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THE ULTIMATE WAVE TAHITI: THE UNIVERSE OF WAVES BREAKS INTO IMAX® THEATRES

An ocean wave is an energy wave at human scale - a wave that we can see, touch, swim through and ride upon - it's also a phenomenon of critical value to global ecosystems. In *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti*, director Stephen Low uses the latest Giant Screen camera technologies and proven cinema story-telling skills to shape a look at the liquid energy of the ocean wave. With the help of nine-time world surfing champion Kelly Slater, the film harnesses the magic of surfing as a unique way to explore this potent natural force.

Low and his production team introduce the viewing audience to a gallery of real and animated waves using dynamic film sequences and computer animation - all complemented with the wave insights and daring skills of Slater and his surfing partner Raimana Van Bastolaer. This is the first IMAX® film to explain wave science and serves as the high-water mark for ocean-centric environmental education - entertaining giant screen viewers with all the energy of a crushing swell colliding into a Tahitian reef.

The animation sequences in the film visually illustrate how waves form, where they derive their energy from, and how they become the great breaking waves that pummel coastlines and the barrel wave formations that surfers love to ride. Waves are modeled and their ocean interaction depicted in a way that all audiences will appreciate and understand: from the motion of water particles under the influence of passing wave energy, to an explanation of how chaotic

storm-driven waves evolve and become ordered sets of waves, to the final influence of the ocean bottom in shaping breaking waves.

In and around the Teahupo'o reef system, fish and mammals thrive in pristine Pacific waters. Life on a reef is dependent on wave action as wave turbulence dissolves oxygen and facilitates transport of nutrients to the complex, living reef ecosystem. Breaking waves also shape the geology and geography of any land mass they encounter. On the Teahupo'o outer reef, storm-caused swells that have traveled thousands of miles collide with the Tahitian limestone barrier, creating huge waves and constantly changing and eroding the reef itself.

Using this extreme wave environment as playroom and classroom, the surfers and the film's narrator engage audiences in exploring where waves come from, their essential nature, and their ecological and cultural role. Filmed for IMAX and other giant screen theatres, *The Ultimate Wave Tahiti* mixes science and play in a profound giant screen exploration of our shared ocean environment.

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