

## **The Ocean's Greatest Masters of Disguise at Underwater World Singapore**

*Singapore, 11 November 2008* – Underwater World Singapore (UWS) will stage the greatest magic show in the seas by bringing in the ocean's best dynamic act. The Masters of Disguise, separately known as the Mimic Octopus, Giant Pacific Octopus, Pharaoh Cuttlefish and Chambered Nautilus, will provide glimpses of the intelligent marine life form found in the deep seas.

From the proud lineage of the marine family Cephalopods which possess well-developed senses, each animal is housed in a specially designed tank to best showcase its unique ability. Every Master uses a special camouflaging technique that helps in averting predators or blending into the environment.

**Mimic Octopus:** A fairly recent discovery, the Mimic Octopus was first identified in Sulawesi, Indonesia, in 1998. In the face of danger, this clever animal mimics its predator's physical appearance and movements, switching between disguises with ease, right down to colour, shape and behaviour. Part of its wide ranging repertoire includes the venomous lionfish, sole fish and banded sea snake.

**Giant Pacific Octopus:** Housed in a specially constructed maze-like tank, watch this 7kg heavy weight manoeuvre its way through tight spaces as small as 8 centimetres for food. Highly intelligent animals, they are able to open jars and solve mazes in lab tests. In addition to its astounding flexibility, look out for changes in the skin's colour and texture to match that of its surroundings – all in a day's work for this natural performer.

**Pharaoh Cuttlefish:** Found in the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the expressive Pharaoh Cuttlefish uses its colour changing ability to mate, feed and signal change in mood. Able to change its looks in a split second, marvel as it blends seamlessly into its surroundings. By quickly changing the colour and pattern of its skin, you'd be forgiven for mistaking it as that piece of coral one minute, and a neon sign board another.

**Nautilus:** Look up, you see the sun; look down, you see the seabed. With a dark top and light bottom, the chambered Nautilus hides itself from other animals via the unique ability of counter-shading. The only member of the Cephalopod class to have a fully developed shell which encases its entire body, this animal disguises itself most effortlessly.

Dr Jeffrey Mahon, Curatorial Director of UWS, commenting on the rationale behind their latest exhibit, “The Cephalopod family have long been regarded as the smartest form of invertebrate life, with the recently discovered Mimic Octopus being the most exciting. No other animal comes even close to its range of mimicking ability. This display will astound and educate our guests about these incredibly intelligent animals.”

Mr Kwek Meng Tiam, General Manager of Underwater World Singapore, said this about the **Masters of Disguise** display, “At UWS, we constantly strive to bring in new and exciting sea animals to interest and educate the public on marine life. With the school holidays here, the Cephalopod display was a good educational choice that exhibited marine animals’ intelligence and special survival abilities.”

### **Double Year-End Promotions**

To ring in some festive cheer amidst the gloom of the economic downturn, Underwater World Singapore will be pleased to offer 2 promotions instead of the usual single year-end promotion. Both promotions will run concurrently from 15 Nov 2008 – 1 Jan 2009. Details as follows:

- A) Buy 2 adult admission tickets at prevailing published rates and get 2 child admission tickets free.  
*2 Adult + 2 Child = S\$45.80 (UP: \$75)*
- B) An exclusive promotion with DBS Bank at 30% off published admission rates (adult/child) for DBS & POSB debit & credit cardholders.  
*Adult = S\$16.00 (UP: \$22.90)*  
*Child = S\$10.20 (UP: \$14.60)*
- Above promotion is only applicable to local residents of Singapore (i.e. Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, Holders of Employment Passes, Workers’ Permit or Dependant’ s Pass);
  - To qualify, visitors are required to produce relevant identifications;
  - This promotion is not applicable with any other ongoing promotions;
  - One identification (for proof of eligibility) is only allowed to purchase one discounted ticket;
  - For DBS promotion, payment must be made by DBS/POSB credit/debit card.

### **About Underwater World Singapore**

Underwater World Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary of Haw Par Corporation. Situated on Sentosa Island, this leisure and educational attraction showcases the rich variety of marine life to be found around the region, with educational and recreational activities available here.

The Dolphin Lagoon, an attraction of Underwater World Singapore houses the Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphins, commonly known as pink dolphins for its coat of "bubbly" pink in contrast to the usual grey appearance of dolphins. At the "Meet-the-Dolphin" sessions, visitors can enjoy a close encounter with these adorable pink creatures.

At Underwater World Singapore, our mission goes beyond making our guests aware of the fascinating marine life. Our commitment to marine conservation and environmental awareness is demonstrated through our work in public education, breeding, rescue and rehabilitation, and research. Underwater World Singapore reinforces its environmental efforts through educational exhibits and a variety of education programmes to children and other guests. School visits are actively supported, and a number of new educational programmes are planned. Underwater World Singapore has also been very active in providing special programmes and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled.

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