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Violent Universe: Catastrophes of the Cosmos Debuts at the State Museum on March 28

New planetarium show opening over spring break explores the raw and dangerous power of the cosmos

COLUMBIA, S.C., Tuesday, March 10, 2015— Witness the raw power of the cosmos in the South Carolina State Museum's new full-dome planetarium show, *Violent Universe: Catastrophes of the Cosmos*, debuting Saturday, March 28 in the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium. Guests can spend their spring break exploring the great forces that hold the Universe together and occasionally try to destroy it.

This beautifully crafted show highlights the mysterious forces at work around us and gives the audience a front row seat to watch as worlds collide and stars explode. The show takes guests on a journey to witness some of the powerful processes, both near and far, that continue to shape the cosmos today, including comets, asteroids and meteors hurtling through space, stars collapsing under their own gravity and infernos of nuclear energy releasing their deadly radiation across the Universe.

"Most people perceive our sky as tranquil and peaceful," said planetarium manager Liz Klimek. "In reality, space is quite the opposite and hosts a wide variety of strange objects and dramatic events, some of which have the potential to negatively impact life here on Earth."

Produced by Evans & Sutherland and under the care of Emmy award winning space artist Don Davis, this 25-minute show is a stimulating experience, full of vibrant colors that open the door to a Universe of potential catastrophes. *Violent Universe* is narrated by Patrick Stewart, star of the *X-Men* films and *Star Trek – The Next Generation*. Visit scmuseum.org for show times.

Guests visiting during March and April can take advantage of the State Museum's [Spring Savings Pass](#), which gives access to a planetarium show, a 4D movie, admission to the blockbuster exhibit, *BUGS! Giant Robotic Creatures*, and access to the museum's galleries. The Spring Savings Pass is \$16 per child and \$18 per adult and also includes 10% off in the Crescent Cafe and the Cotton Mill Exchange museum store. This offer is available through April 30, 2015. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state's largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia's Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. Guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.*

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PHOTO OUTLINE

SCSM_Violent Universe: Witness the raw power of the cosmos in the South Carolina State Museum's new full-dome planetarium show, *Violent Universe: Catastrophes of the Cosmos*. Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum