

ADLER PLANETARIUM

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**ADLER PLANETARIUM CELEBRATES
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY**
Special Exhibitions and Programs are Planned Throughout 2009

Chicago, IL (February 17, 2009) – Chicago’s Adler Planetarium is celebrating the *International Year of Astronomy* (IYA) with special shows, an exhibition and programs designed to communicate the impact of astronomy and space exploration on society and culture while inspiring a new generation of explorers to look up at the sky. The Adler will open ***Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass***, an exhibition celebrating 400 years of the telescope; ***3-D Universe: A Symphony***, a 3-D space show and ***IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System***, a space exploration-themed show.

The *International Year of Astronomy* is a worldwide effort initiated by the United Nations and the International Astronomical Union to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the daytime and nighttime skies, and to encourage their personal sense of wonder and discovery.

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of its invention, the Adler will present ***Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass*** May 22 through December 31, 2009. The most comprehensive exhibition on this topic to date, ***Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass*** introduces visitors to the technology of telescopes and how they are used to gather information about our Universe. From the earliest looking glasses used by Galileo 400 years ago, to the Hubble Space Telescope and into the future with leading-edge technologies, this exhibition takes a look at how telescopes have changed our concept of the Universe and our place in it. Featuring some of the world’s most amazing artifacts, including one of the oldest surviving telescopes, the largest Civil War-era telescope, and the most ornate ivory telescope in the world, which has never been on public display, visitors will marvel at the extraordinary beauty and technology of these instruments. Interactives in the exhibition include looking through a 20-foot 17th century refractor, viewing a 3-D model of galaxies and learning how lenses and mirrors create the images we can see.

On Friday, March 6, the Adler Planetarium will open a new stereo show, **3-D Universe: A Symphony** and a new space show, **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System**.

3-D Universe: A Symphony takes audiences on a musical journey through space. The adventure begins in a virtual art gallery where pictures serve as portals into space to explore stars, black holes and faraway galaxies. Set to Modest Mussorgsky's musical suite *Pictures at an Exhibition* as performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, **3-D Universe: A Symphony** uses high-definition 3-D animations from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). This is the first time that most of these visuals have ever been seen in 3-D.

In **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System**, showing in the Adler's *Definiti Space Theater*, audiences will join the first NASA mission to map 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 the desire to learn more about science research, **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System** follows NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission and gives audiences an in-depth look at how it collects high-speed atoms to create a map of our Solar System's boundary. Narrated by two inquisitive teenagers, audiences will hear from the scientists and engineers that developed the IBEX mission and created the spacecraft, and get the latest updates on the mission's discoveries.

IBEX is a part of NASA's series of low-cost, rapidly developed Small Explorers spacecraft. Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) leads the IBEX mission that includes a team of national and international partners. The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center manages the Explorers Program for the Science Mission Directorate in Washington. IBEX's Education and Public Outreach efforts are being led by the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, IL.

The Adler worked with NASA and SWRI to produce the space show **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System** with visualizations from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA).

In addition to these offerings, the Adler is sponsoring unique public programs and celebrations throughout 2009.

International Year of Astronomy Important Dates

February 7	<i>Hard Rock and Heavy Metal</i> (sundial exhibition) opens at the Adler
February 15	445 th Anniversary of Galileo's Birthday (1564-1642)
March 3	40 th Anniversary of the Apollo 9 Launch
March 6	<i>3-D Universe: A Symphony</i> opens at the Adler
March 6	<i>IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System</i> opens at the Adler
March 6	Br. Guy Consolmagno lecture: <i>The Galileo Wars: Thirty Years and Four Centuries</i>
March 6	Dr. Scott Gaudi lecture: <i>The Quest for Our Origins: The Search for Other Worlds and Life in the Universe</i>
March 20	Spring Equinox activities at the Adler
April 3	Michael Lemonick lecture: <i>William and Caroline Herschel and the Invention of Modern Astronomy</i>
April 22	Earth Day
May 1	Dr. Herman B. White lecture: <i>Smashing Atoms for a Living and the Particle Physics Energy Frontier</i>
May 2	Astronomy Day event at the Adler
May 18	40 th Anniversary of the Apollo 10 Launch
May 22	<i>Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass</i> opens at the Adler
June 5	Marcia Bartusiak lecture: <i>The Day We Found the Universe</i>
June 20	Summer Solstice activities at the Adler
July 20	40th Anniversary of the First Lunar Landing (Apollo 11) event at the Adler
September 22	Fall Equinox
November 19	40 th Anniversary of the Second Lunar Landing (Apollo 12)
November 30	Galileo begins observing the Moon with his telescope (1609)
December 21	Winter Solstice

Adler events are bolded.

Admission

Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass is included in the price of general admission; \$10 (adults); \$8 (adult – Chicago residents); \$6 (children 3 - 14); \$5 (children 3 - 14 – Chicago residents); children ages 2 and under admitted free.

The **Universe Package** includes the **3-D Universe: A Symphony** show, the **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System** show, general admission – including **Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass** – and your choice of the historic Atwood Sphere Experience or a special guided tour; \$25 (adults); \$23 (adult–Chicago residents); \$21 (children 3 - 14); \$20 (children 3 - 14– Chicago residents); children ages 2 and under admitted free.

About the Adler Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium – America’s First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. Following its 75th anniversary, the Adler began a transformation into the world’s premier space science center, inspiring the next generation of explorers by sharing the personal stories of human space exploration and America’s space heroes. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people to pursue careers in science. Learn more at www.adlerplanetarium.org

Location and Travel Information

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive on the shores of Lake Michigan on Chicago’s beautiful Museum Campus. Exit Lake Shore Drive at 18th Drive, continue north on Museum Campus Drive. Then veer right on Solidarity Drive. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Adler. Parking lot only accepts cash. Check www.soldierfieldparking.com for information about large Museum Campus events that may impact parking availability. The Adler is serviced daily by CTA #146 bus. Metra Electric and South Shore trains stop at nearby Roosevelt Road station. CTA Red, Green and Orange lines are approximately a one-mile walk from the Museum Campus.

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