



Light up the cold, dark season with a warm and bright holiday show!

Running time: 35:17

Grade level: General public and family audiences

Narrated by Noah Adams
Written by James Manning
Produced by Mark C. Petersen
Original artwork by Michael W. Carroll and Tim W. Kuzniar

When the December holiday season rolls around each year, planetarians often present special programs that combine astronomy and holiday traditions. One of the most popular programs in the Loch Ness Productions repertory is *Season of Light* — an elegant and sophisticated program about the coldest and darkest of seasons — a time which holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year.

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.



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.



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.

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!





Science Education Content

Season of Light is a specialty program with an emphasis on astronomical and cultural themes related to the holiday season.

Its educational impact is achieved through a set of multidisciplinary ideas woven throughout the program that help relate different holiday traditions and astronomy to the lives of students, families, and the general public.

Show content is relevant in these subject areas:

Earth and Space Sciences:

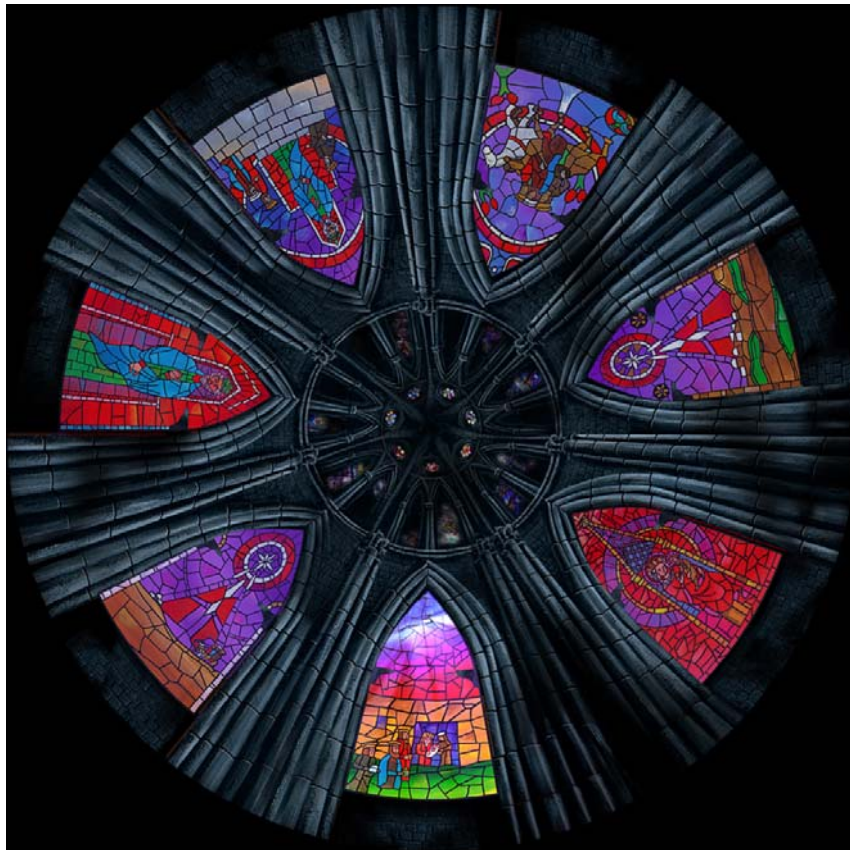
- Sky objects: Sun, Moon, Venus, Jupiter
- Constellations: Orion, Canis Major, Canis Minor, Gemini, Taurus, Auriga, Leo
- Comets, stars, novae, supernovae, meteors
- Orbital motions of planets, lunar eclipse
- Change of seasons

Science History/Science as a human endeavor:

- Stargazing as a scientific activity
- Cultural connections between astronomy and holiday traditions
- Ancient use of astrology to predict events
- Ancient and modern perceptions of sky events and objects

This show adheres to principles put forth in the National Academy of Sciences' Education Standards published in 1996. For more details, visit the NAS Standards Web site at: <http://books.nap.edu/html/nses/html/index.html>.

Sunlight
streaming into
a cathedral
windows
illustrating the
Christmas
story...

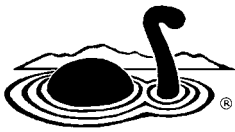


... just one of
the ~63,000
dome master
frames in this
show.



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Revised 10 February 2010



FULLDOME SHOW PRICING

We make Loch Ness Productions shows available in the sizes required by the various projector systems they will run on. For pricing purposes, there are four general size categories, **SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE,** and **X-LARGE.** Contact us for recommendations to help determine which size is right for you.

Each show includes a performance license, which basically provides you with the permission you need to present the show to the public. The license period is 50 years — for all practical purposes, unlimited time. You can read the details on our Web site, so you'll know in advance what the license terms are.

| Show Title (Product Code ###) | Product Code | MOVIE SIZE | For systems projecting circles that are: | Price |
|--|--------------|----------------|--|---------------|
| HUBBLE Vision 2 (HV2) Larry Cat In Space (LCS) MAGELLAN: Report From Venus (MRV) | ###-FS | SMALL | smaller than 1300 pixels | \$1595 |
| | ###-FM | MEDIUM | 1300 to 2000 pixels (or prewarped) | \$2195 |
| | ###-FL | LARGE | larger than 2000 pixels | \$3095 |
| | ###-FX | X-LARGE | sliced* for multiple projectors | \$4095 |
| Season of Light (SOL) | ###-FS | SMALL | smaller than 1300 pixels | \$1895 |
| | ###-FM | MEDIUM | 1300 to 2000 pixels (or prewarped) | \$2495 |
| | ###-FL | LARGE | larger than 2000 pixels | \$3395 |
| | ###-FX | X-LARGE | sliced* for multiple projectors | \$4395 |
| Light Years From Andromeda (LYA) MarsQuest (MQ) Oceans In Space (OIS) Seasonal STARGAZING (SSG) Sky Quest (SQ) The Cowboy Astronomer (TCA) The Voyager Encounters (TVE) | ###-FS | SMALL | smaller than 1300 pixels | \$1995 |
| | ###-FM | MEDIUM | 1300 to 2000 pixels (or prewarped) | \$2595 |
| | ###-FL | LARGE | larger than 2000 pixels | \$3495 |
| | ###-FX | X-LARGE | sliced* for multiple projectors | \$4495 |

***About slicing:** Multi-projector edge-blended systems require pre-slicing of a show's images into the individual channels needed for each projector. We can slice for most standard configurations. But some theaters may have non-standard configurations, or require the use of proprietary software to slice. In those cases, we'll need to contract with your system provider for some custom encoding. Contact us about costs.

Multiple Copies of Movies...

Ordinarily, the shows we distribute are licensed for installation on a single playback system and/or site. But maybe you need multiple copies of your movies because your institution operates two or more fulldome systems. Or let's say you already have large and sliced video movie files, and then get an additional portable fulldome system and need smaller movies to run on it. For these situations, you'll need to contact us about extending the license from the first show to cover additional installations. Then, buy the appropriate number and size of Additional Movie Files you need, at the discounted prices we offer in the table to the right.

| ADDITIONAL MOVIE FILES | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Product Code | MOVIE SIZE | For systems projecting circles: | Price |
| VMA-S | SMALL | smaller than 1300 pixels | \$1000 |
| VMA-M | MEDIUM | 1300 to 2000 pixels (or prewarped) | \$1600 |
| VMA-L | LARGE | larger than 2000 pixels | \$2500 |
| VMA-X | X-LARGE | sliced for multiple projectors | \$3500 |

Projector/Movie Upgrades...

Let's say you already have our fulldome movies at a small size, but then choose to upgrade to a higher resolution projector system and need to get new, larger movies. You retire your lower-resolution system and no longer run the movies installed on it. For this situation, you'll need to contact us about transferring the license you received with your first show to cover your new installation. Then, simply buy the appropriate size video you need, at the discounted prices we offer in the Video Movie Upgrades table.

| VIDEO MOVIE UPGRADES | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Product Code | MOVIE SIZE | For systems projecting circles: | Price |
| VMU-S | SMALL | smaller than 1300 pixels | \$500 |
| VMU-M | MEDIUM | 1300 to 2000 pixels (or prewarped) | \$800 |
| VMU-L | LARGE | larger than 2000 pixels | \$1250 |
| VMU-X | X-LARGE | sliced for multiple projectors | \$1750 |

The details...

Our fulldome shows are made in fisheye circle form, and ship as ready-to-play *movies*, with audio and video files encoded/sliced/prewarped in formats and resolutions compatible with today's projector systems. **We do not ship dome masters.** We record the files onto data DVDs, USB Flash or external drives.

What we send...

In addition to the show, we also provide the show's fulldome "trailer"; still images that can be used for advertising and promotion; the license agreement, and a reference book in PDF form, containing the show script, production notes, resources, acknowledgements, and additional information.

Installation...

While it may be possible to play videos directly from our distribution media, we expect you'll copy the files onto your fulldome system for optimum performance. We provide pre-written play scripts for some systems; others will simply edit button scripts or enter the necessary system commands to load and play the movies.