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photos: www.capacitor.org/press/biome/

TOYOTA, AUDUBON, AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
TEAM UP TO BRING CAPACITOR'S SHOW

biome

BACK TO SEATTLE for a LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

RUNS MAY 29th thru MAY 30th

an exploration of desire and yearning in the natural world

"ingenious" -- New York Times
"striking theatre..." -- The New Yorker
"a creative force." -- The Village Voice, Critic's Choice
"uncanny precision." -- Nature Magazine

biome's scientific advisor Dr. Nalini Nadkarni and Capacitor's Artistic Director Jodi Lomask presented at TED 2009 in Long Beach, CA.

After the great floods of January, San Francisco's acclaimed CAPACITOR comes to Seattle with their latest synthesis of movement, physical devices, and interactive media for the first time. The performance, **biome**, runs May 29 & 30 at Seattle Repertory's Leo K Theater.

Part dance, part projected glimpses of remote rainforests, and part canopy science, this show grew from weeks spent on-location collaborating with canopy tree scientists, deep in the Monteverde Cloud Forest of Costa Rica.

What developed was the world of **biome**, a place where ties between humans and our planet become clear. In this world, everything is interconnected in a cycle of growth: people become plants, which morph into animals, providing a portal into a deeper understanding of our own motivations and impulses. **biome** inspires a sense of wonderment about the delicate ecosystems that lie within the heart of our increasingly fragile world.

Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, world-renowned canopy tree ecologist and author, led the scientific collaboration for **biome**. She ushered Capacitor artists into the canopy of 250-foot tall Douglas Fir trees in Washington and 150-foot tall strangler figs in Costa Rica to provide scientifically sound information on the complex interactions around them. To highlight the importance of wild spaces and the research that can only be done in relatively untouched **biomes** such as these, the live performances will be preceded by an illustrated talk by the scientist on the fragility of these ecosystems. In addition, local, regional, and national conservation groups will have information tables in the lobby to invite audience members to become aware of and participate in conservation efforts around them.

To create **biome**, the fifth project of the Capacitor Lab, director, choreographer, and designer Jodi Lomask worked with set designer Adam Puglielli; fashion designers Sako & Verrieres; video designer Nate Pagel; composer Michael Zbyszyński; violinist Julia Ogrzydziak; filmmakers Daniel Zox and Amy Harrison; and Capacitor's seasoned cast of dancers Raissa Simpson, Cari Bellinghausen, Ross Hollenkamp, Jodi Lomask and Ian Smith. Dr. Nadkarni is a Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College, a Guggenheim Fellow, and President of the International Canopy Network.

biome's appearance in Seattle is part of Toyota's *TogetherGreen* national innovation grant recently awarded to the Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center to find and cultivate new audiences for conservation activities. It is one of the unique and innovative ways in which the Center is reaching across traditional communication lines to inform a wide array of community members about the importance of trees and engage their assistance in a large reforestation project underway at Seward Park. Seward Park is home to one of the few remaining stands of old growth forest in Seattle and includes trees that are 400 and 500 hundred years old.

biome is also supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (DEB 05-42130).

biome premiered on November 10th, 2007 in El Salvador with sponsorship from the American Embassy, Campos Art Group, Delta Airlines, and Hilton Hotels. It has since played in San Francisco's Cowell Theater at Fort Mason and New York's Joyce SoHo. Their Seattle debut is sponsored by the Audubon Society, a Toyota *TogetherGreen Innovation* Grant, the National Science Foundation, and the International Canopy Network.

biome runs at the Leo K Theater on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 at 8pm. The Leo K Theater is located in the Seattle Center, 155 Mercer Street, Seattle, WA 98109. Directions available at www.seattlerep.org. Running time is 90 minutes. Tickets are \$20-25 presale \$25-30 at the door (students \$15), available at www.capacitor.org or (800) 838-3006.

About TogetherGreen

TogetherGreen will invest in both promising environmental projects and outstanding leaders that can shape a brighter tomorrow. Along with Innovation Grants to be awarded each year, TogetherGreen funds and promotes conservation leadership training and volunteer programs designed to equip and engage diverse groups and individuals to take action today to shape a healthier tomorrow. Information on other grantees, along with opportunities to get involved in conservation efforts, showcase successful initiatives, and honor those who are making a difference, can be found at www.TogetherGreen.org.

About Capacitor - www.capacitor.org

*Since 1997, Capacitor has been creating performances based on scientific concepts that synthesize the body with innovative props and interactive media. Under the direction of Jodi Lomask, past works have tackled the creation of the universe (*Within Outer Spaces*, 2001); the past and the future of mankind (*future species*, 2000) and the modern phenomenon of video gaming (*Avatars*, 2002-03). Capacitor has been produced nationally at venues including Krannert Center (Urbana, IL); Kentucky Center for the Arts (Louisville, KY); the Performing Arts Center (Purchase, NY); and at venues in Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Virginia, Colorado and Nevada. Internationally they have appeared in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Canada, Jamaica, and Scotland. Capacitor performed at the TED conference this February 2009 in Long Beach California. They are also working on *Urban Canopy*, a site-specific project with the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park.*

About Dr. Nalini Nadkarni – www.evergreen.edu/ican

Dr. Nalini Nadkarni is a Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington, where she teaches in the Environmental Studies program. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Brown University (1976) and her PhD in Forest Ecology from the University of Washington (1983). Her research is focused on the ecology of tropical and temperate forest canopies, particularly the role that canopy-dwelling plants play in forests at the ecosystem level. She carries out field research in Washington State and in Monteverde, Costa Rica with the support of the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She has published three books and over 75 scientific articles in scientific journals in the area of forest canopy ecology and forest ecosystem ecology. Nalini has presented a number of endowed lectures at academic institutions around the country.

In 1994, she co-founded and is President of the International Canopy Network, a non-profit organization that fosters communication among researchers, educators, and conservationists concerned with forest canopies. She spends a great deal of energy on public outreach to the general public, children, and policy-makers on matters concerning forest canopies and forest conservation. She has appeared in numerous television documentaries, and was most recently featured as a canopy scientist in the National Geographic television special on tropical forest canopies, titled "Heroes of the High Frontier", which won the Emmy Award for Best Documentary Film of 2001. A new project she initiated involves the creation of a multi-disciplinary Forest Canopy Walkway project on The Evergreen State College campus. In 2001, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship to pursue her interests in communication of forest canopy research results to non-scientists with collaborations of artists, musicians, physicians, sports figures, and religious leaders.

About Audubon

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants, with another under construction in Mississippi. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Through its corporate initiatives, manufacturing operations and philanthropy, Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. In 2007, Toyota contributed more than \$56 million on philanthropy in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit <http://www.toyota.com/community>.