

Tape script

Int:

Today, we're talking to marine biologists Gina Kelso and Thomas Lundman, who you will recently have seen in their award-winning TV series about Antarctica. So, Thomas, what's it like to suddenly become a household name?

Thomas:

Well, we're being interviewed for all sorts of publications and programmes since our television series about the wildlife in Antarctica won a major award. I'm often asked if I've always been interested in marine wildlife, and I find that hard to answer. What about you, Gina?

Gina:

That's an easy one for me, Thomas. I grew up on African shores, where my father worked for an international company. I could swim by the age of four, snorkel at five. I guess I was destined for marine biology because I've always been as happy in the water as on land. I remember a particular evening when I was about eleven. It was dusk and I was snorkelling, and I came across hundreds of stingrays entwined together. It was extraordinary; another world, and that was the moment that decided me. Although I later went to school in the middle of England, I'd lie awake at night dreaming of the ocean. Fortunately, I got into university to do zoology and went on to do research in marine biology. **STOP**

Thomas:

And, like me, you've been in wildlife filmmaking for how long ...about eight years now?

Gina:

Yeah, I knew it was what I wanted to do, but instead of following the normal route of joining a TV company as a researcher, I was lucky enough to be chosen to take part in that first wildlife programme we did together. Do you remember?

Thomas:

Yeah, where we made the first ever live broadcast under the sea. The practice run was very funny. I had to dive into a swimming pool and give a running commentary on some plastic plants that had been borrowed from a studio to make it look more realistic. Fortunately, the programme itself was a success and so one thing led to another after that, and we both moved into the production side. **STOP**

Gina:

And it was tough making this latest series in Antarctica, wasn't it?

Thomas:

Well, the series is introduced by a well-known naturalist, dressed in a thermal anorak with the hood drawn so tightly that you can only see his nose.

Gina:

And you get an idea of what conditions were like, but he was only the presenter – flown in to do his bit and flown back out again. We spent eight months there filming with a team of cameramen and researchers, living on a specially adapted boat.