

PRESS RELEASE: Andrea Doria Survivor and Author Nets Rewards While Commemorating the 54th Anniversary of the Shipwreck

Author and shipwreck survivor Pierette Domenica Simpson has won national recognition from the Hollywood Book Festival for the audio version of her acclaimed book *Alive on the Andrea Doria*.

The U.S. version of the hardcover book, which was published in 2006 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the *Andrea Doria* sea collision, exonerated the ship's Captain and brought closure to an international scandal that began when the Swedish motorship *Stockholm* harpooned and sunk the Italian oceanliner on July 25, 1956, one day before its scheduled arrival in New York. The audio CD version now celebrated by the Hollywood Book Festival features Simpson as the main reader, along with five other survivors, including legendary songwriter Mike Stoller, known for such hits as "Hound Dog", "Jailhouse Rock" and "Stand By Me" and his Broadway musical "Smokey Joe's Café."

This recognition could be the start of something big in Hollywood for Simpson, as the goal of the festival is to spotlight literature worthy of further consideration in the entertainment industry. (A complete list of winners is found at: <http://www.hollywoodbookfestival.com/winners2010.htm>.) This comes as great news to the author, who is currently pursuing feature film projects for the story now that the movie rights to her book have been relinquished by Italian producer Ciro Ippolito whose funding for the project fell through in 2009.

Simpson continues to gain recognition for her work as the voice of her fellow *Andrea Doria* survivors. She has been invited to present along with director James Cameron at the 2012 Titanic Symposium in Washington, D.C. She will present from the technical report "The Loss of the Andrea Doria", which she co-wrote with William Garzke, national chairman of the marine forensic panel for SNAME. (The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers) This is the first ever collaboration between a shipwreck survivor and a naval architect to publish a conclusive scientific study on a shipwreck and is being featured in the *Journal of Ship Production*.

On the symposium, Simpson says, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to speak from the same podium as James Cameron and Dr. Robert Ballard, both renowned ocean explorers. And being able to play my familiar role of educator when I coordinate the symposium's educational day for 500 DC area students will allow me to share my enthusiasm for marine safety and survival to middle and high school students."

Simpson intends to keep the momentum going on the heels of her Hollywood Festival accolades and symposium invitation. To celebrate the 54th anniversary of the shipwreck, she will launch her newsletter, "SOS: Survival on Our Seas". The newsletter is one of the vehicles she'll use to reunite all survivors of the sea tragedy. She has also been invited to submit a story to the *Thank God I* book series. Specifically, her story will appear in a book called *Thank God I'm an Empowered Woman*.

For additional information on Ms. Simpson's upcoming appearances or projects, contact Jenn Oddo or visit www.pierettesimpson.com.

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