

A D L E R P L A N E T A R I U M
& A S T R O N O M Y M U S E U M

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***The Future is Wild*, with Emphasis on Scientific Research,
Imagines Fantastic Life 200 Million Years Ahead**

The Adler Planetarium's exciting new StarRider Theater show, *The Future is Wild*, looks at Earth millions of years in the future, as it might exist, without the presence of human beings. Telling the extraordinary story of fantastic creatures that may roam and fly, this 'future shock' -- opening February 12 -- applies Adler's tradition of planetary study to the Earth.

"The Future is Wild will alternatively surprise and intrigue audiences, placing them in a time they could scarcely imagine," said Adler's Theater Manager Mark Webb. "The science is both fascinating and breathtaking to imagine."

Scientists don't often make bold predictions, and few are as exciting and mind-boggling as *The Future is Wild*. The show envisions Earth's planetary evolution without human beings who are replaced by massive new creatures that will inhabit the planet.

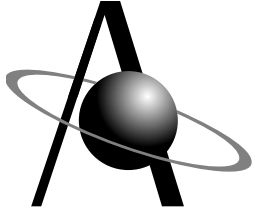
"*The Future is Wild* tells of 8-ton squids roaming the Earth after all the continents have merged into a single, huge landmass. It tells of snails that hop like kangaroos, fish that fly like butterflies through forests, and birds with four wings. This future world may seem incredible, but it is firmly grounded in science," says R. McNeill Alexander, Ph D, one of the scientists behind the film.

The world premier of *The Future is Wild* at Chicago's Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum brings many 'firsts.' Never before have scientists intricately projected Earth's destiny over so many millions of years. Also, *The Future is Wild* is the first natural history show developed for the 360-degree, 9,500 square-foot domed screen, the ultimate in immersive technology. Audiences will experience exciting creatures and environments in extreme size, enveloped by images and sounds of these mighty creatures.

The show brings to life the habitats and creatures of up to 200 million years from now. Its methodology, ensuring that everything in the film is plausible, is based on several approaches:

- Some of the film's wonderful, hypothetical creatures came from the detailed advice of a specialist in biomechanics.
- Geologists imagined the future shift of Earth's continents and a climatologist determined the future climates of habitats.

Adler Planetarium
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ADLER PLANETARIUM & ASTRONOMY MUSEUM

- While based in science, the show does contain some conjecture about how species will interact with one another.

Says Alexander, "In creating the animals of tomorrow, we have used our knowledge of past and present to help us imagine the future."

The Future is Wild premieres in the StarRider Theater Thursday, February 12 for an open run. Daily shows are at 10:45 AM, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM. Saturday and Sunday shows are 10:00 and 11:30 AM, and 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM.

Museum Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Sat-Sun 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Far Out Fridays take place on the first Friday of each month, and feature special programs during extended hours from 5 PM to 10 PM.

Regular Admission Fees

Adults \$7; Seniors \$6 and children 4-17 \$4. Sky Shows are an additional charge.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, America's first planetarium, has inspired more than 35 million visitors since its opening in 1930. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning Sky Pavilion present modern space exploration and the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, features virtual flights through the cosmos. The Adler's mission to present the human quest to better understand the Universe is led by our scientists and historians, working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history.