



***COSMIC VOYAGE* LARGE FORMAT FILM
PROJECTS THE BIG PICTURE OF OUR UNIVERSE
AT CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER**

OAKLAND, CA (November 6, 2003) — **Chabot Space & Science Center** in Oakland screens the large format film *Cosmic Voyage* in its Tien MegaDome Theater, beginning November 28, 2003. From the edges of the universe to the sub-nuclear realm of quarks, *Cosmic Voyage* sends audiences tumbling through 15 billion years and 42 orders of magnitude, beginning with a “cosmic zoom” that extends from the surface of the Earth to the largest observable structures of the universe, then back down into the world of microscopic particles. *Cosmic Voyage* explores some of the greatest scientific theories of man, many of which are visualized on film for the first time, mixing groundbreaking 3D animation with cutting-edge science to give us a sweeping view of the universe.

Cosmic Voyage brings audiences face to face with the mysteries of the universe on a journey of discovery of worlds beyond our sight, using astounding computer animation to visualize and demonstrate phenomena of the universe, such as the birth of the cosmos and the nature of black holes. This magnificent adventure through time launches audiences into a spectacular world of extreme dimensions—from the monumental to the minute—encompassing inner and outer space. The film takes viewers through the billions of years it took for the formation of our universe, and returns to Earth with breath-taking footage from Greece, Italy, Holland, and America.

The film projects viewers outwards from Earth at an astonishing rate, increasing the field of vision tenfold with each successive leap. Within seconds, the solar system shrinks from sight, and after 26 steps, viewers arrive at the outer edges of space, 15 billion light years from Earth, and then retrace their journey back to Earth and the Dutch town of Delft, home of Antoni Van Leeuwenhoek, who developed the microscope. Traveling inwards by powers of ten, audiences enter a miniscule world of electrons, protons and neutrons—the building blocks of matter—and on to the smallest particle known to man, the quark.

Cosmic Voyage looks back 15 billion years to a time when the entire observable universe was smaller than a marble, and then began exploding, giving rise to the structure of galaxies in expanding space that we inhabit today. The Big Bang Theory comes to vivid life on the domed screen overhead, as massive gas clouds cluster together from the pull of gravitational forces to become galaxies of mingling stars, gases and particles. Massive stars explode in violent death, spreading the elements from which other worlds are made—literally, of stardust—and these worlds in turn give rise to myriad life forms.

The National Air and Space Museum, where the film premiered in 1996, and the Motorola Foundation sponsored the 35-minute film, co-produced by Jeffrey Marvin and Bayley Silleck through their production company, Cosmic Voyage, Inc. Collaborators included experts from Santa Barbara Studios, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and Pixar Animation Studios.

Cosmic Voyage is an intense visual experience that creates a virtual reality of the universe exploding in violent eruptions with colliding galaxies, whirling gas clouds, and comets hurtling through space. Many of the visual sequences were created using the CAVE™ (cave automated virtual environment), a high resolution, stereo 3D, video and audio environment where rear projection images of galaxies seem to hover in space. Movement through the CAVE's cosmic data for filming was done with voice commands, using wireless microphones, stereo liquid crystal glasses, and a magnetically tracked hand-held wand for spatially controlling the camera. The camera paths created in CAVE were combined with Pixar Animation Studio's custom "StarRenderer" to produce unprecedented scenes of high-resolution imagery.

Beginning November 28, *Cosmic Voyage* screens Fridays through Sundays in Chabot's Tien MegaDome Theater.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chabot Space & Science Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, in Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland Hills. Chabot's public hours are: Fridays, 5 pm–10 pm; Saturdays, 10 am–10 pm; Sundays 12 noon–5 pm. Telescope viewing on Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm–10 pm, weather permitting. General Admission is \$11 Adults / \$8 Youth and Seniors. MegaDome Theatre and live Planetarium shows are \$6. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373. Group visits must be scheduled in advance, and are available Wednesdays through Sundays.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit www.chabotspace.org

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