

Sweet Chariot's Voyage around the World 'A love triangle between a man, a woman and a boat'

By Jill Henry

A great crowd turned up to hear our presentation on 27 June, and we thank you for coming. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, including the presenters - my husband David and I. We spoke for an hour and thankfully no one nodded off.

Johnny Depp made an appearance which helped the reviews, particularly with the esteemed Tumbi Umbi Times: 'If this is the start of a new series, it is a step in the right direction. If it indeed acts as a series finale, then the franchise can exit stage left with honour.'



With the wisdom of youth and the energy of old age we set off around the world... or should that be the other way round? A four minute animation film showed Sweet Chariot's path zipping around the world. Margaret and David gave it four out of five. Deserving of five, they said, if we hadn't lost internet reception roughly where we lost our rudder.

Summary:

The three major Canals, Suez, Corinth and Panama, are each charged with a magic of its own. These wonderfully engineered waterways not only get you from Sea A to Sea B but mark the poignant end of one adventure and the exciting beginning of another.

Pirates off Yemen: three boats surrounded us, five guys in each. They could have taken our whole kit and caboodle but the cavalry appeared over the horizon in the form of British Warship A109 whose mere presence gently suggested to the potential pirates to toddle off to Somalia.

Sea tactics: We slewed our way 2100 miles to The Marquesas without a rudder with drogue and sails set.

Highlights along the way: We took 50,000 photos and enjoyed so many marvellous moments that couldn't be captured on camera. To everyone's relief we mentioned only a few: the sensational

Temple of Jupiter in Hezbollah territory in Lebanon; the Israeli warships which can creep up on you at night without warning, having blocked all radar; Ostia Antica, the port of ancient Rome just up the Tiber from Nautilus Boatyard where we twice wintered Sweet Chariot; anchoring in Anzac Cove...



We finished off our talk with a romantic photo to the strains of Dolly and Kenny:

♪♪♪ Sail away with me
To another world
And we rely on each other, ah ha
From one 'boat' to another, ah ha ♪♪

Happy sailing!
Jill & David Henry