



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE AND MESA ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER ZOLTAN TAKACS IN MESA, AZ

Tickets for “Deadliest Lifesavers” with Zoltan Takacs are on sale now

MESA, AZ (JANUARY 2, 2018)— *National Geographic Live*, National Geographic’s touring speaker series, and **MESA ARTS CENTER** are proud to announce “Deadliest Lifesavers” with Zoltan Takacs, a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and biomedical scientist who collects and researches the deadliest animal venoms for scientific innovation. The event will take place at **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at Mesa Arts Center.**

Driven by his childhood passion, Takacs splits time between the lab and the field. From the Amazon to the Congo, and to the Pacific, Takacs is in search of the deadliest creatures on Earth to obtain samples of their toxins' genetic blueprint. He has traveled to 158 countries, is an aircraft pilot, scuba diver, and survivor of multiple snakebites. Facing elephants, navigating pirated waters, being evacuated from civil war, and airlifting antivenom for snakebite patents are some of the highs and lows of his expeditions.

Takacs holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, was a researcher at Rockefeller University and Yale University, and was on the faculty at the University of Chicago before launching the World Toxin Bank. He is a former fellow of the Columbia Earth Institute, a member of New York City Influencers and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. Zoltan has been lecturing widely around the world, and his research and exploration on animal venoms has been featured in National Geographic magazine, on the National Geographic Channel, as well as on BBC, CNN, and PBS/NOVA.

National Geographic Live is the live events division of National Geographic. With a broad roster of talent including renowned photographers, scientists, authors, filmmakers and adventurers, *National Geographic Live’s* critically acclaimed programs have connected with audiences worldwide for over a century. Currently, *National Geographic Live* events are held in a variety of cities around the world, including, Seattle, Tampa, Los Angeles, Florence and Calgary. In each of these cities, speakers share behind-the-scenes stories from the front lines of exploration onstage alongside stunning imagery and gripping footage. For more information, visit natgeolive.com

For tickets and information, please call 480-644-6500 or visit MesaArtsCenter.com.

[END]

Media Contacts

Casey Blake, Casey.Blake@mesaartscenter.com / Tel. 480-644-6620

Hannah Sedgwick, Hannah.Sedgwick@natgeo.com / Tel: (202) 912-6762

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 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 Partners LLC

National Geographic Partners LLC (NGP), a joint venture between National Geographic and 21st Century Fox, is committed to bringing the world premium science, adventure and exploration content across an unrivaled portfolio of media assets. NGP combines the global National Geographic television channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO, Nat Geo PEOPLE) with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, licensing and e-commerce businesses. Furthering knowledge and understanding of our world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for 129 years, and now we are committed to going deeper, pushing boundaries, going further for our consumers ... and reaching over 730 million people around the world in 172 countries and 43 languages every month as we do it. NGP returns 27 percent of our proceeds to the nonprofit National Geographic Society to fund work in the areas of science, exploration, conservation and education. For more information visit natgeotv.com or nationalgeographic.com, or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#).