

# ADLER PLANETARIUM

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## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY** *Fact Sheet*

Media Event: **Thursday, March 5, 2009, 9:30 a.m. at the Adler Planetarium**

Public Opening: Friday, March 6, 2009

Description: In 1609, Galileo was the first person to use a telescope to observe objects in the sky signaling a new era of exploration. In honor of the 400th anniversary of this historic event, the Adler will celebrate the *International Year of Astronomy* (IYA) in 2009 with two new shows, **3-D Universe: A Symphony**, an immersive musical journey through the Universe and **IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System**, a scientific exploration of NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission and spacecraft. Also in celebration of the *International Year of Astronomy*, the Adler will unveil the most comprehensive telescope exhibition of its kind, **Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass**, opening May 22, 2009.

Throughout 2009, the Adler will also offer public observing events and programming that will 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.

Key Opening Dates: **3-D Universe: A Symphony** – Opens March 6  
**IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System** – Opens March 6  
**Telescopes: Through the Looking Glass** – Opens May 22

Location: Adler Planetarium  
1300 South Lake Shore Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60605  
[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)  
(312) 922-STAR  
(312) 542-2424 Public Relations (*not for publication*)

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: The Adler Planetarium – America’s First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. Following its 75<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org).

**International Year of Astronomy Important Dates**

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

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November 19	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Lunar Landing (Apollo 12)
November 30	Galileo begins observing the Moon with his telescope
November 30	Galileo begins observing the Moon with his telescope (1609)
December 21	Winter Solstice

**Adler events are bolded.**

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