

History of the *Journey of the Universe* film

Journey of the Universe is a project that is more than three decades in the making. It is in the lineage of Thomas Berry's call for a "New Story" that appeared in his article for *Teilhard Studies* in 1978. Berry felt that we needed to bring science and humanities together in an integrated cosmology that would guide humans into the next period of human-Earth relations. Ten years later, "The New Story" was included in Berry's book *Dream of the Earth*. This inspired a ten-year collaboration between the evolutionary cosmologist Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, resulting in *The Universe Story*, which was published in 1992. This is the first book that narrates evolution as a story with a comprehensive vision of the role of humans in the narrative. *Journey of the Universe* is the first time this story is told in film. It also was the result of a decade-long collaboration.

Working with scientists and scholars from the history of religions, Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker wrote the film script and book. They organized several weeklong summer workshops with scientists and humanists at the Whidbey Institute in Washington State to discuss these ideas. After completing the script, they made three trips to the Greek island of Samos to film with the director, David Kennard, who was part of the *Cosmos* series with Carl Sagan. John Grim, a coproducer, was an advisor to the film, along with Thomas Berry.

Patsy Northcutt edited the film in post-production and was assisted by Catherine Butler. In addition to the film, Northcutt produced the 20 part Conversation series of interviews. These included 10 scientists and historians relating the story of evolution as well as 10 environmentalists illustrating how the story inspires the Great Work of change in the areas of economics, energy education, food systems, cities, and race,

The film was completed in 2011 and premiered at a conference in March at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. This conference brought together scientists and humanists to reflect on the cosmological implications of *Journey*. Since that time, the film has been shown in film festivals, museums, universities, as well as religious and community organizations. *Journey* premiered on KQED television in San Francisco in June 2011 and has since been broadcast on 77 percent of the PBS stations in the United States. In June 2012 *Journey* won a regional Emmy Award in Northern California for best documentary film. It has been shown on every continent, with further screenings being planned in India, China, Korea, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Latin America.

A substantial website with articles and a curriculum for teachers brings the *Journey* trilogy together: <http://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org>.