

Media: For more information, contact SeaWorld Public Relations at (619) 226-3929.

'Blue Horizons' Show and Construction Fact Sheet

SeaWorld's Dolphin Stadium has been completely renovated for the park's new "Blue Horizons," a spectacular show combining energetic dolphins and pilot whales, with soaring exotic birds and amazing aerialists, divers and bungee performers. "Blue Horizons" opens May 29, 2010 at SeaWorld San Diego.

In order to prepare for "Blue Horizons," Dolphin Stadium shut down in September 2009 and underwent nine months of construction, beginning in September 2009, including an entirely new set; trusses, diving boards and bungee swings for the aerialists and divers; a new sound system; high-tech water features; and an additional 738 seats for guests (for a total of 3,552). Initial training for the dolphins and pilot whales began at Shamu Stadium, where the marine mammals lived temporarily during the construction. Training of the birds began in behind-the-scenes areas and eventually at the renovated stadium.

Dolphin Stadium was originally built in 1971 and has been the venue of many exhibits and shows over the years, including the most recent dolphin show, "Dolphin Discovery," which, after 13 years, was one of SeaWorld's longest running shows.

Here's a look at some of the "nuts and bolts" of "Blue Horizons":

Cast of animals:

- Up to 16 dolphins
- 2 pilot whales
- 50 rock doves
- 24 Australian corral-billed parrots
- 1 green-winged macaw
- 2 black vultures
- 2 East African crowned cranes

Performing cast:

- Up to 12 animal trainers
- 11 flying performers:
 - Aurora (the spirit of the sky)
 - 6 high divers
 - 2 aerial performers (perform on what is known as "Cloud Swings")
 - 2 bungee performers (known as "Storm" performers)

Scenic and Trussing Elements:

- 13 fully-automated winches to run performer and scenery line sets
- 2 moving backdrops and six 60-foot ascending sun rays
- 6 technicians to run the show
- More than 400 feet of truss
- More than 1,900 feet of rope
- 40 fountain nozzles and 4 articulating fountain devices

- Diving platforms (25 feet above water)
- 11 automated bird releases

Other facts:

- Length of show: 22 minutes
- Length of time to refill pools after they were re-painted: 30 hours
- Gallons of saltwater (pumped in from Mission Bay and filtered) to fill six pools: 1.4 million
- Performance pool depth: 25 feet
- 5 new Avian enclosures built to house nearly 100 birds

Production staff:

- Producers: Rick Schuiteman, SeaWorld Entertainment Director; Scott Helmstedter and Elizabeth Hansen, In Motion Entertainment
- Director: Roy Luthringer, In Motion Entertainment
- Production Designer: Stan Meyer
- Project Manager: Darlene Walter, SeaWorld Project Engineer
- Entertainment Technical Project Managers: Nicole Oosterlinck and Kevin Cook, SeaWorld Entertainment

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