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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**POPULAR AUTHOR MARY ROACH TO BRING HER UNFILTERED AND HUMOROUS VIEW OF
THE SCIENCE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES TO THE BANKHEAD THEATER MARCH 24**

LIVERMORE -- Best-selling author Mary Roach, renowned for her off-beat and humorous take on everyday science, will present "Mary Roach's World of Weird Science" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24 in the Bankhead Theater as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series.

In a moderated discussion, Roach will speak to the body of her work and her unorthodox approach to science writing that has led to six New York Times best sellers. She will talk about how her insatiable curiosity has led her to explore topics many of us find discomfiting, from "the curious life of cadavers" and the science of sex to the intricacies of the human digestive system. The wit and wisdom of her unflinching observations in complement with her meticulous research make topics that might otherwise offend not only palatable, but irresistibly fun. Roach also will touch on the importance of science literacy and the state of science in our country today.

Roach's New York Times bestsellers include: *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*; *Spook*; *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*; *Gulp*; *Grunt*; *Packing for Mars*; and her latest book (2021) *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*. Her TED talk is among TED's 20 most watched. She has written for National Geographic, Wired and the New York Times Sunday magazine, among other publications.

In what many people find dark or distasteful, Roach sees the essence of our humanness and the humor of our squeamishness. "When you buy one of my books, you kind of know what you're in for. It is kind of self-selecting," Roach has observed. "If you have a delicate sensibility, and you're easily grossed out, you probably will never read one of my books."

Livermore's Quest Science Center is a special sponsor of this presentation. Founded in 2018, the mission of Quest Science Center is: "To inspire and nurture everyday exploration for lifelong engagement with science and technology." Quest offers hands-on experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds to feel a sense of belonging and excitement in the exploration of science, building skills to thrive in today's world. For more information, please visit quest-science.org

For a direct link to purchase tickets online or for more information visit, bankheadtheater.org. Tickets are also available by calling (925) 373-6800 or visiting the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First Street, Livermore, noon to 6 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. Seats are available at \$25 & \$35 levels.

The speaker series honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family and friends were the initiating sponsors in 2008. The series features provocative, entertaining and enlightening presentations on a wide variety of topics. Past speakers have included engineers, scientists, fiction and non-fiction writers and historians, entrepreneurs, comedians and entertainers, diplomats, astronauts, journalists, and even a former secretary of defense.



Sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, Sandia National Laboratories, the Alameda County Arts Commission, Towne Center Books and ImageSetters, the Rae Dorough series also partners with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District and Las Positas College. Additionally, individual and corporate supporters help sponsor specific presentations.

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