part of its west coast had been sighted by Tasman over a hundred years before. On discovering its eastern coast, many on board believe that they have found the Great Southern Continent.

Oct 1769 to March 1770 - In just six months Cook charts the whole of New Zealand, revealing for the first time to Europeans the country as we recognise it today. He shows that it is not the Great Southern Continent, but two large islands.

April to June 1770 - Although he has now completed his instructions from the Admiralty, Cook makes an ambitious decision. He resolves to return home via the east coast of New Holland, a coastline which has never before been discovered or charted by any European.

June to Aug 1770 - Cook discovers the Great Barrier Reef when the *Endeavour* runs aground on it. By extraordinary chance and seamanship, Cook succeeds in hauling the ship off the reef and finding a nearby estuary in which to repair the ship. After a seven week stay, Cook leaves the estuary naming it Endeavour River.

Aug 1770 - Cook completes his chart of the east coast of New Holland and lays claim to it on behalf of King George III, naming it New South Wales. He proves beyond doubt that there is indeed a strait between New Guinea and New Holland.

July 1771 - After re-provisioning stops at Savu, Batavia (present-day Jakarta), the Cape of Good Hope and St Helena, the *Endeavour* reaches England again on the 12th. Between Batavia and England thirty-one of the ship's company die from malaria and dysentery, brought on board while the crew waited for the ship to be repaired at Batavia.

1772 to 1775 - Cook heads a second voyage to the Pacific in the *Resolution* accompanied by a second ship the *Adventure*. During his explorations of the South Pacific he disproves once and for all the existence of the Great Southern Continent by reaching the icebergs of the Antarctic.

1776 to 1780 - Cook heads a third voyage to the Pacific in order to disprove the existence of a viable Northwest Passage linking the North Pacific with the North Atlantic. During the course of the exploration Cook becomes the first European to discover Hawaii in 1778.

1779

In the course of the voyage Cook becomes increasingly irrational. On the ship's return to

Hawaii in 1779, Cook's aggressive behaviour and the association of Cook with the Hawaiian god Lono lead to his death in a violent encounter with the Hawaiians on 14 February 1779.

Specialist Voluntary Crew Members

Alex, PHD History student	(British)
Andrew, Naval Historian	(British)
Claire, Doctor	(British)
David, Navigator	(British)
Iain, Historian	(Australian)
Jennifer, Royal Navy	(British)
John G, Navigator	(British)
John J, Navigator	(British)
Jonathan, Historian	(British)
Lucy, Botanical Artist	(Australian)
Merata, Anthropologist	(New Zealander)
Mickey, Royal Navy	(British)
Phil, Royal Navy	(British)
Susanna, Royal Navy	(British)
Tom, Botanist	(British)
Vanessa, Historian	(Australian)

Non-specialist Voluntary Crew Members

Alan	(American)
Andrew	(British)
Bob	(Australian)
Bruce	(Australian)
Curtis	(New Zealander)
Cyril	(American)
Fred	(American)
Ivan	(British)
Jane	(British)
Jason	(British)
Jennifer	(British)
Jerry	(American)
John	(British)
Kathleen	(American)
Mario	(New Zealander)
Melissa	(American)
Rico	(Australian)
Sam	(British)
Shane	(New Zealander)
Sharon	(British)

Plus six BBC production crew.

TAKING IT FURTHER – THE BOOK AND THE CD

THE SHIP: RETRACING COOK'S ENDEAVOUR VOYAGE

Published: 22 August, 2002
(hardback)

ISBN: 056353463X

Price: £18.99

A BBC book accompanies the series which brings to life Captain's Cook's famous voyage of exploration to the South Pacific aboard the square-rigged ship *Endeavour*. This book tells the story of Cook's journey through the experiences of the modern crew. Simon Baker, author and crew member, begins by taking a fresh look at Cook and the origins of the *Endeavour* voyage - how it turned from a scientific expedition to observe an eclipse into a far-reaching quest for the mythical Great Southern Continent. Drawing on original journals he re-examines Cook's motives and reputation, revealing a more complex character than the hero handed down to us by history.

The replica *Endeavour* and the places the crew visited provided a unique opportunity to examine themes that characterised Cook's voyage - science, imperialism, navigation and the experience of shipboard life. The BBC commissioned diaries from the historians and experts on board who tested the achievements of Cook and his men in these fields. Their journals bring new insights into Cook's circumnavigation, a voyage that epitomised the ideals of the Age of Enlightenment.

Featuring original drawings, maps and artworks plus spectacular new photographs, *The Ship* provides a fascinating historical account of Cook's first voyage and sheds new light on its significance through the present-day experience of life aboard the replica *Endeavour*.

The Ship: Retracing Cook's Endeavour Voyage is available from all good book shops, the BBC Shop (www.bbcshop.com) or the BBC Listener Enquiry Line on 0208 433 2236.

THE SHIP: MUSIC FROM THE BBC TELEVISION SERIES

Music - John Harle

Andy Sheppard - Saxophone
Sarah-Jane Morris - Vocals

Released: 19, August 2002 Cat no: WMSF6058-2 Label: BBC Music

BBC Music is delighted to present on CD the music from ***The Ship***. The music to this cutting edge historical adventure comes from award winning composer John Harle,

celebrated not least for his atmospheric score for Simon Schama's BBC TV series *A History Of Britain*.

This is his most rhythmic and danceable album so far, featuring a galaxy of stars from iconoclastic backgrounds as varied as world music, British trip-hop, modern jazz and classical music - from the gut-wrenching sound of the Maori *Haka*, Sarah-Jane Morris' vocalisations and Sheppard's outrageous tenor saxophone solos to Adrian Utley's evocative guitar work and Guy Barker's cool jazz flugel horn. John Harle's compositions, guided by his own contributions on soprano sax, guitars and keyboards, evoke a new world of trance-like, tribal, beat and rhythm.

The springboard for this remarkable album and soundtrack was Chris Terrill (BBC Director and Producer), who during the filming of the voyage between Australia and Indonesia collected vocal and percussion samples, which John has skilfully woven into the tapestry of this album, resulting in a mind-bending musical journey through the great lands of the Southern Hemisphere.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Chris Terrill is director and producer of *The Ship* as well as the cameraman. Chris has a degree in Geography and Anthropology from Durham University and between 1973-78 worked in Africa as an anthropologist researching into the effects of war and famine on tribal societies. He lived with the Acholi Tribe of Southern Sudan for one year. He returned to the UK to teach, before joining the BBC World Service producing documentaries, current affairs and drama about Africa for Africa.

Since joining BBC Television in 1989, Chris has made over 70 major documentaries all over the world including the popular *The Cruise* series as well as the acclaimed *Jailbirds*. He also has a great fascination with high adventure and the way people set themselves extraordinary physical and psychological challenges.

His awards include an EMMY in 1993 for outstanding investigative journalism for *Ape Trade* - a film about international smuggling of orang-utans; a Broadcast award for best in house producer in 1997 for *HMS Brilliant* - a series about life on a Royal Navy warship during the Yugoslavian war; in 1997 a Royal Television Society Award for innovation for his 12-part *Soho Stories*; and in 2000 – an Emma Award (Ethnic and Minorities Media Award) for best documentary for *Tito's Story* – about an autistic Indian boy with the unusual gift of writing beautiful poetry.

Chris has written numerous articles for newspapers and magazines around the world and a best selling book - *HMS Brilliant, In a Ship's Company*.

Simon Baker is the author of the BBC book *The Ship: Retracing Cook's Endeavour Voyage*, as well as associate producer for the series. Simon has a degree in Classics from Oxford University and an MSc from the LSE. Before joining BBC's History Unit in November 1999, he worked as a researcher on Channel 4's series *Playing the China Card* about Chinese and American relations under the Nixon and Bush administrations, and on the long-standing studio series, *Hypotheticals*. He has since worked on developing new programme ideas such as *The Ship* and on *Timewatch*, BBC 2's flagship history series. His programme credits as assistant producer include *Timewatch: A Very British Mutiny*, *Timewatch: Myths of Nelson's Navy* and *The Victorian Way of Death - from Body-snatching to Burning*.

Laurence Rees is executive producer of *The Ship* and Creative Director, BBC History. In 1994, he launched *Reputations*, the BBC's historical biographical strand, and is currently editor of *Timewatch*, for which he has won three Emmy Awards. Laurence has a raft of acclaimed history productions to his name, including the six part series for BBC Two, *The Nazis - A Warning From History*, which won him a BAFTA award in 1998. In a lighter vein, he produced *Clive James' Postcards* (Rio and Paris) and was executive producer for the award winning series *The Crusades* with Terry Jones.

Laurence has authored several books including; a novel, *Electric Beach* (Weidenfeld and Nicholson), *Selling Politics* (BBC Books) and BBC companion books for his series *The Nazis - A Warning From History* and *War Of The Century*.