



# *Around the World in 90 Minutes*

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## **Marty Essen**

Born in Duluth, Minnesota, Marty Essen developed a love of animals at an early age. When he was eight years old, his first “pet,” a black widow spider, gave birth to hundreds of babies, which promptly crawled onto his hands when he opened the jar to feed them. He prudently traded his spiders for a horned toad.

Marty’s dream of an animal-oriented career became sidetracked at the age of thirteen, when he volunteered to answer request lines at a radio station. That position led to a job as a radio announcer, which in turn led him to become the owner of a Minneapolis-based talent management agency.

In 1990, *Gig Magazine* contracted Marty for his first professional writing work—a series of feature articles on the music business.

Eventually Marty moved to Montana to launch an independent local telephone company. In 2001, while being interviewed for a story about his telephone company, Marty mentioned to the reporter that he was heading to the Amazon rainforest. The reporter invited him to write a story about his adventures.

Marty’s Amazon story ran as a feature article in two Montana newspapers. The Amazon story, and a second story about a trip to Australia, were so well received that he decided to expand his travels to all seven continents.

While traveling the world, in search of rare and interesting wildlife, Marty was stung by one of the world’s most venomous insects, bitten by a poisonous snake, surrounded by wolves, attacked by a hippo—and had the time of his life. He chronicled his unique adventures in his first book, *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents*.

*Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* has won three first-place awards for travel/essay writing: the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Award, the 2007 National Indie Excellence Book Award, and the Best Books 2006 Book Award. It also won bronze metals in the *ForeWord Magazine* Book of the Year Awards and the IPPY Awards. Additionally, *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* took first place in the Animals category at the 2009 Green Book Festival in Los Angeles, and the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* named it a Top-10 Green Book.

In late 2007, building on the momentum from his book, Marty began traveling the United States with his seven continents digital slide show, **Around the World in 90 Minutes**. Marty’s high-energy show takes his audience on an unforgettable worldwide adventure, packed with rare and interesting wildlife. It’s the type of show where the audience has fun laughing at the stories, oohing and aahing at the photos, and then, when it’s all done, they realize just how much they’ve learned.

In November 2008, Marty Essen became APCA’s (the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities) #1 booked college speaker. As of April 2010, he was still at #1, with no sign of letting up.