

NEWS RELEASE**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Howard M. Pollman
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March 12-13, 2005**

Harrisburg, PA - The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, Harrisburg, will offer FREE previews of the new Sci Dome digital system on March 12 and 13 as part of Heritage Days 2005. Heritage Days, which runs from March 11-14, is an annual event presented by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) that celebrates Pennsylvania's 324th birthday with various special events, programs and lectures. In addition to the traditional star shows museum visitors have come to enjoy, the Planetarium now features Fulldome Video, commercial movies projected on the 360-degree ceiling.

The Planetarium will feature two different shows during the preview weekend: Oasis in Space and Legends of the Night Sky: Orion. Oasis in Space, is a startling and beautiful journey through our Solar System and beyond in search of water and water worlds like Earth. Legends of the Night Sky: Orion, geared toward a younger audience, is a fully animated cartoon that takes a lighthearted look at the myths and stories associated with the constellation Orion, the great hunter of the winter sky. Both features are 24 minutes long.

The FREE previews are scheduled on a first come first serve basis as follows:

- Saturday, March 12 will feature Oasis in Space shows all day at 10 and 11 a.m., 12, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.
- Sunday, March 13, will features Legends of the Night Sky: Orion shows at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

Please obtain your free ticket at the Ground Floor Information Desk on the day of the show. Tickets will be collected outside the Planetarium on the third floor.

Subsequent shows are available to the public every Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under and Senior Citizens; \$2.50 for PA Heritage Society members. Tickets are sold at the Information Desk the day of the show.

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Weekday shows are again available for groups of 15 or more by advance reservations. Teachers or group leaders may call 717-772-6997 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for group reservations.

For detailed information on Planetarium shows and other museum programs visit our website: www.statemuseumpa.org

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is one of 26 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For general information, phone (717) 787-4980 or visit www.statemuseumpa.org.

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