# Phoebe Waller-Bridge brings wit and wonder to Amazon’s octopus documentary



# Diving Deep: Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Octopus!" Explores Life Beneath the Waves

Amazon's foray into nature documentaries takes an intriguing turn with "Octopus!", a two-part series narrated and executive produced by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. While many anticipated a project reflecting her sharp wit and unique storytelling prowess, the focus on the majestic Giant Pacific Octopus is a surprising yet compelling twist in her career. The documentary, which premieres on Amazon Prime Video, invites viewers into the often inscrutable lives of these remarkable cephalopods, showcasing not just stunning visuals but a curious blend of humour and poignant insights.

At first glance, a nature documentary seems an odd choice for the creator behind the cultural phenomenon "Fleabag." However, the series manifests her distinct style through a quirky narrative filled with animated life-cycle recreations, candid interviews, and, of course, Waller-Bridge's characteristic comedic asides. One moment she recounts the peculiar romantic life of a female great Pacific octopus, whimsically commenting on her choice of mates with a blend of irreverence and charm that reflects both her and the cephalopods’ complexities. Waller-Bridge quips about one mate, saying that despite having "zero prospects" and "commitment issues," the octopus bites the bullet because he is "the tallest."

This playful approach, however, raises questions about the documentary’s deeper themes. While the narrative is peppered with humour, it also ventures into serious territory. Experts featured in the series, like marine biologist Dr Jenny Hofmeister and behavioural ecologist Piero Amodio, impart critical knowledge about octopus intelligence and ecology. Their insights compel audiences to reconsider preconceived notions about these enigmatic creatures and reflect on the challenges of anthropomorphising animals so different from ourselves. The juxtaposition of Waller-Bridge’s light-hearted commentary with the stark realities presented by scientists creates a tension that some may find jarring.

Acclaimed cinematographer Luis Lamar captures the underwater scenes with breathtaking clarity, presenting the octopus not just as a subject of study but as an object of wonder. The visual storytelling, directed by Niharika Desai, serves to deepen the audience's appreciation for the octopus's extraordinary capabilities and the vivid ecosystem it inhabits. The narrative also weaves in a rich tapestry of historical perceptions dating back to Aristotle, illustrating how society’s understanding of these creatures has evolved over time. The cultural references, from ancient mariners’ myths to contemporary interpretations, contribute to a broader understanding of humanity's complex relationship with nature.

Despite its strengths, "Octopus!" raises concerns about the potential underutilization of Waller-Bridge’s talents. Critics argue that her involvement could be viewed as a distraction from more significant projects, and the documentary may serve as a mere interlude between her groundbreaking works. Nonetheless, it's essential to recognise the effort to bring oceanic life to the forefront at a time when ecological awareness is more critical than ever.

The documentary also features figures like comedian Tracy Morgan, who shares his passion for octopuses. Yet, this celebrity interlude, while entertaining, may dilute the educational focus. Morgan’s insights about his former octopus companions pivot more towards personal anecdotes than the scientific profundity viewers might expect in a nature documentary.

In conclusion, "Octopus!" could be perceived as an atypical venture for Phoebe Waller-Bridge, yet it successfully combines education with entertainment. The charm of the cephalopods is as present as the urgent call to understand and protect their world. Audiences will likely find themselves not only laughing at Waller-Bridge's wit but also enriched by the knowledge imparted by experts and perhaps pondering our own connection to the ocean’s depths. As Waller-Bridge continues to navigate her multi-faceted career, this documentary might be seen as a delightful byway, affording her a momentary pause to explore the mysteries lurking beneath the waves.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[3]](https://www.advanced-television.com/2025/03/28/waller-bridges-octopus-doc-coming-to-prime-video/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[4]](https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/entertainment/3284459-phoebe-waller-bridge-dives-into-the-deep-with-octopus)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[7]](https://www.broadcastnow.co.uk/amazon/phoebe-waller-bridge-preps-amazon-natural-history-doc/5202605.article)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[5]](https://www.cinemaexpress.com/english/news/2025/Mar/04/phoebe-waller-bridge-to-narrate-wildlife-documentary-octopus-for-prime-video)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[6]](https://www.russh.com/phoebe-waller-bridge-octopus-documentary/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video), [[3]](https://www.advanced-television.com/2025/03/28/waller-bridges-octopus-doc-coming-to-prime-video/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/may/08/octopus-review-phoebe-waller-bridge-documentary-prime-video> - In this review, Lucy Mangan discusses the Amazon Prime Video documentary 'Octopus!', narrated and executive produced by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. The two-part series delves into the life cycle of the Giant Pacific Octopus, featuring breathtaking footage, expert insights, and Waller-Bridge's unique comedic narration. While the documentary is informative and entertaining, Mangan expresses concern that Waller-Bridge's talents might be underutilized in this project, suggesting it could be a mere stopgap before her next major endeavor.
3. <https://www.advanced-television.com/2025/03/28/waller-bridges-octopus-doc-coming-to-prime-video/> - This article announces the upcoming two-part documentary 'Octopus!' narrated and executive produced by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video on May 8, 2025. The documentary, co-produced by Jigsaw Productions and Waller-Bridge’s Wells Street Films, explores the life of the Giant Pacific Octopus, featuring an eclectic mix of characters, including scientists, explorers, and actor Tracy Morgan, who have unique connections to these creatures.
4. <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/entertainment/3284459-phoebe-waller-bridge-dives-into-the-deep-with-octopus> - Phoebe Waller-Bridge takes on the roles of narrator and executive producer for the wildlife documentary 'Octopus!', set to stream on Amazon Prime. The film offers an immersive glimpse into the lifecycle of the Giant Pacific Octopus, featuring a diverse cast of individuals with unique ties to these creatures, including scientists, explorers, and comedian Tracy Morgan. Their stories aim to evoke a spectrum of emotions, prompting audiences to reflect on humanity's place in the natural world.
5. <https://www.cinemaexpress.com/english/news/2025/Mar/04/phoebe-waller-bridge-to-narrate-wildlife-documentary-octopus-for-prime-video> - Phoebe Waller-Bridge is set to narrate and executive produce the two-part documentary 'Octopus!' for Prime Video. Directed by Niharika Desai, the documentary follows the Giant Pacific Octopus from birth to death, featuring an eclectic mix of characters with unique connections to these creatures, including scientists, explorers, and Tracy Morgan, who is obsessed with them. The project is produced by Waller-Bridge's Wells Street Films and Alex Gibney's Jigsaw Productions.
6. <https://www.russh.com/phoebe-waller-bridge-octopus-documentary/> - Phoebe Waller-Bridge is venturing into the natural history space with a documentary about octopuses for Amazon Prime Video. The two-part documentary, titled 'Octopus!', is set to premiere globally on Amazon Prime Video this spring. The project, co-produced by Waller-Bridge's Wells Street Films and Jigsaw Productions, follows the Giant Pacific Octopus from birth to death, featuring an eclectic mix of characters with unique connections to these creatures, including scientists, explorers, and Tracy Morgan.
7. <https://www.broadcastnow.co.uk/amazon/phoebe-waller-bridge-preps-amazon-natural-history-doc/5202605.article> - Phoebe Waller-Bridge is moving into the natural history space with a documentary about octopi for Amazon Prime Video. The two-part documentary, titled 'Octopus!', follows the Giant Pacific Octopus from birth to death. The series, which Waller-Bridge will narrate, features a mix of characters with unique relationships to these creatures, including scientists, explorers, and actor and comedian Tracy Morgan, who is 'obsessed' with them. The project is co-produced by Waller-Bridge's Wells Street Films and Alex Gibney's Jigsaw Productions.