

Peter Gros of Original 'Wild Kingdom' to Show Animals, Share Tales at Stockton PAC

Saturday, April 16 Shows in Morning and Afternoon

For Immediate Release

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Galloway, NJ – Peter Gros, from the original “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom” show, will share his exciting animal world, travel experiences and timeless tales at the Stockton Performing Arts Center on **Saturday, April 16**.

Show times are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for children, and may be ordered online at stockton.edu/pac or by calling the Box Office at (609) 652-9000. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 90 minutes before the performance. For group sales, call (609) 652-4786.

Gros will highlight his many adventures with a mix of video clips and bloopers while introducing friendly exotic animals to audience members, and telling inspirational stories dealing with issues of conservation, travel, and wildlife filming.

"We need to continue to deliver a powerful message about how each of us can make a daily difference in preserving our natural world," Gros said. "It is possible to use our natural resources in a sustainable manner. We simply need to educate our nation's youth about the importance of wildlife conservation. When a child sees these magnificent animals up close, there's an immediate connection and concern about wildlife and wild places."

On “Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom” on Animal Planet, Gros provides the link between the original series, where he served as co-host, and the new specials. This ensures that the new specials remain true to the heritage of the beloved original series. Gros was also featured in the "Cheetah: Race Against Time" Wild Kingdom special in 2005 and "Magnificent Moments" in 2007. The original Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom series—a program honored with 41 major awards, including four Emmy Awards and an endorsement by the National PTA for television programming recommended for family viewing—was one of the best known and longest running series on nature and the animal world.

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A word about the animals: The animal ambassadors appearing with Gros are licensed and fully insured. The animals are hand-raised on bottles or have been rescued so they are completely imprinted on people. When they are not visiting theaters in fun-filled educational presentations, they're visiting schools with students of all ages to help connect children to our natural world. The animal ambassadors associate people with food rewards and affection. In other words, they are spoiled.

In his global travels, Gros and his animal friends help teach about the importance of caring for the world around us. Gros has nearly 30 years of field experience with captive wildlife. In his former position as director of Land Animals and vice president at Marine World/Africa USA, he established breeding programs for 377 endangered animals. He also developed a rehabilitation program for birds of prey, as well as the largest captive breeding colony of ostriches in the United States.

For patrons with special needs, the **Stockton Performing Arts Center** offers wheelchair accessible seating, large type programs and listening assistive devices. Please identify any needs you may have when making a reservation.

The Stockton Performing Arts Center, the Jersey Shore's Center for the Arts, is located on the campus of Stockton University, on Vera King Farris Drive, off Jimmie Leeds Road, in Galloway Township. Just 12 miles west of Atlantic City, the center is easily accessible from the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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