

# MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

## Tracy Drain Takes Audiences to the Far Reaches of Outer Space with Arts Commons Presents and National Geographic Live

**November 15, 2022 - CALGARY** – Have you ever wondered what is hiding at the edges of our solar system? If life exists on the moons of Jupiter? NASA flight systems engineer and National Geographic Explorer Tracy Drain has spent her career uncovering the answers to these questions and this November, she'll share her discoveries with Calgary in person. Catch **Tracy Drain: *Giants of our Solar System*** from **National Geographic Live** and **Arts Commons Presents** on **Sunday, November 20 & Monday, November 21, 2022** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons**.

In her role at NASA, Tracy Drain has helped to develop, test, and operate a variety of robotic spacecraft for deep space exploration in a career spanning more than two decades. Her passion for space grew from an early love of science fiction – she soaked up Star Trek, Star Wars, and Battlestar Galactica, and sci-fi books by the armload. After obtaining B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kentucky and Georgia Tech, respectively, and interning at the NASA Langley Research Center as an undergrad student, she landed a full-time position on the engineering staff at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 2000. She is currently the lead Flight Systems Engineer on the Europa Clipper mission.

A life-long learner, Drain loves encouraging people to nurture their curiosity and explore the wonders around us, as expressed in her TEDx talk *A Childlike Sense of Wonder: The Curious World of an Aerospace Engineer*. She serves on the planning committee for the National Academy of Science's Science and Entertainment Exchange, which partners scientists with the entertainment industry to make science more accessible and inspiring to the general public. She also serves on the advisory board of Arizona State University's Interplanetary Initiative, which seeks to create a positive future for humans in space.

*"The first time I remember being fascinated by space was when I read about how the solar system formed. The fact that it was formed from a giant cloud of gas and dust spewed out by supernovas and it all came together under gravity and made the Sun and all the planets – I thought it was bananas that scientists could figure all that out based on what they can see today," says Tracy Drain.*

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-foot 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 of National Geographic Live at Arts Commons is our first all-women season, with Tracy Drain followed by [Ami Vitale: Wild Hope](#) on



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Tracy Drain - *Giants of our Solar System*

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January 29 & 30, **Lucy Hawkes: *Life on the Move*** on March 12 & 13, and **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!).

Join aerospace engineer Tracy Drain to discover the marvels of our cosmic backyard through the eyes of the robotic spacecraft sent out to explore it on November 20 & 21, 2022. For tickets or to learn more, call 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca/solarsystem](https://artscommons.ca/solarsystem).

**What:** Arts Commons Presents National Geographic Live  
Tracy Drain: *Giants of our Solar System*  
**When:** Sunday, November 20 & Monday, November 21, 2022  
**Where:** Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons  
**Tickets:** 403-294-9494 or visit [artscommons.ca/solarsystem](https://artscommons.ca/solarsystem)

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



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