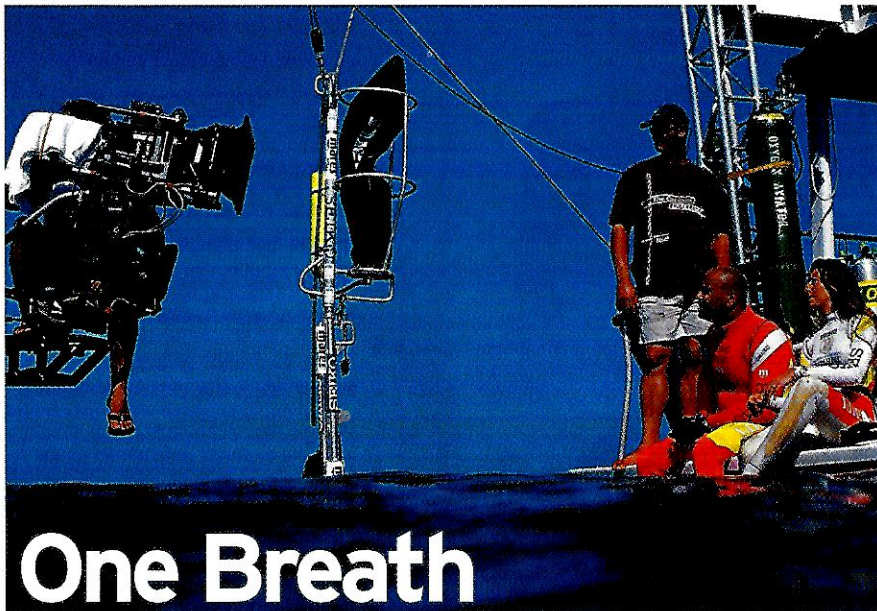


DIVE BRIEFS

The Latest News About **DIVING** and the **OCEAN ENVIRONMENT**



One Breath

A breathtaking plunge into the world of Ocean Men.

BY TY SAWYER

"My first challenge is convincing myself that oxygen is unnecessary." — Umberto Pelizzari

Ocean Men takes us into two men's quest to dive deeper than a human being has ever been on one breath of air. Both men liken the quest to the search for God. But that is where their similarities end.

Fiercely competitive, Pipin Ferraras and Umberto Pelizzari have differing philosophies and styles that have made them bitter rivals. Their search for the pulse of life in the silent realm of the sea has taken two paths: Pipin employs a weighted sled (called "No Limits") to descend and an airbag to ascend; Umberto has embraced the "constant weight" method of descending and ascending under one's own power. Each believes his method is more pure. And neither has a peer in his discipline.

But the film is about more than just the passion of these two larger-than-life men to dive deeper than any other man. It's about the mastery of self. It's about the primal purity both Pipin and Umberto have in their connection with the sea.

There is a scene in which Umberto swims through a cave in Roatan and, after what seems

an eternity, he eases out of an opening and into the blue. Coming down from above, two dolphins greet him, they make contact and then the trio slip off together into a seemingly bottomless sea. It's an unforgettable and almost religious moment.

For Pipin, there is a stunning sequence in the Bahamas where he slips quietly in and out of a shipwreck while Caribbean reef sharks languidly circle the ship. The shot lasts almost three minutes, and I nearly passed out trying to hold my breath through it. During the shot, Pipin's comfort and belonging in the sea are so palpable and complete that when he finally ascends for a breath, one feels as if he is being ripped out of his element.

In the end both men compete, not against each other, but inevitably against themselves and the sea.

As Pipin says, "The deeper I am going, the nearer I am to my soul."

Both men have gotten closer to their souls than we can imagine. And cinematographer and director Bob Talbot has taken us closer to the pulse of these Ocean Men than we could have imagined.

Dive TV

Adventure Inc. promises weekly thrills, discoveries.

BY SCOTT D. JONES

In the 1960s, television viewers followed the underwater adventures of explorer Mike Nelson in *Sea Hunt*. Today, viewers can share that same spirit of excitement with the weekly exploits of legendary explorer Judson Cross in the new weekly syndicated television series *Adventure Inc.* Scheduled to premiere the first week of October, the series features action star Michael Biehn (*The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, *Aliens*) and promises action both above and under the water. Gear manufacturer Dacor will provide much of the equipment the actors and crew will use.

The series, which is based loosely on the exploits of real-life explorer Barry Clifford, is set in fictional Beau Harbor, North Carolina. Biehn's character, Cross, leads a three-member team headquartered in a seagoing research vessel called *The Vast Explorer*.

The show is being shot in Toronto, Canada, and the underwater scenes are filmed in a 50,000-gallon tank.

Adventure Inc. features a strong female character. Mackenzie Previn, played by Karen Cliche, handles all of the diving and underwater work for the team.

Cliche says shows already filmed include shipwreck expeditions, a trek to S.E. Asia and some surprises she would not divulge.

Check your local television listings for show times.

