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## **LIVING MIRRORS: A CORAL REEF ADVENTURE** OFFERS A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL GLIMPSE OF AN ECOSYSTEM AT RISK

UMBRAGE EDITIONS ANNOUNCES SPRING 2003 PUBLICATION

<b>BOOK SPECS:</b> Hardcover with jacket ISBN: 1-884167-26-8	9 x 12" portrait 144 pages 135 4-color illustrations	\$34.95 USD March 2003
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**New York, New York** - Umbrage Editions is pleased to announce the publication of *Living Mirrors : A Coral Reef Adventure*, a grippingly told, lavishly illustrated exploration of the unknown from the blue-green of the Caribbean to the azure of the South Pacific to the swirling eddies of the African coast. Authored by Jack Stephens, featuring selected text from *The Future of Life* by E.O. Wilson, the book presents a rare and beautiful glimpse into one of the world's last wild places, the undersea realms, the most ethereal of which are the coral reefs. Contributors to the book include famed ocean advocate Jean-Michel Cousteau, award-winning natural history film producers Howard and Michele Hall, and noted ichthyologist Richard Pyle. *Living Mirrors* also serves as a companion book to a MacGillivray Freeman Film *Coral Reef Adventure* for IMAX® theatres and large format cinema.



*Living Mirrors: A Coral Reef Adventure* provides an unprecedented look at our world beneath the seas. This timely book challenges us to greater awareness of the threat of extinction faced by many coral reefs around the world. In the company of marine life experts, its colorful pages of photographs and film stills guide us through the secrets of the reef in all its glory—gemlike formations, a kaleidoscope of colors, a wild profusion of fish and marine animals—while reminding that the very future of these unique and ever-important ecosystems lies within our hands. Speaking about the majesty of coral reefs, contributor and founder and director of the Ocean Futures Society Jean-Michel Cousteau said, “**Captured on film, coral reefs have connected people, even those who have never seen the ocean, to the spectacular vitality of nature and the other creatures with whom we share the planet.**”

(more)

***Living Mirrors*** shows us why the miraculous diversity and beauty of coral reefs attracts a special breed of adventurer, men and women ready to plunge into the deep for the thrill of discovery and the challenge of recording and preserving the delicate ecosystems and the multitude of creatures that inhabit it, now threatened on a worldwide scale. Speaking to this point, Greg MacGillivray, producer and director of the film *Coral Reef Adventure* states that, “**While few people on earth will ever experience the intense challenges and rewards of ocean exploration, *Coral Reef Adventure* opens up this world of unprecedented beauty and great scientific importance to everyone. The result is a rare glimpse at what we could lose - and also an exciting reminder that maintaining a sustainable relationship with nature is in all of our hands.**”

***Living Mirrors*** is a remarkable, joy-filled journey filled with fascinating text by experts who cover critical issues such as global warming, coral bleaching, and pollution as they threaten these abundant gardens of the sea. Indeed, the enduring frailty of this ecosystem and the impetus for its preservation is succinctly noted in the following excerpt by author Jack Stephens from the book: “**Today’s reefs, many of them built on foundations hundreds of thousands of years old, compose the oldest continually inhabited multicellular communities on Earth and are the addresses of some of Earth’s oldest living beings (like the 126-meter diameter, 4,500-year-old mushroom coral colony on Fiji’s Astrolabe Reef).**” A superb blend of daring adventure, educational challenge, and cutting-edge scientific research, ***Living Mirrors*** reveals a world we are just beginning to explore and understand, a world of sheer beauty and splendor worth preserving and cherishing as a legacy to our children and generations to come.

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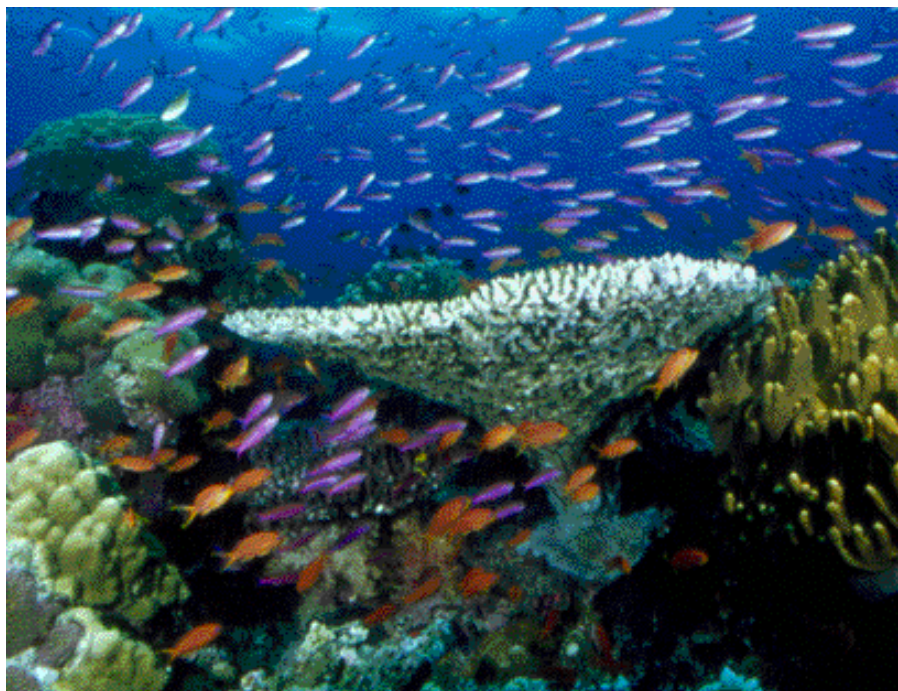
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Still from the film Coral Reef Adventure



Photography by Mark Conlin



Still from the film Coral Reef Adventure



Still from the film Coral Reef Adventure



Still from the film Coral Reef Adventure



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## LIVING MIRRORS: A CORAL REEF ADVENTURE SUPPLEMENTAL MEDIA INFORMATION SHEET

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### EXTENDED EXCERPT FROM THE TEXT BY JACK STEPHENS

“In very real ways, our planet’s geography, as well as her seas, begin and end with coral reefs. Besides being the only living structures found on maps, no other geological features (except volcanoes) are so active and accretive. Corals are nature’s quintessential builders and manufacturers. By binding calcium carbon dioxide, corals effectively remove 1,400 billion pounds of this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere each year, producing limestone at rates of up to 100 tons per square mile. Slowly and quietly corals have helped create vast areas of our continents, as anyone from Coralville, Iowa, or working the quarries of Lacoste, France, can tell you. A living veneer of coral polyps only millimeters thick has sculpted the face of the Earth over eons in limestone structures—almost a mile deep in places like Eniwetok Atoll and 1,200 miles long on the Great Barrier Reef. Tens of thousands of coral islands, atolls, and re-emergent limestone islands exist on this water planet only because of corals. Many of our buildings, beaches, and often the ground we walk on, we owe to the industry of polyps whose abandoned homes are the stuff (when ground, heated, and mixed with water) that dream-homes are made of—cement. No other life form has contributed so significantly and continually to the shaping of the earth’s character, physically and biologically. Yet we are only just now beginning to understand what corals are.”

### COMPANION FILM

**Living Mirrors: A Coral Reef Adventure** is a companion volume to the MacGillivray Freeman Film Coral Reef Adventure, filmed exclusively for IMAX® theaters. For a schedule of worldwide IMAX® theater screenings for *Coral Reef Adventure*, visit the website [www.coralfilm.com](http://www.coralfilm.com) or [www.macfreefilms.com](http://www.macfreefilms.com).

### AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Jack Stephens** has scripted and consulted on *Journey Into Amazing Caves*, *The Magic of Flight*, and *Adventures in Wild California*, and is currently writing MacGillivray Freeman Films next IMAX® feature, *Top Speed*. He is responsible not only for *Living Mirrors*, but for the narration script of *Coral Reef Adventure*.

**Howard and Michele Hall**, a husband-and-wife team, are award-winning natural history film producers specializing in marine wildlife films. Together, they have received seven Emmys® for films including *Jewels of the Caribbean Sea*. They also produced *Seasons in the Sea*, which received the prestigious Golden Panda award. They have authored several books, including *Secrets of the Ocean Realm*. In addition to their roles on-screen for *Coral Reef Adventure*, Howard also served as Director of Underwater Photography and Michele was the Production Manager.

**Jean-Michel Cousteau** was the world’s first child scuba diver. He grew up spending summers aboard the ship, *Calypso*, and took part in his legendary father Jacques Cousteau’s pioneering sea expeditions. Today his organization, Ocean Futures Society, continues that legacy: celebrating the wonder of the sea while advocating for its protection.

**Greg MacGillivray** has directed 15 documentary films for IMAX® theaters, including *Everest* and the Academy-Award nominated films, *Dolphins* and *The Living Sea*. A surfer and diver as well as filmmaker, MacGillivray is especially committed to making films that promote a greater understanding about the ocean environment. His company, MacGillivray Freeman Films, is based in Laguna Beach, California.

### INTERVIEWS

Contributors to *Living Mirrors: A Coral Reef Adventure* are available for interviews.

In interviews regarding *Living Mirrors: A Coral Reef Adventure*, contributors can discuss:

- The importance of coral reefs to the well-being of the entire planet.
- The unique animal behavior and partnerships found on coral reefs.
- Critical issues such as how global warming, coral bleaching, and overfishing are severely threatening the very existence of coral reefs.
- The challenges faced by Howard & Michele Hall during their filmmaking expedition.
- Richard Pyle’s dives to the “Twilight Zone,” the little explored deep coral reefs 200 feet or more from the surface, and his discovery of five undocumented species of fish while filming *Coral Reef Adventure*.