



Celebrating  
100 Years  
of Telling  
Pennsylvania's  
Stories

**STATE MUSEUM PLANETARIUM PRESENTS SPECTACULAR SPACE SHOW  
*PASSPORT TO THE UNIVERSE***

**For Immediate Release:**  
December 5, 2005

**Contact:** Howard M. Pollman  
Marketing Director  
PHMC  
717.705.8639  
hpollman@state.pa.us

**Harrisburg, PA** – Beginning Saturday, January 7, 2006, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, presents *Passport to the Universe*, narrated by two-time Academy Award winner Tom Hanks. *Passport to the Universe* was the inaugural program at the Hayden Planetarium in the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. *Passport to the Universe* will run through March 26.

The breathtaking *Passport to the Universe* reveals the wonders of our universe in a way never before possible in The State Museum's planetarium. No longer dependent on a single, multi-lens projector, the presentation delivers accurate computer graphic visualizations that treat audiences to realistic close-up views of star fields and planets. It takes them on an exhilarating flight through a virtual map of our universe, from our solar system to the Orion Nebula, onward out of our galaxy, and deep into intergalactic space. After reaching the edges of our observable universe, the tour takes a "space-time shortcut" back to Earth – in a free fall, headlong through a black hole.

Upon reaching the Orion Nebula in *Passport to the Universe*, Hanks urges the audience to take a deep breath: "Really," he says. "Everybody, do it. Every atom of oxygen you just inhaled was made deep inside a star. The carbon in our muscles, the calcium in our bones, the iron in our blood—in fact, all the heavy elements—were cooked in the hearts of stars. Carl Sagan said, 'We are starstuff.'"

"As advances in science and technology have helped us to explore and understand the farthest reaches of the universe, these advances also make it easier to share these mysteries of the universe with the public through new technology such as our Sci-dome digital planetarium," said Anita Blackaby, Director of the State Museum.

## MORE ##

**THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

300 North Street • Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024 • (717)787-4980 • Fax: (717)783-4558 • [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org)

Administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

*Passport to the Universe* is co-authored by Ann Druyan, writer/producer and Carl Sagan's long-time collaborator, and American Museum of Natural History astrophysicists Steven Soter. The show is produced by Batwin and Robin, and the composer is Stephen Endelman. The National Center for Supercomputing Applications and the San Diego Supercomputer Center contributed significant computing and visualization support.

The State Museum will offer public presentations of *Passport to the Universe* at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and on Sundays at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults, \$3.00 for children 12 and under and Senior Citizens. Members of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society® receive a discounted rate of \$2.50. Members should present their membership cards at the front desk to receive the discount.

Planetarium tickets are sold at the Ground Floor Information Desk the day of the show. Reserved show tickets are available at a reduced rate for groups of 15 or more with advance arrangements. Please call (717) 772-6997 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for more information and group reservations.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is one of 25 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History® administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. General admission is FREE. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For more information on *Passport to the Universe* and other programs, exhibitions and events at The State Museum, click on [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org).

###