

Q&A

READY TO GET TANK'D?



Two dive instructors serve up a double shot of underwater action in a new dive travel and adventure TV series.

→ SHALYNN FLAVELL AND CHRIS MALONE first met while working as dive instructors on Kauai. Malone's behind-the-scenes experience in show biz and Flavell's passion for adventure travel brought them together over a shared idea: A scuba travel show with the energy and soundtrack of a surf video and the environmental awareness and education of a marine-science documentary—*Tank'd* was the result. Their pilot episode got a lot of attention, and they quickly landed a production deal

with PBS. The first season, which comprises 13 episodes filmed in 13 top diving destinations from Dominica to Indonesia, is slated for release in the fall of 2008.

Q: What sets *Tank'd* apart from other dive shows?

CM: Fun, energy, enthusiasm. We show regular divers having a great time on the dive boat, and we want people to see that and say, "I want friends like that! I want to do things like that!" You watch other shows where experts dive with mantas or whales. Well, we want people to know those experiences are open to anyone.

SF: And unlike those other shows, we try to portray the fluid nature of a dive trip. We won't sit somewhere for three months trying to get that perfect shot. We have two weeks per location; if we get it, cool, and if we don't, well that's just the way dive trips go. That really adds to the reality experience.

Q: How did the skate/surf video genre influence this program?

CM: Like those videos, we use all indepen-

dent music. We're working with a company called Rumblefish out of Portland, Ore., whose specialty is unsigned bands that deserve attention—all with a younger energy that we see as an opportunity to break through to a wider audience. We like to describe it as Jacques Cousteau meets the X-Games.

Q: What do you do at each location?

SF: We dive a variety of sites with several different companies to give a sense of what they have to offer, and we show all different skill levels, from snuba to technical diving. We also highlight different types of accommodations and topside adventures because, of course, on every trip there's a day or two that you can't dive.

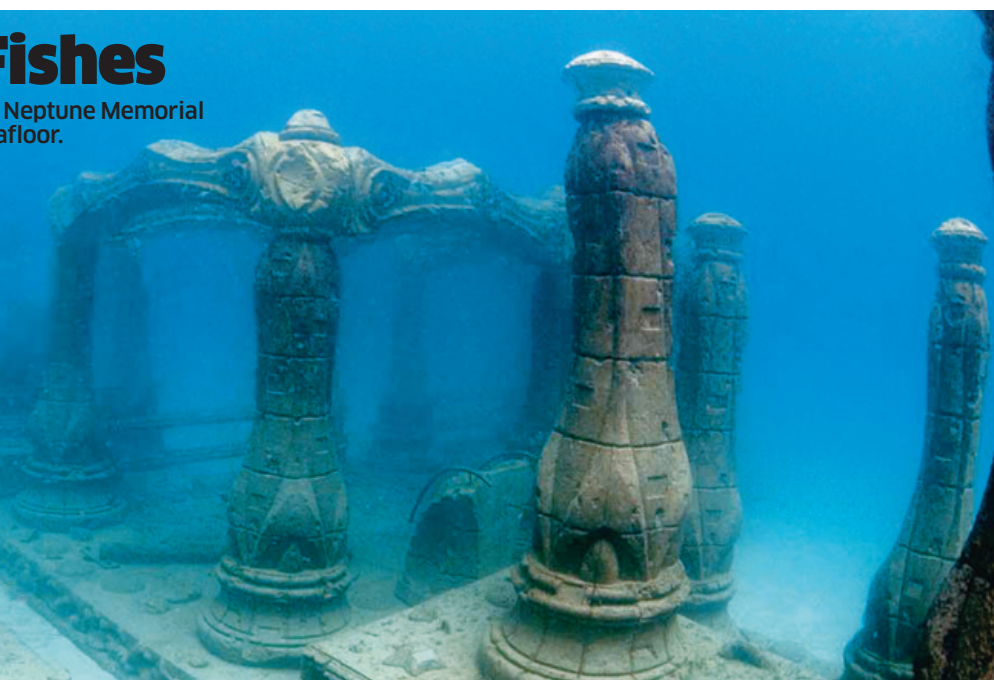
CM: We're trying to show great adventures on and off the beaten path, and you know, the best part of any great adventure is not knowing exactly what that adventure will be.

→ GET MORE Watch the trailer and find out more at www.sevenseasproductions.com.

Sleep With the Fishes

For divers who want to take it with them, the Neptune Memorial Reef offers a way to spend eternity on the seafloor.

Just a few miles off Miami lies an underwater city named for Neptune, the Roman god of the sea. Built by cremation services provider the Neptune Society, the Neptune Memorial Reef is touted as a new style of artificial reef that pairs marine-life sanctuary with final resting place. Each of the concrete features in this 16-acre submarine complex sports dedicated "placements," which can be reserved for you and your loved ones. Want to rest in peace sharing space in a sunken lion? How about welcoming divers as part of the city gates? Spots are now available for around 125,000 lucky souls. Prices range from \$1,495 to \$6,995. For a video of the city and more information, see www.nmreef.com.



NEILZ/NEPTUNE PHOTOS (BOTTOM)