



## Chabot Space & Science Center Rings in the Holidays with Saturn

### — Expanded Holiday Hours & Programs for Space Explorers of All Ages —

2 December 2003 — OAKLAND, CA: Nearly twice as large as Mars appeared last summer, this winter Saturn will be brighter and closer to Earth than it has been in over 30 years. This rare display inspires special holiday programs at Chabot Space & Science Center in the Oakland Hills. Chabot begins the month with Saturn Symphonies and Storytelling for children, sponsored by Mervyn's; celebrates the Winter Solstice on December 21<sup>st</sup> with a *Saturn Claus Kids Party*; invites adults to don their party duds for a Saturnalia Party on December 30<sup>th</sup>; and marks the start of 2004 with its 4<sup>th</sup> annual balloon drop in the lobby rotunda at the stroke of midnight Greenwich Mean Time (4 pm PST) on New Year's Eve. During the month, the Center also features the planetarium show, *Ring World* and will be viewing Saturn through the telescopes on Friday and Saturday evenings (weather permitting). For information on these and other programs call (510) 336-7300, or visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org).

\* \* \*

### RINGS OF SATURN PUT ON HOLIDAY SHOW

The main attraction in the winter skies this year is a spectacular display of the planet Saturn, one of the splendors of the night sky. This year, the planet's tilt reveals Saturn's rings at their most open position when viewed from Earth, a rare occurrence that will not happen again for another 30 years. Saturn viewing at Chabot begins early December, and will continue through the end of February 2004.

Saturn programs at Chabot include:

- **Ask Jeeves Planetarium** — *Ring World*, a West Coast Premiere, focuses on the planet Saturn, which has long fascinated all who have looked through a telescope to see its beautiful rings. *Ring World* explores the wonders of the ringed planet and highlights the Cassini-Huygens mission due to arrive at Saturn in the summer of 2004.
- **Mervyn's Saturn Symphony** — A musical foot-stomping, hand-clapping interlude for kids ages 12 and in the Ask Jeeves Planetarium. December 6 & 7 and December 13; 2 pm. FREE with General Admission.
- **Mervyn's Saturn Storytelling** — Space related stories for the younger crowd, ages 7 and under. December 13 & 14 and 20 & 21; 2pm. FREE with General Admission.
- **Saturn Claus Kids Party** — Take a break from holiday shopping and celebrate the Winter Solstice at Chabot. See a planetarium show, make a space-related holiday ornament, visit our special outer space visitor, Saturn Claus. View Saturn through our telescopes (weather permitting.) December 21; 6 – 9 pm. \$11 Adult / \$8 Youth & Seniors; Chabot Members \$8 Adult / \$5 Youth & Senior
- **Saturnalia Party** — Come in costume or your New Year's party duds and revel in the rings of Saturn. Make merry, see the *Ring World* planetarium show, enjoy the exhibits, and toast the true Lord of the Rings. Telescopes open (weather permitting.) December 30, 7 – 10 pm; \$11 Adult / \$8 Youth & Seniors; Chabot Members \$8 Adult / \$5 Youth & Senior

\* \* \*

### NEW YEAR'S EVE BALLOON DROP

Wednesday, December 31, 4 pm (Countdown begins at 3:45 pm) FREE with General Admission.

Mark the dawn of the actual New Year 2004 at midnight Greenwich time (4 pm PST) with musical fanfare and a balloon drop from the second floor of the Rotunda. In what has become an annual Chabot event, the countdown takes place to the thundering drama of Richard Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra*. Time zones begin at Greenwich, England — with 0 meridian of longitude — and proceed westward, with Oakland 8 hours "behind" the start of the true astronomical day.

\* \* \*

### **SPECIAL FILMS**

***Cosmic Voyage***—A breathtaking journey through time and space! Zoom from the surface of the Earth to the largest observable structures of the Universe, and back down to the sub-nuclear realm—a guided tour across some 42 orders of magnitude! Explore some of the greatest scientific theories, many of which have never before been visualized on film. *Cosmic Voyage* was nominated for an Academy Award® in the Best Documentary Short Subject Category.

**Indiana Jones Film Festival**—Share the adventures of Indiana Jones with your kids (or see it again just for yourself.) Who can forget the rolling rock, the snakes, the chase through the mines and the monkey brains? Friday & Saturday evenings, 7:30 pm; Tickets: \$5 or buy the whole series for \$12.00

***Raiders of the Lost Ark*** (PG, 1981)  
December 19 & 20

***Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom*** (PG, 1984)  
December 26 & 27

***Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*** (PG, 1989)  
January 2 & 3

\* \* \*

### **CHABOT HOLIDAY HOURS, December 22, 2003 — January 4, 2004**

Monday	December 22	10 am - 5 pm
Tuesday	December 23	10 am - 5 pm
Wednesday	December 24	10 am - 3 pm
Thursday	December 25	CLOSED
Friday	December 26	10 am - 10 pm
Saturday	December 27	10 am - 10 pm
Sunday	December 28	12 noon - 5 pm
Monday-Thursday	December 29-January 1	10 am - 5 pm
Friday	January 2	10 am - 10 pm
Saturday	January 3	10 am - 10 pm
Sunday	January 4	12 noon - 5 pm

Closed Christmas Day, December 25

Open New Year's Day, January 1, 10 am - 5 pm

\* \* \*

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Chabot Space & Science Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Public hours: Friday, 5 pm–10 pm; Saturday, 10 am–10 pm; Sunday, 12 noon–5 pm (**see also Special Holiday Hours, above**). General admission, including free parking and a Planetarium show, is \$11.00 for adults, \$8.00 youth and seniors. Children under 3 are admitted free. Students with ID receive a \$1.00 discount. Shows in the MegaDome Theater are \$6.00 adult, and \$5.00 youth and seniors. Telescopes are open for Free Public Viewing Fridays & Saturdays from dusk – 10 pm, weather permitting. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.

**For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)**

# # #