



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Aquatic Critters” Evening of Science Meets Improv! Two Experts Provide Fodder for Comedy Skits at Zoo’s Friday, October 12 “IMPROVology” Show

- Stephanie Arne, Host of “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom,” Recounts Stint as Underwater Whale Shark Spotter at Australia’s Ningaloo Reef
- Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Institute’s Animal Care Coordinator Jennifer Levine Shares Tricks of the Trade of Harbor Seal Rescue
- After Animal Experts’ Stories, Improv Comedians Take Over

(Santa Barbara, CA, September 13, 2018) – In the latest installment of the Santa Barbara Zoo’s IMPROVology show, two experts on aquatic critters share stories of their adventures in “TED Talk” style, which then become the fodder for comedy skits created on-the-spot by members of L.A.’s Impro Theatre Company. Over the course of this fast paced show, Stephanie Arne will recount what she learned while being a spotter of the world’s largest fish – whale sharks – off the Australia coast. Jennifer Lewis talks of the efforts to rescue and care for harbor seals and sea lions stranded on beaches of the Central Coast. Audience participation, musical accompaniment, snacks, beer and wine are all part of the fun.



IMPROVology with special guests Stephanie Arne and Jennifer Lewis is Friday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Zoo’s Discovery Pavilion. The doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and \$12 for Santa Barbara Zoo Members. Buy at the door or online at www.sbzoo.org. More information at 962-5339. General admission seating, early arrival suggested; latecomers may be relegated to standing room only.

The host of the show is Dean Noble, the Zoo’s Marketing Director. Impro company members for this show are Kelly Holden-Bashar, Brian Jones, Stephen Kearin, Brian Lohmann, and Jo McGinley. Musical accompaniment is provided by Santa Barbara-based pianist Konrad Kono

and bassist Dr. Michael Schindlinger, who is an expert in the languages of wild parrots and former guest in an IMPROVology show.

“We’ll have a whale of a good time, and hopefully win the audience’s seal of approval,” says Noble. “People come away with a good bit of knowledge almost in spite of the wildly entertaining comedy skits. It’s a great combo.”



Stephanie Arno is not only the host of Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom, but also a public speaker on global efforts in conservation and sustainability. She serves on International Union of Conservation Nature’s (IUCN) Education and Communication Commission, is an ambassador for Scubapro and the Wyland Foundation, and is on Ecology Project International’s advisory council. She has held positions at the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium (Omaha, NE), Honolulu Zoo, Sea World, San Diego Zoo, and at 3 Islands Whale Shark Dive in Western Australia. She and husband Tim Davison are founders of the Creative Animal Foundation which promotes sustainable lifestyles and animal conservation.



Jennifer Levine is the Animal Care Coordinator of the Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Institute (CIMWI). She began her association with CIMWI ten years ago when she found a stranded sea lion pup on the beach and called their rescue hotline. Now, with a team of over 100 volunteers, she rescues stranded marine mammals and provides day-to-day medical and rehabilitation care for CIMWI’s patients. That includes nursing animals back to health so they can be returned to the wild, training volunteers and veterinary students, and providing education to the local community.

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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](http://www.aaz.org) (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 \$18 for adults, \$13 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$11. Visit www.sbzoo.org.