



For immediate release
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MESA ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 PERFORMING LIVE SEASON

Experience the laughs, thrills, and brilliance of the performing arts

For Immediate Release (Mesa, Ariz) – The 2010/2011 Performing Live season at Mesa Arts Center offers a variety of unique experiences with a lineup full of laughs, legends, and awe-inspiring talent from around the world. This season is full of young, fresh artists who are exploding on the Billboard charts. Mesa Arts Center is utilizing its four theaters, which will allow for more performances than ever before. In the more intimate theaters, audiences will experience a personal performance with superstars of jazz, blues, classical, and comedy, at a more affordable ticket price. The season will provide audiences the chance to encounter the mystical lure of dance, the comedy stages of New York, unmatched tap dancing, a night of waltzes in old Vienna, the spectacle of Vegas, and much more. With over 25 shows and counting, this season's performances present a special experience for everyone.

Performances will include the promising talent of rising stars who have already begun to show their worth with rave reviews and chart-topping hits. Young starlet Nikki Yanofsky is the number one Heatseeker album on the Billboard charts. Featured in the *New York Times* and on CBS Sunday Morning, Celebrity Autobiography's success expands from New York and Los Angeles to embark on a national tour. You will see jaw-dropping talent, side-splitting comedy, and never before seen productions. In addition, the classical series will feature Lang Lang, Joshua Bell, and Zuill Bailey.

"It is our goal to bring you a variety of performances to fill your year with entertainment and the magic of arts and culture. Whether it is world music, jazz, classical, dance, theater, or comedy, we have your ticket" – Randall Vogel, Director of Theaters and Operations.

Members receive the first chance for tickets along with many other benefits. To become a member of Mesa Arts Center, call the Membership Office at 480-644-6615. Tickets are on-sale to the general public Thursday, July 1, at 10 a.m. by calling the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at 480-644-6500 or on-line at MesaArtsCenter.com. Tickets are also available by walk-up during Box Office hours Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The Box Office is located at One East Main St. in downtown Mesa.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Media Center at www.mesaartscenter.com/mediaCenter.aspx password is macmedia (all lower case).

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JANA MASHONEE

Saturday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$28

Group Price - \$23.80 - \$25.20

Eight-time Native American Music Award winner Jana Mashonee has a powerful voice that will send shivers down your spine. This singer/songwriter celebrates her American Indian roots with her talent as a vocalist and pianist.

HANSON – SHOUT IT OUT TOUR 2010

w/ A ROCKET TO THE MOON

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$32

Group Price - \$27.20 - \$28.80

Native sons of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Hanson has been making music together for nearly two decades. Their out-of-the-blue, soul-inspired brand of American pop-rock'n'roll was introduced to the world 13 years ago. Their fifth studio album, *Shout It Out*, is set to be released on June 8, 2010, on their label 3CG Records. They deliver a powerful group of soulful, melodic tunes that will leave you with a contagious sense of optimism for the future and welcomed reminiscence for American rock 'n' roll.



NBC'S LAST COMIC STANDING LIVE TOUR: 2010

Friday, Sept. 17, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$40

Group Price - \$34.00 - \$36.00

Season seven of *Last Comic Standing* premieres June 7 on NBC. The Emmy-nominated laugh-fest returns with a new group of the world's funniest comics. Watch the series this summer on NBC then see the finalists perform live as the *Last Comic Standing Live Tour* appears at Mesa Arts Center.

SHEENA EASTON

Friday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m.

Piper Repertory Theater - \$38

Group Price - \$32.30 - \$34.20

Top eighties pop icon and multi-Grammy award winner Sheena Easton performs an intimate concert, highlighting hits from her thirty year career span. The Scottish singer is the only artist to have Top 5 hits on *Billboard's* five major charts and her platinum and gold records have experienced major success in the US, UK, and Asia. This will be a personal concert, stripped down from the massiveness of her arena tours.



BELLYDANCE SUPERSTARS PRESENTS: BOMBAY BELLYWOOD

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$45/\$35

Group Price - \$29.75 - \$40.50

Earning an unrivalled reputation as an expert dance troupe, the Bellydance Superstars continue to push the boundaries. They have taken an ancient art form and turned it into a mega show to compete head-on with the likes of Riverdance and Stomp. This acclaimed group infuses a collection of energetic Indian dance styles into their traditional mix of Bellydance.



4TROOPS

Saturday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m.

Ikeda Theater - \$35/\$25

Group Price - \$21.25 - \$31.50

4TROOPS are four United States combat veterans who served on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan. They first made a name for themselves while in the military, singing pop and country songs for soldiers overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. 4TROOPS now come together for a singular purpose: to sing on behalf of all troops. Their impressive vocals will make you proud to be an American.

NIKKI YANOFSKY

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$30

Group Price - \$25.50 - \$27.00

"She has a golden road ahead... going to be a major star" – Brian Williams, NBC Nightly News

At the age of 16, Montreal-born songstress Nikki Yanofsky has already headlined international jazz festivals, played Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, toured with award-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch, performed with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra, and her single "I Believe," the official song for the 2010 Winter Olympics, shot to number one on the Canadian charts. Catch her jaw dropping performance this fall in the Piper Repertory Theater.





ERIC BIBB

W/ DAVE RILEY AND BOB CORRITORE

Friday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$25

Group Price - \$21.25 - \$22.50

A performance by modern blues maestro Eric Bibb is an enriching experience - musically and spiritually. His music, like his personality, is intimate, assured, and passionate drawing listeners into the moment more as participants than spectators.

Special guests include the Valley's own local blues icon Bob Corritore, owner of the famous Blues and Roots concert club, The Rhythm Room.

"Blues aficionados would take to the highway just about anywhere to catch a solo performance by Eric Bibb" – *YES Weekly*

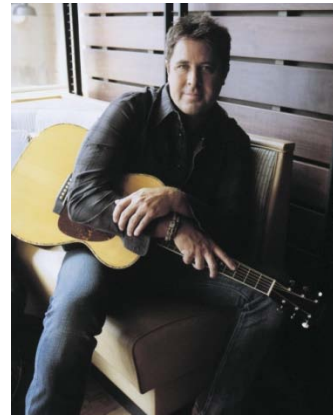
VINCE GILL

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater – \$67/\$52

Group Price - \$44.20 - \$60.30

Country Music Hall of Fame star and 19-time Grammy winner, Vince Gill, returns to his favorite concert venue in the Valley. Vince Gill's sound is the epitome of country music, and the outstanding acoustics of Mesa Arts Center's Ikeda Theater transforms the renowned music star's repertoire into an intimate and unique performance.



RAVI SHANKAR

Saturday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater – \$70/\$60/\$50/\$40

Group Price - \$34.00 - \$63.00

Named the "Godfather of World Music" by George Harrison, Ravi Shankar's talent has earned him high praise and his genius and talent has been compared to that of Mozart. Legendary virtuoso sitarist, composer, teacher, and writer Shankar is India's most esteemed musical ambassador and a singular phenomenon whose artistry crosses cultural and musical boundaries.

In addition to the performance, there will be a celebration of Indian traditions throughout Mesa Arts Center's campus before the show.

PERLMAN AND BAILEY PRESENT CHOPIN, LISZT AND FRIENDS

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$30

Group Price - \$25.50 - \$27.00

On stage, pianist Navah Perlman's and cellist Zuill Bailey's energetic and passionate performances have earned widespread critical acclaim. Joining us in Mesa for a concert to include a repertoire with Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt and more, the duo will present an extraordinarily compelling performance.



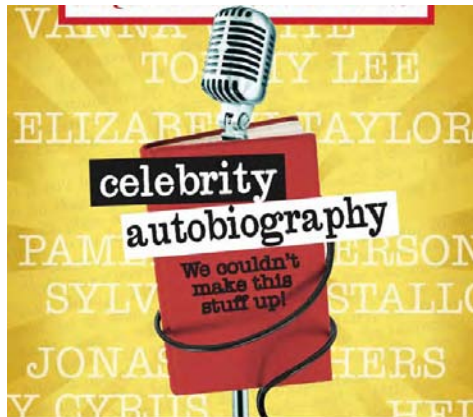
EUGENIA LEÓN

Saturday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$38/\$34

Group Price - \$28.90 - \$34.20

Born in Mexico City, Eugenia León is considered to be the best singer in her country. Her story is a long sequence of surprises, great concerts, shows, hard work, and discipline, which have made her shows something that people remember as cultural gems. She is a new singer with every performance. Her special quality of boldness and her ability to transform contribute to the greatness of her voice.



CELEBRITY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

November 4 – 21 (Two Shows Daily)

Nesbitt/Elliott Playhouse - \$35

Group Price - \$29.75 - \$31.50

2009 Drama Desk Winner! - Best Theatrical Experience

College Night:

Contains Adult Content

9:00 p.m., Thursdays, Nov. 4, 11, & 18

Special Family Friendly Shows:

7:00 p.m., Fridays, Nov. 5, 9, & 19

2:00 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 7, 14, & 21

The New York hit comedy show and winner of the 2009 Drama Desk Award for Best Unique Theatrical Experience, reads its way to Mesa. This three week engagement will feature a line-up of revolving comedians who perform and interpret the unintentionally hilarious actual words and stories written by celebrities.

How does Vanna flip her panels? What does Stallone have in his freezer? Why did Burt and Loni topple from the upper tier of their wedding cake? What makes the Jonas Brothers get along? Answers to these questions and more will be revealed in "Celebrity Autobiography," where super star memoirs are acted out live on stage. Audiences walk away from the show asking, "Did they actually write that?"

The ever changing cast has included *Saturday Night Live's* Rachel Dratch, *The Soprano's* Steve Schirripa, *Ugly Betty's* Vanessa Williams, *Law & Order SVU's* BD Wong, Paul Rudd, and many more. Mesa's cast has not been announced, but promises to be star studded.

"HILARIOUSLY TOLD! BIG YUKS ENTERTAINMENT" -*New York Times*

"INSPIRED" -*The New Yorker*



STRAIGHT NO CHASER

Friday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$35

Group Price - \$29.75 - \$31.50

Last year, Straight No Chaser's version of "The 12 Days of Christmas" became the hottest viral video of the holiday season, eventually receiving more than 10 million views online. In an era when so much pop music is the product of digital processing and vocal pro-tooling, Straight No Chaser is the real deal – as they reinvent the idea of a cappella on the modern pop landscape.

RICHARD NADER'S DOO WOP

Saturday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$48/\$32

Group Price - \$27.20 – \$43.20

Dust off your old 45's, plug in the jukebox, and get ready to take a stroll down memory lane as Richard Nader's Doo Wop legends transport you back in time. Scheduled to appear are Gene "Duke of Earl" Chandler, The Chiffons ("He's So Fine"), The Coasters ("Yakety Yak"), Tommy Mara ("Sixteen Candles"), Tony Passa (Oh, Rosemarie), Frank Mancuso, lead singer of The Imaginations, and Steve Horn, bass singer with The Five Sharks. This will be an unforgettable night of Doo Wop.



SAVION GLOVER: BARE SOUNDZ

Sunday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$45/\$35/\$25

Group Price - \$21.25 - \$40.50

Using tap as song, Glover merges acoustical vibrations including beats from Jazz, Caribbean, and other contemporary musical genres. Bare Soundz features Marshal Davis Jr. and Maurice Chestnut, in a concert style production. Tap dance is an acoustical instrument," states Glover, "I hope to share this with the audience – tap dance as percussive sound and song."

"Forget everything you thought you knew about tap-dance, and see [Savion Glover's](#) Bare Soundz." *The London Times*

LUKAS NELSON AND PROMISE OF THE REAL

Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m.

Piper Repertory Theater - \$20

Group Price - \$17.00 - \$18.00

Lukas Nelson has been on the road since he was an infant, traveling with his father Willie Nelson. He's been playing music for as long as he can remember, and the sound he creates is an indescribable mix of blues, rock and roll, jazz, and country. Since his band formed in 2009, they have already toured with music icons including B.B. King, Willie Nelson and Dave Matthews.



THE KING'S SINGERS

A HOLIDAY CONCERT

Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$30

Group Price - \$25.50 - \$27.00

"Still unmatched for their musicality and sheer ability to entertain"
-*The London Times*

Kick off your holidays with the dynamic men of The King's Singers. The six Englishmen known as The King's Singers enjoy a reputation as one of the world's most sought-after and highly acclaimed vocal ensembles. The 2009 Grammy Award winners have put forth the highest caliber of a cappella performance since the group's inception at King's College, Cambridge, in 1968; a perfect way to start the holiday season with family and friends.

DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS

SMOOTH JAZZ CHRISTMAS

W/ SPECIAL GUESTS JONATHAN BUTLER, BRIAN CULBERTSON AND CANDY DULFER

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$80/\$52

Group Price - \$44.20 - \$72.00

Fast becoming Mesa Arts Center's signature holiday event; Dave Koz & Friends 2010 Smooth Jazz Christmas tour will be extra-special. South African singer/guitarist Jonathan Butler, keyboardist Brian Culbertson and Dutch saxophone star Candy Dulfer join the multi-GRAMMY® nominee and saxophonist extraordinaire in celebrating the joys of the season. This will be Dulfer's first tour with Koz, while favorites Butler and Culbertson are back by popular demand.



LANG LANG

Thursday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$92/\$72/\$52

Group Price - \$42.50 - \$81.00

"Prodigy," "virtuoso," "genius" – these are some of the words used to describe Lang Lang – perhaps the most popular pianist on the planet. Named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 most influential people in the world in 2009, Lang Lang is truly a brilliant performer. He was watched by over five billion people in the 2008 XXIX Olympic Games, and his performances have sold out all over the world. With his unique way of shaping music and controlling it, Lang Lang is definitely a performance you do not want to miss.

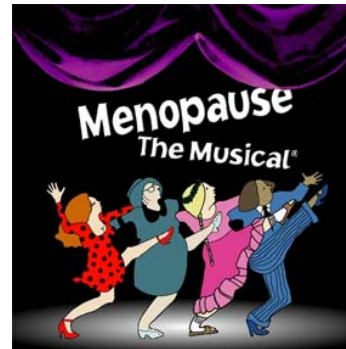
MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL

Feb. 8 - 27

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$42

Group Price - \$35.70 - \$37.80

Grab your girlfriends for a night of laughs with the musical that has taken the country by storm. Returning to the Valley after its smash run, this show is a joyful parody of 25 classic baby boomer hits, whose lyrics have been re-written, including such chart-toppers as "I Heard It Thru the Grapevine; You No Longer See 39" and the disco favorite "Stayin' Awake! Stayin' Awake!" This hysterical show celebrates women who are about to, in the middle of, or have survived "the change."



JOSHUA BELL

Friday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$70/\$60/\$50/\$40

Group Price - \$34.00 - \$63.00

The most talented, youthful violinist of today has iconic musicians lining up to record with him. Known for his daring and original choices, Joshua Bell was named 2010's instrumentalist of the year by *Musical America*. Apart from winning countless Grammys and Oscars, Bell has premiered in many movie soundtracks such as *Angels and Demons* and *Defiance*. Bell's unique musical style, paired with his natural stage presence, is sure to give you goose bumps as you watch the performance unfold.

Secure your seat, because this accomplished violinist's concert will sell out fast.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER WITH WYNTON MARSALIS

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater -
\$66/\$56/\$46

Group Price – \$39.10 - \$59.40

Making Mesa Art Center their home in the Valley, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, composed of 15 of today's finest jazz soloists and ensemble players, has been the Jazz at Lincoln Center resident orchestra since 1992. Under Music Director Wynton Marsalis, the big band performs a vast repertoire, from rare historic compositions to Jazz at Lincoln Center commissioned works.



GIRLS NIGHT

March 1 - 20

Nesbitt/Elliott Playhouse - \$40

Group Price - \$34.00 - \$36.00

Ladies get ready for an evening of music and fun at *Girls Night: The Musical*. With songs such as "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," "It's Raining Men," and "I Will Survive," *Girls Night* is sure to have you up on your feet. This story relives the past of five women on a night out at a local karaoke club. Full of energy, critics call it just as funny as *Sex in the City*. *Girls Night: The Musical* is surely one performance you and your friends do not want to miss, as it will have you laughing, crying, and dancing in the aisles.

CANADIAN TENORS

Friday, Mar. 4, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$45/\$35

Group Price - \$29.75 - \$40.50

Recently seen on *Oprah*, you too can experience this worldwide phenomenon live in Mesa. Fuse the incredibly powerful tenor voices of four talented young men with diverse vocal styles, undeniable charm and individual international success with an eclectic blend of classical and contemporary pop and you have the recipe for one powerhouse group and Canada's most exciting sought-after exports.



A VIENNA GALA

OPOLE, PHILHARMONIC OF POLAND

Friday, Mar. 11, 8 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$50/\$34/\$26

Group Price - \$20.80 - \$40.00

Opole, Philharmonic of Poland is taking their first transcontinental tour of the United States where they will make a stop at the Ikeda Theater; transporting you to a night in old Vienna and featuring the music of Johann Strauss and Franz Lehár. An evening full of waltzes, with numbers from *Die Fledermaus* and *Der Zigeunerbaron* (The Gypsy Baron), this performance is sure to have you dancing in the aisles.

RICKY NELSON REMEMBERED **STARRING MATTHEW AND GUNNAR NELSON**

Saturday, Mar. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$37

Group Price - \$31.45 - \$33.30

"RICKY NELSON REMEMBERED" is a unique multimedia entertainment event featuring the live music of Nelson's hit songs (including "Hello Mary Lou", "Travelin' Man", and "Garden Party") performed by his twin sons Matthew & Gunnar. The show includes never before seen big screen video footage of the NELSON family with interviews from celebrities influenced by Ricky Nelson. 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of Rick Nelson's passing in a tragic plane crash.



THE ALUMINUM SHOW

Sunday, Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater - \$45/\$35

Group Price - \$29.75 - \$40.50

Enjoy a performance like no other. A sensational hit around the world, this stunning and incredible production offers a theatrical experience that is totally unique, combining amazing special effects, acrobatics, jazz and modern dance, puppetry, dazzling aluminum costumes, and lighting.

This show is certain to be a delight to audiences of all ages and a highlight of the season!!

"THE REAL TRIUMPH OF THE ISRAELI-BORN SHOW IS THAT THE SUM OF ITS PARTS ADD UP TO SOMETHING UNIQUE... it borrows from various sources, including Mummenshanz (perhaps its closest relative), Blue Man Group, Cirque du Soleil, and Stomp." -Chuck Darrow, Gannett New Jersey Newspapers

"A CREATIVE, EXCITING, SURPRISING AND STIMULATING SHOW... a magical adrenalin rush, loads of fun" - "Yediot Aharonot" Newspaper, Israel

"A high-octane thundering spectacular neatly wrapped in 'Aluminum' Foil." - Broadway Baby



YASMIN LEVY

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$32

Group Price - \$27.20 - \$28.80

Once heard, Yasmin Levy's voice is never forgotten! Her passionate vocal delivery and striking good looks continue to entrance fans new and old. In Levy's music, there is a tension between the purity of Ladino (the Judeo-Spanish music of Spain) and the fiery heart of flamenco. Born in Jerusalem, Israel, in 1975, London's Guardian raves, "Here surely is the next world music superstar."

GREAT BIG SEA

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$35

Group Price - \$29.75 – \$31.50

Great Big Sea is a Canadian folk-rock band from Newfoundland and Labrador best known for performing energetic rock interpretations of traditional Newfoundland folk songs including sea shanties, which draw from the island's 500-year-old Irish, English, and French heritage. Join Great Big Sea, as they boldly embrace new sounds and new ideas, fearlessly pushing the boundaries of their own art and music.



SEPTETO NACIONAL DE CUBA

Thursday, Mar. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Virginia G. Piper Repertory Theater - \$32

Group Price - \$27.20 - \$28.80

For more than 80 years and in over 35 nations around the world, the Septeto Nacional Ignacio Piñero de Cuba has been the greatest and first champion of the traditional sound of Cuba. Decades before the Buena Vista Social Club, the septet performed the compositions of its namesake, transforming them into international standards of the *son* tradition. It is impossible to resist the infectious rhythms of this celebrated ensemble.

STEVE TYRELL

Thursday, Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Piper Theater - \$44

Group Price - \$37.40 - \$39.60

One of last seasons' fan favorites, Grammy award winning Steve Tyrell makes an encore visit to Mesa performing legendary jazz standards. In his four and a half decades in the music business, Tyrell has achieved great success as an artist, producer, songwriter, music supervisor, and performer.



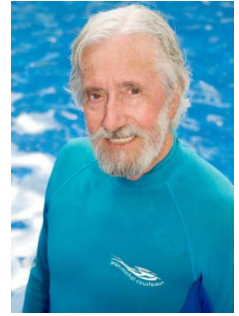
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE SPEAKER SERIES

OCEAN ADVENTURE: AN EVENING WITH JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU, UNDERWATER EXPLORER & CONSERVATIONIST

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. - Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater

Underwater explorer and conservationist **Jean Michel Cousteau**, the son of the legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, reflects on his father's life and on-going legacy.



AMERICA'S GREAT WILDLIFE MIGRATIONS

JOEL SARTORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater

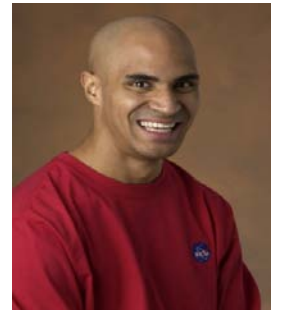
Veteran wildlife photographer Joel Sartore shares images and stories of living things that may soon disappear from our world.

EXPLORING MARS: THE NEXT GENERATION

KOBIE BOYKINS, NASA ENGINEER

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. - Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater

Kobie Boykins, a NASA engineer who helped design the famous Mars Rovers, shares the latest discoveries from the Red Planet and previews the next stage in exploration of our closest planetary neighbor.



MY WILD LIFE

MIREYA MAYOR, PRIMATOLOGIST & TV CORRESPONDENT

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m. - Tom & Janet Ikeda Theater

Follow the wild ride Cuban American Mireya Mayor took as she journeyed from Miami Dolphins cheerleader, to Fulbright Scholar, to working as a primatologist in the jungles of Madagascar, to TV correspondent for National Geographic.

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ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER

Mesa Arts Center has received numerous awards and accolades for its programs and outstanding facilities. Arizona's largest arts campus 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 facility is an architectural showpiece and a destination for visitors to the Phoenix area. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through impacting and engaging experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant; and that enhance the quality of life and vitality of the region. For more information, visit www.mesaartscenter.com.

Take a free guided tour of the Mesa Arts Center campus including the Theaters, Art Studios, Mesa Contemporary Arts, and the Shadow Walk. Tours are every Wednesday at noon, reservation required. For more information or to book your tour call 480-644-6626.