

Big Read concludes with author talk

Month-long program to read 'In the Heart of the Sea' concludes March 17

After a month of virtual programs and discussions, The Big Read wraps up Wednesday, March 17, featuring an interview with Nathaniel Philbrick, author of the featured book "In the Heart of the Sea."

As participants tune in virtually, Fishtrap Executive Director Shannon McNerney sits down with Philbrick for an in-depth discussion about the people, times, and themes in "In the Heart of the Sea."

Learn about his writing and research process, and about his cameo in the major motion picture inspired by his book.

To tune in, go to fishtrap.org. Hover over "Clear Thinking Programs" and then click on The NEA Big Read.

Mike Midlo, program director, said online attendance "has exceeded our expectations."

"Teachers are showing videos in classrooms, families are watching them at the dinner table, and people from beyond Wallowa and Union counties are participating," he said.

All previous Big Read programs are now available to view on Fishtrap's Big Read page (fishtrap.org) and Fishtrap's YouTube channel.

Midlo said the recordings will "be available for viewing anytime for years to come on the YouTube channel."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Philbrick grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned a bachelor's in English from Brown University and a master's in American Literature from Duke University, where he was a James B. Duke Fellow.

He was Brown University's first Intercollegiate All-American sailor in 1978, the same year he won the Sunfish North Americans in Barrington, Rhode Island. After work-



Nathaniel Philbrick, author of "In the Heart of the Sea"

ing as an editor at Sailing World magazine, he wrote and edited several books about sailing, including "The Passionate Sailor," "Second Wind," and "Yachting, A Parody."

In 1986, Philbrick moved to Nantucket with his wife Melissa and their two children.

In 1994, he published his first book about the island's history, "Away Off Shore," followed by a study of the Nantucket's native legacy titled "Abram's Eyes."

He is the founding director of the Egan Maritime Institute and a research fellow at the Nantucket

Historical Association.

In 2000, he published the New York Times bestseller "In the Heart of the Sea," winner of the National Book Award for nonfiction, followed by "Sea of Glory," winner of the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize and the Albion-Monroe Award from the National Maritime Historical Society, and "Mayflower," finalist for both the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in History and the Los Angeles Times Book Award and winner of the Massachusetts Book Award for nonfiction.

SAILOR SLANG

This week's special event was a talk on "Sailor Slang" that aired live Wednesday, March 10.

The recorded program is now available to view on fishtrap.org. This talk features Julia Triezenberg, museum educator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, discussing everyday "maritime slang" such as "the cat's out of the bag."

At the Columbia River Maritime Museum, she facilitates Learning Labs that connect students with the Columbia River's maritime history.

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GO WEEKEND OUTLOOK



FRIDAY
High 50 Low 28
Sunny



SATURDAY
High 54 Low 32
Sunshine



SUNDAY
High 53 Low 31
Showers possible

The Big Read: "In the Heart of the Sea"

The Big Read began Feb. 17 and wraps up March 17. Virtual events have happened throughout the month, and each recording is available to watch online at www.fishtrap.org. Here is a list:

• WHALING WITH DR. LISAT. BALLANCE

Topics include illegal whaling, "scientific whaling," and aboriginal whaling.

• MOVIE: 'IN THE HEART OF THE SEA'

• FOOD AT SEA: HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN HARDTACK

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

To protect themselves against some of these dangers, sailors developed a culture of rituals or beliefs that served as good luck charms.

• WHALING IN OREGON

Features Julia Triezenberg, Museum Educator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum

• GOLDEN AGE OF WHALING

Explores life at sea for whalemens (and a few women) in the 1800s and the first truly American art form: scrimshaw.

• SAILOR SLANG

There are a lot of expressions we say every day that come from the maritime world. Explore these in this "Maritime Slang" EDUTalk.

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