Communicating Science through Art & Technology

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Adler Planetarium
The Adler Planetarium

Chicago, IL
Video Suites

- Chicago Sinfonietta
- Audio-Visual Connection
- Not science documentaries
- Art & Science: inspiration > motivation > education
Gustav Holst’s The Planets
Premiered on 14 May 2006
Astronomical Pictures at an Exhibition
Premiered on 11 May 2008
Scientific Accuracy and Artistic License

- Science — not SciFi
- Captions are kept to a minimum
- Some transitions added for cinematic impact but are not meant to be taken literally
- Pre- and post-concert Q&A sessions can address some of these issues.
Reactions

- The images were so captivating that the music became distinctly secondary. — Chicago Sun Times

- The images themselves were so powerful, that few in the audience could not have been deeply moved by what they saw and heard.

- I wish you could [see] the spectators’ quiet expressions of amazement while they witnessed [the work].
2008-09 Planets and Pictures Tour

- 05/08 — Chicago, IL
- 08/08 — Millennium Park
- 10/08 — Wheaton, IL
- 12/08 — Orange County
- 01/09 — IYA2009, Paris
- 01/09 — IAU Sym 260, Paris
- 02/09 — Madrid, ES
- 03/09 — Delaware, OH
- 05/09 — Bay Area, CA
- 06/09 — Valencia, ES
- 07/09 — Prague, ES
- 11/09 — Victoria, CAN
Clips available at http://svl.adlerplanetarium.org/videosuites/
Tone, Tempo, and Visuals

A reinforcement — not a competition
Critical Points

Synchronization for a better experience
Current Photographic Techniques

Science through Photographs

Photos available at http://josefrancisco.org/
Infrared Photography
High Dynamic Range Imaging
Nocturnal High Dynamic Range Imaging
Time-lapse photography
Fisheye photography
Time-lapse
fisheye photography
Time-lapse fisheye photography
Time-lapse stereoscopic photography
Astronomy Inspired Artwork

...to create visually appealing images that provoke curiosity and a sense of wonder about the Earth and the Universe.