

Toni Houston

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TESTIMONIALS

Toni, doing my life story with you was a really cathartic experience and it led me into areas of my life that were both happy and sad, but overall, it was a journey that needed to be done and, now that it is done, has left me with a much clearer and succinct idea of who I am, and why.

Also, it made me feel even more grateful to the people in my life who nurtured and directed me in those early days, and made great sacrifices to achieve that end. In later life one learns a great deal about ones beginnings if you do the research.

Having said all that, I must clearly state that none of this would have come to a successful conclusion without a truly feeling and sympathetic (I mean that in the French "Sympathetique" meaning) person on the other side of the table & camera. This is what makes one feel confident to dig deep into the emotions and expose them without fear, or embarrassment. This is your natural asset and combining it with your wonderful camera and electronic skills makes for the perfect partnership to achieve success.

Antony Bigg-Wither
Project Life Story client Sept 2013

The film you made for me is beautiful. Thank you very much. When I first watched it I had to fight back the tears of gratitude and amazement, and feel that the way you handled the material and constructed my life story is genius.

I believe my film was particularly challenging, as I was speaking about many esoteric things that didn't have literal representation. Despite that, you somehow captured the abstract and emotional sides of me, and found excellent ways to illustrate what I was talking about; artwork, photography, home video, music and sound effects, and your own filming.

In short, you interpreted and edited what I was talking about with such a sense of intuition that I thought you were me.

Jan Henry
Project Life Story client March 2014

Compassionate, empathetic, real and intelligent...with a sense of humor. Toni and her 'time capsules of life' depict the skills of the perfect historian, teacher, film maker. She researches to obtain all of the details, writes a beautiful script which encourages spontaneity...and gently directs her subjects to reveal their personalities, interests via 'life stories.'

I've watched Toni in action for years as a Lindblad Expedition traveler. Consequently, I've at least twelve of her travel films...each a work of art. Her mellow Aussie voice is enchanting...her style, compassionate about nature in all it's variety/forms. Thoughtful, yet never totally predictable...she finds the most interesting, even some obscure events, and makes them 'documentary worthy.' And she 'works well with people.' Even though she has the artist's eye, the director's definition, she's always open for suggestions, requests. No diva antics...a very nice, nice lady! You'll think of her as family ...after 20 years of 'travels with Toni'...she IS family to us!

As mentioned I was...still am...a teacher. But now, my husband (also a former teacher/Lindblad naturalist) and I teach at 'Continued Learning Centers' for the elderly in San Diego, CA. We're a part of OASIS and have been touring the local library circuit and some elder care Community Living Centers for eleven years to give our nature program/travel presentations. Our attendance is from 20-90 seniors at any given time. We're a hit, why? Because we use Toni Davis' videos from the Antarctic, England, France, South America...and more. Her films feature people in action... for example, communicating with penguins...what could be more fun/comical! Icebergs floating by with surreal serenity...stunning! She knows how to tell stories with...and without...words! Masterful. And our audiences always appreciate. One lady, after bursting out with applause, added, " Finally, we have a presentation where we can use our minds...sometimes people forget the aging can still think...and want to think. Thank you. Will you visit us every week???" Well, no we can't visit every week...but with Toni's documentary, you can visit and revisit wonderful memories present and past with loved ones as often as you wish! The gift that keeps giving...for generations.

Beverley Grant
Educator & guest
National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions

As an expedition leader and naturalist for Lindblad Expeditions for 20 years, I worked with many professional videographers whose job was to record in images and dialogue the highlights of each trip. These videos were highly regarded and a wonderful memento of each guest's experiences. Toni Houston was as good a videographer as there was.

She had to be aware at all times of what was being seen. Sometimes that meant arising for an early morning call that whales were off the starboard bow. Sometimes it was being in a zodiac as the guests watched a leopard seal catch a penguin. Sometimes it involved recording bathers in the hot water in Deception Bay in Antarctica. Toni was always there when the occasion offered exciting footage.

These videos were coveted and taken home by guests to give the flavor of a trip to their family and friends. Others used them to show at adult living homes, at senior programs like those run by OASIS, and at classes of high school students. Their reach was far beyond the immediate guests and their families. This would not have been possible if Toni hadn't blended dialogue, music and images into an exciting experience even for those who had not been on the trip. That skill is a rare capability and Toni has it.

Art Cooley
Expedition Leader
National Geographic Lindblad Expeditions

Facebook testimonials for BEING CHANGE Feature film & Compass, ABC TV

Why can't we see and hear more about people and places like this? Stories like this give us hope and confirmation that there are many, many good people out there who value this natural world of ours. Amazing is the best description I can come up with.
Robin (ABC Compass viewer)

The most inspirational, uplifting story which has graced our TV screen in forever. Thank you Alexandra and friends for all you do to protect our precious animals.
Serena Taylor (ABC Compass viewer)

This movie just made my heart sing.
Bega Valley resident Amanda Moss

Facebook testimonials for THE PEACEMAKER Australian Story, ABC TV

It was a great program Toni. Uncle Ossie is a national treasure and we are indebted to you for capturing our local stories. Let's get the Bundian Way done!
Federal Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly

Thank you Toni for your awesome work in pulling it all together.
Grandson Ty Cruse

Thank you Toni for helping to tell such an amazing, emotional and inspirational story. So wonderful.
South East Arts Kate Howarth

It was an amazing piece on Australian Story and no doubt could have gone for three times as long to get a full picture of Uncle Ossie's contribution to his people and his culture. Will you do something with the rest of the footage?
Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Kristy McBain

What a fantastic Australian! An inspiration to us all. Thank you Australian Story.
Eugenie Rhule (ABC Aus' Story viewer)

A great episode. Thanks for sharing.
Mo Maureen (ABC Aus' Story viewer)

Should be more role models like Uncle Ossie. What a lovely caring man.
Carolyn McGoldrick (ABC Aus' Story viewer)

What an asset you are to our patch of country, Toni, with your brilliant documentary on the wonderful Alexandra Seddon and your work getting the very special Ossie Cruse national recognition on Australian Story. And all while working and raising two daughters. Sheer genius, Toni.
Bega Valley resident Amanda Midlam



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