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**Occasional Magic: The Moth Mainstage in Mesa**  
Performing Live at Mesa Arts Center

**MESA, AZ** (Jan. 10, 2019) – Beloved storytelling nonprofit The Moth – the force behind the popular *The Moth Radio Hour*, heard on 485 public radio stations nationwide, and *The Moth* podcast, which is downloaded over 52 million times a year – will return to Mesa Arts Center on Friday, February 1 for an 8:00 p.m. event. Tickets are on sale now at [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com), at the Mesa Arts Center box office or by calling 480-644-6500.

The Moth presents true, personal stories and 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.

The event is directed by Jenifer Hixson, produced by Patricia Ureña hosted by Jon Goode and will feature storytellers **Alistair Bane, Ruby Cooper, Tania Katan, Angelica Lindsey-Ali, and Michael VonAllman.**

Host of the event, **Jon Goode**, is an author, poet and playwright who hails from Richmond, Virginia and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been a featured performer on HBO's *Def Poetry*, TVOne's *Verses & Flow* and BET's *Lyric Café*. His stage play *Khalas* was showcased in the 2013 International Festival of Arts and Ideas. In 2006, Jon's work with Nick @ Nite earned him an Emmy nomination alongside the Promax Gold for best copyright North America. Jon has toured the college performance circuit extensively and has performed at over 500 colleges and universities. Jon's debut collection of poems and short stories, *Conduit*, was published in 2015; has received to date 43 five star reviews; spent 12 weeks as the #1 title in its category on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and is the best reviewed book of poetry on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for 2015/16.

**STORYTELLERS:**

**Alistair Bane** is a citizen of the Eastern Shawnee Nation of Oklahoma and currently resides in Denver Colorado. Besides being a storyteller he is also a visual artist. He makes dance regalia, quilts and paints. In 2016 he was a resident artist for the Denver Art Museum's Native American Arts Program. In his spare time he enjoys rehabilitating feral rez dogs, which is a much more relaxing hobby than it might sound like, as long as you don't mind a tiny bit of growling.

**Ruby Cooper** grew up in an Irish bar, got pregnant with twins the first time she had sex at age 16, is a mother, grandmother, teacher, writer, and has traveled the world. Over the decades, she's survived war, pestilence, austerity, deceit ... No wait, those were her marriages. Her book, *Irish Mongrel Child* is available on Amazon. She teaches and coaches storytelling, mostly at

senior centers in Los Angeles, (but you don't have to be old.) You can find her at [rubycooper.com](http://rubycooper.com) and [storytellingmadefunand easy.com](http://storytellingmadefunandeasy.com).

**Tania Katan** is an inspirational speaker and creative consultant who believes in storytelling at all costs! After years of smuggling creativity into the business world without getting busted, Katan has learned that we don't need to be in a job that is distinctly creative in order to be distinctly creative within our work. Her forthcoming book, *Creative Trespassing* (Penguin Random House, Feb. 2019) shares awkward stories and imaginative strategies for starting a creative revolution at work and in the world.

**Angelica Lindsey-Ali** is a daughter of Detroit, dancer, writer, shapeshifter, and Afrofuturist. She is a cultural activist who has traveled the world, finding bits of herself strewn across the globe. She recently returned from a 5-year stint in the Middle East where she introduced a whole generation of high schoolers to the wonders of Fela queens, urban homesteading, and African dance. Angelica spends her free time watching Nollywood movies, thrifting, and sharing tidbits of her life on the local storytelling scene at events like Vinyl Voices, The Storyline, Bar Flies, and Nasty Women Reading.

For the last twenty-five years **Michael VonAllmen** has happily enjoyed a common life as a husband, father, grandfather, and employee. The eleven years before those he served in a Kentucky prison for a violent sexual assault he didn't commit. In 2010, the Kentucky Innocence Project investigated his case and after twenty-seven years as a convicted sex-offender he was exonerated. He now enjoys a second-wind in life by advocating against the death penalty and for justice.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One E. Main Street in downtown Mesa. Tickets are \$35-\$48.

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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 non-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. Since launching in 1997, The Moth has presented over 35,000 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 Elizabeth Gilbert,

Malcolm Gladwell, Darryl “DMC” McDaniels, John Turturro, Molly Ringwald, Boots Riley, Krista Tippett, Rosanne Cash, Danyel Smith 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 29 cities: 26 in the US plus Sydney and Melbourne, AU and London, UK; *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 in New York and educators around the world; *The Moth Podcast*, which is downloaded more than 52 million times a year; *MothWorks*, which uses the essential elements of Moth storytelling at work and other unexpected places; and Peabody Award-winning *The Moth Radio Hour* which airs weekly on over 485 public radio stations nationwide. The Moth’s second book, *All These Wonders; True Stories About Facing the Unknown* was released in 2017 to critical acclaim. [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org).

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