

Television

Disney presents "Sea of Sharks"

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Sea of Sharks," an enchanting, one-hour television nature special, paints an intriguingly intimate picture of the much-feared, often-misunderstood shark. Syndicated by Buena Vista Television, the film is the third of four wildlife specials in "Disney's New True Life Adventures." "Sea of Sharks" airs from July 24 to August 27. Diving to the depths of the Pacific Ocean, the film reveals the rich concentrations of marine life around seemingly

lifeless lava flows and coral ruling the waters and eliminating the weak, but with an evocative beauty that's

rarely attributed to the shark. "Sea of Sharks" explores how these ominous undersea inhabitants interact with their environment and the surrounding kaleidoscope of creatures that fall under their domain.

Filmmaker Pete Zuccarini, a renowned underwater cinematographer, offers a fresh perspective of the shark, combating generations of fear and misconception. "Most people see sharks as death incarnate," says Zuccarini. "Sharks represent the

beast that lurks beneath the sea and I think people are fascinated by that." Shot entirely on 35 mm, the film conveys the serenity and grace of several species of sharks - from silky sharks and various reef sharks to the fascinating scalloped hammerhead, as well as an array of marine life including majestic manta rays, gentle sea

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- John Wilcox, executive producer for "Disney's New True Life Adventures"

turtles and the colossal humpback whale.

"Sea of Sharks" takes viewers underwater and into the lives of these creatures as they ensure their survival," says John Wilcox, executive producer for "Disney's New True Life Adventures" and producer of the project. "The shark is at the top o the food chain, patrolling as the policeman of the sea - looking for weakness, much life the African lion."

Tranquil underwater scenes are accented with the action and

adventure typically associated with sharks.

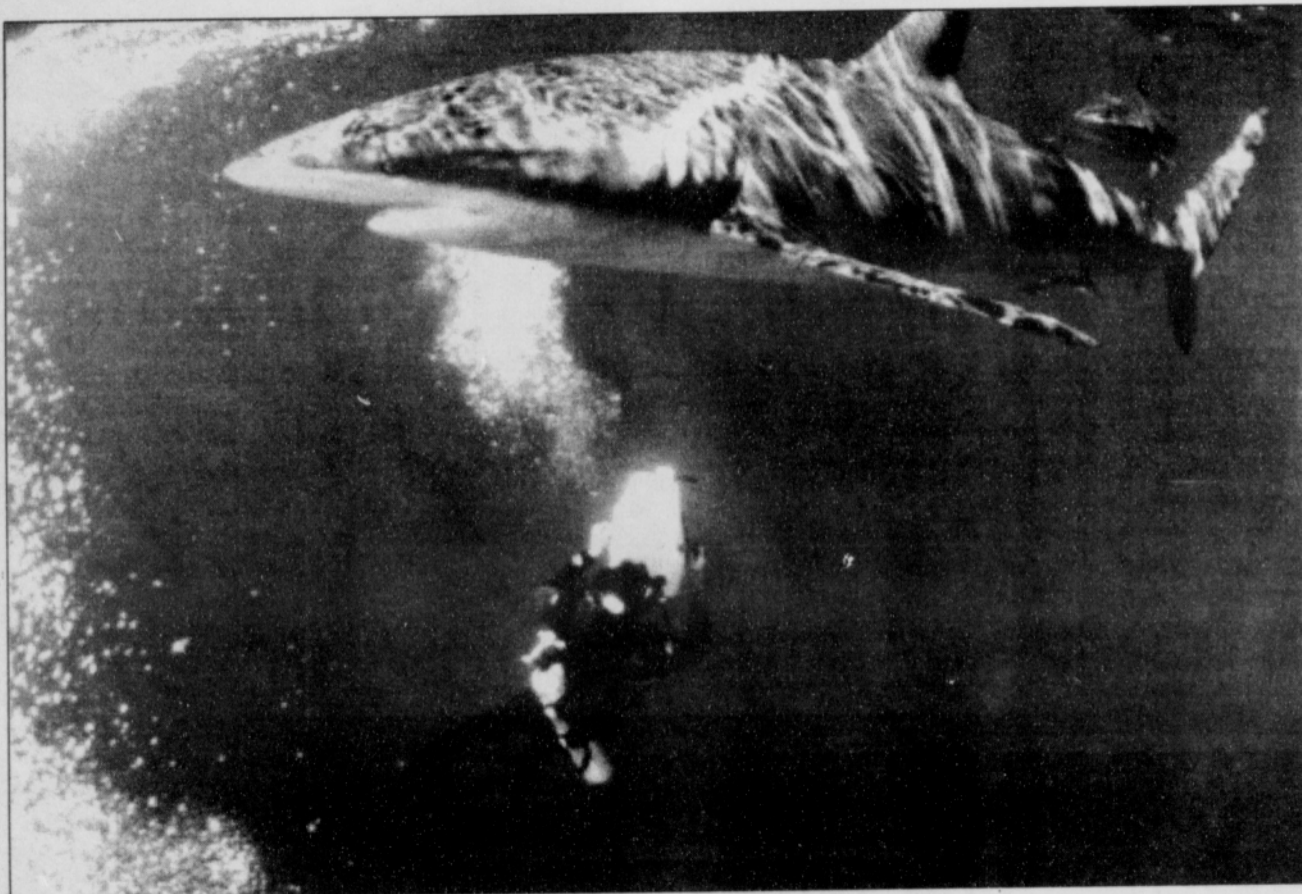
Zuccarini captures eye-opening footage of feeding frenzies and interspecies aggression, reminding viewers that the animals are dangerous. "Filming sharks, you have to be within arm's reach of whatever is going on," he says. "There are definitely moments when you feel as though you may become part of the food chain." The film highlights the engaging hunt that precedes the attack, revealing the

sharks' intelligence and ability to work with others for a common goal and a quick meal.

Award-winning composer Mark Watters scored the original music for "Sea of Sharks." "We created an ethereal underwater mood with both instrumental and voice talent," says Watters. The film's range of emotion calls for especially sensual accompaniment - from the ballet dance of a manta ray - for which Watters merged operatic and new-age sounds - to the mysteriously

quiet stealth of the shark's hunt. His credits include the opening and closing ceremonies for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, and a variety of Disney projects, such as the Aladdin television series and Doug's First Movie.

Airing between July 24 and August 27, "Sea of Sharks" is syndicated by Buena Vista Television. Check local listings for date, time and station or visit www.disney.com/animals for schedules and show details.



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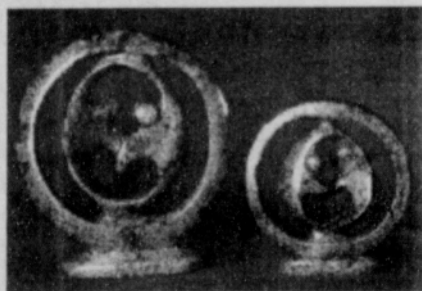
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