

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Explore the Hidden Lives of India's Wild Cats with National Geographic Live and Arts Commons Presents

January 3, 2024 - CALGARY – With landscapes spanning the towering Himalayas, arid plains, and dense jungles, India is home to a wider array of wild cats than anywhere else in the world. National Geographic's Sandesh Kadur has made it his life's work to document their elusive lives. Join **Arts Commons Presents** to get up close to some of the most fascinating cats in the world with the National Geographic Live presentation of **Sandesh Kadur: Wild Cats Revealed** on **Sunday, January 28 at 2 p.m. and Monday, January 29 at 7 p.m.** in the Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons. Tickets are available now at artscommons.ca/wildcats.

BAFTA Award-winning and EMMY-nominated filmmaker and National Geographic Fellow Sandesh Kadur captures stunning images, both still and moving, that have aired worldwide on prominent networks such as National Geographic, BBC, Netflix, Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet. Along with his work as the producer of two three-part docuseries for National Geographic titled *Wild Cats of India* and *India's Wild Leopards* he is also the co-author of two books: *Sahyadris: India's Western Ghats—A Vanishing Heritage* and *Himalaya—Mountains of Life*. His first documentary, *Sahyadris: Mountains of the Monsoon* in 2002, earned critical acclaim while drawing attention to one of the world's top biodiversity hotspots and helped convince UNESCO to name the Western Ghats a World Heritage Site in 2012.

Through this work, Kadur hopes to harness the power of nature education as a catalyst for long-term environmental action. His goal is to inspire his audience to protect and appreciate what remains of the animal kingdom, and not only those that frequently grab headlines. Many of India's wild cats are well documented, but Kadur is fascinated by the most mysterious and secretive of these animals – the Pallas's cat, the fishing cat, and the clouded leopard. In his presentation, he will take audiences into their complex lives, and advocate for their survival, through intimate images and video captured on expedition.

"My job is to wake up early, head into the jungle, and find the coolest animals to film. I typically wait for hours to catch just one creature on camera. They're worth it though, powerful images help us feel connected to nature," says National Geographic Explorer Sandesh Kadur. "I strive through film to create that same connection for others."

"Spending time with the man who filmed Planet Earth II for the BBC is a personal thrill to kick off 2024. Sandesh Kadur's eye for story, character and conflict takes us deep into the secretive lives of wild cats." says Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS), VP of programming at Arts Commons. *"His intrepid and exhaustive wish to share the hidden lives of these small, furtive and often dangerous creatures is mesmerizing. We learn, yes, but more importantly, we are awed."*

National Geographic Live has captured the imagination of Calgarians, inspiring a love for science and the natural world, since its launch in 2012. The 2023-24 season features four Explorers at the forefront of their fields, and they're taking Calgary around the planet with stunning video and photography projected onto a high-resolution screen that spans the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. From frozen poles to the jungles of India, and even to millions of years in the past, these Explorers share their personal stories of discovery, expanding what we know about our planet and those who call it home. Join Arts Commons Presents for **Sandesh Kadur: Wild Cats Revealed**

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on January 28 & 29, Lindsay Zanno: *T. rex Rises* on March 10 & 11, and Kiliyi Yüyan: *Life on Thin Ice* on May 26 & 27, 2024, details at . Also, discover the special presentation of *Secrets of the Whales: A Film in Concert*, April 21 – 23, 2024 narrated live by Jann Arden in the Jack Singer Concert Hall. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit acpresents.ca.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Sandesh Kadur: *Wild Cats Revealed*
When: Sunday, January 28 at 2 p.m. and Monday, January 29 at 7 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/wildcats

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**, EXPLORE National Geographic Supporting Sponsor/Partners **Cabra Consulting Ltd**, **Geologic Systems** and **Teatro Fund for Arts Commons Education**, as well as Hospitality Sponsor **Teatro Ristorante** and the **Government of Canada** through **Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta** through the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, 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, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, the TD Amplify series, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.