Reynolds Planetarium Show List

1. 3000 Years of Stargazing

Throughout time, the sky has piqued our curiosity. Eclipses, the regular cycle of the seasons, the rising and setting of the Moon, Sun, and planets, the motion of the stars — all have fascinated mankind since our earliest ancestors first looked up to the night time sky. Monuments constructed across our home planet, from Stonehenge to Machu Picchu, bear witness to humanity's ancient fascination with the stars. (34 Min)

2. Black Holes - The other side of infinity

Be dazzled by the visualizations of the formation of the early universe, star birth, and death, the collision of giant galaxies, and a simulated flight to a super-massive black hole lurking at the center of our own Milky Way galaxy. (24 min)

3. Clockwork Skies

How do humans use the sky to time their activities. Discusses early geocentric theory which evolved into heliocentric fact. (5 min)

4. Cosmic Dance

The beginnings of the cosmos from the viewpoint of the ancient Hindu culture. Western science and ages-old spiritual wisdom have been considered as contradictions for a long time. With the rise of quantum and particle physics and new knowledge in astrophysics, our minds have been opened to a new perception of the universe. Yet we find unexpected and astonishing parallels to old wisdom passed on over millennia by ancient spiritual traditions all over the world. (45 min)

5. Cosmic Journey

A journey thru our universe to visit different galaxies. What does it take to form a star? What are the signs scientists look for? Using the most advanced methods available we attempt to visit unexplored regions of the universe. What might be out there and what might we learn? (25 and 40 min versions)

6. The Cowboy Astronomer

This show, narrated by cowboy poet and humorist Baxter Black, was first featured in the HSU Planetarium in February of 2000. It gives a good overview of the night sky as seen ‘on the range.’ It covers the night sky as seen by the naked eye. (37 min)
7. Exo Planets – Worlds of Wonder  
Using the latest data from multiple planet-hunting missions including Kepler, ExoPlanets: Worlds of Wonder follows mankind’s first Space Probe as it journeys outside our solar system to the many new worlds astronomers are discovering beyond. Audiences will visit Gas Giants caught in a deadly dance with their host stars, frozen rouge planets hurtling through space, molten rocky worlds now known to science and new planets drifting comfortably within the Goldilocks Zone, the area around a star where Earth-like worlds may exist. (26 min)

8. Expanded View  
A journey through the heavens with emphasis on the electromagnetic spectrum. Hubble Space Telescope’s use of visible light and the beauty shown to the world. The Spitzer Space Telescope and its use of the infrared view. Finally, the Chandra X ray observatory. What wonders we can discover with the use of these different views from different parts of the EM Spectrum. (23 min)

9. Fire Fall  
Throughout Earth’s violent history, impacts from comets and asteroids have mercilessly shaped its surface. The ancient barrage continues today; from harmless meteors — those brilliant streaks in the night sky, to mountain sized boulders wandering perilously close to Earth. Terrifying and majestic, these invaders from space are capable of utter destruction yet they have delivered life-giving water and most of the organic materials necessary for life. Life on Earth owes its very existence to these denizens of the solar system, yet it could all be wiped out in an instant. This ceaseless fire fall is our only tangible connection to the universe beyond and is an ever-present reminder of our own humble beginnings in the hostile environment of space. (27 min)

10. The Great Space Race  
A journey thru the early years of trial and error trying to be the first nation in space. Early footage of both the successes and failures of both the USSR and US, with attempts to get a man into space. (40 min)

11. Hubble Vision 2  
This show details the Hubble space telescope, its problems and successes, thru the first servicing mission in 1993. It features dazzling images taken by the telescope both of objects within our solar system and those without. (30 min)
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12. IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System
   Join the scientists who are investigating the boundary between our solar system and the rest of our galaxy. Designed for visitors with an appreciation for the challenges of space science and a desire to learn more about science research, the show follows the creation of NASA’s Interstellar Boundary explorer. Audiences will get an in-depth look at the mission and how IBEX is collecting high speed atoms to create maps of our solar system’s boundary. (27 min)

13. Larry – Cat in Space
   Kindergarten thru 2nd grade, low-level intro to planetarium and what might be outside our own world. As seen thru the eyes of Larry, the cat. (30 min)

14. Light Years from Andromeda
   This show discusses some of the dramatic changes taking place on the Earth during the 2.2 million years it takes light to reach us from the Andromeda galaxy. From ancient man to modern man, how does the night sky influence our daily activities? (30 min.)

15. Magellan – Report from Venus
   Developed with JPL and NASA, this show details the Magellan radar-mapping mission to Venus and features computer simulated flyovers of the Venusian surface. (35 min.)

16. Mars Quest
   Developed in conjunction with research scientists involved with NASA’s current and future Mars missions. This show discusses the Mars of the past, what we know of Mars now and what we hope to be the Mars of the future. (41 min.)

17. Mystery of the Christmas Star
   Journey back over 2000 years to Bethlehem as we seek to discover a scientific explanation for the star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus. (31 min)

18. Nature of Science
   An Ott Planetarium production of how scientists try to know how the universe works and what steps are taken to ensure we use the scientific method to determine what we see every day. (21 min)
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19. Nine Planets and Counting

A Sudekum Planetarium production about the International Astronomical Union’s struggle to define a planet and how that definition might affect how scientists perceive and count the planets in our own solar system. (35 Min).

20. Saturn – Jewel of the Heavens

The Cassini space craft has lifted the veil on this once mysterious giant of our solar system. Data has been collected, not only on the giant itself, but also on the many moons orbiting Saturn and the countless particles encircling the planet known to all as the rings of Saturn. This data will be studied for years to come. (36 min)

21. Season of Light (Christmas)

This show was the first of the public shows presented by the HSU planetarium. It was first presented in December of 1999. It has a Christmas theme, concentrating on the traditions of Christmas and their origins. (35 min)

22. Secrets of the Sun

Secrets of the Sun allows audiences to experience an intimate look at the role the sun plays in the life of our Solar System. From the nuclear forces churning at the heart of the sun to the mass ejections of solar material into the surrounding space, we will experience the power of the sun and its impact on the planets and ultimately life on Earth. We will trace the life cycle of the sun itself, going back to its beginnings and moving forward in time to its eventual death. (21 min)

23. Sizing Up Space

A short program that allows us to mentally grasp the vast distances in space. We get to ponder some distances to objects in our own galaxy and the approximate location of our solar system in relation to the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. (12 min)

24. Stars of the Pharaohs

Travel to ancient Egypt to see how science was used to tell time, make a workable calendar, and align huge buildings. Learn about the connection the ancient Egyptians felt with the stars and various astronomical phenomena, and experience some of the most spectacular temples and tombs of the ancient world recreated in its original splendor. (36 min)
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25. Two Small Pieces of Glass

How the telescope has changed our view of the heavens from its inception, development, improvement and what is in store for the future of watching the stars. (25 min)

26. Universe

An historical look at how we have envisioned the universe though the ages. We visit some of the ancient sites where our ancestors erected great structures with special astronomical significance. Finally we look at the Universe through the eyes of today's science and space explorers to build up a spectacular overview of the heavens. (22 min)

27. The Voyager Encounters

The Voyager Encounters: A Loch Ness Productions show on Voyager 1 and 2 missions to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Beautiful, up close images of the outer planets show us things we had only imagined from our earthbound telescopes. (43 min)

28. When Venus transits the Sun

Discussion of the 2012 transit of Venus across the face of the Sun. This show also discusses the events surrounding the observation of the 1769 transit from Tahiti. Data from these observations allowed an early determination of the distance from the Earth to the Sun. (26 min)