MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Dive into the Mysteries of Our Ocean with Marine Biologist Diva Amon in Arts Commons Presents' National Geographic Live series

April 25, 2023 - CALGARY – Marine biologist and deep-sea expert Diva Amon comes to Calgary this May to offer a compelling look into the bizarre creatures that inhabit our planet's oceans and how we interact with them (without even knowing it). Join Arts Commons Presents for <u>Diva Amon: From Shallows to Seafloor</u> on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 p.m. & Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7 p.m. to conclude the 2022-23 season of National Geographic Live.

A Trinidadian native, Diva Amon's research on unusual deep-sea habitats and species has taken her to extraordinary depths to uncover some of the darkest corners of the ocean. Through incredibly sharp photos and video, audiences will get to know the fascinating creatures in each unique layer of Earth's massive underwater habitat—from familiar sea creatures near the surface to their otherworldly, alien-like cousins that roam the ocean floor. She'll share stories from her work in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and beyond to shine a light on this vital yet vastly unexplored reservoir of biodiversity.

"We all want to be explorers at some point in our childhood and to do deep sea research is to be a modern-day explorer. The most alluring thing about deep ocean is that it is unknown. We cannot answer basic questions about the deep ocean, we don't know what lives here, we don't know what habitats are there and that's exciting," says Amon.

Her passion and expertise regarding oceanic habitats extend beyond her work with National Geographic, as she is also a Pew-Bertarelli Ocean Ambassador, a Co-Lead of the DOSI Minerals Working Group, a Scientific Associate at the Natural History Museum in London, and Director and Founder of SpeSeas, a non-profit organization focused on conservation in the Caribbean.

Arts Commons Presents has been bringing the wildly popular National Geographic Live series to Calgary for twelve 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 the impressive 28-feet height and the 48-foot width of the Jack Singer Concert Hall 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.

The 2022-23 season of National Geographic Live took audiences into the farthest reaches of space with **Tracy Drain** to the first Indigenous-run elephant sanctuary in Africa with **Ami Vitale** and into the lives of wildlife impacted by human activities with **Jasper Doest**. Now the season closes with a splash with **Diva Amon**: *From Shallows to Seafloor* on **May 7** & **8**, 2023.

Past season highlights have included Emmy-Award winning documentary photographer Brian Skerry, and Joel Sartore, who added three animals to his Photo Ark Project through support from Arts Commons Presents and the Calgary Zoo, one of which could not be photographed anywhere else in the world. Through National Geographic Live, Arts Commons Presents makes deep connections between our Calgary community and the natural, social, and scientific worlds around us (and beyond!). Stay tuned to find out what the smash-hit series from Arts Commons Presents, National Geographic Live, has in store for the 2023-24 season! Learn more at artscommons.ca/presents.

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Join Arts Commons Presents and National Geographic Live for <u>Diva Amon: From Shallows to Seafloor</u>. For tickets or to learn more, **call 403-294-9494 or visit** <u>artscommons.ca/seafloor</u>.

What: National Geographic Live Diva Amon: From Shallows to Seafloor When: Sunday, May 7 & Monday, May 8, 2023 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons

Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/seafloor

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the Presenting Sponsor of National Geographic Live, ConocoPhillips Canada, student engagement sponsor Enbridge, BluWater Partner Swiftsure Foundation, EXPLORE National Geographic Sponsor MEG Energy, and EXPLORE National Geographic Supporting Sponsor/Partners Cabra Consulting Ltd and Teatro Fund for Arts Commons Education, as well as the Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage, the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and our friends at The City of Calgary.

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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

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 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.