

## PRESS RELEASE

### CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 6, 2010

9am – 9:30pm

A special event for all ages featuring **Captains Courageous**, Rudyard Kipling's classic adventure novel, and film adaptation, about a spoiled rich boy rescued by Gloucester fishermen.

The all-day event includes community volunteers reading segments of the novel, tours, children's and family programs, a performance by sea shanty singers, *Three Sheets to the Wind* and *Captains Courageous* (1937 film) starring Spencer Tracy.

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2010

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The Society for Encouragement of the Arts (seARTS,) in partnership with several Gloucester-based cultural institutions and businesses, announces a special event with a focus on *Captains Courageous: A Story of the Grand Banks*, Rudyard Kipling's classic adventure novel, and film adaptation, featuring Gloucester fishermen. The all-day event will take place at downtown Gloucester locations, all within a short walk from each other: the Cape Ann Museum, Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, Cape Ann Art Haven and Cape Ann Community Cinema.

The *Captains Courageous Festival* will also include related programs, tours and children's activities at participating venues and organizations. The event will culminate with a performance by *Three Sheets to the Wind*, a group of Cape Ann musicians and sea shanty singers affiliated with the *Schooner Adventure*, immediately followed by a 7:30pm screening of *Captains Courageous* (1937) featuring Spencer Tracy's Academy Award-winning performance, at Cape Ann Community Cinema.

Community volunteers of all ages will read 10-minute segments from Kipling's 19<sup>th</sup> century sea-faring story. Harvey Cheyne, a spoiled rich boy, falls from the deck of a luxury liner and is rescued by a dory fisherman with "We're Here," a Gloucester schooner working in the Grand Banks. Aboard the boat Harvey learns about hard work, about courage, and about life.

Community volunteers of all ages are invited to read segments of the book; volunteers to help with the event are welcome. Information on how to sign up to read or volunteer at the event is below.

*A complete schedule of events with details about tours,  
family activities and more will be available soon.*

The *Captains Courageous Festival* was inspired by the New Bedford Whaling Museum's *Moby Dick Marathon* (January 9 & 10, 2010,) now in its 14th year. Kipling's *Captain's Courageous*, featuring Gloucester fishermen, is the perfect book for a Gloucester event.

Rudyard Kipling had a special relationship with Gloucester that is explored and documented in *Kipling in Gloucester: The Writing of Captains Courageous*, an engaging book rich with archival material, by Gloucester resident David McAweeney.

"*Kipling in Gloucester* explores how Kipling came to America and to Gloucester and how this foreign writer with little American experience and no fishing experience developed what has become the defining story of the Gloucester fisherman." David McAweeney in his introduction to *Kipling in Gloucester*

***Kipling, Gloucester & Captains Courageous***

**A talk by author David McAweeney      Thursday, March 4, 7 - 8pm, The Bookstore of Gloucester**

Two days before the launch of the *Captains Courageous Festival* David McAweeney, Gloucester resident and author of *Kipling in Gloucester: The Writing of Captains Courageous*, will present a talk, followed by Q & A, about Rudyard Kipling, his time in Gloucester and the writing of *Captains Courageous*.

(Please note: Unfortunately, *Kipling in Gloucester* is out-of-print, but available at local libraries.)

Also, Gloucester Stage Company founder Israel Horovitz's play, *Captains and Courage*, was inspired by Kipling's *Captains Courageous*.

"If you need to know what Gloucester looks like and you can't manage a visit to the actual place... without fail read Kipling's brilliant *Captains Courageous* and see the 1937 film adaptation. It's a small masterpiece." Israel Horowitz, *Captains and Courage*

You *can* manage it all by visiting Gloucester on March 6 to participate in and enjoy the *Captain Courageous Festival*.

**VOLUNTEER:** To volunteer to read or to help on March 6, please contact seARTS at 978-281-1222 or [info@searts.org](mailto:info@searts.org).

**CONTACT:** seARTS coordinator Anne Robinson at [robinsonpalmer@comcast.net](mailto:robinsonpalmer@comcast.net) 978-546-3415 or 202-255-2928

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*The Society for the Encouragement of the Arts is a coalition of individual artists, art organizations, cultural and civic groups, and businesses working to improve the economic base for the arts on Cape Ann, and to promote Cape Ann's thriving arts community and rich arts heritage. The Society for the Encouragement of the Arts is a recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Adams Arts Fund for Cultural Economic Development.*