

# MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

## Emmy Award-winning National Geographic Explorer Brian Skerry Takes Audiences on a Journey into the Complex Societies of Whales with Arts Commons Presents

**April 20, 2022 - CALGARY** – Multi-award-winning photographer and 2021 Emmy Award-winning documentarian Brian Skerry returns to Calgary this May to share his unbelievable experiences capturing the lives of our peaceful ocean-dwelling neighbours. Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales* arrives at the Jack Singer Concert Hall, live and in-person, on **Sunday, May 15 & Monday, May 16, 2022 to conclude the 2021-22 season of National Geographic Live from Arts Commons Presents.**



Portrait of Brian Skerry on assignment. Photo by Steve De Neef.

Celebrated National Geographic Explorer and photographer Brian Skerry has spent nearly four decades exploring and documenting the world's oceans. For his latest project, he turns his lens to one of the world's most beloved animals – whales – to investigate their unique cultures like never before. Skerry spent more than two years in 24 locations around the world capturing remarkable images and video for a landmark National Geographic book, magazine story, and television series, *Secrets of the Whales*.



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Now a live presentation as well, Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales* will regale Calgarians with stories straight from the field, revealing surprising facts about whale lives—and their startlingly human parallels—across four different species. Discover the hunting techniques and international cuisines of orca pods and the multi-generational childcare systems and female-led families of sperm whales. Explore the culture of singing competitions among humpback whales and meet charming beluga whales in Canada that journey each summer to their “vacation resort.” Through Skerry’s mesmerizing work, uncover what these majestic creatures can teach us about ourselves and our planet.

*“Secrets of the Whales has been the most ambitious project of my career! I have been diving and exploring the world’s oceans and telling stories for decades - almost 25 years now - for National Geographic,” says Brian Skerry. “With Secrets of the Whales, it was this perfect story, a perfect confluence of using the latest and greatest science revealing human-like traits of these charismatic ocean animals. To me, this idea of looking at the ocean and our planet through the lens of culture with another species is a bit of a game changer - understanding that whales within a genetically identical species are doing things differently, much of the way humans do.”*

Arts Commons Presents has been bringing the wildly popular National Geographic Live series to Calgary for nine seasons, engaging Calgarians’ passions for science, exploration, and the natural world. Live at Arts Commons, speakers share their inspiring and often deeply personal stories of their work in the field with high-resolution images and video projected on a screen that runs an impressive 28-feet-high and the 48-foot width of the Jack Singer stage. The presentations also have a strong education and community engagement component, inviting thousands of students each season to experience these speakers live in the Jack Singer Concert Hall, or virtually in their classroom. Earlier this season, working in collaboration with the Calgary Zoo, National Geographic Explorer Joel Sartore added three species to his monumental Photo Ark Project, including the greater sage grouse which does not exist in captivity anywhere else in the world. Through National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents makes deep connections like this between our Calgary community and the world of nature conservation.

Join Arts Commons for Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales* on May 15 & 16, 2022 and stay tuned for the upcoming announcement of our 2022-23 season of National Geographic Live. For tickets or to learn more, call 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca/NatGeoLive](https://artscommons.ca/NatGeoLive).

**What:** National Geographic Live Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales*  
**When:** Sunday, May 15 & Monday, May 16, 2022  
**Where:** Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons  
**Tickets:** 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca/whales](https://artscommons.ca/whales)

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For media inquiries, more information, or for other high-resolution images contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager  
403-294-7429 [abonyun@artscommons.ca](mailto:abonyun@artscommons.ca)

**Arts Commons Presents** invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and TD Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.



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