

BUILDING
THE WORLD'S
**FASTEST
CLIPPER
SHIP**

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Clipper ships changed the world with their cutting-edge technology. Built for speed and carrying more sail than any ship before or since, they smashed records as they sped across the world's oceans. Huge crowds would turn out to watch clipper ships like *Flying Cloud* and the *Cutty Sark* arrive in port. These ships were the superstars that made the California Gold Rush of the 1850s possible and opened up new markets thanks to their ability to carry precious cargo faster than ever before. But with the arrival of steamships, clippers faded into legend as the last great days of sailing faded from the headlines.

But now, a new clipper ship is to be built in a rare and challenging experiment. As big as the *Cutty Sark*, the *Shabab Oman II* will take to the seas, designed by computer and built with traditional craft skills as well as the latest technologies. The result should be a supership—the fastest clipper ever built.

Building the World's Fastest Clipper Ship tells the inside story of this extraordinary feat of international maritime engineering, from the first design tests to the day when this giant three-masted clipper ship hoists her 29 sails for the first time. On the way to the launch, there are near-disasters as the ship is launched in hair-raising conditions to face the force of an ocean storm on her very first voyage. The new ship *Shabab Oman II* is destined to be a sail training ship for the Royal Navy of Oman, but before she can enter service her crew must take on demanding training in the complex techniques required to sail such a giant ship at astonishing speeds. Cameras follow this and every stage of the risky two-year project, and along the way, historians explain the unique history of these graceful ships and how their captains and crews were pushed to the limits of skill and endurance in pursuit of new records and huge rewards. Unique aerial footage captures the mighty clipper as she hoists full sail for the first time to speed across the waters of the Mediterranean while dolphins race under her bows. When the *Shabab Oman II* reaches her new home port of Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman, huge crowds turn out to see maritime history in the making and the bygone great days of the clipper ship brought back to breathtaking life.

CREDITS

Executive Producers: Dan Chambers and Simon Gallimore
Producer and Director: Andy Webb

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