

# *ETSU DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY*

## **FREE PLANETARIUM SHOWS**

The ETSU planetarium is located on the top floor of Hutcheson Hall (198 S. Dossett Dr) in room 207. Enter Hutcheson Hall at the East end of the building where the elevator is located. Visitors may park without permits during the evening hours in either student or faculty parking lots on campus. Planetarium Seating is Limited to 50 persons on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact:

Dr. Gary Henson at [hensong@etsu.edu](mailto:hensong@etsu.edu) or at (423)439-6906

**September 15, 2016**

**“FireFall”**

(A full dome video program {see below} with two showings, at 7:00pm and 8:00pm for this night)

**October 20, 2016**

***Starts @ 7:00pm***

**“Storytelling in the Stars”**

(The Mythology behind the Constellations)

**November 17, 2016**

***Starts @ 7:00pm***

**“What is a Star Anyway?”**

(Explains the origin and life cycle of the stars in our galaxy)

**December 1, 2016**

**“A Part of the Sky Called Orion”**

(A new full dome video program {see below} with two showings, at 7:00pm and 8:00pm for this night)

**December 15, 2016**

**“From Earth to the Universe”**

(A new full dome video program {see below} with two showings, at 7:00pm and 8:00pm for this night)

**January 19, 2017**

***Starts @ 7:00pm***

**“Black Holes and the Center of the Milky Way”**

(What strange object lies at the center of our Galaxy?)

**February 16, 2017**

**“FireFall”**

(Full Dome video program with two showings, at 7:00 and 8:00 for this night)

**March 16, 2017**

***Starts @ 7:00pm***

**“The Origin of Time”**

(What causes the seasons and how do we tell time?)

**April 20, 2017**

**“Totality: All about Eclipses of the Sun and Moon”**

(Full Dome video program {see below} with two showings, at 7:00pm and 8:00pm for this night)

**May 4, 2017**

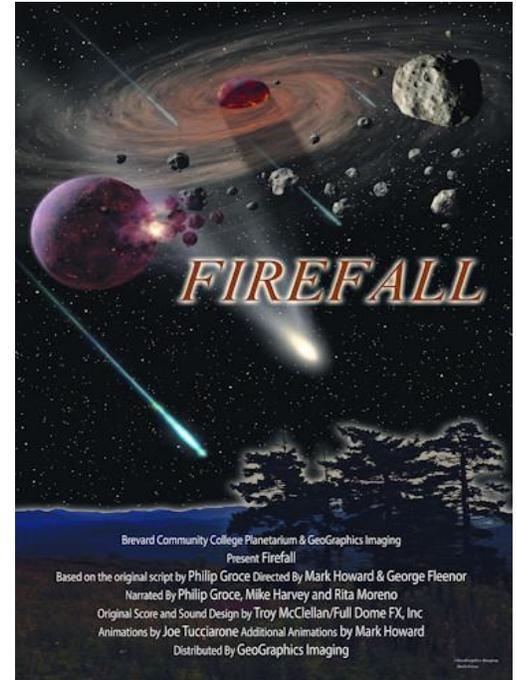
**“Exoplanets: Worlds of Wonder”**

(Full Dome video program {see below} with two showings, at 7:00pm and 8:00pm for this night)

## **New 30 Minute Full Dome Video Show Descriptions:**

### **“FireFall”: The Story of Comets, Meteors, and Asteroids** [Suitable for Ages 9 to Adult]

Throughout Earth’s violent history, impacts from comets and asteroids have mercilessly shaped its surface. The ancient barrage continues today; from harmless meteors – those brilliant streaks in the night sky, to mountain sized boulders wandering perilously close to Earth. Terrifying and majestic, these invaders from space are capable of utter destruction yet they have delivered life-giving water and most of the organic materials necessary for life. Life on Earth owes its very existence to these denizens of the solar system, yet it could all be wiped out in an instant. This ceaseless Firefall is our only tangible connection to the universe beyond and is an ever-present reminder of our own humble beginnings in the hostile environment of space.



### **“A Part of the Sky Called Orion”** [Suitable for All Ages]

A fantastic sky lore program covering the Greek, Egyptian, and Inupiaq cultures. We learn how each of these rich cultures viewed the same stars, but had different stories and images. Told in first-person in the context of the teller’s life, we experience their ancient star lore and imagery. This program is not only great for the general public, but is an incredible elementary school experience. This show is best for 2nd grade and above, but even younger ones will enjoy the storytelling imagery and theme. This is storytelling at its best. A wonderful blend of imagery, music, and word; it’s a treat for all.



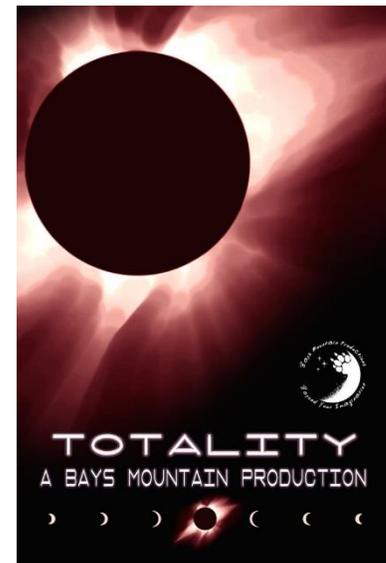
**“From Earth to the Universe”** [Suitable for All Ages]

The night sky, both beautiful and mysterious, has been the subject of campfire stories, ancient myths and awe for as long as there have been people. A desire to comprehend the Universe may well be humanity’s oldest shared intellectual experience, yet only recently have we truly begun to grasp our place in the vast cosmos. Come learn about this journey of celestial discovery, from the theories of the ancient Greek astronomers to today’s grandest telescopes.



**“Totality”** [Suitable for All Ages]

This program is all about eclipses – from lunar to total solar. We cover how they occur and what happens when they do. We look back to the proof of general relativity and look forward to upcoming eclipses and where to witness them. A very special part of the show relates, in a very human way, what happens when you are caught in the shadow of the Moon and the Sun is plunged into a total solar eclipse.



**“Exoplanets: Worlds of Wonder”** [Suitable for All Ages]

Join mankind’s first space probe as it journeys outside our solar system to the many new worlds astronomers are discovering beyond. Visit gas giants caught in a deadly dance with their host stars, frozen rogue planets hurling through space, molten rocky worlds now known to science and new planets drifting comfortably within the Goldilocks Zone, the area around a star where Earth-like worlds may exist.

