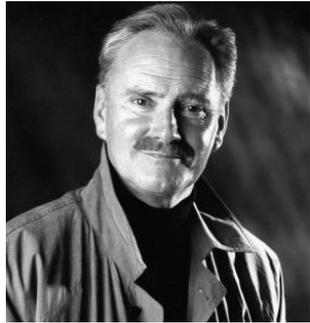


## MOTHER!—BRITAIN'S ADVENTURE GIRL NO.1



TONY ADAMS has been on the stage and television for over sixty years. Among much else, he's been directed by Noel Coward, appeared with the Royal Shakespeare Company, worked with Ginger Rogers and many other stars, and played Grandpa in the hit *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at the London Palladium in 2004. He's probably best known for his roles in two TV soap operas: as Dr Neville Bywater in *General Hospital* and as the racy heart-throb Adam Chance in the legendary *Crossroads*. He has recently toured with the political thriller *Dead Ringer*.



GEOFF MEGGITT had a career as a scientist in the nuclear industry. Editor of a respected journal on radiation safety for several years, when he retired in the early noughties he wrote a history of the subject: *Taming the Rays*. Half-way through another technical history, he came across Winifred Brown through his interest in sailing. He quickly found that sailing was just one of her achievements, and decided to put the history book to one side for a while and, with help from her son Tony, write her biography. The book is now published by Pitchpole Books as *Winifred Brown: Britain's Adventure Girl No.1*

Both in their seventies and an unlikely team, they enjoyed working together on the biography so much that they would like to share the achievements and remarkable life of Winifred with audiences.

Born in Sale in Cheshire in 1899, the wayward daughter of a well-off Manchester butcher, Win Brown became an outstanding sportswoman and aviator. She played hockey and ice hockey (although she could hardly skate) for England and was a low handicap golfer. She took up flying and, in 1930, she was the first (and last) woman to win the prestigious King's Cup Air Race around England. By now a national celebrity, she made a canoe voyage in the upper Amazon before turning to sailing. Her drive and ambition soon took her and her constant companion Ron Adams, both novices, on three long and hazardous voyages from Wales to Norway in her small boat—including one to Spitsbergen in the Arctic. War came and claimed the love of her life, Einar Sverdrup. Then a baby, family break-up and financial problems changed everything and she and young Tony moved to London where he trained as an actor. As Tony's career blossomed, she mingled with his friends, always outrageous, always fun. Later, she moved to the south coast, drank with the cream of the yachting fraternity and spent her later years living on Tony's stylish motor yacht in various harbours. She wrote three books about her life. One of them, *Duffers on the Deep*, is a lively and honest account of her sailing adventures and, to many, a classic of its kind.

In a two part format Geoff gives a short illustrated talk on Win's achievements and her early life (with interjections from Tony) and they answer a few questions. Then, after an interval, Geoff interviews Tony about his mother and their life together. There's plenty more to learn about this remarkable lady—and we should get to hear something of Tony's acting career and the people he's met and worked with. Timing is quite flexible; without the interval and focusing firmly on Winifred, something like an hour works but with a short interval it can comfortably take two hours and allow Tony a little more freedom to talk about his career.

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