AMNH Exhibit: POLAR
PO_me_1.3_Theater-Video Script v.26 (AMNH installed version)
Date: June 8, 2011

Media & Behavioral Description:

A mysterious continent, an unexpected race to the South Pole, two captains, two crews, two rival nations, differing goals ... There's a lot to take in as visitors explore the beginning of the Polar exhibit. This theater video quickly brings visitors up-to-speed while reinforcing surrounding exhibit content. Most importantly, the video creates suspense. Viewers are left with the question “who will be first to reach the South Pole?” as they set out to explore the rest of the exhibit.

SCRIPT KEY:

Text = narration
Text = quotes from Scott or Amundsen
[Text] = notes
#) Text = Section Names; this text does not appear on screen or in narration.

1) The Mysterious/Demanding/Unpredictable Continent

[On-screen title: Race to the End of the Earth]

Few places are as beautiful, challenging or full of contrasts as Antarctica.

Coastal waters teem with marine creatures, but far inland, there are no signs of life.

Thick glacial ice sheets have accumulated over millions of years and cover 98% of the continent.

Deep in the interior, the sun never sets during Antarctic summers and winter is one long night.

Within the interior is the vast, featureless, Antarctic Plateau.

With little snowfall this is the highest, windiest and coldest desert on Earth.

Near the center of the Plateau, is 90º south latitude—the South Pole.

In the early 1900s, this was the last great geographical prize on Earth still to be claimed.

2) Earlier British attempts to reach Pole

In 1902, Royal Navy Captain Robert Scott made the first attempt on the South Pole.

Blizzards, severe frostbite and malnutrition forced Scott and his men to turn back.

Captain Scott’s expressive account of his difficult and dangerous journey brought him worldwide fame.
3) **British *Terra Nova* Expedition**

Newly married and with an infant son, Robert Scott organized another British Antarctic expedition in 1909.

In preparing the ship *Terra Nova* and hiring his crew, Scott emphasized the expedition's scientific goals.

If the British again failed to reach the Pole, they could still be proud of their valuable research in geology, biology and atmospheric physics.

Once the *Terra Nova*, was fully loaded for the journey, there was barely room for the 65 men on board.

4) **Unexpected Race to the South Pole**

By October 1910, the British Antarctic Expedition was already on route south, when Captain Scott received an unexpected telegram from a Norwegian explorer.

[See facsimile of telegram + hear:]

"Beg leave inform you proceeding Antarctic. Amundsen"

Suddenly Scott found he was locked in a race to be first at the South Pole.

5) **Amundsen and the *Fram***

Roald Amundsen had grown up in a family of ship owners and merchants in Norway.

His lifelong ambition was to be first to stand at the North Pole.

By age 34 Amundsen had led the first expedition to completely sail through the treacherous Northwest Passage.

During that 3-year expedition he learned from the Inuit how to train sled dogs and how to dress for extreme cold.

In 1909, Amundsen was loaned the ship *Fram*—which means *Forward* in Norwegian—to explore and map the North Pole territory.

When headlines announced that the North Pole had been claimed, Amundsen secretly set his sights on the South.

It wasn’t until the *Fram* was in her last port of call that Amundsen revealed to the ship’s 18-man crew their true destination.
6) **Antarctica the ultimate test**

In January, **1911**, both the *Terra Nova* and the *Fram* approached Antarctica along the Ross Ice Shelf, the closest approach a ship may take to the South Pole. ¹

From their separate base camps, the British and Norwegian teams laid supply depots and prepared for their final treks.

The expedition leaders reflected on their chances of reaching the South Pole.

Roald Amundsen wrote:

"Seier venter den, som har alt i orden – hell kaller man det....
[First line in original Norwegian is heard then fades out. Geir O. Kløver provided original Norwegian From page 506 in the Norwegian edition of *The South Pole* (Sydpolen), volume 1]]

*Victory awaits him who has everything in order -- luck, people call it. Defeat is certain for him who has neglected to take the necessary precautions in time; this is called bad luck. [From *The South Pole*, by Roald Amundsen]*

Scott said:

*... that as regards the future, chance must play a part, but that experience showed me that it would have been impossible to have chosen people more fitted to support me in the enterprise to the South than those who were to start in that direction in the spring. I thanked them all for having put their shoulders to the wheel and given me this confidence. We drank to the success of the Expedition. [RFS diary, June 22, 1911]*

In their tiny outposts on the edge of the continent, every man in the British and Norwegian teams knew that Antarctica would be his ultimate test.

The race to claim the last great geographical prize on Earth had begun.

[End of narrated program.]

7) **Character Cards Animation with Instructions**

7i) AS YOU EXIT THE THEATER
   TAKE A CARD  [big bold type]

7ii) FOLLOW ONE OF SIX TEAM MEMBERS
    TO VICTORY—OR DEFEAT  [big bold type]

7iii) LOOK FOR  [big bold type]
     THE PICTURE OF YOUR TEAM MEMBER
     AND HIS SPECIAL OBJECT

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¹ *Fram* arrived at the Ross Ice Shelf on 11 January 1911, and by 14 January had found the inlet, or "Bay of Whales." ...This was to be the location of Amundsen's base camp, *Framheim.* [62] Huntford, pp. 297–98. Arriving off Ross Island on 4 January 1911, *Terra Nova* scouted for possible landing sites around Cape Crozier at the eastern point of the island.[54][55] Huxley L. (ed.), pp. 81–85; Crane, pp. 448–50.
7iv) WHO WILL BE FIRST?
JOIN THE RACE [big bold type]

8) AMNH Install Credits

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(Credits PAGE 3)
narration
MELANIE HAYNES

voice of scott
ANDRES WILLIAMS

voice of amundsen
TROND HEIEN

sound effects
DOUGLAS QUIN and dqmedia

(Credits PAGE 4)

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9) Countdown

PROGRAM BEGINS IN :30
[Animation with countdown from 30 seconds.]