

THE SINKING OF ANDREA DORIA

THE TRUE STORY OF THE WRECK
OF THE ANDREA DORIA



A documentary
of 50 minutes
by
FABIO TONCELLI



*Andrea
Doria*



Produced by
sd cinematografica

Distributed by:

accent films

international ltd.

delivering competing content

THE SINKING OF ANDREA DORIA

The true story of the wreck of the Andrea Doria

by **FABIO TONCELLI**

The night mist has descended on the open sea. Gossamer fingers of vapour drift all around. The sea is a mute, enveloping presence.

The cold waters of this arm of the North Atlantic off the island of Nantucket in Massachusetts are often crossed by sudden, dense banks of fog. In the unearthly silence, a thin melody slowly emerges and grows more distinct. Someone, perhaps an orchestra, is playing Arrivederci Roma. Many will clearly remember these notes just before the crash and the terror. Through the bluish wall of fog we begin to discern lights, until we finally begin to see the outline of a huge transatlantic liner.

It is the **Andrea Doria**, unanimously believed to be the most beautiful transoceanic passenger liner ever, a magnificent symbol of the rebirth of an Italian civil fleet, humiliated by the War, and pride of an entire nation. Its elegant tapering lines are a blend of beauty, sophisticated design and the very latest technology.



THE SINKING

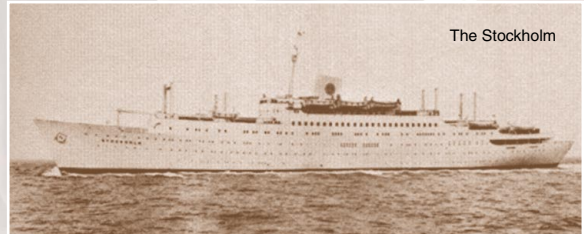
OF ANDREA DORIA



Andrea
Doria

It is the night of 25 July 1956. The Andrea Doria is scheduled to arrive in New York the following morning.

But a few miles further on, still out of the fog and travelling in the opposite direction, is the **Stockholm**, a Swedish passenger ship.



The **Ile de France**, an old but graceful French transatlantic liner, is also approaching the area. No one is yet aware of it, but the destiny of these three ladies of the sea and that of their three captains - **Piero Calamai**, **Harry Gunnarr Nordenson** and **Baron Raoul de Beudéan** – are about to collide. It is to be a night of tragedy and hope, of fierce destiny and miracles, of extreme courage and everyday cowardice.



Exactly **fifty years after the disaster**, the time has come to reveal the mystery behind one of the greatest marine disasters ever and to redistribute blame and praise more justly, with an absorbing documentary using incredible archive and original footage, some seen for the very first time. We will intertwine three types of narrative material into one tale.

THE SINKING OF ANDREA DORIA

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► THE DOCUMENTATION

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Firstly, a vast **archive**, from a variety of sources, made available mainly by the company that designed and built the Andrea Doria, Ansaldo of Genoa. An enormous mine of footage and photographs regarding the construction, launch and voyage of the Andrea Doria, a moving testament to the great age of transoceanic sailing and its peak in the 1950s.

If possible, we will also use photographs of the passengers on that last voyage, as well as moving sequences of the ship sinking.



The first class bar



The first class hall

Secondly, the accounts of survivors and those who played a role on the night of 25 July 1956, many seen for the first time. Those on the bridge who lived every phase of the collision minute by minute. Those who were sleeping peacefully in their cabins or dancing in the ballroom. Those trapped on the lower decks who had to struggle for an hour and a half through corridors full of water and oil to reach the open air. And finally, those who took part in the rescue mission on the treacherous ocean waters. One who was lost and one who was found again and one who remained in the ship's hospital without knowing anything about the accident or the rescue and was saved by pure chance. The passengers were from all walks of life, rich and poor, actors and emigrants, academics and tourists.

One had decided against flying at the last moment because he thought it was too dangerous, and who changed cabin, saving his life and condemning those of others.

Many personal stories will be told, such as the man who described every phase of the rescue and sinking live over radio, without ever revealing that his daughter was on board.

During the collision, she was miraculously catapulted unhurt from her bed to the bridge of the Stockholm, the only survivor from her cabin.

THE SINKING OF ANDREA DORIA



► THE DOCUMENTATION

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Thirdly, exclusive underwater images of the Andrea Doria today as she lies on the ocean bed off Nantucket. We will follow a group of Italian divers as they confront what is known as the “Mount Everest of dives”, to get the best images of the wreck, now almost completely stripped due to the mania of underwater collectors and the wreck diving business. Every year an absurdly high price is paid in human life for this craze.

If the dangerous and often

murky waters of the Atlantic are kind to us, we will recount the details, tensions, dives, fears and emotions of the divers and finally see what remains of the unmistakable lines of the queen of the seas. We secretly hope to be able to penetrate the still intact garage where we should find the Norseman”, the legendary automobile prototype designed by Ghia for Ford.



Budget permitting, we would like to create a very realistic **computer simulation** of the moment of impact and a short **dramatic reconstruction** of what happened in the two control rooms just before and immediately after the collision.

All these elements will come together to reconstruct the entire incident and the rescue, the **largest and most successful rescue operation in naval history**. There were terrible moments, but in the end, it was a success for the majority of passengers who are remembered in the regular **emotional survivors' reunions** we will film.

However, in order to honour the victims and the courage of so many, we need to **answer a number of crucial questions**, particularly in light of the painful fate of Captain Piero Calamai, who was relieved of command after forty years of exceptional service, subjected to hasty justice, and accusations which were frequently unfounded and sometimes downright lies. He suffered tremendous psychological torment and died prematurely.

THE SINKING

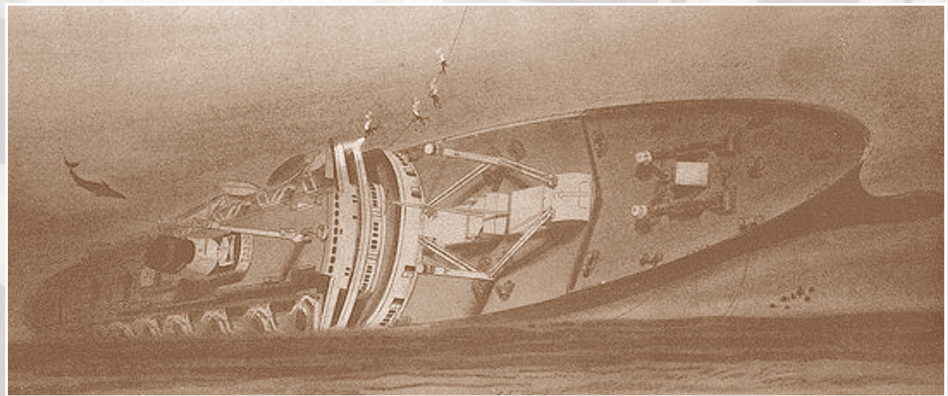
OF ANDREA DORIA



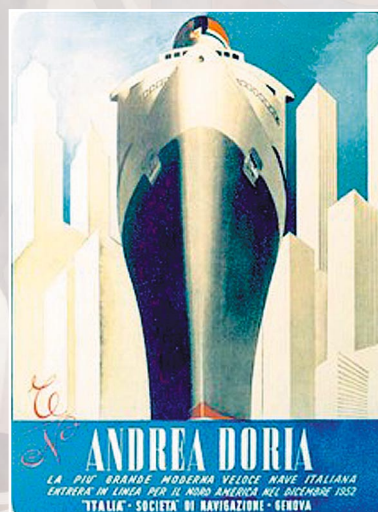
▶ THE DOCUMENTATION

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Where does the blame for the collision really lie? Why did Captain Calamai decide to move to the left and not the right, as usual in case of a possible head-on crossing at sea, when an unknown vessel appeared on the radar? Why did the Swedish ship veer sharply at the last moment and point directly at the Italian ship? Why did the Andrea Doria expose its flank, its most vulnerable part, to the Stockholm's sharp prow? Why did the great transatlantic liner, designed to be unsinkable, go down after hours of slow agony? Why did the shipping and insurance companies reach an out of court settlement, putting an end to the court case?



After fifty years, perhaps the various pieces of the puzzle can be fit together to reveal the definitive truth behind the tragic fate of the Andrea Doria, an uncomfortable and in some ways shocking truth.



sd cinematografica

Andrea Doria

Fabio Toncelli

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TELEVISION

- 2003/2004, writer and director of the documentary **“Flying over Everest”** for BR/ARTE/RAIUNO - SD Cinematografica
- 2002, writer and director of the documentary **“Il Mistero del Lupo”**, for National Geographic Channel – SD Cinematografica
- 2002, writer and director of the documentary **“Sfida nella foresta”**, for National Geographic Channel – SD Cinematografica
- 2002, writer and director of the documentary **“Potosì: l’ospedale più alto del mondo”**, for Ministero degli Affari Esteri – Progetto Hospital Daniel Bracamonte, Bolivia
- 2000-2003, author of the programme **“Cominciamo bene”**, Raitre
- 1999, scriptwriter of the television film **“Millennium Bug”**, an Italo-American co-production Andrea Leone Film
- 1999, author of the programme **“Alle falde del Killimangiaro”**, Raitre
- 1998/99, co-author of scripts by Tullio Solenghi, **“Domenica In ‘98-‘99”**, Raiuno
- 1998, author and director of the advertising spot **“Campagna Acqua”** promoted by the Ministry of Public Works and the European Community, RAI – Direzione Promozione e Immagine
- 1997/98, author of the programme in 216 episodes **“Speciale Rai International”**, daily television, arts and culture magazine, Rai International.
- 1997, author and director of the RAI promotional film **“Verso il futuro con la Rai”**, produced with RAI - Direzione Promozione e Immagine.
- 1997, director and author of the programme in 8 episodes **“Il dilemma: storie di famiglie allargate”**, FORMAT, Raitre.
- 1997, director and author of **“Un giorno a Londra con Gianfranco Zola”**, FORMAT, Raitre.
- 1996, director and author of the programme in 10 episodes **“Compagni di banco”**, FORMAT, Raidue.

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► THE DIRECTOR

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- 1995, scriptwriter of the serial in 40 episodes **“Davvero”**, FORMAT, Raidue.
- 1994, director and author of the documentary film **“Agostino Di Bartolomei: morte di un campione”**, MIXER, Raidue.
- 1993-94, drafts of subjects and treatments for the series **“Colt”**, from an idea by Sergio Leone. Italo-Franco-American co-production CanalPlus/ Solaris/ Andrea Leone Film /Propaganda.
- 1993, writer on the daily programme **“Cocktail di scampoli”**, Telemontecarlo.
- 1991-93, author, with Enrico Vaime, of the live weekly programme **“La più bella sei tu”**, Telemontecarlo, for three consecutive series.
- 1990-91, author of the live weekly programme **“Ho fatto 13!!!”**, Telemontecarlo.
- 1984-85, producer-director of the live weekly programme **“Il gioco dei mestieri”**, Raiuno.

CINEMA

- 2001, co-author of script of the film **“Se fossi in te”**, Cattleya Film
- 1998, director and writer of documentary film **“Quando comincia il giorno: Tosamaganga, un ospedale africano”** (Tanzania).
- 1995, script of the film **“Cirano e i suoi fratelli”**, by Antonello Aglioti, selected for the 52nd Venice International Film Festival in the section “Finestra sulle immagini”.
- 1992, script with Luca Morsella of the film **“Non nobis: lo scrigno”**. Balcar Film
- 1990, script of the film **“Nessuno mi crede”**, by A. Carlucci, Surf Cinematografica MDL
- 1988, script with Sergio Leone of the film **“Un posto che solo Mary conosce”**. Leone Film.



SD Cinematografica

SD Cinematografica has been in the audiovisual field (in particular television production and editing) since 1961. It was founded in Milan as a private company, moved to Rome in 1969, and became a limited company in 1981.

SD Cinematografica has worked with RAI TV and foreign TV stations since its foundation, co-producing films, variety programmes and, above all, documentaries. With Frédéric Rossif, the well-known French director, SD Cinematografica has co-produced several renowned documentaries.

The wildlife series “PAN – Animals of the Mediterranean”, co-produced with RAI and shot on film, was broadcast in primetime in Italy. Thanks to its high quality and scientific value, it was sold to 35 countries.

Several nature documentaries produced for RAI’s GEO&GEO have been entered in international festivals and have won major prizes. The documentary “La Pietà”, on the restoration of Michelangelo’s masterpiece, was nominated for an American Academy Award (documentary section).

Recently SD Cinematografica has produced two 50-minute documentaries for the National Geographic Channels, as well as 50 fillers.

More than 500 hours of programming have been produced and broadcasted.

The company is experienced in every area of production and editing, both on film and videotape (digital and analogue).

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Andrea Doria

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► THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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PRODUCTION *(last three years)*

■ DOCUMENTARY:

FLYING OVER EVEREST	52 min.	RAIUNO / BR / ARTE
THE MYSTERY OF THE WOLF	52 min.	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
SFIDA NELLA FORESTA	52 min.	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
FILLERS <i>(short documentaries)</i>	30 x 4 min.+ 20 x 2 min.	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

LA PENISOLA DEL TESORO *(per GEO&GEO)* 30 min. each RAITRE

Including:

- Cilento: un paradiso della natura *(winner of important film festivals)*
- Le ultime superstiti
- Monti Sibillini: magica armonia
- Tra incudine e martello *(Sondrio International Festival)*
- Ritorno all'ombelico d'Italia
- Fragole e sangue *(Sondrio International Festival – 2° prize)*
- Un parco scolpito dal vento
- Il respiro della foresta
- La valle dei Walzer
- Domus de Janas
- Mont Avic: una montagna d'acqua
- Rosso di sera
- Risvegli e precipizi *(Trento International Festival)*
- Lo sperone dello stivale
- Yellowstone d'abruzzo
- Miraggi d'inverno
- Circeo: Natura e magia
- Sulle tracce dell'orso
- La montagna sacra
- Sorprese d'inverno *(Sondrio International Festival)*
- Il soffio del vulcano
- La leggenda dei Fanes
- Sinis: acqua, terra e rosso porpora
- L'arte di Arrampicare *(C.O.N.I. prize at Trento International Festival)*



Andrea
Doria

FORESTA FOSSILE DI DUNAROBBA	12 min.	RAITRE
ALBERI DI CITTÀ	12 min.	RAITRE
MEDICI DEGLI ALBERI	12 min.	RAITRE
ARBORETO DIVALLOMBROSA	12 min.	RAITRE
UOMINI SCOIATTOLO	12 min.	RAITRE
OSPEDALE DEI RAPACI	12 min.	RAITRE
IL VETRO		
UNA RISORSA ECOLOGICA	12 min.	RAITRE
BURNING MAN	60 min.	RAIDUE
IL RISO DELLE API	60 min.	RTSI
SCUOLE D'ARTE	4 x 30 min.	RAI EDUCATIONAL
AMMINISTRARE NELL'ANNO 2000	30 min.	REGIONE LAZIO
VESUVIO:		
UN PARCO IN PRIMA LINEA	32 min.	PARCO VESUVIO
UN PARCO DA SCOPRIRE	30 min.	PAR. DOLOM. BELL.
IL PARCO DEL GARGANO	30 min.	PARCO GARGANO
MAJELLA	30 min. e 3x15 min.	PARCO MAJELLA

■ ISTITUTIONALS:

BANCA DI CREDITO COOPERATIVO campaign 1997—> 2005	10 min.	BCC di Roma
DA MONTEREALE A L'AQUILA	30 min.	BCC di Roma
TRA UOMO E NATURA	30 min.	BCC di Roma
IL RESTAURO DEL TRITONE	15 min.	BCC di Roma
LO SVILUPPO DEL CREDITO COOP.	15 min.	FEDERCASSE
FONDAZIONE TERTIO MILLENNIO	5 min.	FEDERCASSE
CONVENTION FIAT	2x5 min.	FIAT
CONF COOPERATIVE ROMA	8 min.	CONF COOPERATIVE
CONF COOPERATIVE LAZIO	8 min.	CONF COOPERATIVE

■ ANIMATION:

FARHAT - Prince of the desert	Pilot	RAIUNO
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► THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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AND DURING THE YEARS:

■ FEATURE FILMS::

LA TECNICA E IL RITO	by Miklos Jancso	RAI
LA SCONOSCIUTA (4 episodes)	by Daniele Danza	RAIUNO

■ SHORT FEATURE FILMS::

PASSIONE MIA: EXIT	by Stefano Reali	RAIUNO
PASSIONE MIA: IN CERCA D'AMORE	by Aida Mangia	RAIUNO
MI MANDA LUBRANO (11 Episodes)	by Gino Cammarota	RAITRE
ULTIMO MINUTO	by Lorenzo Hendel	RAITRE

■ VARIETY SHOWS:

MOVIE MOVIE	33 episodes x 60 min.	RAIUNO
ITALIA SERA MODA	daily	RAIUNO
ODEON	Series	RAIDUE
COLOSSEUM	Series	RAIUNO
GIROMONDO	Series	SACIS

■ ANIMATION:

I SAURINI - The young dinos	Pilot
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■ DOCUMENTARIES:

LA PIETÀ	60 Min.	RAIUNO
PAN - Animals of the Mediterranean	27 Eps. X 30 min	RAIUNO
QUARK	Some episodes	RAIUNO
IMMAGINA	Series	RAIUNO



Andrea
Doria

For further information don't hesitate to contact:

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