

PRESS RELEASE

Sultana Projects, Inc.

105 South Cross Street, P.O. Box 524, Chestertown, MD 21620 / 410-778-5954

www.sultanaprojects.org

Contact: Drew McMullen, dmcullen@sultanaprojects.org

On the Trail of
Captain John Smith

Rediscovering Chesapeake Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sultana Hosts Premiere of Maryland Public Television Documentary

Film chronicles epic Captain John Smith 400 Project journey

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND—On April 17, 2008, Sultana Projects will do something they have never done before—host a cinematic world premiere. The hour long Maryland Public Television documentary entitled, *On the Trail of Captain John Smith: Rediscovering Chesapeake Bay* will have its first public showing that evening at 7:00pm at the Prince Theatre in Chestertown (210 High Street). The film chronicles Sultana Projects' epic adventure known as the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project that took place during the summer of 2007. The premier is being co-hosted by Sultana Projects, Maryland Public Television and the Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail.

On May 12th of last year, twelve men and women set out to retrace the voyages of Captain John Smith, one of the founders of the first permanent English settlement in America—Jamestown, Virginia. During the summer of 1608, Smith left Jamestown in a small shallop, or workboat, along with 14 Englishmen in search of gold and a Northwest Passage to the Pacific. Though Smith and his men failed in that quest, they succeeded in recording an ecosystem teeming with fish, crabs, oysters, and waterfowl. The explorers also recorded their remarkable encounters with the diverse native peoples that had inhabited the region for over 10,000 years. Smith's expedition ultimately opened the Chesapeake to thousands of European settlers, altering forever the face of the Bay and profoundly changing the lives of those living around it.

For 121 days during the spring and summer of 2007, the twelve men and women of Sultana's Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project set out to see what Smith and his men had seen nearly 400 years earlier as well as to blaze a path for the nation's first all water National Historic Trail: the *Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail*. Leaving from Jamestown, just as Smith had, Sultana's shallop and crew traversed roughly 1,800 miles throughout the Chesapeake region making 28 different public stops in small towns and large cities alike. What is remarkable about this project is that they traveled just as Smith had—by oar and sail alone. "On the Trail of Captain John Smith: Rediscovering Chesapeake Bay"

follows the crew throughout their grueling summertime journey and provides insight into the differences between the Bay that Smith encountered in 1608 and the Bay that the shallow crew encountered 399 years later.

Tickets for the April 17th showing of ***On the trail of Captain John Smith*** are \$5 for the general public and free for Sultana Projects' members. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Prince Theatre box office (Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm) or by phone through the Sultana Projects office at 410-778-5954 (Sultana members must reserve tickets by phone).

The television premier for ***On the Trail of Captain John Smith*** is scheduled for 9:00pm on Friday, April 25. Check local listings for your local Maryland Public Television Station for details.

ABOUT SULTANA PROJECTS, INC.

Sultana Projects, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization based in Chestertown, Maryland. Founded in 1997, Sultana Projects provides educational programs that focus on the history and natural environment of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Sultana provides high quality educational experiences for more than 8,000 students each year onboard its reproduction of the 1768 schooner Sultana and through a variety of educational outreach programs and classroom curricula. www.sultanaprojects.org.