

MY SPEED KING

Life with Donald Campbell

By Tonia Bern-Campbell

From Sutton Publishing on 7th February 2002 at £17.99

The love affair between British land speed king Donald Campbell and vivacious singer Tonia Bern was one of the twentieth century's great romances. But passion turned to tragedy with the dramatic death of Campbell on Lake Coniston in January 1967 as he attempted to break the world water speed record in his famous jet boat, *Bluebird*.

Over the years the relationship between Donald and his widow Tonia has generated much interest and speculation. In *MY SPEED KING*, Tonia has decided for the first time to speak openly about their unique, erotic love affair and what it was really like to be married to a man with a great lust for love-making and high speed record breaking.

In this intimate portrait of her love affair and marriage to Campbell, Tonia tells the inside story of her heady lifestyle with Britain's national land and waterspeed hero. The collision between the two worlds of 1960s 'jet set' and 'show biz' promised a fast and furious ride, but their volcanic marriage and the pressures of trying to combine two high-profile careers took a toll on their relationship.

MY SPEED KING was written soon after Donald's death but never made public. Tonia turned her tremendous sense of loss into a vivid evocation of what it was really like to be married to a man with great lust for love-making and high-speed record-breaking. The result is a tale of deep love, passion, speed, sex, fast cars, high living and tragedy.

Tonia Bern-Campbell will be visiting the UK on publication and will be available for interview. This will be the first time she has talked about her husband since his body and the *Bluebird* were discovered and raised from Lake Coniston.

Tonia Bern-Campbell was born in Belgium and studied acting at the Conservatoire Royale in Brussels. In a dazzling acting and singing career she has gone on to headline at such prestigious venues as New York's Carnegie Hall and the London Savoy. In 1958 she married Donald Campbell and became a member of his famous Bluebird race team. After Donald's tragic death in 1967 she resumed her career and in the years that followed she has played the top theatres and supper clubs of the world, from Hong Kong to Johannesburg, Oslo to Rome. She has appeared on numerous TV shows and for a time hosted her own BBC Radio programme, *Tonia's World*. She now pursues her career in America and lives in Southern California.

Tonia Bern-Campbell

Famous singer, Tonia Bern-Campbell, wife of Britain's land and waterspeed hero **DONALD CAMPBELL** will be in the UK for **one week only** from 3-8 February promoting her new book **MY SPEED KING *Life with Donald Campbell***.

This exclusive inside story tells in her own words what it was really like to be married to a man with a great lust for love-making and high-speed record breaking.

Please could you add the following event details to your event listings:

SIGNING SESSION*

Tonia Bern-Campbell will be signing copies of her new book

MY SPEED KING *Life with Donald Campbell*

AT: Harrods, Knightsbridge, London
ON: Friday 8th February 2002.
FROM: 1.00pm – 3.00pm