

ADLER PLANETARIUM

Contact: Sarah Beck
312.542.2424
sbeck@adlerplanetarium.org

COSMIC COLLISIONS—SPECTACULAR NEW SPACE SHOW— PREMIERES JUNE 6, 2008, AT THE ADLER PLANETARIUM

***Narrated by Academy Award Winner Robert Redford and Featuring
Data and Simulations by NASA, Astrophysicists and Scientists
From Around the World***

The Adler Planetarium announces the premiere of a spectacular new space show, ***Cosmic Collisions***, Friday, June 6, 2008. Narrated by award-winning actor, director and producer Robert Redford, *Cosmic Collisions* features stunning images from space and breathtaking visualizations based on cutting-edge scientific data—many seen for the first time. The dazzling new ***Cosmic Collisions*** reveals the **explosive encounters that shaped our solar system, changed the course of life on Earth and continue to transform our galaxy and universe.**

An engrossing, immersive theater experience created by the American Museum of Natural History in New York with the cooperation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and more than 25 leading scientists from the United States and abroad, ***Cosmic Collisions*** launches visitors on an awe-inspiring trip through space and time—well beyond the calm face of the night sky—to explore the hypersonic impacts that drive the continuing evolution of the Universe. This new space show focuses on the full range of collisions, from **catastrophic planetary impacts and the merging of massive galaxies to the continual explosions occurring in the center of the Sun** and the incessant barrage of small ionized particles in the solar wind ricocheting off Earth's magnetic field creating other-worldly conditions called "space weather."

"The Adler Planetarium is pleased to present ***Cosmic Collisions***," said Paul H. Knappenberger Jr., PhD, president of the Adler Planetarium. "***Cosmic Collisions*** provides visitors with an up close look at the explosive impacts that have shaped our planet and the dynamic forces that continue to shape our Universe."

-more

Cosmic Collisions is narrated by one of Hollywood's most popular box office stars, Robert Redford. Redford founded the nonprofit Sundance Institute in 1981 and is an active promoter and supporter of independent filmmakers in the United States. The Sundance Film Festival has become one of the world's premier venues for new independent films. Redford has starred in more than 30 films, including *The Sting*, *The Way We Were*, *All the President's Men* and *The Natural*. In 1980, he won the Academy Award for Best Director for *Ordinary People*. He has since directed *A River Runs through It*, *Quiz Show*, *Lions for Lambs* and others.

Cosmic Collisions will be presented daily. Show times are 10:45 am, 12:15 pm, 1:45 pm and 4 pm. The ***Galaxy Package*** includes the ***Cosmic Collisions*** show, general admission and an audio tour; \$19 (adults); \$17 (adult–Chicago residents); \$15 (children); \$14 (children–Chicago residents); \$17 (seniors); \$15 (senior–Chicago residents); Children ages 3 and under admitted free. Visit www.adlerplanetarium.org or call (312) 922-STAR for details.

Cosmic Collisions was developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science; GOTO, Inc., Tokyo, Japan; and the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, China. ***Cosmic Collisions*** was created by the American Museum of Natural History with the major support and partnership of the Heliophysics Division of NASA's Science Mission Directorate and was made possible with the generous support of CIT.

Location and Travel Information

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive on Chicago's beautiful Museum Campus. Exit Lake Shore Drive at 18th Street, continue north on Museum Campus Drive. Then veer right on Solidarity Drive. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Adler. Parking lot only accepts cash. Check www.soldierfieldparking.com for information about large Museum Campus events that may impact parking availability. Parking meters are available along Solidarity Drive on a first-come, first-served basis. The Adler is serviced daily by CTA #146 and #12 buses. Metra Electric and South Shore trains stop at nearby Roosevelt Road station. CTA Red, Green and Orange lines are a mile walk from the Museum Campus.

About the Adler Planetarium

The Adler Planetarium – America’s First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. Following its 75th anniversary, the Adler has begun a transformation into the world’s premiere 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.

#