

CHRISBERTISH iMPOSSIBLE

Inspirational Speaker Author Waterman Ocean Pioneer

BIOGRAPHY 2021

Chris Bertish is a man of many passions. He has set world records, Stand up paddled solo across the Atlantic, surfed monster waves, presented keynote talks to hundreds of thousands across the globe, written best-selling books and directed motion picture documentaries. Somehow, he has still managed to grow multiple entrepreneurial businesses in South Africa and across the world, and to fight for our youth, our planet and our future. A man of many passions, indeed. And one who doesn't believe in iMPOSSIBLE!

Adventurer:

In 2010, Chris made headlines when he won the Mavericks Big Wave Invitational, a surfing competition without rival. Born a skinny kid in Kenilworth, Cape Town, Chris found a way to travel across the world and outwit, outsmart and outperform the world's best-paid professional athletes – and forever change the face of big-wave surfing.

6 years later, after half a decade of intense training, Chris set out from Morocco, alone, on a stand-up paddleboard, with his sights set on the shores of Antigua in the Caribbean. 93 days, 7500 kilometers and uncountable challenges, terrors, self-doubts and trials later, he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and entered, tanned and bearded, into the Guinness Book of World Records. What is perhaps

most inspiring about this tale is not the work of Chris himself, but the 1000 children of the Lunchbox Fund and Operation Smile that he did all of this for. 1000 kids who had been born with cleft palates, who now have had their futures returned to them. He continues to use his adventures to support charities in environmental, humanitarian, educational, sustainability and conservation realms, to bring about tangible positive change and inspire us all to be better human beings.

Storyteller:

Both of these adventures have since been told through award winning films and best-selling books, and Red Bull Adventure has touted him as the one who "redefined the concept of extreme adventure." He has become renowned for his dynamic and inspiring keynote addresses delivered to all corners of the globe, which move audiences to tears, laughter, and change, with a powerful narrative and audio-visual overload that keeps people on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

In the last few years Chris has shared the stage with Bill Clinton and George W Bush, has spoken at multiple global TEDx events, the World Economic Forum and the World Wildlife Fund, and has shared his insights with companies like Google, NASA, Southern Wine & Glazer, Coca-Cola, Mercedes Benz, Cisco, and SAP.



Companies Chris has worked with include:



World-changer:

With sustainability and his beloved oceans an everlasting part of his heart, Chris takes his roles as Ambassador for the World View Climate Change Parks, Operation Smile, 2Oceans Aquarium and Conservation International very seriously. Through his business he annually plants multiple forests around the world, to offset his own carbon footprint and to be an example to others of the change we wish to see in the world. Chris runs his business as a B Corp Certified business, using what he does as a force for good, while also being 1% for the Planet Certified.

More recently, Chris was recognized as one of the Top 5 Speakers in South Africa and selected as one of the Genius 100-Global Visionaries for the future by the Einstein Institute, both for excellence in his disciplines and universal global positive influence. Together with collaborators Deepak Chopra, Sir Ken Robinson, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Shimon Peres, he is working to inspire the next generation of geniuses. He's also been a part of a small team working on a new, innovative and forward-thinking educational curriculum for the world, called "Ambassadors for the Planet", which was recently endorsed by the U.N. and will be launched globally in 2021. The goal of this program is to create better humans by teaching kids design and conservation to create a solution driven youth with the planet in mind.

Future-forward:

Chris has just finished his new feature film documentary called "Last known Co-ordinates", launching in 2021 and is currently working on his second book, 'All in!', both of which tell the story of his trans-Atlantic journey.

He is also working on his new amazing Oceans 17 Project, a massive global undertaking set for 2023-2025, where Chris will be circumnavigating the planet, building schools, delivering the new curriculum and planting

forests at 17 unique locations around the world, highlighting 17 of the worlds most endangered species, all of which is tied into the UN's 17 global SDG's. And, in true Chris form, he is doing all of this completely powered by nature!

Recent notable events:

- Selected as one of Top 5 Motivational/Inspirational Speakers in Africa
- Selected as one of the Genius 100 Visionaries, by the Einstein Institute, putting him alongside world changers like Deepak Chopra, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Ridley Scott and J Craig Venter
- Selected as one of the Top 10 B Corp Certified organizations globally, as an example of small businesses that are using business to do good for the world.
- Chris and a small team have just finished a new global educational curriculum for Ambassadors for the Planet (Endorsed by the UN) that will launch globally in 2021, with the aim of creating a more positive, solution-driven, mindful and sustainable thinking youth
- His second feature film, 'Last Known Coordinates' launches globally in 2021, and tells the story of his trans-Atlantic Stand up paddle journey

Featured in below media:

New York Times, USA Today, Huffington Post, Time Magazine, BBC, CNN, CNBC News, Fox News, Sky News.