



# Advance Program Notes

National Geographic Live

*Coral Kingdoms and Empires of Ice*

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.



## *Coral Kingdoms and Empires of Ice*

David Doubilet, underwater photographer

Jennifer Hayes, aquatic biologist and photojournalist

Explore a hidden universe through the eyes of the photographic team of David Doubilet and his underwater partner Jennifer Hayes. Doubilet is one of the most prolific living photographers at *National Geographic* magazine and jokes that he's spent more of his waking hours underwater than on dry land. His wife Hayes is an aquatic biologist and a globally published photojournalist. Join them on a visual journey of their *National Geographic* assignments to three unique marine environments.

Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea, is a corner of the coral triangle that also includes the Philippines and Indonesia—and the center of the world in terms of marine biodiversity. Discover an unspoiled wilderness of water crowded with layers of life: from fingernail-sized pygmy seahorses to 60-foot-tall towers of barracudas.

Then, journey south to the cold ice-filled waters of Antarctica, where the team moves through and under the ice to capture images of the hidden world of the leopard seal, penguins, shipwrecks, as well as the sculptural beauty of icebergs. Finally, follow the team north to Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence, an extraordinary world of whales, wolfish, salmon—and the harp seal, a remarkable creature fighting to survive in a world of shrinking sea ice.

Go beyond the published story with Doubilet and Hayes as they share never-before-seen images from their assignments. Discover the reality of life behind the camera—from parasites to harp seal bites—as they share their adventures working to get the best shot.

**This performance is supported in part by a gift from Jim and Margaret Shuler.**

# Biographies

## DAVID DOUBILET

David Doubilet has a long and intimate vision into the sea. Doubilet began snorkeling at age eight at summer camp in the Adirondack, and by age 12 he was making pictures underwater using a Brownie Hawkeye camera stuffed into a rubber anesthesiologist bag. The bag filled with air and it was like trying to submerge the Hindenburg. The pictures were barely recognizable. Doubilet has long since mastered the techniques of working with water and light to become one of the world's most celebrated underwater photographers and a contributing photographer for *National Geographic* magazine, where he has published nearly 70 stories since his first assignment in 1971.

Doubilet has spent five decades under the surface in the far corners of the world—from interior Africa, remote tropical coral reefs, rich temperate seas, and recent projects in the northern and southern ice. Doubilet's personal challenge is to create a visual voice for the world's oceans and to connect people to the incredible beauty and silent devastation happening within the invisible world below.

Doubilet is a contributing editor for several publications and an author of 12 titles, including the award-winning *Water Light Time*. His photographic awards include numerous Picture of the Year, BBC Wildlife, Communication Arts, and World Press awards. Doubilet is a member of the Academy of Achievement, Royal Photographic Society, International League of Conservation Photographers, International Diving Hall of Fame, and a trustee of the Shark Research Institute. Doubilet was named a *National Geographic* Contributing Photographer-in-Residence in 2001. He is honored to be a Rolex Ambassador and recipient of the prestigious Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award and Lennart Nilsson Award for Scientific Photography.

Doubilet lives with his wife and photographic partner, Jennifer Hayes, in Clayton, New York, a small river town in the Thousand Island region of the St. Lawrence River.

## JENNIFER HAYES

Jennifer Hayes is an aquatic biologist and photojournalist specializing in natural history and marine environments. Hayes and Doubilet collaborate as a photographic team above and below water on project development, story production, feature articles, and books.

*National Geographic* assignments have taken them around the globe—to Africa's Okavango Delta, through tropical and temperate seas, and to the poles. Recent projects have found them in the remote corners of the Great Barrier Reef, under oil and gas rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, swimming among congregations of 500-pound goliath grouper, and submerged in the ice with harp seal mothers and pups.

Hayes is the editor and author of numerous articles on marine environments, with images appearing in countless books, advertising campaigns, and publications such as *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Sport Diver*, *DIVE Magazine*, *Diver*, *People*, *Alert Diver*, and *Ocean Geographic*. She is co-author and photographer for *Face to Face with Sharks* by National Geographic Books and an honorary editor for *Ocean Geographic* magazine.

Hayes' passion for the study and conservation of primitive fishes led to graduate degrees in zoology and marine biology. Her research has included shark exploitation and finning in the western North Atlantic and the life history and population dynamics of sturgeon species. She is a trustee for the Shark Research Institute and a Fellow National member of the Explorers Club.

Hayes and Doubilet co-own their studio and stock photography company, Undersea Images Inc., located on the St. Lawrence River in Clayton, New York.

# *Engagement Events*

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

## **MEET AND GREET**

Guest speakers David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes attended a discussion and social with Virginia Tech science students.

## **LOBBY DISPLAYS: SUSTAINABILITY AT VIRGINIA TECH**

This open exhibition featured Virginia Tech research, teaching, and outreach devoted to exploring and realizing sustainability. Presented as part of Blacksburg's Sustainability Week 2019, participating organizations included Coastal@VT and the Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation.

## **COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: MONOLOGUES AND DISCUSSION**

School of Performing Arts Post-M.F.A. Fellows Al Evangelista and Daniel Bird Tobin joined Tom Crawford, professor and chair of the Department of Geography, for this hybrid performance and discussion of original theatre works focused on sea level rise, climate change, and related issues.

*Special thanks to Center for Communicating Science, Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation, Coastal@VT, Orion Living-Learning Community, Lori Blanc, Tom Crawford, Carol Davis, Al Evangelista, Garland Mason, Kim Niewolny, Patty Raun, Daniel Bird Tobin, and Robert Weiss*

## *Go Deeper*

How did Hayes and Doubilet describe their approach to serving as photojournalists of the ocean? What about their curiosities, motivations, and methodologies surprised you?

# *In the Galleries*

## **ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: JIM CAMPBELL**

With degrees from MIT in both electrical engineering and mathematics, Jim Campbell is an established pioneer and innovator in using technology to create works of art. Campbell works with custom electronics, video, film, light emitting diodes (LEDs), and computers to produce his work. Campbell is renowned for his evocative low-resolution works that merge and transform video footage of moving images into data points of light.

Works by Jim Campbell are currently on view in the Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery located on the second floor.

## **DATAFORM**

**Yorgo Alexopoulos, Jim Campbell, and Daniel Canogar**

Thursday, August 29-Saturday, November 9, 2019

*All galleries*

In this suite of one-person exhibitions, three nationally and internationally acclaimed artists use technology-based media—electronics, video, computer generated algorithms, light emitting diodes (LEDs)—to transform real-time data into sculptural form. Drawing from a variety of sources ranging from the environment to pedestrian traffic, data in their works become three dimensional manifestations of light, color, and movement resulting in visible and especially arresting perceptual experiences.

## **GALLERY HOURS**

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at [megh79@vt.edu](mailto:megh79@vt.edu).