Loch Ness Productions

Fulldome Video
Planetarium Shows

Summer 2014
Star talks are the quintessential planetarium presentation, the bread and butter of a star theater’s repertoire. Since many people come to the planetarium specifically for the “what’s up in the night sky” presentation, now you can always have a dependable one on tap! The advent of fulldome video technology has allowed us to created Seasonal STARGAZING, an extremely versatile set of star shows — at an extremely reasonable price. You get 16 ways to show “what’s up!”

Each Seasonal STARGAZING show highlights the most prominent and easy-to-find stars and constellations of the season. We’ve upgraded the old standby green-arrow show, painting the dome with choreographed circles and colorful constellation lines. Audience members see and hear star names and constellations, and learn to star-hop for popular deep-sky objects. They’re a great start on stargazing for audiences of all ages!

An Incredible Package

- A set of 4 MINI and 4 FULL length shows? That’s Eight! Wait, it gets better.
- We produced the set of eight seasonal MINI and FULL shows twice, with both male and female narrators, for a total of 16 shows!
- 16 shows — why, that's nearly 3 hours of fulldome programming! All in one convenient, ready-to-play package.
- No gate shares, no attendance reports, no “large-capacity theater” price penalty. Just a 50-year license to run these shows as much as you want in your dome.

A Winning Formula

Each show is structured the same way:

- We start out under the starry sky and a little Geodesium night music to get people in the mood for stargazing.
- After a short introduction, we do some stargazing from a typical “suburban/city” locale, with some light pollution for added sky realism. First we look north for the Big Dipper and Polaris and other prominent stars and constellations.
- Then we rotate the sky to the south, to look for the season’s easy-to-find patterns in that half of the sky.
- At this point, the MINI versions wrap up and close; the FULL versions continue, taking audiences out to the country for some dark-sky viewing (rotating back to north during the transition).
- From the north-facing countryside, we revisit the bright stars and constellations we saw in the city.
- Then we turn to the south once again, point out the Milky Way if it’s not low on the horizon, and locate some easy naked-eye deep-sky objects, such as the Andromeda Galaxy or the Orion Nebula, along the way.
- And every show ends with some encouraging words: “The more you look at the night sky, the more you’ll find. And all you have to do is go outside — and look up! Try it tonight!”

Find out more about “what’s up tonight” in just a few minutes than some people do in a lifetime! Hop through constellations, learn cool star names, and groove to planetarium space music in this fulldome audiovisual experience.
Each Season Has Two Lengths To Fit Your Needs

Every theater has different time requirements. Some want shorter shows, others use longer ones. Some teachers like modules to plug into specific lessons in the dome curricula. It seemed to us we could give everybody what they need by designing the shows to offer both MINI and FULL versions, averaging 7 and 14 minutes respectively, and they are all included in the package. It's win-win all the way around!

Two Voices, More Choices

The days of debating “which voice is better, male or female” are long behind us. The quality of a professional presentation transcends gender.

But while an audience may experience a show only once, it’s the show presenters who hear the soundtracks day after day, and end up memorizing lines and recalling entire shows verbatim years later.

So, with a choice of two voices, you can help relieve console operator fatigue! Use the female voice for the winter and summer, and the male for spring and autumn. Or, alternate male/female each week! Or, use only male or only female all the time. It’s up to you; you have the options.

But Will They Work In Your Theater?

These are Northern Hemisphere shows. The skies are depicted from 40° North latitude. That’s close to where much of the world’s planetarium-going population is. Most of the featured objects in our shows are prominent in their seasonal sky, and visible from latitudes well above and below 40°. Please visit our Web site for a full listing.

The shows work with both truncated and full fisheye projector systems. We have optimized them for front-facing audience viewing.

No sore necks from straining to see what’s upside-down or behind the audience; we “rotate the dome” for you, and put cardinal points on the horizon so everybody knows which way they’re looking! Of course you can show them in a concentric-seat theater too.

Our horizon is level, so if you have a tilted dome, the whole sky will be tilted the same angle as your dome. But that's probably the way you do your “what's up tonight” star talks anyway!

You Might Have More Questions...

... so please visit our Web site, where you can watch and download demos, read in-depth discussions and peruse our extensive FAQ. Maybe we've answered your question already! If not, just contact us. We'd be happy to hear from you.

Words expertly crafted by Carolyn Collins Petersen
Stereo soundtracks with original music by GEODESIUM
Narrated by Wren Ross and Roger Thompson
Original artwork by Tim W. Kuzniar

Running times: MINI FULL
Spring 7:12 13:30
Summer 6:31 13:55
Autumn 6:21 13:16
Winter 7:40 14:55

Year of production: 2007
Audience: General public
Educational content: Astronomy — stars, constellations, double stars, clusters, nebulae, galaxies, light-years

Public performance of this show requires the signing of a License Agreement.

PRICES INCLUDE encoding/formatting and slicing for most fulldome systems.

Watch TRAILERS and FULL-LENGTH PREVIEWS on our Web site!
HUBBLE VISION 2

HUBBLE VISION 2, created by Loch Ness Productions
NARRATED BY KENNETH ROSS, WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY CAROLYN COLLINS PETERSEN AND MARK C. PETERSEN, MUSIC BY GEODESIUM
IMAGERY: SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE INSTITUTE AND NASA/JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY
GEMINI OBSERVATORY, STARLIGHT PRODUCTIONS TIM W. KUZNAR, POSTER DESIGN: DBIM ED
HUBBLE Vision 2

A fascinating tour of the cosmos — from Earth orbit!

HUBBLE Vision 2 is a breathtaking odyssey through the universe, as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope, featuring gorgeous imagery of the planets, stars, galaxies, and more!

Since its launch in 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has provided incredible images in unprecedented detail to astronomers, and made an astonishing array of discoveries — from nearby objects in the solar system to the most distant galaxies at limits of the observable universe.

We’ve taken the best and most exciting Hubble images and woven them into an engaging story of cosmic exploration, bringing the wonders of the universe to audiences everywhere.

HUBBLE Vision 2 is actually our third show about this remarkable observatory. In this all-new production, major themes in current astronomy and cosmology are presented: new views of the planets; peeks into starbirth nurseries; visions of stardeath in its many forms; explorations of star clusters and galaxies; and views of the universe when the earliest galaxies first shone.

We catch glimpses of solar system objects: the Moon and Venus; clouds on dusty Mars; Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9’s crash into Jupiter; storms on Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune; and the faraway worlds Pluto and Quaoar.

Beyond the solar system, we explore protoplanetary disks in the Orion Nebula, and regions of starbirth across the cosmos. We witness the deaths of stars like our Sun; the cataclysmic aftermath of super-novae in the Crab Nebula; and expanding rings around Supernova 1987a. We see breathtaking views of colliding galaxies; jets shooting from active galactic nuclei, powered by supermassive black holes; the eerie effects of gravitational lenses; and deep-field views of the most distant galaxies ever seen.

The images in HUBBLE Vision 2 began as digital files released by the Space Telescope Science Institute, NASA, the European Southern Observatory, and by scientists working directly with HST data. Then we carefully reframed, resized, cropped and enhanced the images for optimal planetarium display. We’ve also created original artwork and graphics to supplement and illustrate other points of the show.

BRING THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE’S EXCITING DISCOVERIES TO AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES. HUBBLE Vision 2 IS A FACTUAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE UNIVERSE, AS SEEN THROUGH THE UNBLINKING EYE OF ONE OF THE WORLD’S PREMIER TELESCOPES — A PLANETARIUM SHOW DONE IN THE PROFESSIONAL STYLE YOU EXPECT FROM LOCH NESS PRODUCTIONS.

Running time: 30:00 Year of production: 2004, updated 2009 Suitable for: General public Educational content: Astronomy — planets, moons, stars, supernovae, nebulae, galaxies, clusters, black holes.

HUBBLE Vision 2, 50-year license

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Watch TRAILERS and FULL-LENGTH PREVIEWS on our Web site!
Sky Quest

Come along with a young woman on her personal quest to find a special place in the night sky!

Narrated by Roxann Dawson
B’Elanna Torres of TV’s Star Trek: Voyager

Sky Quest is a family favorite, telling the story of one woman’s quest for astronomy exploration and her childhood dreams of the stars.

Sky Quest is an exploration of the stars, planets, and constellations told from the viewpoint of an astronomer. Share her lifelong fascination with the heavens — from her childhood adventures on Mars (via a cardboard rocket) — to the discovery of her "birthday star" that led her to become an astronomer and build her own mountain-top observatory.

Our astronomer shares her telescope views of solar system objects and talks about manned landings on the Moon, future missions to Mars, Hubble Space Telescope studies of Jupiter, and the glorious rings of Saturn.

Along the way she points out her favorite stars, and explains how she learned to find the constellations with simple star-hopping techniques. She encourages everyone to make the time to look up, even if it means stargazing in urban areas with light pollution.

Sky Quest is an entertaining and educational exploration of the night sky that appeals to family members of all ages.

Running time: 24:30 full length, and 20:00 edit
Year of production: 2005, classic 1996  Audience: General public
Educational content: Astronomy — Earth, Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Apollo, Voyager, Hubble, light pollution.

Sky Quest, 50-year license

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The trunk and Larry are loaded onto the Space Plane, which takes him to space station Freedom. From there, he is transferred to the Lunar Shuttle. During weightlessness, the trunk opens. Larry floats out into the cabin, and looks out the window.

When Larry gets to the Moon, he leaps to greet Diana, but sails over her head, since he only weighs two pounds in lunar gravity. Then he meets the rest of Imbrium Village’s inhabitants, including the evil Commander Stone, who orders Diana to return Larry to Earth.

The Moon base crew petitions to keep Larry, and the Commander relents. He even makes Larry a cat space suit.

When Larry ventures out to explore the lunar surface, he spots the Earth, looking a lot like the Moon did from the porch at home.

While *Larry Cat In Space* is primarily targeted at primary grade students, everyone enjoys a fun-filled cartoon adventure.

Adults and children alike will be charmed by Larry’s adventurous nature, and they’ll learn something about the Moon, too!
The Cowboy Astronomer
We hear the voice of a Native American storyteller recounting the legend of how Fisher — also known as the Big Dipper — got into the sky. The cowboy regales the audience with a wide range of other star tales, explaining along the way the processes of star birth and star death, and how stars' temperatures and colors are related. Throughout the show, he uses examples from many different cultures to identify familiar celestial objects and constellations, and demonstrate how humans have studied the sky throughout time.

The show begins with the cowboy’s reminiscences of boyhood experiences on a cattle ranch. There he learned about Polaris, the North Star from a wily old ranch hand. He also learns the story of how the seven Indian maidens became the Pleiades — running from the grizzliest bear they’d ever seen — and how Devil’s Tower got created in the process.

The show closes with a touching tribute to a husband and wife team of astronomers who both studied the night sky and hoped to find their place among the stars. In the last scene, the cowboy astronomer invites everyone to enjoy the sublime beauty of the night sky and find their own place in the universe.

There’s never been a program like The Cowboy Astronomer. It’s a fresh new perspective in the planetarium medium; a unique, different, and thoroughly entertaining show unlike anything you’ve seen or heard before. It'll make your audiences laugh, it'll tug at their heart strings — all while teaching about the universe and humanity's relationship with the stars.
The story begins on Earth — on the shoreline of a tropical lagoon. The show travels back in time more than five billion years, to trace the origin and evolution of the solar system from a cloud of gas and dust. It then describes the formation of our planet’s oceans, and speculates about the places where life could have begun nearly four billion years ago.

It presents the three requirements for the nourishment of life on Earth — and most likely anywhere else in the universe: warmth, water, and organic material.

Today life on Earth flourishes in environments ranging from benign to downright alien, and the show examines the variety of life forms that populate our planet: from the creatures of the land to organisms that exist in the extreme conditions around volcanic vents on the ocean floors.

The possibility that life might exist in similar extreme environments elsewhere in the solar system prompts an exploration of two other worlds where the requirements for life might be met: Mars and the icy Jovian moon Europa.

The search for other life-bearing planets moves to starbirth nurseries in the Orion Nebula, and explains one technique today’s scientists use to look for extrasolar planets. A science fiction-style ending portrays spaceship crews exploring the shores of an alien ocean far from Earth, in a scene taken from humanity’s distant future.


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Season of Light
This presentation traces the history and development of many of the world’s most endearing holiday customs, all of which involve lighting up the winter season — from the burning Yule log, festive Christmas tree lights and sparkling candles in windows, to the lighting of luminarias and setting off fireworks in the American Southwest and the traditional ritual lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah.

The show also recounts the historical religious and cultural rituals practiced during the time of winter solstice — not only Christian and Jewish, but also Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Irish, Mexican and Hopi. It also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions: from gift-giving and kissing under the mistletoe to songs about lords a-leaping and ladies dancing; and the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles. St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, and Santa Claus all drop by as well.

Naturally, there is some astronomy in Season of Light. Audiences learn a selection of Northern hemisphere winter constellations, and find out why we even have seasons, as we demonstrate the Sun’s path across the sky throughout the year, and the Earth’s tilt and orbit around the Sun.

And of course, the program explores the possible astronomical explanations for a "Star over Bethlehem" in the last quarter of the show: comets, meteors, novae and supernovae, and planetary conjunctions.

Season of Light is visually rich, culturally inclusive, musically satisfying, and soothing as a warm drink on a cold winter’s night — and the perfect program for that end-of-the-year program slot!
In the first section, "Homage," we trace Mars through history — from an "incantation" of the various War God forms given by different cultures, to the early observations of Schiaparelli and Lowell, and the infamous "canals" which led to science-fiction stories about Martians. We hear excerpts from H. G. Wells’s "War Of The Worlds" and Edgar Rice Burroughs’s "Barsoom" novels.

"Mars In Focus" details the Mars of our time — as seen in the night sky, through binoculars and telescopes, and from our Mars explorations. Mission findings from more than a quarter century of spacecraft missions feature reports on Mars weather, climate, and areology. We compare the climate and terrain of Earth and Mars, and present the current thinking about the areologic history of the planet, and a rationale for future exploration.

"Mars in the Future" examines where on Earth we can prepare to live on Mars, what will be needed to get crewed missions to the Red Planet, and what the first landing may be like.

The show ends with "Rhapsody on a Red Planet," a poetically-styled “ode to Mars,” this time from a future perspective; an eloquent soliloquy tracing the efforts that led to humanity’s first footsteps onto the desolate and dusty Martian surface.

Along with its sister planetary shows Magellan: Report from Venus and The Voyager Encounters, MarsQuest is an excellent way to present the wonders of the solar system to audiences of all ages.

Running time: 40:26 Year of production: 2007, classic 2001
Suitable for: General public
Educational content: Astronomy — Mars, Earth, comparative planetology, Mars satellites, environment, exploration.

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As the light speeds across the light years over the course of many centuries, the primitives on the planet form cultures and civilizations — and begin to wonder about the universe surrounding them. Their awareness of the night sky increases as the beam of light draws nearer to their planet. When the light reaches the Earth, some of the descendants of the early hunters have just escaped the bonds of their world’s gravity, and visited the Moon. In modern times, scientific study of space helps the planet’s current inhabitants use light to explore the galaxy from which it came — and beyond.

Light Years From Andromeda teaches the concepts of light speed, and the light year and how astronomers use them to measure distances to some familiar celestial objects— the Moon, the Sun, the planets, nearby stars, and galaxies.

The show briefly touches on the properties of light that help determine a star’s age and temperature, and gives a fascinating look at how light and distance allow us to “look back” further in time as we gaze farther into space.

A beam of light leaves a star in the Andromeda Galaxy and travels across the void of intergalactic space. For much of its journey it traverses the nearly-empty realm between galaxies. In the meantime, on a planet located in a neighboring galaxy, intelligent life evolves.

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Light Years From Andromeda is a story of cosmic distances, and humanity’s quest to understand the universe. Take a journey of epic proportions across space and time!

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Voyager’s cameras provided rare and visually stunning views of the worlds of the outer solar system, plus invaluable information about the chemical makeup of each planet’s atmosphere, internal structure, magnetic fields, rings, and moons. Voyager’s planetary odysseys began at Jupiter, an impressionistic study in cloudy turbulence, sporting a Great Red Spot and a collection of moons — among them volcanic Io. Next was Saturn, with its ten thousand glittering rings, cloud-shrouded Titan, and a flock of smaller icy moons. That was followed by bland-looking Uranus, a planet that rolls around the Sun on its side. It boasts a set of dark rings and its own collection of icy worlds. Voyager’s close flyby of Neptune showed storms in its upper atmosphere, and revealed the mottled surface of the unusual moon Triton. The show ends with these hardy space voyagers leaving the solar system — each serving as Earth’s ambassador to a far future rendezvous in distant star systems.

Along with its sister planetary shows *Magellan: Report from Venus* and *MarsQuest*, *The Voyager Encounters* is an excellent way to present the wonders of the solar system to audiences.

From 1979 to 1989 the Voyager 1 and 2 missions explored the wonders of the outer solar system. *The Voyager Encounters* is the definitive summary of results returned by the two spacecraft. It recaps the flybys of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune in one convenient, thorough documentary.

The show begins with an historical look at Galileo Galilei’s observations of the planets Jupiter and Saturn, progressing through three centuries of ground-based studies of the outer planets. The show then introduces the two Voyager spacecraft and describes their trajectories and instrument packages.

Suitable for: General public
Educational content: Astronomy — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, moons, rings, magnetic fields, atmospheres.

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We follow Magellan’s progress from its launch through the most significant discoveries. Included are spectacular images of Venus volcanoes, showing the wide variety of forms that volcanic action takes on this desolate world. Impact craters caused by incoming space debris are scattered across the Venerian surface. Landslides also carve the terrain of Venus, proving that tectonism helps to shape the planet’s surface. These three processes are familiar to us here on Earth; finding them at work on Venus allows opportunities to compare Venus with our home planet.

The Magellan mission to Venus was one of the most successful missions ever sent to explore this world. The spacecraft returned more data than all the previous NASA planetary missions combined.

Because Venus’s clouds keep us from seeing the surface directly, scientists used radar imaging techniques to map the planet’s broken and jumbled terrain.

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Along with its sister planetary shows The Voyager Encounters and MarsQuest, Magellan: Report from Venus is an excellent way to present the wonders of the solar system to all audiences of all ages.