



Image courtesy of MacGillivray Freeman

“Call of the Dolphins” Swims into Fernbank’s Giant Screen Theater

ATLANTA, June 9, 2026 — Dive beneath the waves in “Call of the Dolphins,” coming to Fernbank’s Giant Screen Theater on July 6, 2026. Recipient of Best Film, Best Cinematography and Best Sound Design at the 2026 GSCA Achievement Awards, this film combines breath-taking visuals and heartwarming encounters with inspiring conservation efforts to tell the story of one of the ocean’s most beloved animals. Viewers will get an immersive look at dolphins’ playful behaviors, complex communication and deep maternal bonds.

Narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Mary Steenburgen, “Call of the Dolphins” transports audiences into a magical underwater world. With stunning visuals and immersive storytelling, this film takes viewers beneath the ocean’s surface for an up-close exploration of how dolphins live, play and interact—both with each other and with humans.

The film follows researchers, conservationists and rescue teams working to better understand and protect dolphins around the world. Audiences will meet Captain Wayne Scott Smith, who has spent 35 years building a remarkable connection with Atlantic spotted dolphins in the Bahamas, as he guides guests and researchers to interact with native dolphin pods. Viewers will also join scientists from Hawaii and Florida as they study dolphin communication, signature whistles and ‘baby talk,’ as well as behaviors such as caring for calves and hunting techniques.

“Humans have long been fascinated by these magnificent mammals and their playful antics,” says Dr. Bobbi Hohmann, Fernbank’s Vice President of Programing and Collections. “These complex animals play an important role in the ecosystem, and through their charismatic personalities, inspire us to protect and conserve the world’s oceans.”

In addition to these heartwarming moments, “Call of the Dolphins” highlights challenges dolphins face in the wild, including pollution and stranding. This film showcases an example of stranding and the rescue efforts of the IFAW rescue team in Cape Cod, which saves as many as 400 stranded dolphins every year.

Perfect for viewers of all ages, “Call of the Dolphins” combines adventure, science and conservation with powerful storytelling that inspires a deeper appreciation for the ocean and the animals that call it home.

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A MacGillivray Freeman Films presentation, “Call of the Dolphins” is a production of Oceanic Research Group Films and is produced and directed by Jonathan Bird.

Tickets

Exhibits, films and Discovery Days are included with daytime general admission and with CityPASS. General admission tickets include three floors of exhibits in the natural history museum, choice of one giant screen film, and 75-acres of nature explorations in Fernbank Forest and WildWoods. Fernbank After Dark and some other special after-hours events are available at a separate ticket price and may include access to special exhibits. Fernbank is located at 767 Clifton Road NE in Atlanta, minutes from midtown Atlanta and downtown Decatur.

General admission tickets vary by date and program and include a film in the Giant Screen Theater. Tickets purchased at FernbankMuseum.org are discounted (\$23.95-\$27.95). Members receive free general admission. More information is available at FernbankMuseum.org.

Media Inquiries

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About Fernbank Museum

Fernbank is one of the most popular and iconic cultural destinations in Atlanta. Known as Atlanta’s Science and Nature Experience, Fernbank invites guests to discover a World of Wow through an expansive natural history museum, 4-story giant screen theater, and 75-acres of nature adventures in WildWoods and Fernbank Forest. One of the oldest not-for-profit conservation organizations in the country, Fernbank was founded in 1939 to preserve Fernbank Forest, the largest urban, old growth, Piedmont forest in the United States. The museum and giant screen theater opened as “a school in the woods for nature studies” on Oct. 5, 1992, and is today known for its giant dinosaurs, hands-on STEAM* programming, immersive experiences, and year-round nature exploration. Visit FernbankMuseum.org and follow [@fernbankmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/fernbankmuseum) on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and TikTok for more information. *Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.