



Jason Isley

JASON LEFT THE UK in the mid-'90s to explore Southeast Asia, eventually finding himself in Cairns, Australia. He was captivated by the underwater realm and immediately began his diving career. There he met Simon Christopher, another Brit, and the two moved to Sipadan, where they created Scubazoo Images.

Since its creation in 1996, Scubazoo has become one of the world's leading underwater filming and photography companies. Jason has filmed and photographed extensively at all of Malaysia's major underwater locations as well as exploring other new locations around Sabah. Scubazoo's filming trips have taken him to nearly two dozen locations around the world.

Jason has filmed on all of Scubazoo's major broadcast production projects, including supervising director for Scubazoo's project managing the Canadian IMAX production, *Sacred Planet*. More recently he has been involved in filming a whole selection of different presenters for various broadcast stations such as BBC, National Geographic, Discovery, and Animal Planet.

In between hectic filming schedules Jason has managed to find time to uncover his photographic skills. "I started taking underwater pictures when I lived on Sipadan and actually got bored with filming guests. Photography gave me that extra challenge," he says. Jason ran the publications side of Scubazoo until recently, and he's been busy working on Scubazoo's second coffee table book, *Reef*, due to hit bookstores in October 2007. More of Jason's images, info on Scubazoo, and the latest news on *Reef* can be seen at scubazoo.com

DIVER & SARDINES

LOCATION Fernando De Noronha, Brazil **HOW** While the rest of the film crew were busy filming scenes on land, Simon Enderby and I decided to do some more diving. Our guide took us to a remote pinnacle and we were lucky enough to witness an incredible baitball of sardines being hunted by trevally. **FRAMES SHOT** 30+ **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 12-24 mm lens, Inon strobes, f22 at 1/60



▲ FROGFISH FEEDING

LOCATION TK2, Lembah Strait, Indonesia **HOW** The frogfish has one of the quickest strikes of any fish, and trying to capture this behaviour is a challenge. During a shoot in Lembah, I even tried using video lights so that I didn't need to rely on the recycle time of the strobes. In this instance I was lucky enough to get the timing right using my normal strobes for this magical sequence. **FRAMES SHOT** 15 in the sequence **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 12-24 mm lens, Inon strobes, f14 at 1/60

▼ DEVIL SCORPIONFISH

LOCATION Aer Perang, Lembah Strait, Indonesia **HOW** I was on a mission to get some mating/courting behaviour and was extremely happy to discover a pair of devil scorpionfish. As I settled down to start taking pictures, the male started his display directly in front of the female. She obviously wasn't impressed: Within a few seconds she decided to eat him rather than mate! **FRAMES SHOT** 6 **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D2X in Nexus housing with 10.5 mm lens and 1.5 converter, Inon strobes, f10 at 1/8

◀ MORAY & CLEANER WRASSE

LOCATION Mellow Yellow, Sodwana Bay, South Africa **HOW** The honeycomb morays of Sodwana Bay are constantly being cleaned. Having spent the previous dive with a very shy moray and getting some poor results, I finally found a cooperative eel and captured the shot I wanted. **FRAMES SHOT** 20 **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D2X in Nexus housing with 16 mm lens, Inon strobes, f8 at 1/200



▼ SPINNER DOLPHINS

LOCATION Fernando De Noronha, Brazil **HOW** We were filming at the islands for a UK production company and were given special permission to swim with the dolphins. Once we had enough footage I grabbed the still camera and went back into the water for some shots. The dolphins were extremely friendly, but it was usually the males that came in close to check us out, leaving the females and young in the background. **FRAMES SHOT** 100+ **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 12-24 mm lens, Inon strobes, f6.3 at 1/250



▼ TIGER SHARK

LOCATION Aliwal Shoal, South Africa **HOW** Diving with and getting up close to these beautiful sharks is always a privilege and extremely exciting, but there can be the odd moment when they get a little too friendly. This tiger literally bumped the camera port just after this shot was taken. **FRAMES SHOT** 100+ **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D2X in Nexus housing with 16 mm lens, Inon strobes, f7.1 at 1/350



◀ JUVENILE BARRAMUNDI COD

LOCATION Hairball, Lembah Strait, Indonesia **HOW** Juvenile barramundi cod have a horrible habit of never sitting still, and can be a huge pain to photograph. Once I found this little guy hiding in the pink coral I set myself the task of capturing him with the beautiful pink background. **FRAMES SHOT** 15 **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 105 mm lens, Inon strobes, f8 at 1/80



WONDERPUS MATING

LOCATION Jahir 2, Lembah Strait, Indonesia **HOW** I returned to this site over and over as we'd had good results over the previous days. I saw a wonderpus as she moved over the sandy bottom and, for a very brief moment, there was a flurry of colour changes and strange arm positions. Out of nowhere, the smaller male appeared around the side of the female. **FRAMES SHOT** 12 **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 105 mm lens, Inon strobes, f8 at 1/80



MANTIS SHRIMP DISPLAYING

LOCATION Pantai Perigi, Lembah Strait, Indonesia **HOW** This mantis shrimp was busy clearing sand and stones from his hole, but after having had my strobes flashing away at him a few too many times, obviously decided enough was enough and confronted the camera port with this display. **FRAMES SHOT** 18 **EQUIPMENT & EXPOSURE** Nikon D200 in Nexus housing with 105 mm lens, Inon strobes, f8 at 1/80

