

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 10, 2002

**CONTACT:** Dawn Kappel  
Director of External Communications  
312-322-0524

Diana L. Holic  
Public Relations Coordinator  
312-322-0548

**Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees  
graces the  
Adler Planetarium with a  
special lecture and book signing**

The integration of his scientific expertise into a deep and thoughtful exploration of questions that lie at the boarder of science and philosophy have made Martin Rees, Royal Research Professor at Cambridge University and Astronomer Royal of Great Britain, one of the world's leading theoretical astrophysicists.

This extraordinary scientist, whose work has put him at the forefront of the quest to understand the Universe, will grace the Adler with a public lecture and signing of his newly published book, *Our Cosmic Habitat*, on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. Influencing thought, both in astrophysics proper and beyond, Professor Rees continues to affect how humans perceive the Universe.

In *Our Cosmic Habitat*, Professor Rees investigates the depths of modern cosmology, asking questions to help present a picture of what we know and what we need to know about our universe. *Our Cosmic Habitat* examines the notion that our universe is just a part of a vast "multiverse," or ensemble of universes, in which most of the other universes are lifeless. What we call laws of nature would then be no more than local bylaws, imposed in the aftermath our own Big Bang. Professor Rees argues that the fate

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## ADD ONE/ REES LECTURE

of the multiverse concept depends on the still unknown nature of space and time on scales of trillions of times smaller than atoms.

The 2001 recipient of the Cosmology Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation, presented in recognition of groundbreaking theoretical, analytical or conceptual discoveries, Professor Rees is a leader in understanding the birth and structure of the Universe. His contributions include many of the foundational ideas regarding galaxy formation, and have examined how the first generations of stars, galaxies and quasars formed then ionized much of the Universe. He also made the first predictions about polarization and other detailed features of the cosmic microwave background.

Born in 1942, Professor Rees grew up in Shropshire, a rural part of England. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Trinity College Cambridge in 1964, and then continued on at Cambridge as a graduate student. Appointed Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy in 1973, Professor Rees spent 18 years at that post and for 10 of those years also served as Director of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy. Appointed to a Royal Society Research Professorship in 1992, he also at that time became President of the Royal Astronomical Society. In 1995 he was given the honorary title of Astronomer Royal. Professor Rees has always been an enthusiast for international collaboration in science, and was Chairman of the European Space Agency's Scientific Advisory Committee when the decision was taken to collaborate with NASA on the 'Ulysses' project and the Hubble Space Telescope.

Rees will lecture on *Our Cosmic Habitat* at the Adler on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the StarRider™ Theater, and a book signing will follow at 5:00 p.m. in the Adler's Infinity Shop. The lecture and signing are free with building admission. Reservations are required; please call (312) 542-2424 for reservations and additional information.

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum hours:

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **Regular Admission:**

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$16.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors 65 and older and

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## **ADD TWO / REES LECTURE**

\$14.00 for children 4 – 17.

This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 – 17. This package includes admission and choice of sky shows.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 35 million people during the past 71 years. Seven state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the recently renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a staff of over 200, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR**

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**[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)**

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