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***National Geographic Live* Presents Chasing Rivers Photographer and Filmmaker Pete McBride Wednesday, March 25**



Mesa, AZ – The 2014-15 *National Geographic Live* Arizona Speaker Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona brings acclaimed **photographer and filmmaker Pete McBride** to Mesa Arts Center on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ikeda Theater.

“The Colorado River has connected me to many things, many people, and many remarkable places.” — Pete McBride. Tickets are available through the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at MesaArtsCenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

Pete McBride is living proof that when it comes to photography, passion, hard work, and guts matter more than the cost of your gear or where you went to school. A child of the Colorado, McBride grew up on a cattle ranch along the river, fishing its waters and skiing the snows that feed it. Now he’s an acclaimed photographer and filmmaker with over fifteen years of work for National Geographic and an award-winning film, *Chasing Water*, to his credit. Along the way, he’s taken pictures from such unusual vantage points as the cockpit of a WWI-vintage biplane and the underside of an iceberg.

McBride has worked in over 70 countries and has been named a “freshwater hero” by National Geographic for his work photographing and filming great rivers. His talk offers unforgettable journeys down two of them: the Colorado, which flows through majestic landscapes but no longer reaches the sea, and the Ganges, India’s sacred waterway, which is revered as a god, but polluted by the people who worship it.

McBride has traveled on assignment for National Geographic, Smithsonian, *Outside*, *Men’s Journal*, *Esquire*, STERN, and many others. An engaging presenter who balances the seriousness of his subject matter with a wry sense of humor, McBride will share the romance, the present realities, and a hopeful future for the great rivers he loves and wants to save.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

About *National Geographic Live*

National Geographic Live is the live events division of the National Geographic Society, featuring live concerts, films and dynamic presentations by today's leading explorers, scientists, filmmakers and photographers, covering a wide range of topics including exploration and adventure, wildlife and habitat conservation, natural phenomena and relevant issues such as climate change. Proceeds from speaker series ticket sales help fund future National Geographic initiatives in field research, exploration and education. For more information, visit www.nglive.org.