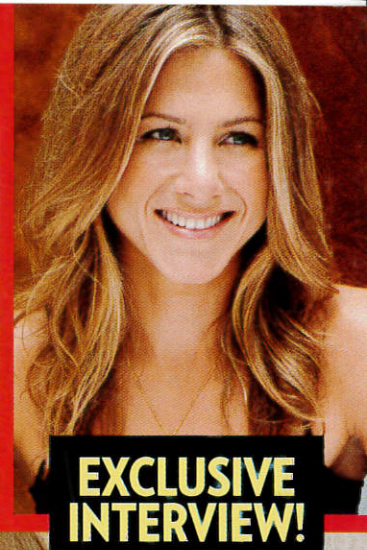


Jen: 'I'M NOT ENGAGED'

SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

# People



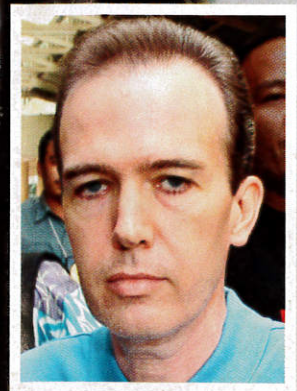
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With the Cousteau name comes "a responsibility to do good to the environment," says Fabien (in New York harbor).

# FABIEN COUSTEAU

**AGE:** 38

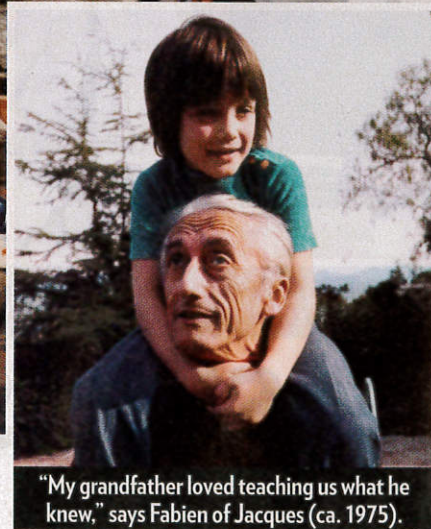
**HOMETOWN:** Paris

**LATEST ADVENTURE:** The grandson of legendary oceanographer Jacques Cousteau is currently following in the late explorer's foot—well, flipper—steps on his father's new PBS series *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*.

■ **GROWING UP COUSTEAU** A diver from age 4, Fabien recalls that "one of my first jobs was scrubbing the barnacles" off his grandfather's boat *Calypso*. On a family expedition to Papua New Guinea when he was 7, "we got lost—there was a lot of concern," he says.

"When it is just you and the sea, you realize how insignificant a human being is and how powerful nature is." He's not alone on his *Adventures*; he and his dad are joined by his sister Celine, 34.

■ **THE SHARK WHISPERER** To study great whites for a recent documentary, Cousteau built a \$100,000, 14-ft. submarine shaped like a shark. "The idea was to get close to them by pretending to be one of them," he says. "The shark-sub was completely noiseless and rolled its eyes and puffed its gills. A lot of people thought it was superkooky—they looked at me like I was pitching *2001: A Space Odyssey*."



"My grandfather loved teaching us what he knew," says Fabien of Jacques (ca. 1975).

■ **ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL**

"I could never choose a favorite animal, there are so many cool ones," says Cousteau. "Obviously I like sharks. I love octopus, and mantis shrimp are fascinating." Back on land the single adventurer admits there's one animal that puzzles him: his shepherd mix Heidi. "She's scared of phone booths," Cousteau says. Alas, she's no better at sea. "When I go underwater, she paces and barks, so she can't come on boats." ●