



Overture
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: Friday, April 15, 2016

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Search for Genghis Khan Tomb Brought To Capitol Theater *Explorer Journeys into the Heart of Mongolia with Cutting-Edge Imaging Tech, Crowdsourcing*

MADISON, Wis. – Dr. Albert Yu-Min Lin’s explorations are groundbreaking, because they never break ground. He uses noninvasive computer based technologies to gather, synthesize, and visualize data without disturbing a blade of grass. Overture Center welcomes *National Geographic Live – The Search for Genghis Khan* to Capitol Theater on Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

“Exploration has always been about going where we haven’t been able to go before,” Lin notes. “Environmental, cultural, or political obstacles may have prevented us from exploring certain places. Today technology helps us navigate past those old barriers.” For Lin, cutting-edge tools such as satellite imagery, ground-penetrating radar, and remote sensors permit him to make archaeological discoveries while respecting the traditional beliefs of indigenous people. The search for the tomb of Genghis Khan is a quest that has eluded scientists and historians for centuries.

Many Mongolians consider the tomb an extremely sacred place and believe any desecration of it could trigger a curse that would end the world. “Using traditional archeological methods would be disrespectful to believers,” Lin says. “The ability to explore in a noninvasive way lets us try to solve this ancient secret without overstepping cultural barriers. It also allows us to empower Mongolian researchers with tools they might not have access to otherwise. Today’s world still benefits from Genghis Kahn’s ability to connect East with West. He forged international relations that have never been broken. By locating his tomb, we hope to emphasize how important it is for the world to protect such cultural heritage treasures.”

The goal of this effort, to enable international protection of a sacred region of Mongolia through non-destructive investigation, earned Lin recognition as *National Geographic Adventure’s* “2010 Readers Choice Adventurer of the Year”, the Lowell Thomas Medal for Exploration from the renowned New York based Explorers Club, and became the youngest recipient of the DRI Nevada Medal for Science Education.

Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at overturecenter.org, in person at the ticket office or by phone at 608.258.4141. Discounted tickets for groups of ten or more are available by calling 608.258.4159.

Overture Center’s *National Geographic Live* Series is sponsored by Exact Sciences.

Click here for [photos](#) and [video](#).

About Dr. Albert Yu-Min Lin:

Dr. Albert Yu-Min Lin is a Research Scientist at the University of California, San Diego and an Emerging Explorer of the National Geographic Society in the field of technology enabled exploration. He is an expert in merging remote exploration with crowdsourced citizen science as a form of emergent collective reasoning.

He has founded and directed numerous programs including the UC San Diego, National Geographic Engineers for Exploration Program, the Exploration Lab, the Distributed Health Labs and the international effort known as the Valley of the Khans Project. Based at the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2) at UC San

Diego he pushes the limits of field based research.

Lin's research has taken him into the most remote regions of the world, has led to industry changing innovations, and has expanded the role of media in science. His work has been featured in outlets including the *Washington Post*, BBC, NPR, ABC News, TEDx, *Wired* magazine, *Gizmodo*, al-Jazeera, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek* (cover story), and the *Harvard Business Review*. The effort he may be best known for, the Valley of the Khans Project, is a high tech ground, aerial and satellite based remote sensing non-destructive search for the tomb of Genghis Khan that was featured in a 1-hour National Geographic Documentary film, "the Forbidden Tomb of Genghis Khan", which he also narrated.

His team's use of digital media to perform massive satellite data analytics through crowdsourcing (recognized with the 2011 United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation Academic Achievement award) has been emulated for applications ranging from emergency response to humanitarian monitoring and led to the formation of California based Tomnod Inc. where he served as co-Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors until 2013 when the company was successfully acquired by the Colorado based commercial satellite imagery provider Digital Globe, at which time he joined the Digital Globe Foundation's Board of Directors. Tomnod recently enabled over 8 million volunteers to sift through over 1 million sq km2 satellite imagery in search for missing flight M370. He has been invited to present his work on massive scale collaboration and crowd based collective intelligence to organizations including the US Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Harvard Business School, and the Department of Defense at the Pentagon.

Lin advocates science education through public engagement, working within organizations including the National Geographic Speakers Bureau and the US State Department, as well as programs such as the Google Science Fair and SciFest Africa to expand the scope of curiosity worldwide. Recently, his work in public television media to advance the mission of conservation and exploration at National Geographic was recognized with the 2012 News and Documentary Emmy award in the category of best promotional announcement. Lin is an avid rock climber, surfer, mountaineer, photographer, sailor, and traveler. His Chinese name (Yu-Min) roughly translates to "Citizen of the Universe".

Please contact sknab@overturecenter.org with any requests for advance press.

About Overture Center for the Arts

Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wisconsin features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and five galleries where national and international touring artists, ten resident companies, and hundreds of local artists engage nearly half a million people in educational and artistic experiences each year. OvertureCenter.org

*Overture Center partners each season with **National Geographic Live** for a three-part speaker series featuring leading photographers and explorers giving attendees the chance to meet extraordinary individuals who are documenting our world's cultural richness and natural beauty, and expanding the frontiers of human knowledge and achievement. Series ticket packages are on sale for the 2016-17 season. More information at OvertureCenter.org.*

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