

Jacques Cousteau Protector of the Great Oceans

CAST: NARRATOR, JACQUES, PIERRE (his brother), PAPA COUSTEAU (his father-3 lines), SIMONE (his wife-2 lines), ARMY OFFICER - (1 line)

Props needed: toy crane and car, camera, ocean waves, whale and fish, casts & slings for arms, medals, Calypso boat & champagne bottle

*Scene: Young Jacques' bedroom, where he lays in bed.
A model crane sits on the shelf.
Cousteau and his brother are working on a small toy car*

NARRATOR: Our story takes place near Bordeaux, France towards the end of World War I. A young boy is testing out his new invention, a battery operated car.

YOUNG JACQUES: Argh, I just can't make this car work!

PIERRE: Jacques, you are so impatient! Remember when you couldn't get your crane to work and it works great now.

(Jacques pulls crane pull up and down)

Look if you just hook this wire here like this, it will work perfect!

(lets go of car and it take off shooting across the stage)

JACQUES: Merci Pierre, I am so glad you are here to help me. I am always so sick and frail. I just wish I could go outside in the fresh air more. I am glad I get to invent things to keep me busy.

(enter father)

Papa, Papa, look at my car I built!

PAPA COUSTEAU: Oh, that is wonderful Jacques...

(sounding depressed, and barely looking up Papa enters the room and sits in a big rocking chair with his head in his hands)

JACQUES & PIERRE: *(together)* What is wrong Papa?

PAPA COUSTEAU: Ah Jacques, Pierre, I just couldn't stand that boss of mine one more day! He is just so mean, everyday he complains and yells at me! Today I couldn't take it anymore and I lost my job. I am afraid your Mama will be very upset. Now I don't know how we will pay for your doctor visits, Jacques?!

YOUNG JACQUES: When I grow up I will live on the high seas just like in this book I read this morning. *(Holding up book)* I will find buried treasures hidden by pirates and we won't have to worry about Mama or my doctor bills, or anything ever again!

PAPA COUSTEAU: Oh my son! You are so thoughtful! *(smiling he picks up Jacques car and hands it to him)* Now, let's see how your car works again!

Scene change to NYC backdrop - Jacques & Pierre are playing stickball in the streets and children's voices can be heard in the background ... "Batter up ... strike one ... etc."

NARRATOR: Jacques' father got a new job and the family moved to New York City. Here Jacques and his brother, Pierre, learned to play stickball in the street, and how to roller skate with the other children. They believed that Jacques should learn to swim to improve his health and gain strength so the family spent its vacations in Vermont.

Backdrop of the dock and lake. Jacques is jumping off of dock and holding his nose while Pierre swims in the water below. (waves prop?)

JACQUES: Pierre, look at me!

Giant splash sound

PIERRE: I can dive deeper than you!

Jacques: No you can't!

Mexican backdrop, and marionettes with Spanish music playing in the background quietly...

NARRATOR: The boys would play in Lake Harvey for many summers. Jacques would learn to hold his breath while diving to the bottom of the lake and his love of underwater biology would grow. The family would take a trip to Mexico when Jacques was 13.

JACQUES: This is amazing! Ooh! Pierre look at this!

PIERRE: Let's go down to the ocean and look at the fish!

JACQUES: Yeah, I'm with you!

PIERRE: Last on in's a jelly fish!

Boys run offstage and splashing sounds can be heard, crashing, etc. Boys are still yelling

JACQUES & PIERRE: Wee, whoopee!

enter Eiffel Tower scenery backdrop.

NARRATOR: when the family returned to Paris, Jacques saved his allowance and bought a Pathe camera.

PIERRE: Hey watch where you're going. You always looking through that silly camera!

JACQUES: Pierre, why don't you help me take this camera apart? I really want to know how it works.

PIERRE: I don't think you should do that Jacques, you'll never be able to put it back together again.

JACQUES: Sure I will, you just watch.

Jacques turns a screwdriver and starts taking the camera apart

JACQUES: Oh, that's how that goes ... mmm, I wonder ... now if I just put this back like that ... and this goes there ... and ta da! I did it!

NARRATOR: Jacques was able to put it back together and from then on he made many films and took all the credits for himself.

Jacques battles the giant whales etc.

JACQUES: The dangerous Pirate Long John Silver captured the King's boat and took his gold and jewels. He buried them in a chest far out at sea where only sharks and giant octopi and killer whales lived ... The famous Navy sailor Jacques Cousteau followed the pirate and saved the King's treasure. He became a great hero and the King named him "Officer in charge of protecting our seas and oceans! The END. Film produced, directed and filmed by Jacques Cousteau!

Narrator: Jacques would spend most of his high school years making up films. This would get him into trouble with his teachers, so his parents sent him to a military school. Jacques liked this school. After school he joined the French Navy.

Jacques in uniform, carrying camera and taking pictures.

JACQUES: Wow! This is great! I am getting to travel all around the world! I invented a camera that works underwater! Won't Pierre be amazed?! I think I will learn how to be a pilot too!

Jacques still filming everything in sight.

JACQUES: Won't Papa be proud?!

NARRATOR: Jacques did well in pilot school, but 3 weeks before his final exam he broke both of his arms!

Jacques walks across the stage with both arms in casts and slings.

NARRATOR: The doctors wanted to amputate Jacques arms but he said No. After a long time, Jacques got better.

Then back again the other direction in Uniform receiving medals from LT.

He would be promoted in the Navy many times. Then he met a woman named Simone Melchior. He married Simone and they had two children. The Cousteau family would help Jacques with his experiments.

Simone and Jacques diving underwater with a mask and tube

SIMONE: Jacques, Mon cheri, I am worried that trying to stay underwater longer and longer is dangerous. I don't know where you and your friend Emile come up with the ideas?

JACQUES: Ah, my Simone. You remind me of my brother Pierre when I was a young boy, and he didn't think I could take my camera apart and put it back together.

SIMONE: Yes but this Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, is dangerous I think, I worry about you. Please be sure you are careful with your S-C-U-B-A scuba diving invention!

JACQUES: I will Mon cheri! I promise!

ARMY OFFICER: (*Saluting*) Lt. Cousteau, you have been requested by the French Navy to help in the War effort.

getting up and saluting the officer, then drying himself off with a towel

JACQUES: Yes sir, Au revoir, mon cheri. (*kissing Simone goodbye*) I will return as soon as possible to continue our experiments!

Waving to Simone as he exits offstage behind the army officer.

NARRATOR: Lieutenant Cousteau would get many medals. After the war, Jacques bought an old U.S. ship.

Calypso prop with Jacques breaking bottle of champagne

JACQUES: I christen thee, the Calypso, after the famous sea nymph from Greek history. Together we shall explore the oceans of the planet Earth and teach people about the wonderful underwater world.

Underwater background of coral, and tropical fish etc. An octopus in a cave ... Jacques and Simone are swimming around with cameras and fish and sharks etc are swimming all around them.

NARRATOR: Jacques Cousteau would be asked to create a series for TV about sharks, whales, dolphins, sunken treasure, and coral reefs. He would write many books and films, Jacques Cousteau died on January 27, 1997 after a lifetime of hard work to protect the Earth's amazing oceans.

The END