



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WORLD-CLASS SHREDDER TONY MONIZ - MAKING WAVES AT THE
WAIKIKI BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA**
Take a three-sixty look at the Hawaiian King of the Beach

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Tony Moniz is not only described as tall, dark and handsome but also one of the hottest professional big-wave riders with more trophies than he can name. Moniz is Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa’s resident surfer who sets up shop on the third floor of the resort hotel. It’s where he operates his Faith Riding Company Surf School. With his wife Tammy in tow, Moniz has taught more than 200,000 students to date on how to hang ten Hawaiian style off the wave’s crest at Waikiki Beach. He’s a native Hawaiian who truly lives “aloha.” And as much as he spends his days in the water, Moniz is that salt of the earth kind of guy you just want to talk story with.

How old were you when you caught your first wave?

I was about three or four.

How did you begin surfing? Who taught you?

My family surfed – it must be in the blood. I was self-taught.

What do you enjoy most about surfing Waikiki?

It’s always beautiful.

Favorite surf movie?

“Ride the Wild Surf” ... the *old* version.

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How old is the Faith Riding Company Surf School?

The company is 12 years old, but the school is six. The school has been at Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa for four and a half years.

How does the Moniz family participate in the school?

They watch me come home each night very tired. Nah, they don't help us with teaching but they lend a hand with taking photos of our students learning to surf out on the waves. Our family members took the pictures you see here in the school. Tammy teaches with me. I have five kids, but they don't teach.

How does surfing make you feel?

Free. And no pain.

Best part about teaching?

Seeing the big smile on the person's face and just hearing them say it has been the highlight of their trip.

How many big board trophies have you been awarded?

Oh, I don't know. I never kept track. Okay, maybe more than sixty. What stands out in my mind was being recognized as the "Waterman of the Year" at the Eddie Aikau event in 1989. Also, being an invitee to the Duke Kahanamoku invitational in 1982, '83, '84 and '85.

What do you like to do after a great surf session?

Eat and sleep!

If you could meet any legendary surfer, who would it be?

The Duke. Because of what he has done for Hawaii as an ambassador of our state.

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Why is Waikiki a great place for beginners to surf their first waves?

It's the best place in the world to surf because the conditions are always nice, the surf is gentle but has enough power to make it challenging, and the rides are very long. Allows the person to take their time in going through the steps, understanding how to get up on their feet. It's a user-friendly wave.

How many boards do you own?

Currently, 50.

Which one is your favorite?

The one that I surf on that day.

Average size of your board?

It varies, from six feet to 12 feet.

How do you inspire young *keiki* (children)?

For aspiring surfers, I tell them to first, enjoy the ocean. Learn to enjoy the ocean by riding waves and everything else will follow.

Name one quality every surfer should possess.

The aloha spirit.

How has the surf culture in Hawaii changed?

It's more commercialized. There's good and there's bad, but it's more for the good. It's 2007 and life goes on.

Most memorable wave?

There are several, but out at Waimea Bay on a 60-foot wave a few years ago.

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One motto you live by?

Treat everyone with respect.

Do you shape and make your own boards?

Not anymore.

One tip for beginners?

Safety, safety, safety. Take a surf lesson at the *right* school. Do your research. Take two surf lessons, you'll learn a lot faster.

Favorite place to talk story?

At home? At the dining table.

Do you enjoy paddle surfing?

Yes, LOVE IT! Being able to use my entire body, the workout aspect. It's not boring, it's exciting – being up high, the scenery, you can see far away.

What do you like to do when you're out of the water?

I haven't done it for a long time but to go up into the mountains and ride a dirt bike.

Largest waves surfed? Where?

Waimea Bay – a 60-foot face.

Can you describe your Hawaii?

My Hawaii is warm, friendly and a pleasant place to live.

One thing you'd like your students to walk away with?

Highlights of their life surfing with us.

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How do you live “aloha”?

From the heart. Giving and sharing from the heart.

The Faith Riding Company Surf School offers three lessons daily, at 8:30 a.m., noon, and 3:30 p.m. And now, for a limited time, the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa is offering a **Hang Ten Surfing Package**, which starts from \$254 per night and includes deluxe accommodations for two. Included is a group lesson for 2 ½ hours (two hours in water with an instructor), surfboard, leash and jersey.

A minimum three-night stay is required. Package valid until December 25, 2007. Price and contents subject to change without notice and additional people are subject to charge. Price includes all applicable taxes. Ages 12 and above must know how to swim. After booking, Faith Riding Company Surf School will contact the guest to finalize the date of the surf lesson.

To make reservations at the Faith Riding Company Surf School, please call (808) 931-6262.

*Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa boasts the best stretch of Waikiki Beach. The resort hotel is located across from exciting, and newly restored, Kuhio Beach and is in the pulse of Waikiki. The hotel offers 1,310 refurbished guest rooms and suites with a private lanai providing a spectacular view of world-famous Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach; Kuhio Beach Grill, featuring the best in Pacific Rim cuisine; Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and d.k Steak House; Arancino di Mare Italian Restaurant; Restaurant Run, contemporary sushi bar; Moana Terrace, offering live Hawaiian entertainment nightly; Seattle's Best Coffee; Paul Brown's Spa Olakino * Salon; Faith Riding Company Surf School; two freshwater, heated, swimming pools; 10-person whirlpool; 24-hour fitness facility; business center with 24-hour Internet access; high-speed and wireless Internet access throughout the resort's guest rooms and public spaces; shops and boutiques; and Hawaiian cultural activities.*

The hotel is located within walking distance from the International Marketplace, Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu Zoo, Diamond Head, Kapiolani Park and Kuhio Beach, which was recently re-nourished and rejuvenated with 10,000 cubic yards of sand pumped from waters off Waikiki.

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