In mid-August the Computer Cafe and owners Jeff Barnes and David Ebner were selected to create a video for Oceanic, a leading scuba and watersport equipment company. The video was to be used as an opening sequence in Oceanic's videos. They didn't want much, just an underwater shot where a dolphin morphs into a diver using Oceanic's gear.

The Computer Cafe's first job was to dissuade the client from using stock footage. The problem was finding two shots that were alike in color, lighting, camera angle, and more. The task was nearly impossible and the result would be less than what the client hoped for. Their decision was made to create the entire sequence in the Amiga with LightWave.

Tom Williamson created approximately 75% of the models based on actual Oceanic equipment. ''I started with the equipment. Using LightWave Modeler I made everything for the diver to approximate scale, then using Tim Wilson's Humanoid as a base, the diver was assembled piece by piece.'' The dolphin was a modified Viewpoint object and the various fish, coral, rocks, and underwater scenery were created by the Computer Cafe team.

After a great deal of work and the utilization of Morph Plus and a variety of specialized utilities, the sequence was created. The viewer sees an open ocean floor, followed by a dolphin swimming in and morphing into a diver, who then turns in front of the camera and exhales. The bubbles then reveal a rippling Oceanic logo that soon bursts into a school of fish who swim off the screen.

The project used over 3200 individual rendered frames, 75 scene files, and 120 painted and scanned brushmaps. At one time, the designers were working with over 12 layers in order to get the characters exactly right.

The result is a finished film with remarkable special effects that cost the client little more than a professional photo shoot would have cost--and that does not include the editing.

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