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TEDxJacksonHole: Metamorphosis Speakers Announced

Jackson Hole, Wyo. – Aug. 31, 2018 – As we search for identity, love and belonging in an increasingly fractured world, TEDxJacksonHole announces a lineup of speakers to address this year's theme: Metamorphosis. An internationally recognized slam poet will perform alongside renowned scientists, doctors, filmmakers and a renowned local photographer/grizzly bear advocate.

Their big ideas range from the the plight of grizzly bears, the veil between life and death, abolishing hate in modern culture, and revitalizing national parks through people in the “third act” of life, to transforming the way we do business through cryptocurrency, restoring sensation through cutting-edge prosthetics, and reconsidering the relationship between youths and the technology that dominates their worlds.

Presenters from outside of the valley include:

- **Kealoha**, an internationally acclaimed poet and storyteller who is the first Poet Laureate of Hawai'i, who has performed all over the world from the White House to the 'Iolani Palace, and from Brazil to Switzerland. He was selected as a master artist by the National Endowment for the Arts, and received a Community Inspiration Program grant from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.
- **Chris Duncan**, a physiatrist in Salt Lake City, Utah, who specializes in restoring motor control, proprioceptive and cutaneous sensation in the human hand. Chris has been at the forefront of creating the latest generation of brain-controlled prosthetics for patients with upper limb amputations.
- **Jahanara**, an Iranian-born filmmaker, who came to the United States to become an award-winning director and producer, is committed to leveraging her unique background and insight to abolish hate, through film.
- **Jewels Rossallini-Coker**, the CEO of Tesla Fintech, a blockchain, artificial intelligence, IIoT and cryptocurrency company that provides strategic advisory

services to Fortune 500 companies. In 2018, Jewels was awarded a place on the 2018 Top 200 Thought Leaders in Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies.

- **Taylor Rees** is a photojournalist and filmmaker who focuses on environmental and humanitarian issues. Using narrative voice and scientific rigor, Rees brings new perspectives and deeper public understanding to challenging topics such as climate change, energy, and water.

Local presenters include:

- **Tom Mangelsen**, one of the most prolific nature photographers of our time and a local hero for making grizzly bear 399 famous throughout the world. An artist and a conservationist, he has spent the last 40 years observing and photographing Earth's last great wild places and the creatures that inhabit them.
- **Devra Davis**, an epidemiologist, public policy activist and author who founded Environmental Health Trust in 2007 to provide research and education about environmental health hazards and promote constructive policies locally, nationally and internationally.
- **Dr. Mary Neal**, a board-certified orthopedic spine surgeon who drowned while kayaking on a South American river and experienced life after death. Mary has written two books on her experience, including a No. 1 *New York Times* Bestseller.
- **John Kerr**, a retired public television executive whose midlife migration from Boston to Wilson, Wyo., led to the fulfillment of his childhood dream of becoming a park ranger...at age 74! Now in Yellowstone National Park, he is spearheading a pilot program to hire more people like him and offering a new perspective on retirement in this generation.

Each presentation will be 15 minutes or less.

TEDxJacksonHole takes place on Sunday, Oct. 7, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for orchestra and \$10-\$20 for balcony (plus a \$3 Vendini fee) through the Center for the Arts box office at www.jhcenterforthearts.org, or in person at 265 S. Cache St., (307) 733-4900.

TEDxJacksonHole and annual sponsor **Jackson Hole WILD** send gratitude to the funders who are making the event possible, including: **The Spence Law Firm, the Charles Engelhard Foundation, Old Bill's Fun Run for Charities donors, the Wyoming Arts Council, Center of Wonder, Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, WESTAF** and **National Endowment for the Arts**. Thanks also to coordinating partners **Wyoming Humanities Council, Central Wyoming College, and Jackson Hole WILD**.

Follow TEDxJacksonHole on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/tedxjacksonhole> and on the web at www.TEDxJacksonHole.org.

About TEDx, x = independently organized event

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

About TED

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 30 years ago, TED has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes or less. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

The annual TED Conference takes place each spring in Vancouver, British Columbia. TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world get help translating their wishes into action; TEDx, which supports individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized TED-style events around the world, and the TED Fellows program, helping world-changing innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

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