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ACTIVISTS SPEAK OUT AGAINST DOLPHINS AND OTHER ANIMALS USED IN CAPTIVITY AT SEA WORLD, GOLD COAST.

THE ACTION:

This morning, in an effort to raise awareness about the cruelty of keeping wild animals' captive and forcing sentient, highly intelligent beings to perform for human entertainment, a group of activists from across Australia legally entered Sea World on the Gold Coast and disrupted the theme park's main dolphin show. Armed with megaphones, a fierce passion and banners espousing their cause, the activists pleaded with those in attendance to look beyond the veil of "conservation", music, cheering crowds, backflips and dolphin kissing experiences and notice the severe price paid by these gentle, intelligent, sentient animals held captive against their will.

In the wild dolphins can travel 100's of kilometers daily, feeding and socialising with other members of their pods. Pods can contain hundreds of individuals with complex social bonds and hierarchies. They also spend approximately 80-90% of their time underwater and have the freedom to make their own choices. In complete contrast, dolphins at Sea World are housed in small enclosures, unable to swim in a straight line for long or dive deeply and spend approximately 80% of their time at the surface, looking for food and attention from their trainers, who make their choices for them.

Katie Jean, an animal rights activist from Melbourne explains why she chose to attend Sea World today to make a stand against what she believes is outright animal exploitation - *"We know the level of awareness these animals have. We know their social connections, their eating habits, and natural wild behaviours. You cannot breed natural instincts out of an animal in a handful of generations. These are incredibly social, intelligent beings who are exploited and used for economic gain. It is animal enslavement, and it needs to be brought to the general public's attention."*

Ashley Avci, actress, law student and animal rights advocate from Sydney further explains why she also fights for the freedom of dolphins and whales who are kept in marine parks across the globe - *"Marine parks such as Sea World like to hide beneath the blanket of education. But the truth is, they teach our children that it's okay to enslave socially complex and intelligent animals, and use them for human entertainment. Sea World is a prison for dolphins."*

I believe every person who wants to swim with a dolphin has a moral duty to watch 'the Academy Award winning film "The Cove" before buying a ticket. And maybe you should ask yourself, 'would I enjoy being imprisoned in a bathtub for the rest of my life and forced to perform for food?'

Little do people know, the captive dolphin industry fuels one of the cruelest captures and hunts for dolphins on the planet. While you're smiling with a suffering dolphin, it's likely that wild dolphins are being selected for a life of imprisonment in Taiji, Japan and those not good enough for a life sentence and slaughtered and reduced to cheap packaged meat. "

CAPTIVITY IN THE LOCAL NEWS:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-05/bob-carr-joins-call-for-captive-dolphins-to-be-set-free/7386754>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/05/05/captive-dolphin-nsw-bob-carr_n_9835060.html