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## Lawrence Howard in Shackleton's Antarctic Nightmare

Portland Story Theater is pleased to announce the remounting of Lawrence Howard's solo show, [Shackleton's Antarctic Nightmare](#), for a run of only four nights in January. The Armchair Adventurer himself, Lawrence Howard, will once again inspire audiences with the true, epic story of British Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton and the 1914 voyage of The Endurance.

"This is a story that is very near and dear to my heart because my dad and I shared a life-long fascination with the Shackleton saga," says Howard, "I like to weave the story of my father's passion for adventure into the telling."

Twice defeated in his quest to attain the South Pole, once after having come within 97 miles of his goal, Shackleton ultimately lost that prize to both Amundsen and Scott. Not to be outdone, he conceived a scheme even grander: he would cross the Antarctic continent from one side to the other. But Shackleton's dream of being the first man to traverse Antarctica became a nightmare when his valiant ship was trapped in the pack ice of the Weddell Sea and crushed by the pressure of the ice. The tale of how he and the 27 men of the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition survived on the ice and eventually came to safety is one that has fascinated Howard for as long as he can remember.

"In these challenging times, a story like this puts the hardships each of us face in our day-to-day life into perspective." Howard tells us, "It inspires all of us."

A polar historian and life-long Shackleton scholar, Howard's show is painstakingly researched and authentic down to the last detail, but it doesn't come across as a history lesson. This is pure theater; a rollicking good story told by a man who is passionate about his subject. In addition, Howard displays a large montage of photographs from the expedition, which takes up an entire wall of the Hipbone Studio space, and adds a visual element to the performance.

This solo show is almost three hours long but The Oregonian found that "the exciting story and Howard's easy communication style keeps us entranced from start to finish." Many audience members said they were on the edge of their seats the entire time." Howard's favorite audience comment came from a young man who told him "That was better than any book or movie or anything!"

Shackleton's Antarctic Nightmare is a show about courage and fortitude and determination. It's about a glorious, glorious failure. It's about the way human beings respond to hardship and adversity. It's about the indomitable power of the human spirit.

Hipbone Studio is an intimate venue with a maximum seating capacity of 75. Reservations are highly recommended.

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[Portland Story Theater](#) was launched in 2004 to bring the urban community together for a unique performance experience, telling tales that stimulate the mind and rouse the heart. We are a grass-roots operation, building awareness and appreciation for narrative. In late 2009, we established ourselves as a not-for-profit business. Portland Story Theater is driven by our core values: We are stewards of the oral tradition and authentic performances, we are catalysts for community relationships and alliances, and we are advocates for diverse narrative artists and the loyal audience that supports our work.

### Relevant Links

Lawrence Howard <<http://www.lawrencehoward.name>>

Portland Story Theater <<http://www.portlandstorytheater.com/about.htm>>

The Oregonian's review of Lawrence Howard in Shackleton  
<[http://www.oregonlive.com/performance/index.ssf/2009/01/review\\_lawrence\\_howards\\_storyt.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/performance/index.ssf/2009/01/review_lawrence_howards_storyt.html)>