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## **National Geographic Live series presents “Diving the Great Barrier Reef” with Marine Biologist Erika Woolsey at Overture Center**

Watch the official trailer [here](#).

**Madison, Wis.** (April 1, 2025) — Plunge into the vibrant depths of the Great Barrier Reef alongside marine biologist [Erika Woolsey](#) on **Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Capitol Theater**. Tickets (\$25 - \$65) are available at [overture.org](https://overture.org). Experience the annual spectacle of coral reproduction, an incredible display that disguises a harsh truth: climate change is bleaching much of the Great Barrier Reef’s vast natural landscape.

Discover how scientists and citizens are fighting to protect reefs of the world in this inspiring journey of conservation and hope. When the time is right, the most celebrated reef on Earth turns into a snow globe as millions of coral polyps reproduce to send the next generation afloat. This incredible display disguises a harsh truth: the Great Barrier Reef is under attack. More than half of the coral here has died, with a warmer ocean bleaching vast sections. But there is still plenty to see and plenty to save. We go on assignment in a series of dives with marine biologist and National Geographic Explorer Erika Woolsey to meet the most colorful residents of this underwater jungle.

### **About Erika Woolsey**

Dr. Erika Woolsey is a marine biologist, divemaster and virtual reality filmmaker. Her research and career have taken her to reefs all over the world. Woolsey carried out her Ph.D. research in Australia, where she studied the Great Barrier Reef. She is the chief scientist and CEO of The Hydrous, a non - profit organization on a mission to inspire ocean empathy and marine stewardship. She uses 360 - degree photography to create immersive virtual reality videos to help people understand the ocean and reefs from anywhere in the world. She is currently a Visiting Scholar at Stanford's Virtual Human Interaction Lab.

**“Diving the Great Barrier Reef”** is the final talk from the National Geographic Live series in Overture's 2024/25 season, following previous talks: “Rise of T. rex with paleontologist Lindsay Zanno” and “Life on Thin Ice with Photographer Kilii Yüyan.”

### **About National Geographic Live**

National Geographic Live introduces audiences to the awe-inspiring stories of National Geographic Explorers and trailblazers through immersive live events. A dynamic array of speakers, including esteemed photographers, scientists and adventurers, share their firsthand experiences from the front lines of exploration. These engaging narratives, accompanied by unforgettable imagery and compelling footage, come to life on stage at performing arts centers across North America and around the world.

**Celebrating 20 years in Madison, Wis., OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 500,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Overture's mission is to support and elevate our community's creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. [overture.org](https://overture.org)

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