



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fewer Than 20 Days Left to Visit the Planetarium Before It Closes to the General Public

Montréal, September 21, 2011 — The Montréal Planetarium, located on rue Saint-Jacques, will be closing on October 11 to allow the current team to plan and produce the programming for the new Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium, which is slated to open in spring 2013. So families and astronomy buffs still have a few days left to visit this Space for Life, which presents the starry sky this month and multimedia shows for all ages.

For the past 45 years, the Montréal Planetarium has been explaining and making the fascinating universe of astronomy and space exploration accessible to everyone. A number of its finest astronomy shows have marked important phases in our lives, in fact. To name just a few of them, there was *New Skies for a New City*, its inaugural show, *Destination Moon*, presented just a few months before Neil Armstrong took his famous steps in 1969, and, more recently, *Galileo Live*, a show produced in conjunction with the International Year of Astronomy, in 2009.

Built in 1966, the Montréal Planetarium was the very first large planetarium in Canada. The building houses the Star Theatre, with seating for 385 in seats that recline 23 degrees, and a Zeiss star projector. This optical and mechanical instrument, resembling a giant 2.5 tonne insect, was the most modern of its kind anywhere in the world when it was first installed. It crouches at the centre of the theatre, with 150 fixed and moveable projectors. Despite its age, it still makes it possible to accurately recreate the starry sky at any time – past, present or future – from any point on the Earth's surface.

Media contacts

Nadine Fortin, Communications
Co-ordinator
Space for Life
514 868-3053 / 514 250-7753
nadine.fortin@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Karine Jalbert, Communications
Co-ordinator
Space for Life
514 872-1453 / 514 250-3230
karinejalbert@ville.montreal.qc.ca

Now playing

It's your last chance to see these shows!
Times: www.espacepourelavie.ca

An Odyssey with Akvo (ages 4 to 7)

An interactive show with lots of audience participation, with songs and games, looking at how precious water is to us in its various forms (liquid, solid and gas).

The Quest for Galactium (ages 7 and up)

A fantastic and futuristic adventure exploring our Galaxy, the Milky Way, and its countless treasures.

Fragments of the Solar System (ages 9 and up)

A fabulous voyage through the elements of our solar system.

The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The Space for Life is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.