

The Australian team that inspired millions with the world's most enduring and popular film on coral reefs return with a highly anticipated new underwater masterpiece, **Coral Sea Dreaming – Awaken.**



Emmy Award-winning Australian cinematographer, director and producer, **David Hannan** has filmed for 7 years to create this magnificent testimony to our extraordinary undersea world. Many of the sequences have never been filmed before. Some may never be filmed again. Corals have survived 5 mass extinctions. But can they survive us?

Coral Sea Dreaming – Awaken enters into the very heart of life - and death - on a coral reef. The interactive DVD/Blu Ray format offers viewers a suite of options to follow a story that spans 500 million years and stars some of the most exotic and wondrous marine creatures on earth. Coral is the planet's greatest natural architect, and coral reefs boast the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem.

We meet thousands of reef inhabitants, from ancient turtles to feeding sharks, adorable pygmy seahorses and savage sea slugs, witness a manta ray ballet and courting octopus.

Specialized state-of-the-art High Definition technology captures these lives with unprecedented intimacy, illustrating elaborate courtship displays, mating rituals, feeding frenzies, intense nighttime predation, cannibalism and chemical warfare.

Filmed over 2000 dives on coral reef ecosystems; The Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo Reef, Papua New Guinea and at the Coral Sea; Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken is a celebration of reefs now under threat of ocean acidification and climate change.

There is much to be done to safeguard these precious ecosystems for future generations. And very little time to do it. David Hannan is renowned not only for his filmmaking, but also the conservation that is activated by his films. This is the driving force behind his work.

David Hannan is available for interview

David Hannan has created one of the largest, independent collections of marine footage on the planet. He works on a myriad of international projects from his beach-side studio on idyllic North Stradbroke Island in Queensland.

David first shot to international acclaim for his tropical coral reef images in the bestselling film, Coral Sea Dreaming (1992) and won an Emmy Award for Cinematography for Palau – Paradise of the Pacific (1999).

He recently created the stunning visual presentation for the Copenhagen Summit keynote address by Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg and is involved in the 'Protect Our Coral Sea' campaign, to inspire Australians to form the world's largest marine heritage park in our lifetime.

Undersea Edens, a new 6-part HD television series for the Smithsonian Channel will launch in the US later this year. Coral Sea Dreaming – Awaken is released as an interactive DVD/Blu Ray by Roadshow Entertainment in Australia and New Zealand, with global distribution to follow.



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The star of the film is Coral

500 million years ago, life on Earth began to evolve. Corals were some of the first. They remain with us today, making them one of the most ancient life-forms on the planet. They have survived Ice Ages and meteorite strikes and endured 5 mass extinctions.

Part animal, part plant, corals are the greatest architects on earth. As reef builders, corals laid the foundations for aquatic wonderlands, and were the genetic driving-force behind the evolution of hundreds of thousands of marine creatures. They were the first organisms equipped with a nervous system and locomotion.

As such, corals can be seen to be our ancestor. Corals perfected solar power and recycling millennia ago, and have achieved near-immortality through cloning.

The reef systems featured in Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken are testimony to the great success that is coral. The famous Great Barrier Reef is the biggest coral reef ecosystem on earth, and the only natural structure visible from Space. Western Australia's Ningaloo reef is deemed by scientists to be one of the few reefs in the world that may be resilient enough to survive climate change. The coral atolls of Papua New Guinea boast the highest diversity of tropical marine life anywhere. The Coral Sea is a tropical marine jewel that is one of the last places on Earth where large marine animals can still be found in significant numbers.

The film begins with a scene that has no living parallel, and is unrivaled in spectacle: coral spawning. Cued by the moon, the entire Great Barrier Reef simultaneously explodes in eggs and sperm. This is the greatest orgasm on earth. Using specialized lenses and delving deep into nighttime seas, Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken captures this grand event right down to the most macroscopic of detail. Each egg is a potential new reef. And each reef, a potential new world.

Most of the world's 500 species of coral appear in the film, as well as stinging hydroids, crinoids, feather stars and sponges. Together they form a vast metropolis as complex, as dangerous as one of our own cities. There are cleaning stations and deathtraps, unlikely lovers and sex-change artists. There is toxic warfare, cannibalism and seduction. There are clandestine meetings, massive congregations, and age-old rituals.

Anemone fish tend their eggs, shrimp overturn starfish and eat them alive, and carnivorous nudibranchs dine on their lovers, timid garden eels arise from the sand like ghostly blades of grass. Massive schools of trevally, mackerel, batfish and barracuda encircle the sun. Alien sea slugs, sea cucumbers, fire urchins and sea snakes materialize from the shadows. Giant Manta rays courting swirl like magic carpets.

As night falls, Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken probes the darkness to reveal an even more bizarre and dangerous world as billions of plankton rise from the abyss; becoming the largest animal migration on earth. Sticky arms ensnare unsuspecting prey. Cocoons are woven over sleeping fish. Crabs and frogfish pounce. Bioluminescent language flashes.

The film follows the story of the octopus, and its mastery over disguise. It's the story of the shark, and its dignity in the face of extinction. It's the story of the goby, and its mystical alliance with a blind shrimp. It's the story of the seahorse, turtle and whale.

Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken is timely as corals face ocean acidification, bleaching and habitat destruction. Many scientists now believe that coral reefs as we know them may not survive climate change. What does the future hold for these animals and us, who depend on the reef for survival? Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken is a mesmerizing and poignant celebration of one of the planet's great natural wonders.

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DVD / Blu-ray Product Information

Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken is no ordinary DVD or Blu-ray disc. It features a suite of viewing options to explore the world of coral reefs. Viewers can select to have a music-only experience and enjoy the film as an exceptional relaxation video with original music by Tania Rose. Additionally, pop-up text with creature identification and interesting facts about ocean issues can be activated, turning the program into a powerful educational resource. For a more classic documentary experience, an informative narration track can run or viewers can choose to peek 'behind the scenes' with Hannan or Rose. Enhancing the package is the inclusion of 60 minutes of specially created 'virtual decor' in different styles for creating unique and moving digital art displays.

Coral Sea Dreaming - Awaken Australian release by Roadshow Entertainment launches on February 10, with global territories to follow throughout 2010.

Special Marine Fundraiser Screening Events are planned in selected venue locations early 2010 and later throughout the year in support of the campaign to protect our Coral Sea. Please visit www.protectourcoralsea.org.au

For more information please visit:

w: coralseadreaming.com

w: planktonproductions.com.au

w: protectourcoralsea.org.au

w: myfundvd.com.au

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