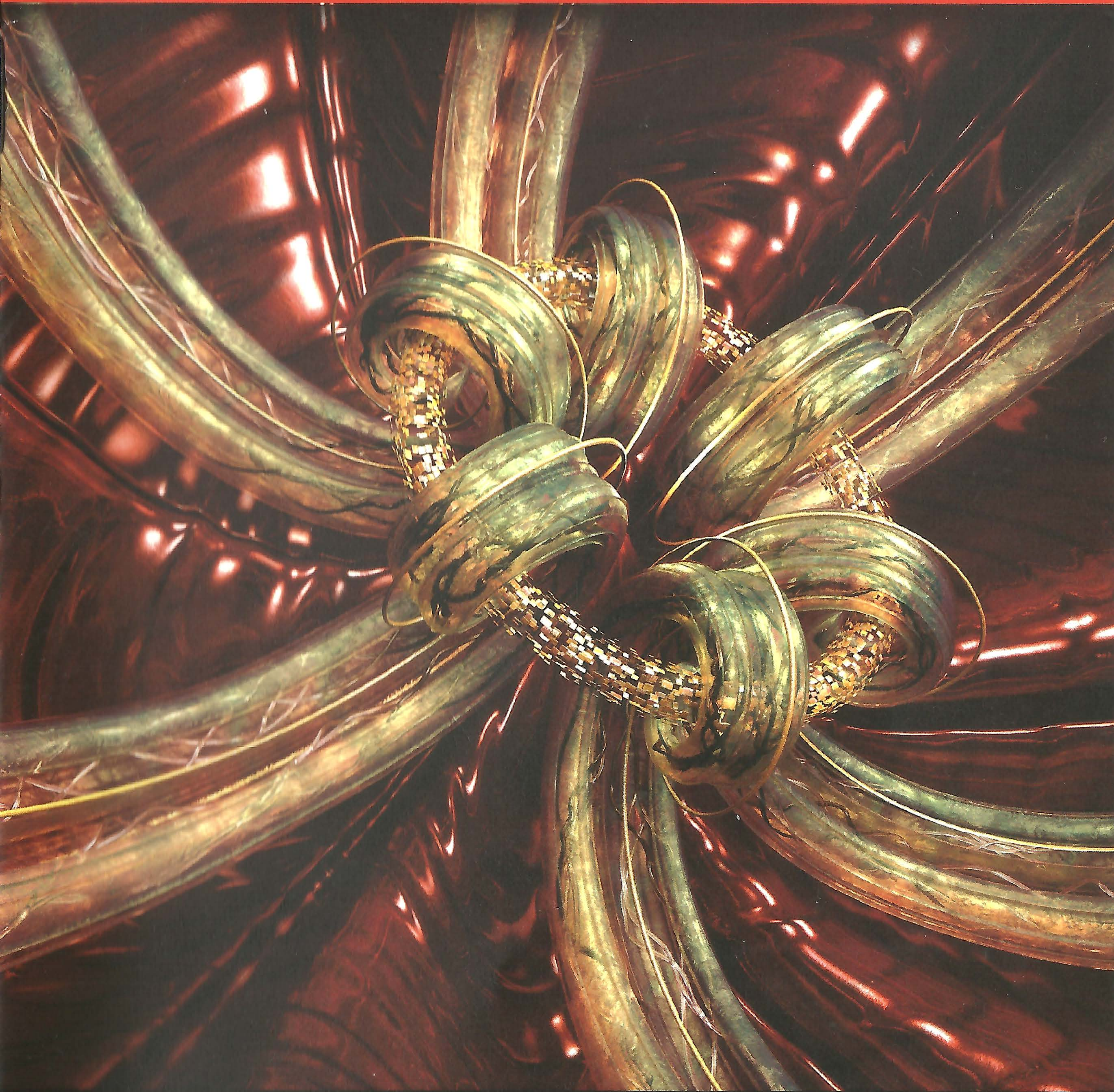


Welcome to Maya[®] 6.5



Maya[™] 6.5
CAN YOU IMAGINE[®]



Dear Maya Customer

Thank you for purchasing the award-winning Maya 6.5, your end-to-end 3D solution from Alias.

In Maya 6.5, key areas of the software have been re-architected to give you the level of performance you need to overcome common production bottlenecks. Regardless of dataset size, Maya now delivers significantly improved interactivity in areas such as modeling, UV manipulation, deformations and 3D painting. Faster overall file transfer and a new STEP translator let you quickly import large files from popular CAD packages. New scene segmentation tools improve large-scene workflows, while faster shader tuning and final rendering are facilitated through mental ray for Maya network rendering (Satellite). With so many innovative solutions for working with massive datasets, Maya 6.5 lets you meet the demands of your next generation productions. Full details on the enhancements included in Maya 6.5 can be found in the What's New in Maya 6.5 book, both in print and in the Maya Help.

To install Maya 6.5, please refer to the Installation and Licensing Guide included with your Maya package, which contains step-by-step procedures to ensure proper installation and licensing. To license a single copy of Maya as a new user, use our Online Product Activation, which launches when you start Maya for the first time. If you are registering a floating license, you can use our online SPAR form found at www.alias.com/spar for product registration.

If you're new to Maya, or just want to brush up your skills, check out the Getting Started with Maya books, which provide short introductory tutorials on many important functions within Maya. (New purchases of Maya include printed versions of these books – online versions are also included in Maya Help for all purchases.) A wealth of additional learning resources, including additional Learning Tools and tutorials, can be found at the Alias web site and the Alias online store.

For additional information on support, maintenance, or the Alias Conductors™ program for third-party extensions, and for the latest news on Alias and Maya, please visit our web site at www.alias.com.

The Maya development team hopes that Maya 6.5 more than meets your creative vision. To ensure that Maya meets your future requirements, we welcome your suggestions and feedback. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact your local Alias representative or reseller, or visit the Support center at the Alias web site at www.alias.com/eng/support/maya/.

Sincerely,

Jill Ramsay

Senior Product Manager, *Maya*

Welcome to Maya® 6.5

the latest release of the Alias® award-winning Maya 3D software. To help you find your way around, we've included this short guide to the Maya 6.5 CDs and documentation.

Maya 6.5 CDs

The Maya package includes these CDs:

Maya Unlimited 6.5 | Maya Complete 6.5

This CD contains all versions of the Maya 6.5 software. Your license will determine which version of Maya is installed. CDs are available for all supported platforms. You'll also find the Maya Help system, including context-sensitive help, on the CD. For details about the Maya Help, see the "Viewing and Printing the Maya Help" section of this guide.

mental ray® for Maya Satellite

This CD contains platform-specific versions of mental ray for Maya Satellite, which supplements the mental ray rendering capabilities in Maya with additional rendering power provided by networked CPUs. mental ray for Maya controls the rendering process on the networked computers. For more information, see the What's New and the online Maya Help.

Maya Documentation, Lessons, and Extras CD

Included on this CD are the printer-friendly PDF files of the Maya 6.5 documentation. As well, the CD provides a number of scene files for the lessons in Getting Started with Maya and Getting Started with Maya Unlimited. Finally, this CD contains many Extras—scenes, data files, and other material—made available for your use by Alias. The Extras are unsupported. See the readme file in the Extras directory for details.

Maya Help

The comprehensive Maya Help will help you learn and use all aspects of the software. You can access Maya Help directly from Maya, as well as in PDF format. Some printed documentation is provided in your package, and is also available online.

Installation and Licensing Guide for Maya 6.5 (printed and online)

This guide provides step-by-step procedures for installing and licensing Maya on all supported platforms, and is also a troubleshooting guide.

What's New in Maya 6.5 (printed and online)

See the What's New in Maya 6.5 manual for complete descriptions of the features added in the Maya 6.5 release. These features also are described in the topic-specific books within the online documentation.

Getting Started with Maya

This book provides brief, focused lessons on most areas of Maya Complete. Pick the features you want to learn and start using Maya right away! New customers receive a printed copy of Getting Started with Maya.

Getting Started with Maya Unlimited

Focused lessons on Maya Unlimited features: Maya Fluid Effects™, Maya Cloth, Maya Fur, Maya Live, and Maya Hair. If you purchased Maya Unlimited, your Maya package includes a printed copy of this book.

Maya Help

A complete online library of guides to virtually every aspect of the software, including general information about all features of Maya, procedural information to learn how to perform various tasks, and an extensive reference section.

Maya Release Notes (online)

The Release Notes describe known limitations in the software and ways you can work around these limitations.

Maya 6.5 Quick Reference Card (printed)

Keep this handy card at your workstation to help you remember the timesaving shortcuts and hotkeys in Maya.

Viewing and Printing the Maya Help

When you install the software, online help files are also installed. You view the online help using a supported web browser, such as the Internet Explorer 5+, Netscape® Navigator 7+, or Safari™ web browsers.

The books are also provided in PDF format. You can print the online books using Adobe® Acrobat® Reader®, available free from Adobe at www.adobe.com.

TO PRINT THE MAYA HELP BOOKS

On Windows® or Mac OS® X operating systems

1. Insert the Documentation, Lessons, and Extras CD.
2. Navigate to the `/pdf` directory.
3. Double-click to open `contents.pdf`.
This file lists all of the available books.
4. Click to select the book you want to print.
5. Select File > Print.

On the IRIX® operating system

1. Insert the Documentation, Lessons, and Extras CD.
2. Start Acrobat Reader and open
`/CDROM/pdf/contents.pdf`.
To do this, enter the following:
`cd /CDROM/pdf`
`acroread contents.pdf`
3. Click to select the book you want to print.
4. Select File > Print.

On the Linux® operating system

1. Insert the Documentation, Lessons, and Extras CD.
2. Start the PDF viewer and open
`/mnt/cdrom/pdf`.
To do this, enter the following:
`cd /mnt/cdrom/pdf`
`xpdf contents.pdf`
3. Click to select the book you want to print.
4. Select the print icon.

DISPLAYING MAYA HELP

You can display the Maya Help from within Maya by pressing F1 or selecting Help > Maya Help. You can go to the following URL to view the Maya Help when Maya is not running
`http://localhost:4448/Maya6.5/en_US/index.html`

You may want to create a bookmark to this URL. If the help server is not running, you won't be able to access the URL. To restart the help server, do one of the following:

- **Windows** From the Start menu, navigate to the Maya 6.5 program group and choose View Maya Docs.
- **Mac OS X, Linux, IRIX** Start the documentation server by sourcing in the `startDocServer.sh` script in the docs directory under the Maya 6.5 directory. Then open a Web browser and navigate to:
`http://localhost:4448/Maya6.5/en_US/index.html`

Context-sensitive help is available throughout the software. To display information about a Maya tool, click its Help button. To display information about an option dialog box, use its Help menu.

The Software License Agreements

The Alias Software License Agreement and the Maya Documentation Server License Agreement govern use of the Maya software. The full text of these agreements is in the Installation Guide and at www.alias.com/legal.

Alias is willing to license the software only to you and only if all of the terms contained in the license agreements are accepted by you. By installing and/or using and/or otherwise accessing the software, you expressly acknowledge and agree that you are bound by the terms contained in the two license agreements.

Alias Conductors Program

The Alias Conductors program works with third party developers to support their creation of plug-in products compatible with the Maya, StudioTools™, or MotionBuilder® families of software as well as the FBX® file format.

Currently, the Conductors program has in excess of 100 members developing a wide array of products. In addition to tools compatible with Maya, StudioTools, MotionBuilder, or FBX, Conductors partners provide market-specific applications to help optimize production and creativity. A broad range of workflow and pipeline enhancing functionalities are available, including motion capture, data translation, distributed rendering management, crowd simulation, compositing, middleware, and real time applications.



Image courtesy of Striker 3D, Ltd.



Image courtesy of Wind Entertainment Ltd.



Image courtesy of SAAB Design.

Maya Membership

Alias offers three levels of support services to meet the varying needs of its Maya and Maya Personal Learning Edition customers.

Maya Platinum Membership www.alias.com/platinum

This top-level Membership program lets you maximize your investment in Maya. For one annual fee you receive:

- Priority access to all software upgrades and updates
- Unlimited hotline support – 18 hours/day on weekdays and 12 hours/day on weekends*
- Interactive Online Case Management* – track your hotline cases, reported bugs** as well as all your facility's licensing information and hot line cases**
- Licensing Flexibility – your Maya license transfers (same or different operating system) get first priority – at no extra charge
- One-hour personal training call (until June 30th, 2005)
- Alias Insider Technical Solutions and Knowledgebase – online information on technical issues, workarounds, recommended workflow and more
- Maya Silver Membership – more online learning opportunities (next page)
- And more!

Key Benefits

Unbeatable Value Maya Platinum Membership gives you priority access to all Maya upgrades, unparalleled license relocation flexibility (at no extra charge) and premium live and online support at an affordable price. Plus, the fixed annual fee allows you to better predict and control your costs.

Competitive Advantage Priority access to Maya updates means you can be the first to use leading-edge Maya features and functionality. Add to this world-class technical support, and you've got a distinct competitive advantage.

Minimized Down-time Hotline support – with rapid response and resolution times – is available 18 hours/day on weekdays and 12 hours/day on weekends* to help solve your technical issues quickly. Plus, your license relocations (same or different operating system) get first priority.

Inside Information Maya Platinum Membership gives you access to key technical information so that you get the most out of your software investment.

Faster Learning Hotline support allows you to be productive faster. Plus, you can take advantage of the new Platinum Membership personal training feature*** (until June 30th, 2005) or discounts on regular training services to gain experience on Alias software while saving money.

* Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For Asia-Pacific support hours, contact your local reseller.

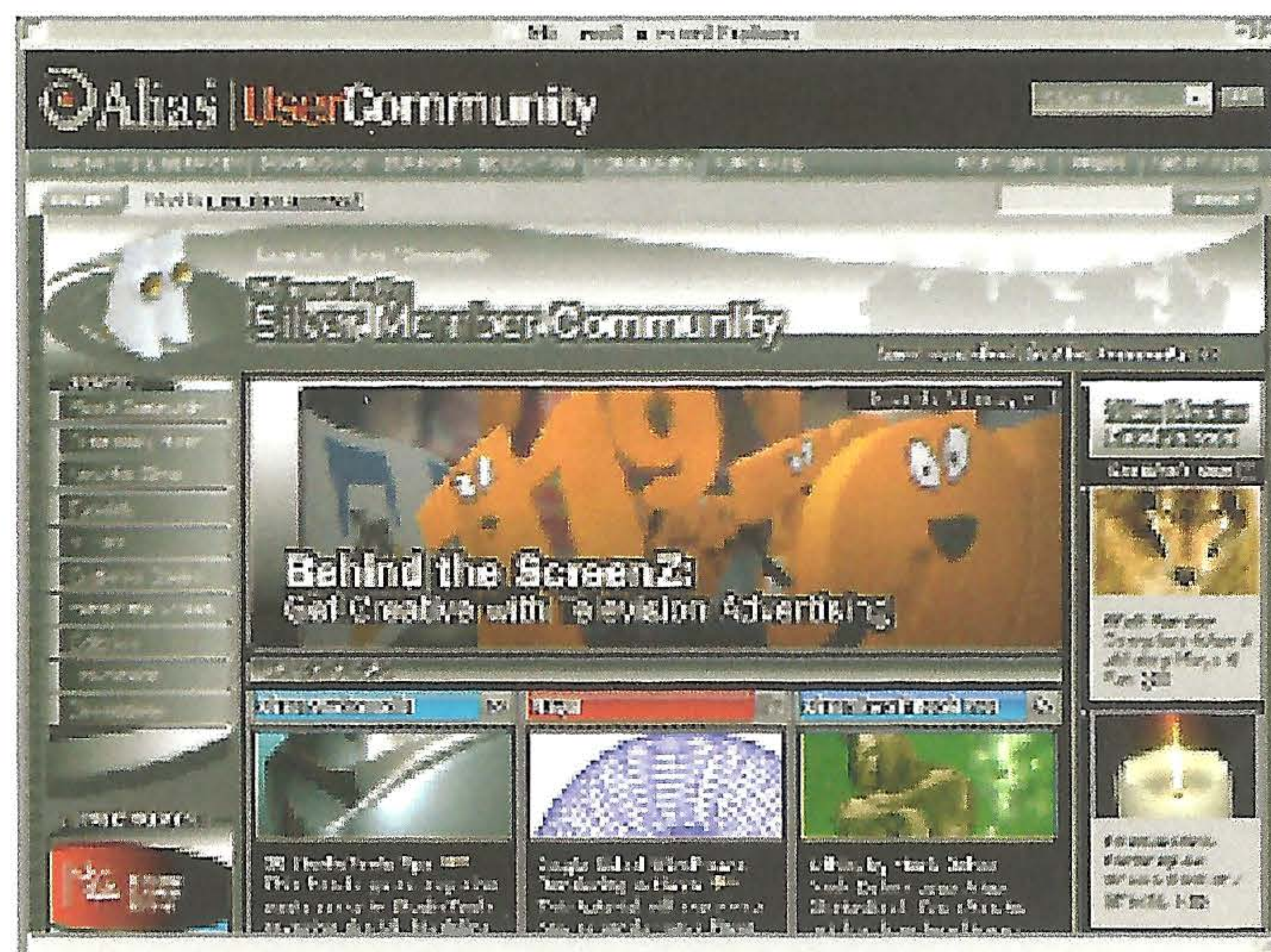
** Begins March 2005

*** Some restrictions may apply

Maya Silver Membership www.alias.com/silver

The Maya Silver program is available to customers, students and Maya Personal Learning Edition users who are ready to start advancing their Maya skills from the beginner to the intermediate level – or intermediate to advanced. Available on a monthly or annual subscription-basis, Silver Membership gives you:

- Learning Tools movies for download
- In-depth tutorials
- Real-project-based learning materials
- The Maya Mentor interactive, learning environment plug-in
- A textures and shaders database*
- Weblogs from experienced Maya users – includes “Duncan’s Corner,” blogs from the man behind such innovations as Paint Effects
- 30 days of personal assistance using the materials
- A bonus Maya Learning Tools DVD and/or industry magazine subscription when you sign up
- and more!



* Begins February 2005

Key Silver Membership Benefits

Unbeatable Value Maya Silver Membership gives you the tools you need to advance your Maya skills, and projects, at an affordable monthly or annual price.

Faster Learning As a Maya Silver member you always have easy access to the resources you need to grow your Maya skills. And because all materials are efficiently organized on one website, you won't waste valuable time searching for the tools you need.

Competitive Advantage Use Maya Silver learning resources for professional development and stay ahead of the competition. Because they are produced directly through Alias, our learning materials are accurate, relevant and of the highest quality.

Industry Contacts Membership allows you to become part of a larger community of 3D software users.

Maya Bronze Membership www.alias.com/bronze

Designed for anyone interested in Maya, the Bronze Membership program gives you increased access to the Maya community pages of the Alias external website – at no extra charge. These pages contain Maya learning resources and information about the software.

Alias Professional Services

Alias provides a range of professional services that include:

- workflow re-engineering, to optimize your production pipeline
- creating applications and plug-ins to extend the power of our software
- modifying our software's source code to add any new features you might require, or to integrate it with other applications
- developing customized training programs to increase your artists' software skills
- architecting custom support options, such as onsite or dedicated support resources
- and more

Not only is Maya used by those creating entertainment content – it is also increasingly the primary software package of leading designers, illustrators and graphic artists. Professional Services can help you move from a traditional 2D-centric workflow to one where 3D is used to improve image quality, increase the reusability of your digital assets, and reduce your costs.

For more information about our range of Professional Services and how you can take advantage of them to enhance your productivity and your bottom line: www.alias.com/professionalservices

Learning Tools and Training

Maya Learning Tools www.alias.com/learnmaya

Our wide selection of Alias Learning Tool books and DVDs was developed to put you on the road to Maya proficiency – or mastery. Learning Tools let you learn from Maya Product Specialists and CG-industry experts as they share their production techniques and workflows. And whether you're just beginning to explore 3D or are looking to improve your speed and efficiency, Alias Learning Tools – with prices ranging from \$19.99 - \$129.99 – are an affordable, accessible option.

Maya MasterClasses™ www.alias.com/masterclasses

Find out how today's leading-edge effects and animation are being created, through a Maya MasterClass. MasterClasses are 90-minute seminars taught by CG-industry experts and Maya Product Specialists covering a wide range of topics. Each intermediate or advanced level class is focused on techniques and workflows that will help you solve specific production challenges.

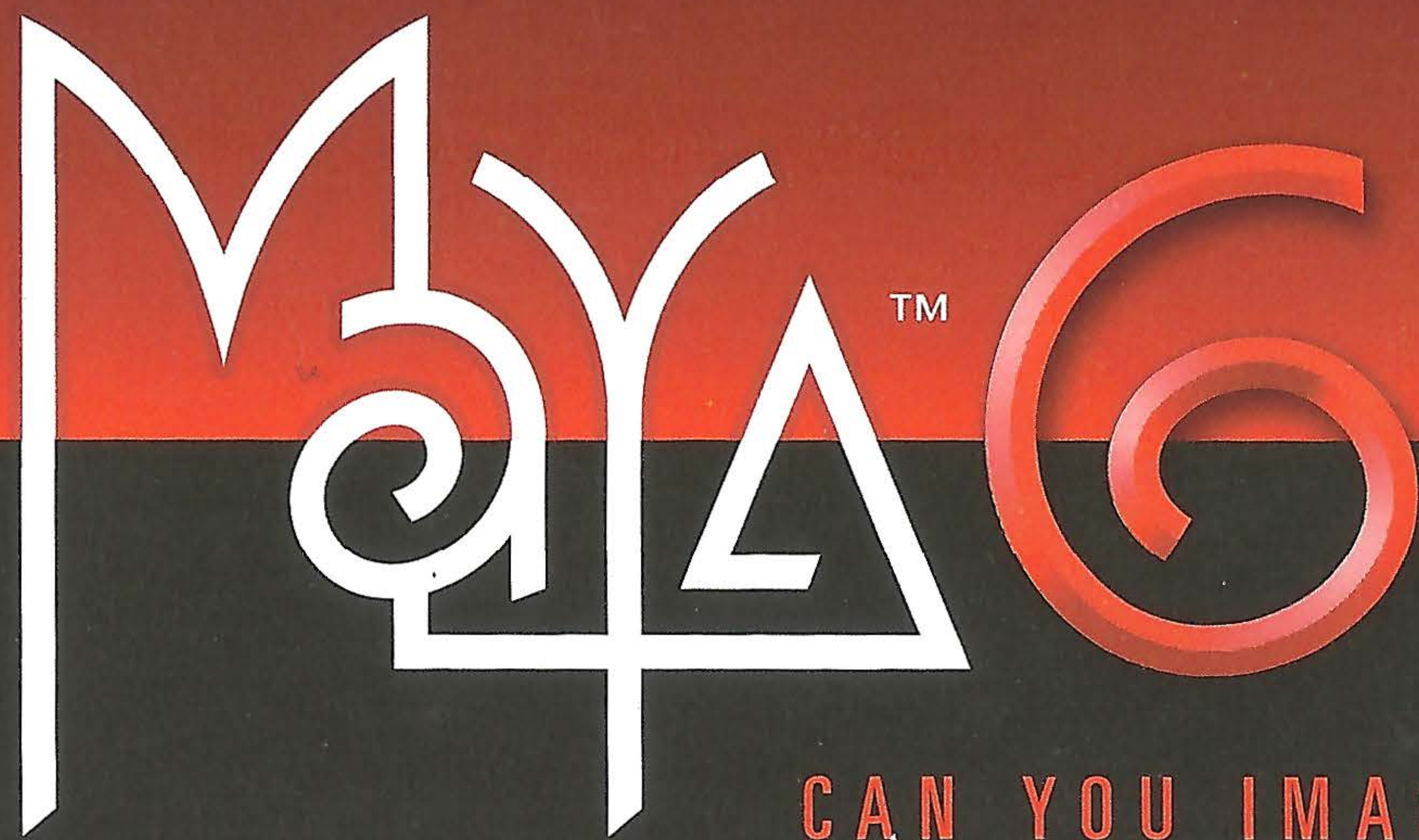


Maya Certified Training www.alias.com/training

Alias Certified Training lets you get hands-on training from an Alias Product Specialist. These short-term, intense courses will help you improve your skills quickly; so you can get back to work equipped with the answers you need.

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