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**The Moth performing live at Mesa Arts Center
With special guests Cheech Marin, Annabelle Gurwitch, and host David Crabb
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Mesa, AZ – The Moth, creators of the well-loved weekly podcast by the same name, will bring their flagship program The Moth Mainstage to Mesa Arts Center on October 27 at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of live memoirs told without notes on the theme “Between Worlds.” The event will feature special guests including the following; dancer and chair of dance at Middlebury College, Christal Brown;

actor/comedian and art collector, Cheech Marin; actress and author Annabelle Gurwitch; writer and artist Jessica Lee Williamson; and artist and comedian with The 1491s, Bobby Wilson. The evening will be hosted by author, comedian and storyteller, David Crabb.

“The most memorable and hilarious narratives... an exuberant moveable feast.” – *The Village Voice*. Tickets are on sale now and are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

The Moth Mainstage features stories by luminaries in the arts and sciences, newsmakers and news breakers, and everyday heroes. Each show features five storytellers who develop and shape their stories with The Moth’s directors. Each story told is roughly 15 minutes long and features the experiences of storytellers from all walks of life; cartoonists, astrophysicists, fire fighters, comedians, and former pickpockets have all taken turns appearing on stage. The Moth has also attracted some of the most cherished writers and performers of the 21st century, including Salman Rushdie, Nathan Englander, Neil Gaiman, Molly Ringwald, Annie Proulx, Moby, Margaret Cho, Ethan Hawke, Darryl McDaniels of RunDMC, and the late George Plimpton.

The Moth was founded in 1997 by writer George Dawes Green, who was raised in Georgia. He wanted to bring to the stage that feeling of sitting on the porch on warm summer evenings with good friends, long after dinner has ended, and sharing stories late into the night while moths flit around the lights. While The Moth has evolved over the years, it still remains

dedicated to the art of first person storytelling.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

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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.

About The Moth

The Moth is an acclaimed not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling, and a recipient of a 2012 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation MacArthur Award for Creative & Effective Institutions (MACEI). Through its ongoing programs—The Moth Mainstage, The Moth StorySLAMs, The Moth Community & Education Programs, and Moth Corporate Programs—The Moth has presented more than ten thousand stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. The Moth podcast is downloaded nearly 25 million times a year, and the Peabody Award-winning The Moth Radio Hour, produced by Jay Allison and presented by PRX, The Public Radio Exchange, airs weekly on radio stations nation-wide. The new Moth Mobile App for iOS and Android, and the international bestseller, The Moth: 50 True Stories (Hyperion), are available now at themoth.org.

About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

Host Bio:

David Crabb is an author, comedian and storyteller in New York City. He is a Moth StorySLAM host and winner. The memoir based on his New York Times Critics' Pick solo show "Bad Kid" was released in 2015 by Harper Perennial. David is a lead instructor in The Moth's High School StorySLAM program and serves as a writing mentor for veterans across the country with The Writers Guild Initiative's Wounded Warrior Project. He is the host and co-producer of Audible.com's "Stories In Session," an ongoing series about the art and craft of contemporary storytelling. He loves dogs, Morrissey and fancy coffee. Twitter: @thedavidcrabb

Storyteller Bio:

Annabelle Gurwitch's most recent book is The New York Times Bestseller, I See You Made An Effort (Blue Rider Press, Penguin) is one of three finalists for The James Thurber Prize for American Humor Writing 2015 and was named one of Kirkus Reviews' 10 Books Guaranteed to Make You Laugh. Her other books are You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up and Fired! which was also a Showtime Comedy Special. Annabelle was the longtime host of Dinner & A Movie on

TBS, and has acted in over fifty tv programs and movies, including Dexter, Seinfeld and Boston Legal. She's been a NPR commentator for many years and written for the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and The Nation Magazine. She is working on a new collection of essays for Penguin, due out in spring 2017.

www.annabellegurwitch.com

A third-generation Mexican American, **Cheech Marin** has received numerous awards for his work on behalf of Latinos, including a Creative Achievement Award from the Imagen Foundation and an ALMA Community Service Award from the National Council of La Raza and Kraft Foods. He has an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts for his contributions to the creative arts from Otis College of Art & Design and received the inaugural Legacy Award for Arts Advocacy from the Smithsonian Latino Center. He serves on the boards of the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. As an actor, Cheech is familiar to many as one-half of the hilarious duo Cheech and Chong; together, they made eight feature films. He has since appeared in more than 20 films. In addition, Cheech directed the Broadway production of *Latinologues*, a collection of comedic and poignant monologues revealing the Latino experience in America. Cheech is also an author. His children's books include *Cheech and the Spooky Ghost Bus* and *Captain Cheech*. His art books include *Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection {size doesn't matter}*, *Papel Chicano: Works on Paper from the Cheech Marin Collection*, and *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge*. Cheech Marin holds one of the largest private collections of Chicano art in the United States, which is also recognized worldwide. Since 1988, he has amassed more than 700 paintings, prints, and sculptures. In 2001, he launched the first of now-many exhibitions of selected works from his collection: "Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge" traveled the nation through 2007, breaking attendance records at venues like the Smithsonian Institution and the De Young Museum in San Francisco during its groundbreaking 12-city U.S. tour. Currently touring is "Chicanitas: Small Paintings from the Cheech Marin Collection {size doesn't matter}," which is now on view at the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi. In Arizona, works that he has acquired over the past ten years are on view through January 24, 2016 at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in "Take 10: A Decade of Collecting by Cheech Marin," along with the "10 Pick 10" exhibit that features ten artists selected by Marin because either their works and/or they themselves were pivotal to his collecting.

Bobby Wilson, Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota, has painted dozens of murals, performed spoken word poetry at events across the country, and appeared on television and radio numerous times. In addition to numerous artistic accomplishments, Bobby has garnered international attention as a member of the comedy group The 1491s, appearing on major media outlets including Comedy Central, Al Jazeera, and MTV. Bobby's work is heavily influenced by his Dakota heritage combined with a lifelong city upbringing. Much of his work strives to convey a social and political message, tackling issues of racism, homelessness, and imperialism while maintaining a sense of humor and hope. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota currently based in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jessica Lee Williamson is a writer and an artist living in Los Angeles. She grew up in a small

town on Maryland's Eastern Shore. After moving out west she graduated from The Second City Conservatory. You can see more of her work at jessicaleewilliamson.com.