



museum of
science+industry
chicago

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EXPLORE DEEP SPACE WITH NEW OMNIMAX FILM AT MSI
***Journey to Space* opens in Omnimax® Theater March 19, 2015**

CHICAGO (February 16, 2015) – The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago's (MSI) newest Omnimax® film, *Journey to Space*, uses visually stunning imagery and commentary from leading space experts to explore NASA's recent adventures and upcoming challenges—exploring deep space and eventually sending a manned craft to Mars. The film opens March 19, 2015 in MSI's five-story, domed, wrap-around Omnimax Theater.

Through brilliant narration by film and television icon Sir Patrick Stewart and extensive interviews with NASA astronauts Chris Ferguson and Serena Aunon, the film captures the spirit of human exploration and depicts how NASA has transitioned from the end of the space shuttle era to a much more ambitious future that will forever change how we live and operate in space. Some of the new machines and craft showcased in *Journey to Space* include:

Orion is NASA's first spacecraft designed to safely carry humans on long-duration deep space exploration missions, like the possible trip to Mars, which would take more than two years. Orion recently made a test launch in December 2014 and is depicted by computer animation in the film.

Olympus is an inflatable transportation habitat designed to provide astronauts the work area and living space necessary for long-duration missions. Smaller versions have already flown in space, and a full-scale version is shown in the film undergoing ground testing.

Space Launch System (SLS) is the giant rocket that carries both Orion and Olympus and provides the enormous lift necessary to send them on many historic missions. SLS will also carry the needed Mars landers and ascent vehicles to get astronauts to the surface of Mars and back up to the Orion mothership for their return trip to Earth. SLS generates over 9 million pounds of thrust and can launch hardware into orbit equivalent to the weight of 22 elephants.

Journey to Space also gives a fitting tribute to the space shuttle program and the 355 astronauts who flew on the 135 shuttle missions. This historical chapter describes how the shuttle program helped us understand how to live and operate in space and have enabled the future missions covered in the film.

The film highlights the shuttle's last major project—the launch and assembly of the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is a joint collaboration of 15 nations and consistently provides a home and science lab in space like no other. ISS crews' tours of duty have averaged six months, and NASA will begin one-year missions starting in 2015. Researchers expect the one-year mission to yield beneficial knowledge on the medical, psychological and biomedical challenges explorers may face as they venture to an asteroid, Mars and beyond.

Journey to Space will show daily at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. (on days with extended hours, there will also be a 4 p.m. showtime) in the Omnimax® Theater at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago beginning March 19. *Journey to Space* is not included in Museum Entry and

requires an additional timed entry ticket. Tickets for Omnimax® films are available in Explorer ticket packages.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make *you* the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Center for the Advancement of Science Education (CASE), the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414 or (800) GO-TO-MSI outside of the Chicago area.

About K2 Films

Recognized as leaders in Giant Screen documentary cinema, K2 Films, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of K2 Communications (K2), brings a wealth of success and experience in all aspects of production, global distribution and marketing. Additionally, K2's distribution arm counts more than 65 large screen format films in its library for non-theatrical distribution, plus more than 25 films for digital and large format theater distribution. K2 also operates the only comprehensive Giant Screen consumer/fan website, BigMovieZone.com. For more information, consult www.k2communications.com.

About Giant Screen Films

Since 1997, Giant Screen Films (GSF) has established itself as a pioneer in the large-format industry, producing and distributing films that push the boundaries of the medium. Through the magic of immersive sight and sound technologies, GSF's productions challenge the imaginations of children and adults, offering an inspiring perspective on the world and an unforgettable theater experience. Meaningful educational collaborations and partnerships extend each film's impact far beyond the theater. The company is recognized as one of the world's leading and most active large-format producers and is based in Evanston, Ill. For additional information, visit www.gsfilms.com.

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