



## MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tickets: [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org)

### Two Nights of Comedy Next Week at Santa Barbara Zoo's IMPROVology Shows on Thursday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 5

#### *Animal Experts Share Stories, Then Improv Comedians Take Over*

(Santa Barbara, CA, October 27, 2016) – Stories recounted by prominent animal experts are the fodder for improv comedy skits created on-the-spot by members of L.A.'s Impro Theatre Company at two “IMPROVology” shows next week, presented by the Santa Barbara Zoo in the



Discovery Pavilion.

These popular, family-friendly events combine animal science with comedy in a truly unique way. Food, drinks, beer, and wine are available for purchase. Musical accompaniment is provided by Konrad Kono. The Zoo's Dean Noble is the emcee.

On Thursday, November 3 is “My Life with Gorillas” with special guest Dr. Terry Maple, and on Saturday, November 5 is “Channel Island Foxes vs. Jaguars” with animal experts Tim Coonan (Channel Island Fox) and Dr. Anthony Giordano (Jaguars).

The doors open at 7 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. performances. Tickets are \$15 general admission, and \$12 for Santa Barbara Zoo Members. Purchase at the door or online at [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org). For more information, call 962-5339. Seating is first-come, first-served; early arrival suggested; late comers may be relegated to standing room only sections. “IMPROVology” was formerly known as “Zoos Line is it Anyway?”

#### Thursday, November 3 - “My Life with Gorillas” with Dr. Terry Maple

The format on Thursday, November 3 is like an improvisational version of “This is Your Life,” with just one guest scientist, **Dr. Terry L. Maple**, recounting highlights of his research into gorilla behavior, both in the wild and in captivity. The Impro Theatre comedians take their cues from Dr. Maple's talk, and may ask for volunteers from the audience.

Dr. Maple is former president and CEO of Zoo Atlanta, where he is credited with revitalizing and rebranding the once struggling facility. He also ran the Palm Beach Zoo, and has served on the faculties of Georgia Tech, Emory University, and Florida Atlantic University.

He is the founding editor of “Zoo Biology,” and one of the founding members of the American Society of Primatologists. He has written several books on primate behaviors, as well as “Zoo Man,” “Ethics on the Ark,” “Saving the Giant Panda,” and “Professor in the Zoo” (released September 2016).

**Saturday, November 5 -- “Channel Island Foxes vs. Jaguars” with Animal Experts Tim Coonan (Channel Island Fox) and Dr. Anthony Giordano (Jaguars)**

On Saturday, November 5, the two animal experts are each paired with a comedian from LA’s Impro Theatre and “compete” against each other for points. The experts each give a brief TED-style talk, which is the jumping off point for the improv, created in the moment. Audience participation is encouraged. Local celebrity judges award points to each team.

**Tim Coonan** is a biologist for the US National Park Service at Channel Islands National Park. He has studied and managed island foxes since 1992, and directed the park’s Channel Island fox recovery program from 1999 until recently when the species was removed from the list of federally endangered species, the fastest recovery of any mammal in the history of the Endangered Species Act.

**Dr. Anthony Giordano** is a conservation biologist and wildlife ecologist with more than 20 years of experience working in as many countries around the world. Currently he is managing or co-managing 14 projects involving cats in 10 countries as director of S.P.E.C.I.E.S., including a fishing cat conservation effort in Bangladesh, a survey of Sri Lanka leopards, the first ocelot project on Trinidad, and several investigations of jaguarondi ecology.

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*Known as one of the world’s most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA endangered species programs for Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. A private nonprofit corporation, the Santa Barbara Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements.*

*The Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$17 for adults, \$10 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$7.*

*Visit [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org).*