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New Movie Showing at Kentucky Science Center Digital Theater Unveils New Era of Deep Space Exploration

Journey To Space depicts NASA's transition from the end of the Space Shuttle Era to an ambitious future

Louisville, KY (April 1, 2015) – Just in time for Spring Break, this exciting new movie premieres this Friday, April 3 at Kentucky Science Center on their 4-Story Digital Screen! *Journey To Space* utilizes visually stunning imagery, and in collaboration with leading space experts, showcases the exciting plans NASA and the space community are working on and the challenges they must overcome to carry out missions, once considered science fiction, and now science fact, such as landing astronauts on Mars. The movie calls attention to the reality that the space program did not die with the end of the Shuttle Program in 2011. It is, instead, vibrantly alive.

Through brilliant narration by movie and television legend Sir Patrick Stewart and extensive interviews with NASA astronauts Chris Ferguson and Serena Aunon, the movie captures the spirit of human exploration and describes how it is at the core of our own DNA. The new 3D movie will start playing on April 3 at Kentucky Science Center 4-Story Digital Theater. Showtimes can be found on the [Science Center's website](#).

"No longer science fiction, a human mission to Mars is in the planning stages, and major steps are being taken to make it a reality within a generation," said Bob Kresser, CEO of K2 Movies "Our goal in making this movie was to tie together the actual hardware being built with the tremendous planning under way that will make the next steps in space exploration the most far-reaching in our history."

The names of the new machines that will carry out these missions will soon enter our lexicon.

- "**Orion**" is NASA's first spacecraft designed to carry humans on long-duration deep space exploration missions. Orion will take humans to interplanetary destinations beyond low Earth orbit and return them safely back home. For instance, a round-trip to Mars via Orion will take two-and-a-half years as compared to the Apollo trips to the moon, which took 12 days.
- "**Olympus**," an inflatable transportation habitat, is an early concept 45- or 50-foot diameter module that would 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 undergoing ground testing.
- The **Space Launch System**, or "**SLS**," is the giant rocket that will carry both of the previously mentioned spacecraft 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 will generate over nine 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 in the movie is in the first one-third of the movie and describes how the Shuttle took many of the big steps that helped us understand how to live and operate in space. In fact, it's the lessons learned during those many steps that have enabled the future missions covered in the movie.

The movie also gives a strong overview of 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 is operating 24/7 providing a true home and science lab in space like no other. ISS crews' tours of duty have averaged six months, and NASA will begin one-year duration 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.

Overall, *Journey To Space* provides a timely review of how NASA has been transitioning 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 as a species.

After viewing *Journey To Space*, Kentucky Science Center's Executive Director, Jo Haas, firmly believes that audience members will gain excitement about America's future in space, and be much more knowledgeable about how those plans are coming to fruition.

The movie will premiere at Kentucky Science Center in front of an audience of over 80 students from the Challenger Learning Center at the Academy at Shawnee on the Science Center's 4-Story Digital Screen this coming Friday, April 3 at 9:45 A.M.. Representatives from the Challenger Learning Center will be present for the premiere to emphasize the importance of STEM learning and space travel as a form of innovation for the future.

Tickets can be purchased for the premiere and other showings on the Science Center's website at KYScienceCenter.org/movies/.

About K2 Movies – Recognized as leaders in Giant Screen documentary cinema, K2 Movies, 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 movies in its library for non-theatrical distribution, plus more than 25 movies 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 Movies

Since 1997, Giant Screen Movies (GSF) has established itself as a pioneer in the large-format industry, producing and distributing movies 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 movie'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.gsmovies.com.

About Kentucky Science Center (KYScienceCenter.org)

Kentucky Science Center is a nonprofit educational institution that encourages people of all ages to do science in engaging, educational and entertaining ways to inspire a lifetime of learning.

Designated the "State Science Center of Kentucky" by the 2002 Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky Science Center features interactive exhibits and engaging programs for children, families and adults. Kentucky Science Center is committed to growing a scientifically literate community that investigates, questions, and challenges.

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