



Dec 2005

A close encounter of the scientific kind at the Science Museum's new blockbuster exhibition *The Science of Aliens*

The Science Of Aliens - the biggest and most in-depth exhibition to examine the possibility of life on other worlds - opened at the Science Museum on Saturday 15th October.

A ticket to the exhibition was named by a national newspaper as one of the top 100 'must haves' for Christmas 2005.

The exhibition, designed to appeal to adults and children alike, will be at the Science Museum until the end of February 2006, when it starts an international tour.

The Science of Aliens blends our eternal fascination with life on other planets with the work of leading scientists who used the latest discoveries and scientific principles to imagine alien worlds and creatures, exploring the very real possibilities for alien life. Cutting edge hands-on displays will give visitors the chance to actually interact with these scientifically based creatures.

The exhibition is divided into four distinct zones:

1. ***Alien Fiction*** explores the fascination with alien life through recent history, looking at aliens in films, television and literature - from *The Blob* to *ET* to *The Predator*. Visitors will discover how these aliens are modern expressions of deeper themes that have fascinated generations through fairytales and myths since the beginning of time. Visitors will be greeted by the imposing Alien Queen from the critically acclaimed *Aliens* movie and a host of other science fiction alien creatures including *The Vogons* and a family of *Clangers*
2. ***Alien Science*** investigates some of the real but extremely weird, creatures that thrive here on Earth, before embarking on a journey around our solar system and into deep space in search of the home of alien life. Visitors will be able to investigate frightening specimens from Earth's deepest oceans, explore the amazing evolution of life on Earth and find out how this helps scientists understand the possibilities for alien life. Massive globes and an interactive galaxy map explore the latest planetary science.
3. ***Alien Worlds*** features two planets created by leading scientists from around the world for a new Channel 4 TV documentary. The experts used the science in zone 2 to imagine the kind of life that could evolve on two fictional, but scientifically credible worlds - *Aurelia* and *Blue Moon*. Giant interactive landscapes enable visitors to interact with the creatures, learn more about them and influence their behaviour, making them hide, hunt and move around their planets, before triggering world-altering global events. This will be the first time these cutting edge interactives will be seen in the UK.
4. ***Alien Communications*** looks at the search for alien intelligence, showing how scientists are listening for signals from outer space and how they have attempted to communicate with alien civilisations. Visitors will be able to listen to space and to compose a message to an alien - scientific or spiritual, welcome or warning.

To coincide with the launch of *The Science Of Aliens*:

- A series of free events for adults at the Science Museum's Dana Centre ran until November, ranging from debates to comedy nights. Leading scientists and authors looked at life beyond Earth, how aliens might evolve, UFO sightings and ways of contacting aliens, plus the Dana Centre's resident comedy troupe presented a rip-roaring ride through star systems, crop circles and the world of UFOs
- A series of events at the Science Museum for all ages, including family science shows, drama performances and special alien science night sleepovers where children will actually sleep in the Museum
- A children's book, *Aliens: Are We Alone?* discussing the main themes of the exhibition in an illustrated format. Published by Macmillan Children's Books, for ages 7 and up
- *The Science of Aliens*, by popular science writer Jack Challoner – a lavishly illustrated book, produced for adults as an in-depth exploration into the fact and fiction behind the science of aliens. Published by Prestel
- A two-part Channel 4 TV programme, *Alien Worlds* featured the scientifically created aliens from Aurelia and Blue Moon which are featured in the exhibition
- The DVD release of the Channel 4 programme, in conjunction with the exhibition.

Jon Tucker, Head of the Science Museum said, "This exhibition is a unique look at a question which has fascinated and terrified people since the beginning of time: 'Are we alone in the universe?' Using the latest research and cutting-edge technology as a foundation, we will be asking people to think about what life elsewhere in the universe could be like. I'm sure that this exhibition will appeal both to adults and children, challenging their preconceptions and inspiring them to delve further into the science of life beyond Earth."

"*The Science of Aliens* will be out of this world," said Sara Milne, CEO of Science & Media LLP, the new company behind the development of the exhibition. "A world-class creative team of designers, writers and producers have come together to create this exhibition which will present the most up to date research from scientists from around the world. Visitors to the exhibition will enjoy a uniquely entertaining and educational experience in a stunning and contemporary environment. This exhibition will be truly ground breaking and enables the Science Museum to do what it does best – bring science to life."

The exhibition is the first in a series that will tackle major scientific subjects planned by new touring exhibitions company, Science & Media LLP. *The Science of Crime* and *The Science of Speed* will follow. The exhibitions will debut at the Science Museum and then tour.

The Science of Aliens runs 15 October 2005 – 26 February 2006. Tickets can be pre-booked now at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/aliens or by calling 0870 906 3890. Information about the exhibition is also available by texting GO ALIENS to 85080.

Prices: Adult £8.95 / Concession £6.25 / Education £4.00 per child
Family 2+2 £26.00 / Family 1+2 £18.50. Group concessions available.

Further information and images from:

Juliet Rees 020 7942 4377 juliet.rees@scienceof.com 07944 335 796

Editor's notes:

The Science of Aliens is the very first exhibition born of a new partnership between Fleming Media and the world-renowned Science Museum, London to form Science & Media LLP. Under the name '*The Science Of...*' a series of exhibitions will be designed to showcase the latest learning from the world of science through immersive and interactive experiences which will tour the world.

Dana Centre events began on 11th October, are free and open to anybody over the age of 18, but places should be pre-booked by calling 020 7942 4040 or e-mailing tickets@danacentre.org.uk or visit www.danacentre.org.uk for more details. Press Information on Dana events from Lauren Gildersleve 020 7942 4328; lauren.gildersleve@nmsi.ac.uk

The Exhibition is produced in association with Channel 4's *Alien Worlds*, a Big Wave production. It was broadcast on Channel 4 in two parts

Alien Worlds (cert. PG) was released on DVD (£19.99) by **4DVD** on **3rd October 2005**. Special features include an in-depth and insightful documentary 'The Making Of Alien Worlds', Trailer plus DVD Rom content featuring fully interactive planet and alien profiles with cgi animation.