

# The Big Read kicks off this week

## 2021 features 'In the Heart of the Sea'

ENTERPRISE — Fishtrap kicked off the 2021 NEA Big Read this week featuring "In the Heart of the Sea" by Nathaniel Philbrick, a nonfiction account about the sinking of the American whaling ship Essex in 1820 — an event that inspired Herman Melville's 1851 novel "Moby-Dick."

Several months of Big Read events began with a talk on whaling by Dr. Lisa T. Ballance, director of Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute and Endowed Chair of Marine Mammal Research.

Her presentation can be found online at [fishtrap.org/the-big-read-2021/](http://fishtrap.org/the-big-read-2021/)

Her topic covers industrial whaling between the late 1800s and mid-1900s — the same era of The Essex is "In the Heart of the Sea."

Ballantine's talk includes information about large-scale illegal whaling "that occurs in contravention of national laws or international agreements, of 'scientific whaling' that is allowed through a provision in the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, and of aboriginal whaling that is practiced by many indigenous peoples all over the globe, including here in the Pacific Northwest."

### MOVIE

The 2015 film "In the Heart of the Sea" will be streamed Feb. 18 on [fishtrap.org](http://fishtrap.org).

The historical adventure-drama film was directed and produced by Ron Howard and written by Charles Leavitt. It is based on NaPhilbrick's 2000 non-fiction book of the same name.

An international co-production between the United States and Spain, the film stars Chris Hemsworth, Benjamin Walker, Cil-



lian Murphy, Tom Holland, Ben Whishaw, and Brendan Gleeson.

### MAKE YOUR OWN HARDTACK

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, viewers can tune in at 1 p.m. for "Food at Sea — How to Make Your Own Hardtack."

This session features Julia Triezenberg, museum educator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Hardtack was an important food for sailors traveling on long voyages. In this short baking demonstration, learn about the history of this infamous seabiscuit, and try your hand at making your own.

### SAILOR SUPERSTITIONS

Triezenberg returns on Thursday, Feb. 25, to talk about sailor superstitions at 1 p.m. Find her talk live at [fishtrap.org](http://fishtrap.org), or recorded starting Feb. 26.

Life at sea could be very dangerous. To protect themselves against some of these dangers, sailors developed a culture of rituals or beliefs that served as good luck charms onboard. In this EDU Talk, learn about the many superstitions that continue to be tradition in the maritime world.

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