

For Immediate Release

“Queen of the Canopy” Opens Season of Beloved National Geographic Live Series from Arts Commons Presents

The 2024-25 season of National Geographic Live transports audiences from the depths of old growth forests to inhospitable slopes of active volcanos, to North America’s first National Park, and deep below the waves.

October 17, 2024 - CALGARY – This fall, National Geographic Live celebrates its 14th season of taking Calgary into the field with the Explorers of National Geographic. Accompanied by powerful images and high-resolution video, they share cutting edge scientific discoveries, wild encounters, and poignant stories – live in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at **Arts Commons**. Join Arts Commons Presents as we open the National Geographic Live season with **Nalini Nadkarni: *Roots to Canopy*** on **Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m. and Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are available now at artscommons.ca/roots.

Lauded for her groundbreaking research on canopy ecology, multi-award-winning scientist and National Geographic Explorer Nalini Nadkarni has been nicknamed “Queen of the Canopy.” Her innovative approach to preserving the Earth’s biodiversity has included convening artists, slam poets, and modern dancers to disseminate their own perceptions of forest canopies to arts audiences nationally. She has integrated her approach into what she terms “tapestry thinking,” bringing together seemingly disconnected ways of knowing, and tailoring the qualities of nature through the values of others to amplify the power of nature and the need to protect it.

“The canopy is the heart and lungs of the world,” says Nalini Nadkarni. “We don’t have to protect things just because they’re pretty. We can protect them because they’re important.”

A contributor to 150 scientific papers and books as well as being featured on TED talks and numerous other appearances, she has cast new insights on the importance of canopy plants in ecosystem processes and the effects of human activities on forest diversity and function. She has also innovated engagement with non-traditional groups, including faith-based groups, corporations, and people who are incarcerated. Her programs guide people in state prisons and youth detention centers to rear endangered species for ecological restoration projects, providing them with direct ways to contribute to preserving Earth’s biodiversity even while incarcerated.

“Trees are magical, they see everything, are connected to everything, and they know our history. Nalini has such a powerful and wonder-filled perspective on all the ways that trees contribute to the well-being of our world,” says Sarah Garton Stanely, VP of programming at Arts Commons. “And when she brings us to the treetops, it’s a look into a world rich with beauty, complexity and surprise!”

National Geographic Live has captured the imaginations of Calgarians, inspiring a love for science and the natural world since its launch in 2012. The series highlights Explorers at the forefront of their fields, traversing the planet with stunning video and photography projected on the high-resolution screen that spans the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. Join Arts Commons Presents for the 2024-25 season of National Geographic Live with **Nalini Nadkarni: *Roots to Canopy*** on **November 17 & 18, 2024**, **Andrés Ruzo: *Hunt for Sleeping Giants*** on **January 26 & 27, 2025**,

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Doug Smith: *Wild Wolves of Yellowstone* on April 27 & 28, 2025, and Kakani Katija: *Designed by Nature* on May 25 & 26, 2025, details at artscommons.ca/ngl.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Nalini Nadkarni: *Roots to Canopy*
When: Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m. and Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/roots

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **ConocoPhillips Canada**, student engagement sponsor **Enbridge**, EXPLORE National Geographic Sponsor **MEG Energy**, and EXPLORE National Geographic Supporting Sponsor/Partners **Cabra Consulting Ltd**, **geoLOGIC Systems** and **Teatro Fund for Arts Commons Education**, as well as **the Government of Alberta** and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents programs and presents the signature subscription series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, and Classic Albums Live, as well as TD Amplify and a number of special presentations. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on many levels.