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YEARS



MESA ARTS CENTER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mesa Arts Center Announces 2025–2026 National Geographic Live Speaker Series



Additional high-res images [here](#).

Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce the 2025–2026 **National Geographic Live speaker series**. This season takes audiences from the Mediterranean in search of pirate legends to the breathtaking migration of monarch butterflies, the untamed wildlife of the Galapagos and even inside the human brain. Each show offers awe-inspiring visuals, first-hand experiences and groundbreaking insights that bring our planet to life.

Season subscription package pricing starts at \$136. Renewals and new subscriptions to the series go on sale March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at

mesaartscenter.com/natgeolive or by calling the box office during regular business hours at 480-644-6500.

A Pirate's Life

Lisa Briggs | Underwater Archaeologist

Oct. 15, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

Hunt for some of history's greatest treasures and the pirates who ruled the ocean with archaeologist Lisa Briggs. We go on assignment with her to the Mediterranean Sea to explore how pirating shaped the Roman Empire. We also meet the Pirate Queen of China and then head into the lab with Lisa to follow the most famous renegade, Blackbeard.

Chasing Monarchs

Jaime Rojo | Photographer

Jan. 21, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Fifty years after the startling discovery that monarch butterflies spend winters in the forests of Mexico, photographer and National Geographic Explorer Jaime Rojo reveals this winged wonder of the insect world in new ways with never-before-seen visuals. Tag along with conservationists and citizen scientists who are helping this species avoid catastrophic threats, all through Jaime's beautiful photos and videos.

Life on the Move

Lucy Hawkes | Ecologist

Feb. 18, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Every year, billions of animals migrate in search of food, water or a mate. Ecologist Lucy Hawkes has scoured the ocean, land and sky to investigate the astonishing stories of animal perseverance. Join her for a peek into landscapes where some of the planet's most notable animal athletes move and shake, and follow their beautiful, massive migrations across the globe.

Discovering the Galapagos

Alex Hearn | Marine Ecologist

March 18, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

The Galapagos sparked our understanding of evolution and adaptation 175 years ago. Now, with marine ecologist and National Geographic Explorer Alex Hearn as an expert guide, discover the Galapagos anew as we go on assignment to explore the groundbreaking science that's happening with Darwin's finches, giant tortoises, marine iguanas and other remarkable wildlife on these islands.

Untangling the Mind

Steve Ramirez | Neuroscientist

April 8, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Come explore on a cellular level — the foundations of thoughts, emotions and memories. The human brain is an electrical web of 100 trillion connections that has made everything possible, from campfires to lunar landers. Neuroscientist Steve Ramirez guides a journey through the most remarkable human organ to see what really makes us, us.

The National Geographic Live Arizona series sponsor is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona.

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. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to create meaningful arts experiences in Mesa for everyone. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).

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