



West Coast Premiere of Molecularium™: Riding Snowflakes Opens at Chabot Space & Science Center, November 25

—Animated Planetarium Show Teaches Kids What “Matters”—

OAKLAND, CA (November 10, 2005) — Designed to spark children’s interest in learning about the world of atoms and molecules, the exciting and entertaining full-dome digital planetarium show *Molecularium™: Riding Snowflakes* makes its West Coast premiere at Chabot Space & Science Center beginning Friday, November 25 through June 30, 2006. In this magical, musical adventure to inner space, a lively cast of atomic characters—led by Oxy, a precocious young oxygen atom, and her hydrogen sidekicks Hydro and Hydra—introduce audiences to the smallest forms of matter, including atoms, molecules, and polymers. These engaging animated characters travel in their Molecularium spaceship to visit the world of clouds, raindrops, and earth, where they learn about gases, liquids and solids. They enter a snowflake and other familiar items where they see how atoms bond together to make all the materials in our universe. Along the way in their unforgettable adventure, they meet up with a lonely carbon atom that is seeking the materials of life. The adventure ends with a ride on a polymer roller coaster and a trip through DNA. Showtimes on Friday, November 25 are 11:30 and 12:30. Regular showtimes on weekends are Saturdays at 11:30am and 12:30; Sundays at 12:30. The show is free with a General Admission ticket.

“We are very pleased to present this very entertaining program which encourages young children’s curiosity about science and the world around them,” commented Alex Barnett, Chabot’s Executive Director. “Chabot’s new full-dome system is an exciting venue for this type of program, as our new planetarium technology allows an amazing immersive experience into the nanoscale of the universe.”

Riding Snowflakes is the first show developed in the Molecularium™ Project at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in partnership with the Children’s Museum of Science and Technology, in Troy, New York. Funded by the National Science Foundation’s Nanoscale Science and Engineering Initiative and designed to follow New York State curriculum guidelines, Molecularium is pioneering the use of digital dome theaters for exciting and entertaining science education for children of all ages. A resource guide for teachers that includes lesson plans and hands-on activities complements the show. For more information, visit www.molecularium.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, founded in 1824, is the nation’s oldest technological university. The university offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in engineering, the sciences, information technology, architecture, management, the humanities and social sciences. The Institute is well known for its success in the transfer of technology from the laboratory to the marketplace so that new discoveries and inventions benefit human life, protect the environment, and strengthen economic development.

Chabot Space and Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, is nonprofit interactive science center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science. The Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Hours: Wed – Thurs, 10 am–5pm; Friday & Saturday, 10 am–10 pm; Sunday, 11am–5 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission, including free parking and a daytime planetarium show, is \$13.00 adults; \$10 students and seniors; \$9.00 youth 12 and under Children under 3 are admitted free. *SonicVision* and *The Sky Tonight* planetarium shows and large format movies in the MegaDome Theater are \$8.00 adult, and \$7.00 Youth & Senior. Telescopes are open for Free Public Viewing Fridays & Saturdays from dusk – 10 pm, weather permitting. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.

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

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