

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RECORD-BREAKING MOUNTAIN CLIMBER, *MONSTER FISH* TV HOST AND *N*FL CHEERLEADER TURNED EXPLORERHEADLINE THE 2017 *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!* *SPEAKER SERIES* AT PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE; TICKETS NOW ON SALE***Pioneer mountaineer Hilaree O’Neill, the first woman to climb the world’s first- and fourth-tallest peaks in 24 hours, to kick off the three-part lecture package Jan. 5; star of Nat Geo’s Monster Fish TV show Zeb Hogan on March 2 and Pink Boots and a Machete author Mireya Mayor on May 4 round out the series*

**DALLAS (Oct. 18, 2016) –** Tickets are now on sale for the Perot Museum of Nature and Science’s 2017 *National Geographic Live! Speaker* Series, which kicks off Jan. 5 with record-breaking mountaineer Hilaree O’Neill, the first female to climb the world’s first- and fourth-tallest mountains in under 24 hours. The three-part series also will feature National Geographic Fellow and aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan, host of Nat Geo’s *Monster Fish* TV show. Then Mireya Mayor will discuss her surprising transition from NFL cheerleader to National Geographic Emerging Explorer and wildlife expert. All three lectures will take place at 7 p.m. in *The Hoglund Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience.* Season and individual tickets are available at [perotmuseum.org](http://www.perotmuseum.org). Held in conjunction with the Museum’s *First Thursday Late Night*, *National Geographic Live!* is presented by *Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*“If you can’t climb the tallest mountains or dive to the depths of the ocean yourself, this is the next best thing. It’s inspirational, reality-based story time for adults,” said Dan Kohl, the Perot Museum’s interim chief executive officer. “These speakers were chosen not only for their daring accomplishments but also because they’re truly great storytellers whose adventures are illustrated with breathtaking National Geographic photography.”

For more than 20 years, **Hilaree O’Neill** has been conquering some of the world’s most tumultuous mountains. A professional skier, mountaineer, writer and mother, O’Neill has endured numerous expeditions around the world – from Nepal to Denali to Greenland – and her stories are quite remarkable. On multiple mountains, many with steep, narrow corridors, she has been the first skier to accomplish a successful descent. But it was in May 2012 when she made a big mark becoming the first woman to climb Mount Everest and Lhotse in under 24 hours. The avid adventurer will give guests a peek into her numerous gripping journeys in *Hilaree O’Neill: Point of No Return* on Thursday, Jan. 5.

On Thursday, March 2, monster fisherman and aquatic ecologist **Zeb Hogan** will take ticketholders along on his international excursions where he’s encountered some of the world’s largest freshwater fish – longer than six feet and more than 200 pounds – in *Zeb Hogan: In Search of River Giants*. Many of these giant swimmers, known as megafish, face extinction, which could in turn threaten freshwater ecosystems and the livelihood of millions of people. In an effort to bring awareness and understanding of these water-dwelling behemoths, Hogan has been traveling the world – spanning six continents – to help these critically endangered species.

Primatologist and conservationist **Mireya Mayor** didn’t always know a life among the wild awaited her. In fact, in her former life she was a city-loving NFL cheerleader whose family thought joining Girl Scouts as a young child was too dangerous! But Mayor soon found her true calling and today is a renowned National Geographic explorer, author, scholar, TV correspondent and mother of six. With the earned alias “female Indiana Jones,” Mayor will culminate the 2017 speaker seriesin *Mireya Mayor: Pink Boots and a Machete* on Thursday, May 4.

**TICKETS.** Season tickets for the 2017 National Geographic speaker series include all three lectures and are $75 for members and $90 for non-members. Tickets to individual lectures are $30 for members and $35 for non-members. (Museum general admission and access to *First Thursday Late Night* is not required – or included – with lecture ticket purchase.)

The Perot Museum is located at 2201 N. Field Street in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit [perotmuseum.org](http://www.perotmuseum.org) or call 214-428-5555.

**NOTE: To obtain the news release, speaker bios, Perot Museum fact sheet and more, please go to** [**perotmuseum.org/press**](http://www.perotmuseum.org/access.html?p=about-the-perot_newsroom_press) **and use the access code press.**

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***About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science****. The top cultural attraction in Dallas/Fort Worth and a Michelin Green Guide three-star destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational organization located in the heart of Dallas, Texas, with campuses in Victory Park and Fair Park. With a mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the Perot Museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor and outreach experiences for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The 180,000-square-foot facility in Victory Park opened in December 2012 and is now recognized as the symbolic gateway to the Dallas Arts District. Future scientists, mathematicians and engineers will find inspiration and enlightenment through 11 permanent exhibit halls; a children’s museum; a state-of-the art traveling exhibition hall; and The Hoglund Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience. Designed by 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm Morphosis Architects, the Victory Park museum has been lauded for its artistry and sustainability. To learn more, please visit* [*perotmuseum.org*](http://www.perotmuseum.org)*.*

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