



## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **COMEDY MEETS SCIENCE AT SANTA BARBARA ZOO** **“ZOOs LINE IS IT ANYWAY?” ON APRIL 27**

- TED-Like Talks by Animal Experts Provide Fodder for Comedic Improvisations
- Featured: Crocodile Researcher Dr. Marisa Tellez & African Lion Scientist Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld
- Mike McShane of British Cast of TV’s “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” Joins Impro Theatre Improvisers
- Tickets \$15 for Public, \$12 for Zoo Members; Sold Online at [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org)

*(Santa Barbara, CA, April 7, 2016)* – With two sold-out shows under its proverbial belt, the Santa Barbara Zoo’s mashup of science and comedy “ZOOs Line Is It Anyway?” continues the irreverent fun with a new show focusing on “charismatic mega-vertebrates” on Wednesday, April 27. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Zoo’s Discovery Pavilion.

Two animal experts – Dr. Marisa Tellez who researches crocodiles and Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld, who works with African lions – provide the comedic inspiration for [Impro Theatre](#) improvisers Brian Lohmann, Dan O’Connor, and Edi Patterson. They are joined by guest Mike McShane, star of film (“Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves”) and television, who appeared in the original British version of TV show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” which inspired the Zoo’s live comedy series. Konrad Kono is at the keyboard.



Tickets are on sale online at [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org) and at the door, and cost \$12 for Santa Barbara Zoo members and \$15 for the general public. Seating is first-come, first-served. Beer, wine, and other beverages are available for purchase.

Guest animal experts include African lion expert Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld, executive director of [African People & Wildlife Fund](#), who works in human-Big Cat conflict prevention and related issues in Tanzania. She has more than 20 years of experience in Africa. “The rainy season is a serious contender for providing the most challenging experiences,” she says. “Our longest record for being stuck in the mud is about 18 hours. We’ve blown vehicle engines trying to get through in the rain, and we nearly

drowned when our truck was washed off a drift. And yet, it is so beautiful, it's also my favorite time of year.”

Dr. Marisa Tellez, founder of the [Crocodile Research Coalition](#), studies the interaction between parasites and Central American crocodilians and is currently based at the UCSB. She says, “I have stories of being bit by crocs, squeezed by Burmese pythons, coming face-to-face with a black jaguar, and being peed on by chimpanzees and howler monkeys.” She also practices the martial art capoeira, and has an 8-month old daughter. “I went out catching crocs a week before I delivered her,” she adds. She often cites the ancient Egyptian proverb: “If a woman loves a crocodile, she takes on its character.”

### Marisa Tellez Biography

Dr. Marisa Tellez is the co-founder of the Crocodile Research Coalition, which promotes research, conservation, and education of crocodiles throughout Central America via community involvement. She also serves as the Vice Regional Chair of Latin America for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG).

Marisa holds bachelor's degrees in both Cultural Anthropology and Zoology from UCSB, and a master's degree and PhD from UCLA.

Marisa is currently associated with UCSB's Marine Science Institute with a focus on biodiversity and parasites within crocodilian habitat. She conducts research in Belize under a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship.



### Laly Lichtenfeld Biography

Residing in Tanzania, Laly Lichtenfeld co-founded the African People & Wildlife Fund in 2005 to help rural communities conserve and benefit from their wildlife and natural resources. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2005, and is a Fullbright Scholar, Distinguished Alumni of the Yale Tropical Resources Institute, National Geographic Explorer and 6-time National Geographic Big Cats Initiative grantee, and an invited member of the Clinton Global Initiative.

Today, Laly specializes in human-wildlife conflict prevention, lion and other big cat conservation, community empowerment and engagement in natural resource management, conservation education, and the development of conservation incentives for rural people.



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*The Santa Barbara Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$17 for adults, \$13 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).*