



Astronomy Cartoon Exhibit and New Planetarium Show

Premiere at Chabot Space & Science Center

**– Skywise Cartoon Exhibit debuts October 11 –
– West Coast Premiere of “Ringworld” opens October 25 –**

OAKLAND, CA (October 1, 2003) — Chabot Space & Science Center offers audiences two new programs this fall, with the debut of *Skywise*, an exhibit of astronomy cartoons by Jay Ryan, and the West Coast Premiere of the planetarium show *Ringworld* about the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn.

Skywise Astronomy Cartoon Exhibit Debuts at Chabot

On October 11, Chabot debuts a new exhibit featuring the astronomy cartoon strips *Skywise*, drawn by cartoonist Jay Ryan and published in *Sky & Telescope* magazine from 1997 to 2001. These delightful astronomy comic strips are an entertaining and informative vehicle for discovering and understanding astronomical phenomena.

Cartoonist Jay Ryan says, “Astronomy is a *visual* subject. When I was first learning the sky, I found most text-oriented astronomy literature to be very unhelpful for comprehending the clockwork of the heavens. Having been a cartoon doodler since childhood, I’d often scribble cartoons to help me visualize difficult concepts. After a while, I realized that perhaps others might also benefit from these astronomy cartoons.”

Ryan’s *Skywise* cartoons explore a wide array of topics: the Solar System, the scale of the Universe, seasons, timekeeping, telescopes, observing the skies, and more. A changing selection of Ryan’s cartoons will be featured at Chabot in the coming months. The exhibit is made possible with support from the Ask Jeeves Foundation and *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

“Ringworld” Premieres in Ask Jeeves Planetarium

As Saturn, the true “Lord of the Rings”, begins its rule of the night sky in late October, the new planetarium show *Ringworld* receives its West Coast Premiere in Chabot’s Ask Jeeves Planetarium on October 25. The show explores the planet Saturn and its mysterious rings, and highlights the current Cassini-Huygens mission to ringed planet. The Cassini-Huygens spacecraft, launched in 1997, will reach Saturn in July 2004. The Cassini orbiter will orbit Saturn and its moons for four years, while the Huygens probe will land on the surface of Titan, Saturn’s largest moon. Both spacecraft will provide scientists with fascinating new information about this intriguing planet. Chabot’s telescopes will be trained on Saturn this winter and will be spectacular viewing, as the rings are in full northward tilt, a phenomenon that happens once every thirty years. *Ringworld* is narrated by Star Trek’s John Billingsley (Dr. Phlox on *Enterprise*) and was produced by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Cassini-Huygens mission is a joint effort of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. More information about the Saturn mission can be found at <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm>

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