



Media Preview, Thursday, July 13, 3 pm

BLACK HOLES: THE OTHER SIDE OF INFINITY
OPENS AT CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER, JULY 15, 2006

—Planetarium Show Narrated by Liam Neeson—

OAKLAND, CA (June 30, 2006) — Cross the cosmic threshold into the bizarre realm of a black hole when Chabot Space & Science Center opens its new planetarium show, *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* in the Ask Jeeves Planetarium on Saturday, July 15. Narrated by Liam Neeson, the show provides a groundbreaking, scientifically accurate perspective on black holes and presents the latest compelling evidence that black holes are real.

“The visuals are stunning,” said Chabot’s executive director, Alex Barnett. “We are pleased to bring to Bay Area audiences something that is beautiful on top of being accurate and educational. The show delivers the real experience—at least if Einstein’s theory of general relativity is correct. But be warned: don’t expect it to look like anything you’ve seen before.”

Black Holes brings viewers along on a thrilling ride to the inside of a supermassive black hole. This is made possible by a unique software program called a Black Hole Flight Simulator, which transforms real scientific data about black holes into stunning, colorful visualizations. Viewers encounter a range of spectacular cosmic wonders, including a depiction of the beginning of the universe, the Big Bang, endless seas of dust and gas drawn together by gravity to form the first stars, the collision of two galaxies that cross paths in the vastness of space, and a virtual trip into the center of the Milky Way galaxy. The show also gives an overview of the fundamental concepts and terms essential to the understanding black holes:

- Einstein’s concept of general relativity, and how the gravity of massive objects warps the fabric of space
- How black holes form from massive stars that die in violent explosions called supernovae
- That gamma-rays are telltale products of black hole formation, and how a NASA space telescope called Swift is looking for these signs right now
- The difference between regular, stellar mass black holes, and immense, supermassive black holes, and how each type forms
- Strong evidence demonstrating there are supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies

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Suitable for ages 12 and up, *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* is 25 minutes in length. *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* is a Denver Museum of Nature & Science Production, supported by grants from NASA's Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope project and the National Science Foundation. It is directed by Thomas Lucas and coproduced with the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. Science directors include Dr. Andrew Hamilton (University of Colorado) and Dr. Lynn Cominsky (Sonoma State University). Distributed by Spitz, Inc

Schedule and Ticketing Information

Beginning on Saturday, July 15, 2006, *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity* will be presented Tuesday – Thursday at 4:00 pm; Friday and Saturday at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm; and Sundays at 4:00 pm. Admission is included in a General Admission ticket, which is \$13 Adult, \$10 Senior and Student, \$9 Youth (3 – 12). For more information or to purchase tickets, call 510-336-7373 or visit www.chabotspace.org

Chabot Space and Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501c3 nonprofit teaching and learning 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. **Summer Public hours:** Tues – Thurs, 10 am–5pm; Friday & Saturday, 10 am–10 pm; Sunday, 11am–5 pm. Closed Mon. General admission includes free parking and a daytime planetarium show, and is \$13.00 for adults, \$10 seniors and students, \$9.00 youth. Children under 3 are admitted free. Evening planetarium shows and movies are \$8 Adult; \$7 Youth, Student and Senior. Telescopes are open for Free Public Viewing Fridays & Saturdays from dusk – 10:30 pm, weather permitting.

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

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