

The Dr. Sandra F. Pritchard Mather Planetarium Public Movie Shows

Our movie shows offer a 20-minute tour of the night sky followed by a full-dome movie. The movie presentations are run by students in the Department of Earth & Space Sciences. Below is a synopsis of the movies currently being shown in the Mather Planetarium.

Asteroid: Mission Extreme – This movie takes audiences on an epic journey to discover the possibilities that asteroids present for space travel. Using stunning visuals and state-of-the-art computer graphics, the film presents the fascinating idea, based on real science, that asteroids could be used as stepping stones to other worlds, veritable “way stations” in space enabling us to cross the entire solar system. As with any venture in outer space, the challenges involved with making this idea a reality are enormous; however, a mission this extreme could ultimately lead us to learn how to protect our planet and how to successfully inhabit other worlds. Explore what it would take for astronauts to reach an asteroid and then tame it for our use, as well as how such an extraordinary adventure could benefit humankind.

To Space and Back - To Space & Back takes audiences on an incredible journey from the far reaches of our known universe to our own planet. It is an extraordinary story of human ingenuity and incredible engineering, describing how the technology that transports us through space is paving the way for the devices and apps we use every day. What is happening above is coming back down to Earth!

Oasis In Space - Oasis In Space transports the audience on a startling and beautiful voyage through our universe, galaxy and solar system in search of liquid water - a key ingredient for life on Earth.

Astronaut - The exploration of space is the greatest endeavor that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to be part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut? Experience a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut. Explore the amazing worlds of inner and outer space, from floating around the International Space Station to maneuvering through microscopic regions of the human body. Discover the perils that lurk in space as we subject ‘Chad’, our test astronaut, to everything that space has to throw at him.

Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity - This cutting-edge production features high-resolution visualizations of cosmic phenomena, working with data generated by computer simulations, to bring the current science of black holes to the dome screen. Audiences will be dazzled with striking, immersive animations of the formation of the early universe, star birth and death, the collision of giant galaxies, and a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of our own Milky Way Galaxy.

Back to the Moon: For Good - Immerse yourself in a race to return to the Moon 40 years after the historic Apollo landings. See how a competition among privately funded international teams is ushering in a new era of lunar exploration. Learn about the Moon's resources and discover what humanity's future on the Moon might hold. Narrated by Tim Allen, Back To The Moon For Good presents the Google Lunar XPRIZE, and the personal stories of competition and collaboration it inspires.