

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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**The Planetarium at the State Museum of Pennsylvania
Presents *Vacation on Altair* and *SETI* beginning June 6**

Harrisburg, PA – The State Museum of Pennsylvania presents two new planetarium shows for the summer of 2009. Younger viewers from Pre-K to 1st grade will enjoy *Vacation on Altair*, an animated story about a firefly and a moth who have always disagreed about the nature of the starry night sky. They decide to settle their argument once and for all by blasting off in a space ship to research the stars. They will learn that the stars and planets are very different types of objects, even though they look the same to the naked eye. Several other differences between the two also become apparent: their size and how far away from us they are; the fact that stars give off their own light while planets can only reflect the light of the sun; and lastly, that planets orbit around the sun.

Also offered for general audiences is *SETI: Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence*. This show asks the questions: “Are we alone in the Universe?” “Will we make contact in our lifetimes?” *SETI* explores all sides of these questions, from the planets we are finding around other stars, to the feasibility of traveling to the stars and what aliens might actually be like, to the possibility that UFOs have been visiting and the various methods that scientists are using to get in touch. This stunning show guides you through the myriad of ideas to a surprising conclusion.

Public presentations of Vacation on Altair and SETI are offered:

WEEKENDS - June 6 to August 30, 2009

Saturdays

11:00 a.m. - Vacation on Altair

12:00 noon - SETI

1:00 p.m. - Vacation on Altair

2:00 p.m. - SETI

Sundays

1:00 p.m. - Vacation on Altair

2:00p.m. - SETI

WEEKDAYS (Tuesday through Friday) - June 23 through August 14, 2009

11:00 a.m. - Vacation on Altair

12:00 noon - SETI

A visit to the Planetarium at the State Museum of Pennsylvania includes the 25 minute feature presentation as well as a 5 minute preview of the constellations and other objects visible in our current night sky. Please allow 10 minutes extra time for entering and exiting from the venue once you have arrived at the Planetarium.

During June, Admission to the planetarium is \$3.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children (12 and under) and seniors (60+). Pennsylvania Heritage Society members receive a discounted admission rate of \$2.00. Beginning July 1, admission will be \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (12 and under) and seniors (60+). Pennsylvania Heritage Society members receive a discounted admission rate of \$3.00. All pricing included general admission to the Museum. Group rates are available, call (717)772-6997.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, is one of 25 historic

