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**The Moth to return to Mesa Arts Center**

Jan. 27

Tickets on Sale Now



MESA, AZ (Jan. 5, 2017) – Beloved storytelling nonprofit The Moth – the force behind the popular The Moth Radio Hour, heard on 450 public radio stations nationwide, and The Moth podcast, which is downloaded **over 45 million** times a year – will return to Mesa Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 27 for a 7:30 p.m. event. Tickets are on sale now.

**“New York’s hottest and hippest literary ticket.”** –

*The Wall Street Journal*. Tickets are available at [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com) or by calling 480-644-6500.

The Moth presents true, personal stories by luminaries in the arts and sciences, as well as an astronaut, an undertaker, a voodoo priestess and a retired NYPD detective, among many others. Each show is composed of simple, old-fashioned storytelling on thoroughly modern themes, by wildly divergent raconteurs; every story is told live on stage, without notes. Directed by Catherine McCarthy and hosted by Dame Wilburn, the two-hour show will feature five storytellers including David Montgomery (Los Angeles, CA), Jared Stevenson (Mesa, AZ), Bess Stillman (AZ), Enrique García Naranjo (Tucson, AZ) and one more to be announced.

**About the Host/Storytellers:**

DAME WILBURN (host) is a poet, storyteller and writer. She is also Chief Marketing Director for Twisted Willow Soap Company. After honing her storytelling abilities by attending the Detroit Waldorf School for ten years and spending summers on the front porch of her grandparents' home in Macon, Georgia, Dame went on to be a Moth GrandSLAM champion and frequent Moth Mainstage storyteller and host. Dame spends her free time working on her first book. She is married to the most beautiful women in the world and has five fur babies who are the bane of her existence.

DAVID MONTGOMERY is a writer, comedian and storyteller based in Los Angeles. Trained in comedy by both a terrible childhood and the Upright Citizens Brigade, David always spins a terrible experience into a story that will make you laugh. He is a multiple Moth StorySLAM winner and has been featured in many curated national live shows, including *Risk!* with Kevin Allison, The Moth Mainstage and *True Story*. He now hosts his own comedy podcast, *2 Gays, No Girls, At A Pizza Place*, available on iTunes. His autobiographical one man show, *How The*

*Queen Found His Crown*, just debuted to a sold out run and won the Audience Choice at Pittsburgh's Fringe Festival. You can find videos of many of his performances at [facebook.com/buymeahotdog](https://www.facebook.com/buymeahotdog). He is currently (slowly) working on piecing together his many stories for a collective memoir. Potential titles include *War and Peace* and *How Am I Getting Away With This?*, but he is certainly open to suggestions.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One E. Main Street in downtown Mesa. Tickets are \$35-45.

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### **About Mesa Arts Center**

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 multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, 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](http://mesaartscenter.com).

### **About The Moth**

The Moth is an acclaimed nonprofit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. Since launching in 1997, The Moth has presented over 20,000 stories, told live and without notes to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. The Moth conducts seven ongoing programs: The Moth Mainstage, which tours internationally, has featured stories by Malcolm Gladwell, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, John Turturro, Molly Ringwald, and Tig Notaro, as well as an astronaut, a pickpocket, a hot-dog eating champion and hundreds more; The Moth StorySLAM program, which conducts open mic storytelling competitions in 25 cities; 21 in the US plus Sydney and Melbourne, AU, London, UK and Dublin, IE; The Moth Community Program, which offers storytelling workshops and performance opportunities to adults who are too often overlooked by the mainstream media; The Moth High School StorySLAMs, which bring the thrill of personal storytelling to high schools across the country; The Moth Podcast, which is downloaded more than 30 million times a year; The Moth Corporate Program, which provides industry-specific storytelling solutions; and Peabody Award-winning The Moth Radio Hour which airs weekly on 450+ public radio stations nationwide. Learn more at [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org).

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For Mesa Arts Center

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