

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FILM PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Envisioning 2001: Stanley Kubrick's Space Odyssey*, on view January 18–July 19, 2020.

SCREENING SERIES

Science on Screen: Outer Space Speculators

ONGOING MONTHLY PROGRAMS THROUGH JULY 2020

Much as Stanley Kubrick sought advice from artificial intelligence pioneer Marvin Minsky on how to conceptualize the intelligent learning machine that ended up as HAL 9000, so have directors from Fritz Lang to Claire Denis consulted with scientists about what the future of space might look like. *Outer Space Speculators* presents feature films from as early as 1925 that have offered speculative visions of outer space grounded in scientific research of their time. Each screening will be introduced by a scientific researcher speaking about enduring topics—from searching for new worlds to extracting resources in space—explored by these films.

Organized by Sonia Epstein, Associate Curator of Science and Film

Science on Screen is an initiative of the Coolidge Corner Theatre, with major support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Contact

Introduced by astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, Director of the Carl Sagan Institute

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Robert Zemeckis. 1997, 150 mins. With Jodie Foster, Matthew McConaughey, David Morse. Carl Sagan, renowned astronomer and star of the 1980s television series *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage*, wrote the story that inspired this beloved science fiction film. Jodie Foster stars as radio astronomer Dr. Ellie Arroway who scans outer space for signals from intelligent life. When a transmission arrives, it destabilizes Ellie's personal, as well as ethical, religious, and political convictions. Sagan based Ellie Arroway's character on Jill Tarter, the long-time director of the SETI Institute which searches for extraterrestrial life. "[*Contact*] tells the smartest and most absorbing story about extraterrestrial intelligence since *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*."—Roger Ebert, *The Chicago Sun-Times*. Before the screening, astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, Director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell University, will speak about her research exploring new worlds.

Lisa Kaltenegger is the Director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell and Associate Professor in Astronomy. Her research focuses on exploring new worlds orbiting other stars and searching for signs of life. She is an international expert in modeling potential

habitable worlds. Among her awards are the Invited Discourse lecture at the IAU General Assembly in Hawaii, the Heinz Meier Leibnitz Prize for Physics of Germany, the Doppler Prize for Innovation in Science of Austria, and the Barry-Jones Inauguration Award of the Royal Astrobiology Society and Open University in Britain. Her accolades include being named one of America's Young Innovators by *Smithsonian Magazine*, an Innovator to Watch by *TIME Magazine*, and being selected as one of the European Commission's Role Models for Women in Science and Research. Asteroid 7734 Kaltenegger is named after her.

Woman in the Moon

Introduced by data scientist and astronomer Jana Grcevich

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Fritz Lang. 1929, 190 mins. With Willy Fritsch, Gerda Maurus, Klaus Pohl. Director Fritz Lang's last silent film, *Woman in the Moon* is also one of the earliest films to engage scientists in its making. Physicist and engineer Hermann von Oberth, considered a founder of rocketry, served as technical advisor and designed the model for the film's spaceship. Based on a novel of the same name by Lang's wife and frequent collaborator Thea von Harbou, *Woman in the Moon* is an epic space adventure that follows the entanglements of a group intent on journeying to the moon in search of gold. The film features arresting sets of the lunar surface and special effects by abstract film pioneer Oskar Fischinger, helping to inaugurate the tradition of experimental filmmakers working on commercial films—which continued with films such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and most recently James Gray's *Ad Astra*. Before the screening of *Woman in the Moon*, astronomer and data scientist Jana Grcevich, will speak about how the film's theme of space travel resonates today.

Jana Grcevich is a data scientist and astronomer whose academic work focuses on dwarf galaxies and interstellar gas. She is an adjunct professor in the Cooper Union School of Art and at the American Museum of Natural History, and is the outreach coordinator for Columbia University's Astronomy Department. Dr. Grcevich is co-author of a space-oriented travel guide, *Vacation Guide to the Solar System*, published by Penguin Random House in 2017.

High Life

Introduced by geneticist Christopher Mason

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Claire Denis. 2018, 110 mins. With Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche, André Benjamin, Mia Goth. Visionary French director Claire Denis's English-language debut *High Life* stars Robert Pattinson as a convicted felon who, together with fellow death-row prisoners fitting into roles like doctor (Juliette Binoche) and gardener (André Benjamin), is cast into the void of outer space on a hopeless government mission. Unfolding in a stream of flashbacks, the film gradually reveals how the ship's crew implode under the mental and physical strain of their circumstances. Imbued with a

concentration of time and action rarely achieved in cinema, Denis's film is grounded in the primal and physical: the imprisoning of the body, the regulation of its functions and desires, the formation of relationships of kith and kin between crew members, and the daily routine of living even without hope of escape. Before the screening of *High Life*, geneticist Christopher Mason from Weill Cornell Medicine will speak about his research into how long-term space travel changes the body.

Christopher Mason is Associate Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at Weill Cornell Medicine. His laboratory develops and deploys new biochemical and computational methods in functional genomics to elucidate the genetic basis of human disease and human physiology. Dr. Mason also works with NASA to help establish the molecular foundations and genetic defenses for enabling long-term human spaceflight. He is a contributor to the 500 Year Plan, a long-term survival plan for Earth's inhabitants. Dr. Mason was a principal investigator on The Twins Study which studied differences between astronauts Scott and Mark Kelly, one of whom lived on Earth while the other lived in space for a year. Dr. Mason was named as one of the "Brilliant Ten" Scientists by Popular Science, has received the NIH's Transformative R01 Award, the NASA Group Achievement Award, the Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Research Alliance Young Investigator award, the WorldQuant Foundation Scholar Award, and many more.

Additional programs will be announced as they are confirmed.

Tickets:

Unless noted, tickets (required for each program) are \$15 (\$11 seniors and students / \$9 youth ages 3–17 / free or discounted for Museum members).

Combination exhibition +screening tickets: A combination ticket that includes timed entry access to the exhibition *Envisioning 2001: Stanley Kubrick's Space Odyssey* and a screening are available for \$25 (excludes 70mm screenings; discounted for seniors, students, youth / free or discounted for Museum members). This includes general Museum admission.

Tickets for the exhibition alone are \$20 adults (\$16 seniors and students / \$14 youth ages 3–17 / Free or discounted (\$5) for Museum members). This includes general Museum admission.

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All screenings and events take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, New York, 11106. Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.us.