



DOME UNDER

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors

Gold Sponsors

Australasian Planetarium Society

The Australasian Planetarium Society (APS) is the primary organisation responsible for promoting the exchange of ideas, information, and experiences within the planetarium community in Australia, New Zealand, and the Australasian region. The society has been operating since 1998 and represents all the major planetaria in Australia and New Zealand. The society meets annually and represents the Australasian Planetarium community within the International Planetarium Society (IPS).



Silver Sponsors

Fulldome.pro

Founded in 2010 to introduce easy-to-use and cost-effective digital technology and dynamic programming to the planetarium industry, Fulldome.pro has emerged as a global leader in the immersive dome marketplace.

Our revolutionary patented hardware and software integration and auto-calibration technologies allow for fast, efficient, and highly reliable project production and set up.

Sky-Skan International

A global leader with over 5 decades of offering innovative fulldome and multimedia products and services to communicate science using cutting edge visualisation technologies. Today, their SkyVision LED and Projection Systems, together with advanced spatial audio and multimedia presentation capabilities, continue to define the immersive theatre experience. Sky-Skan equipped theatres and exhibitions, immerse audiences in other Worlds. With our turnkey theatre systems and DigitalSky Dark Matter Software, audiences are transported from the smallest known particles to edge of the known universe.



Bronze Sponsors

American Museum of Natural History

License award-winning fulldome planetarium shows from the American Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium, one of the world's pre-eminent scientific and cultural institutions.

Inspire your audiences by bringing cutting-edge scientific data and spectacular visualisations to your digital planetarium dome. Created by a team of expert producers, directors, astrophysicists, and visual artists, our planetarium shows are immersive, educational, and entertaining.

COSM

Cosm has shaped immersive education for nearly 75 years—bridging the physical and virtual worlds to spark curiosity and inspire learning at over 700 of the most prestigious planetariums and science centers worldwide. Powered by Digistar—the world's most advanced planetarium software—our CX System, LED Dome, deliver next-generation immersive experiences, transporting audiences across the cosmos. The future of immersive storytelling begins now—come with us.



Creative Planet

Creative Planet is an award-winning studio that creates fulldome shows for planetariums. Their shows are known and appreciated for combining educational content with engaging storytelling, all delivered with the highest level of graphic quality. As one of the first studios in central Europe to focus on immersive projects, Creative Planet is growing quickly and producing inspiring shows loved by audiences worldwide.



NSC Creative

NSC Creative is an award-winning studio specialising in immersive experiences for XR, domes, science centres and theme parks. They offer a full production service for bespoke, original, and high-end content, with the “wow!” factor guaranteed.

Established in 2000, NSC Creative has a wealth of experience in harnessing their creative and technical expertise to consistently blow audiences away. They are a world leader in 360° digital planetarium fulldome production, with shows licensed in over 1000 venues across 70 countries, in more than 25 languages. NSC Creative is owned by and based at the National Space Centre, the UK’s #1 space based visitor attraction, situated in Space City, Leicester, UK.



SSIA

Being enveloped in sound and visuals is an experience unlike any other. We immerse and transport audiences to unreachable places, such as outer space, deep underwater or inside the human body.

Co-founders of SSIA have been designing dome digital theatre installations and creating fulldome content from the onset of the immersive dome movement that began in the late 1990’s. Together with their innovative and talented team they demonstrate expertise in developing and delivering immersive experiences.



Zeiss

ZEISS is making planetarium history - since 1923. 21 October of that year, Walther Bauersfeld, a member of the management board and brilliant designer, presents the world’s first projection planetarium at the Deutsches Museum in Munich. This is regarded as the birth of the modern planetarium and ZEISS is its inventor. ZEISS is the only supplier that simultaneously develops, manufactures, installs, and services modern optical-mechanical planetarium projectors as well as digital full-dome systems and software for planetariums.



Partner

Grazeland is Melbourne’s most exciting culinary precinct—a playground for foodies and families that brings tantalising food and entertainment together in one fabulous location. Grazeland features live music and roving entertainers every weekend, in one incredible atmosphere that celebrates Melbourne’s amazing food culture.



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 *Dome Under Film Festival*.

We're thrilled to present an extraordinary lineup of films. Due to the overwhelming number of incredible fulldome films from around the world, we've added extra sessions to accommodate as many as possible. For the first time ever, the festival will kick off on a Friday night and run across three exciting days.

The 2025 festival program includes 32 films from 15 countries exploring a wide variety of topics and genres. Our ever-popular Mind Blowing Art program is back again for the third time. While Future Visions also returns and looks set to become a permanent festival highlight. This year, we are embracing our passion for science with two dedicated Astronomy sessions. We were blown away by the quality of all the films for our younger audience and so we have added two Kids sessions as well as one for Families. The thought-provoking World Stories session will showcase films from Australia, Uruguay and Canada.

Speaking of which, the festival will be presenting an impressive collection of four films from Canada. The quality of films is outstanding. With the support of the National Film Board of Canada, production companies like the Planetarium of Montreal, and distribution companies such as Hubblo, have helped Canada become a world leader in fulldome production.

But Canada is not alone, fulldome is developing across the world and we will be presenting four new works from Taiwan. In 2018 the Taiwan Living Arts Foundation of the Ministry of Culture established the Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab (C-LAB). This centre has become a home to innovative and visionary new works. The films have a unique cultural aesthetic unlike anything seen before.

The Dome Under Film Festival and the Melbourne Planetarium would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors for their generous support. Without you this festival would not be possible. And finally, a special thank you to you, our festivalgoer, for joining us once again for another year of ground-breaking fulldome cinema.

Warik Lawrance

Founder, Dome Under Film Festival

DOME UNDER FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

The Dome Under Film Festival jury will be awarding five Dome Under Awards in the following categories:

Best Science Film

Best Children's Film

Best Narrative Film

Best Art Film

Best Short Film



INTRODUCING THE DOME UNDER FILM FESTIVAL JURY



Douglas Bair

Douglas Bair has worked in science communication for 15 years and is currently an Engagement Officer at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Plants for Space program. With a background in performing arts, visual arts, and science, he enjoys how these fields intersect and complement each other. As a former presenter in a planetarium, he is excited to use his knowledge of the medium in judging this year's entries in the Dome Under Film Festival.



Rochelle Siemienowicz

Rochelle Siemienowicz is a writer, film critic, and cultural commentator with a PhD in Australian cinema. She is currently a journalist at ScreenHub. Rochelle was the co-host of Australia's longest-running film podcast, *Hell is for Hyphenates*. She has also written a memoir, *Fallen*, and a novel, *Double Happiness*.



Alicia Sometimes

Alicia Sometimes is a writer and broadcaster. She has performed her spoken word and poetry at many venues, festivals, and events around the world. Her poems have been in *Best Australian Science Writing*, *Best Australian Poems* and more. She is director and co-writer of the science-poetry planetarium shows, *Elemental* and *Particle/Wave*. *Particle/Wave* has had sell-out seasons at the Melbourne International Arts Festival, World Science Festival Brisbane, and National Science Week. In 2023 she received ANAT's *Synapse Artist Residency* and co-created an art installation for Science Gallery Melbourne's exhibition, *Dark Matters*.

SESSION 1

ASTRONOMY 1

Friday 31 January 7:30–8:45pm



Dark Biosphere

Spain | 27mins | dir. Javier Bollain

Deep beneath the Earth's crust, hundreds of metres or kilometres below the surface, with no light, no air, and very little water, in pores and fissures of hard rock, scientists have found an enormous biodiversity of micro-organisms that thrive in extreme conditions. Dark Biosphere challenges everything we thought we knew and challenges us to rethink not only the origin and evolution of life on Earth but its possible existence throughout the Universe.



MMX: Martian Moons eXploration

Japan | 40mins | dir. Hiromitsu Kohsaka

A new sample return mission MMX is an ambitious mission that builds upon the technology from Hayabusa and Hayabusa2 for landing on Phobos, a moon of Mars, to collect samples and return them to the Earth. If the sample collection is successful, we may obtain not only the first samples from Phobos, but also possibly the first materials from Mars. This will contribute to our understanding of the origin of Phobos, as well as elucidating the role of asteroids in bringing the seeds of life to the Earth.

SESSION 2

WORLD STORIES

Friday 31 January 9:00–10:30pm



takila milaythina-ti - Heart in Country

Australia | 23mins | dir. Darryl Rogers and Dave mangenner Gough in collaboration with Hive Planetarium

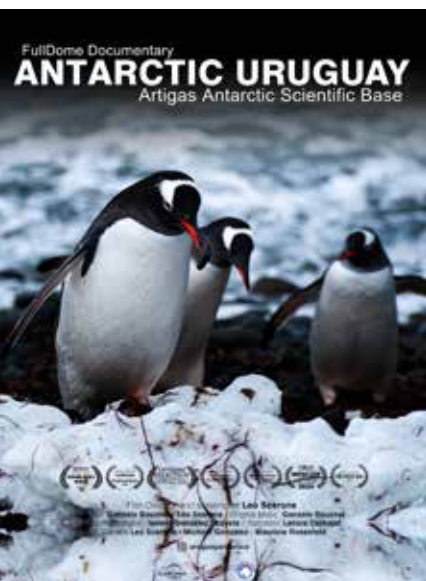
takila milaythina-ti - Heart in Country is a film by Dave mangenner Gough and Darryl Rogers, with music by Ian Chia. In this show, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community of Northwest Tasmania takes you on a cultural journey through the rhythms of day and night where spirit is imprinted in Country. Experience sunrise, fire, hunt, collect, sunset, feed, story, dance, ceremony, and rest as you are immersed in the timeless stories imprinted in Country. Held in Country, hearts in Country.



This is Not a Ceremony

Canada | 22mins | dir. AHNAHKTSIPIITAA (Colin Van Loon)

In a dream-like world, two Indigenous trickster poets guide us through narratives that challenge our notions of personal responsibility while exploring the darker realities of Indigenous life in Canada.



Antarctic Uruguay

Uruguay | 33mins | dir. Leo Scarone

A documentary made during 4 years of work at the Artigas Antarctic Scientific Base, between the years 2019 and 2023. The film explores what happens at the base and who works there including the military personnel and scientific teams. This is the first documentary filmed with 360° technologies in Uruguay.

SESSION 3

KIDS 1

Saturday 1 February 2:30–3:45pm



The Stellars

Poland | 28mins | dir. Maciej Ligowski & Maciej Rasata

The Stellars is a visually stunning, heartfelt, and insightful film aimed at our youngest viewers, ages 3 to 8. It recounts the adventures of three cosmic friends who crash on Earth, damaging the life-support machine for their Yumi Plumi trees – their only food source. Only by engaging with young viewers in the audience will they be able to answer the question: What do plants need to live? This theme, aligned with educational curricula, provides a relatable learning experience for children.



Total Eclipse: Chasers of the Lost Sleep

Canada | 30mins | dir. François Guinaudeau & Sébastien Samyn

With help from her android sidekick, an insomniac hen named Kentucky embarks on a space-time journey to find the perfect solar eclipse that will finally help her get some sleep.

SESSION 4

FAMILY

Saturday 1 February 4:00–5:15pm



Dinosaurs Under the Northern Lights

Japan | 35mins | dir. Tsuguyasu Uchiyama

70 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period, the Earth teemed with dinosaurs. Some reaching the far-flung North and South Poles. Centering on Nook, an infant carnivorous *Nanuqsaurus*, and Fal, an infant herbivore *Alaskacephale*, *Dinosaurs Under the Northern Lights* depicts the strange fate and curious bond between these two different species originally never supposed to cross paths. You will discover the story behind the dinosaurs that thrived in the polar regions under the beautiful skies of Alaska, where the brilliant Northern Lights shine. Delve into fascinating astronomical topics such as the relationship between the Earth and the Moon, rotation and revolution, the tilt of the Earth's axis, and the reason behind the gorgeous Northern Lights themselves!



Niyah and the Multiverse

USA | 26mins | dir. Adler Planetarium

If there are countless other universes out there, where does Niyah fit in? What about you? Niyah lives in a city called Chicago on a planet called Earth, and she has a lot of questions about space and time. How can a special mask help us understand who we are in the world? Do we really need ALL the laws of physics? How is the multiverse like the blues?

Join Niyah, her friend Luis, and a curious cat named Bast on an Afrofuturist journey through the multiverse and get inspired to dream up multiverse theories of your own.

SESSION 5

ASTRONOMY 2

Saturday 1 February 6:15–7:30pm



Total

Canada | 6mins | dir. Sebastien Gauthier

Total recreates the unique experience of observing a total solar eclipse. Seeing the sky darken and being under daytime stars is a deeply moving experience that leaves no one indifferent. It's one of nature's most beautiful and emotional spectacles. With 360° images, the film initiates a quest for the total eclipse where anticipation is at its peak, leading us to a perfect alignment between the Sun, the Moon, and ourselves.



The Universe in a Room: The Story of the Planetarium

Japan | 25mins | dir. Masaru Hirohashi

Even during rain or in the daytime, in a planetarium, we can enjoy a sky, full of stars.

But this wonderful invention did not simply appear out of nowhere. Throughout history, humanity has been fascinated by the night sky, and various mechanical models were built, ultimately leading to a magical innovation, to dynamically represent the starry sky.

In this program, you can travel back in time to 100 years ago. Following the notes of the original inventors, you can re-live the challenges and triumphs behind the birth of the modern planetarium.



The Universe Through All the Senses

Czech Republic | 33mins | dir. Pavel Karas & Jan Píšala

When asked about the universe, astronomers will describe it in a thousand different ways. Starting with diverse planets, charming comets, hot stars, and ethereal nebulae, they will talk about dark matter or energy and will take you on a journey to galaxies billions of light-years away.

For an ordinary Earthling, such a list of fancy terms feels just like flipping through a cookbook, without being able to taste the individual ingredients, let alone the finished product. That's why we decided to serve you the universe in a completely different way – You will experience it with all your senses!

SESSION 6

MIND BLOWING ART

Saturday 1 February 8:00–9:40pm



U221E

Mexico | 8mins | dir. F3 Studio

U221E - Unicode for ∞ - is an artwork that explores diverse interpretations of infinity. Through a captivating blend of visuals and sound, the piece invites viewers to experience infinity as a multifaceted concept—endless, cyclical, and expansive. It integrates geometric and numerical elements to construct dynamic environments, where abstract forms and patterns evoke the boundlessness of space and time. Using light, spatial dynamics, and precise geometric design, *U221E* creates a meditative journey that merges abstract ideas with tangible sensations. The artwork bridges imagination and reality, encouraging audiences to contemplate their perception of eternity and the infinite.



Within

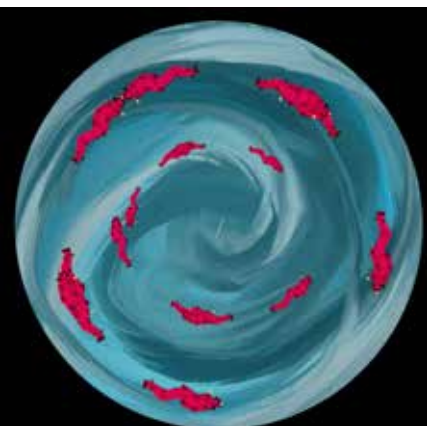
Poland | 10mins | dir. Ari Dykier

Within is an animated work created in collage technique in a characteristic, surreal style.

A visual suite that depicts the emotional and mental stages of experiencing fear, stress, curiosity, passion, getting lost, identification or calmness and stability.

All the characters represent in a symbolic way a specific feeling or memory connected with the author's subconscious but could be understood differently depending on each viewer's interpretation. The film is an oneiric journey in time and was created in artistic process exploring things known and unknown.

Everyone has an inner world, you just need to connect.

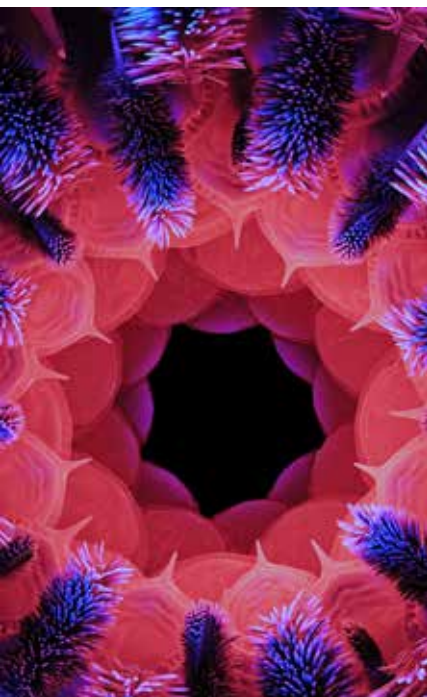


What I Am

Mauritius | 4mins | dir. Max Anish

Let's dive into the thoughts of a painter in the form of a dream.

What I Am questions the identity and the weight of the unconscious through a fine technique of animated painting.



Entropy

Hungary | 5mins | dir. Csaba Világosi

Immerse in the formation of complex life forms, observe how energy flows, travels through systems leading up to life, and takes on different forms at each stage. In the pursuit of balance, order creates disorder, and differences in energy create chemical reactions from which life is born.

As we progress through the layers of existence, you can see how the forms of beings become more and more complex and bustling and witness the wonder of life unfolding before your very eyes. Empty dry spaces come to life with an abundant and rampant outflow of nature. Enter this space bustling with radiance, pulsating energy, and ever-changing currents, and be a part of life.



Second Nature

USA | 3mins | dir. Ke Jyun Wu

Second Nature depicts a natural world in the digital age. In this world, water no longer flows in the familiar way but drifts gently like silk. The clouds in the sky emit a soft glow, reminiscent of fireflies dancing at night. The trees change their geometric forms with the seasons, displaying sharp, angular lines at times and soft, rounded curves at others.

Through this fantastical digital journey, viewers will be filled with awe and contemplation, re-examining their understanding of nature, and exploring new possibilities where technology and nature intertwine.



Stars of Classic

Germany | 44mins | dir. Robert Sawallisch

Embark on a musical journey through cosmic events, from the Big Bang to humanity's future. Accompanied by Beethoven, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, and other masters, we witness galaxy births, supernovae, black holes, and the miracle of life. Explore distant planets, cosmic dangers like asteroid impacts and colliding galaxies, and dream of humanity's future in space.

Stars of Classic merges music with education, offering timeless masterpieces and fascinating insights into the universe's past and future. Featuring works by Beethoven, Strauss, Hildegard von Bingen, Mussorgsky, Vivaldi, and more.



Night Walk 2023

Taiwan | 9mins | dir. Chuang Ho

Lying in a room, staring at the ceiling, thoughts drift toward distant mountains. It begins with a sleepless night. After some time in darkness, a ceiling and a faint light come into view. In the shadows, flickering lines move. The perspective then floats through the house and gradually transitions to the outside world—streetlights, houses, and the city fading away. After passing through darkness, plants appear, leading into a forest filled with surreal, dreamlike scenes. Finally, everything returns to the sleepless room, ending the journey and leaving behind the memory of a dream.



Shift

United Kingdom | 3mins | dir. Ivan Solod

Shift by hilights.studio symbolises the transformative journey of an evolving media artist.

It's a creative journey marked by four crucial milestones, each embodied as a visual metaphor. These include Born, which stands for tuning into one's creative frequency; Search, a stage of seeking and discovering new facets of art; Imagination, the key element that fuels all artistic creation; and finally, Harmony, which signifies the perfect balance between idea and execution.

SESSION 7

KIDS 2

Sunday 2 February 2:30–3:45pm



Kitz the Cat's - Secret of the Space Station

South Korea | 30mins | dir. Kwon O Chul & Cho Hea Seung

The Earth in the far future, where humanity no longer exists. Cats that survived in the debris left behind by humanity have evolved into intelligent beings.

The three cats, Kitz, Tutti, and Pepe, are working as cleaners at NYASA. Weird signals were detected in the largest space junk in Earth's orbit (Humans called it the International Space Station)! Today's mission is to investigate the space station floating like a ghost ship!



The Great Solar System Adventure

United Kingdom | 25mins | dir. Max Crow

Join showman extraordinaire “The Great Schiaparelli” as he takes the audience on a death-defying space-time adventure within his wondrous Observatory.

From the sun-scorched surface of Mercury to the icy expanses of Pluto and beyond, prepare to be subjected to the myriad dangers and wonders of our Solar System, on a breath-taking tour that reveals just how precious our home planet really is.

Be warned though, the Observatory isn't just for show. It will transport the audience right to the heart of some of the deadliest locations in our slice of the heavens. It's going to take some fancy flying to get everyone back in one piece!

SESSION 8

FUTURE VISIONS

Sunday 2 February 4:00–5:45pm



I Saw the Future

France | 6mins | dir. François Vautier

This experimental film plunges us at the heart of a 1964 BBC archive in which Arthur C. Clarke revealed his astonishingly precise vision of the future we now live in.



Recoding Entropia

France | 9mins | dir. François Vautier

In the heart of nothingness, on the horizon of infinite space and unfathomable time, wanders an imposing geometry, delivering a mysterious message through its changing shape.



Feed

USA | 5mins | dir. Kelon Cen, Weilu Ge

Combining video game elements, spatial soundscape, and transmedia storytelling, *FEED* takes the audience on a journey into a panopticon-like complex. The project aims to construct an immersive and interactive environment that invites the audience to critically observe and question their everyday living situation in a post-digital age.



Limbophobia

Taiwan | 25mins | dir. Wen Yee Hsieh

Realm of silence, death lies still.

Malevolence surrounds, THEY choose to hide.

Limbophobia is director Wen-Yee Hsieh's second personal project, once again immersing the audience in his intense dark aesthetics. The film centres around the loss of insight within the collective society, and the struggle between individuals, which transforms into an experience of losing balance, to witness annihilation. Silent, intense, and eerie.



Numerous

Taiwan | 9mins | dir. Atz Huang

Numerous is a visual artwork that integrates the dynamics of nature and the variations of order, guiding us into a fluid world. By envisioning the movement of air in different environments, it showcases the gentleness and ferocity, demonstrating the rhythmicity and instability brought forth by the wind. The spirals of wind, the cycles of tides, and the fractal variations of geometric shapes merge to present a peculiar harmony. Transforming the infinite possibilities interwoven with nature and order into abstract visual aesthetics, allowing the audience to continuously explore the endless mysteries and rules within immersion.



Temporal

Canada | 39mins | dir. Jean-François Ethier & Dominic St-Amant

Fleeing imminent death from an incurable disease, an astronaut takes refuge in a slower space-time continuum in the hope of returning to see his young daughter grown to adulthood.

SESSION 9

FABULOUS FULLDOME

Sunday 2 February 6:30–8:15pm



Demo:Dome

Taiwan | 9mins | dir. Chuang Ho

Domes have unique features like immersion, pressure, directional sound, and visuals, and letting audiences choose their perspective. Beyond these, many aspects are worth exploring.

Chuang Ho with artist Yuchi Hsiao explore the unique visual style of domes. Demo:Dome is a series of short, experimental, and humorous pieces aimed at inspiring new storytelling methods and fresh ideas for dome visuals.



Cosmic Rhythms

USA | 16mins | dir. Xavier Núñez

Action Lines Media, The Joffrey Ballet, and the Adler Planetarium present a new, cutting-edge collaboration of *Cosmic Rhythms*. Featuring Adler astronomers' expertise, breathtaking imagery, and bold choreography by Joffrey Ballet dancer Xavier Núñez, *Cosmic Rhythms* takes audiences on a mesmerizing journey through the cosmos.



AliSin

USA | 7mins | dir. Kevin Saunders Hayes

Listen up.

The voices in your head are right, and everything you know about Wonderland is wrong!

AliSin is a music-driven experience that takes you on an immersive adventure to all the music, madness and mayhem of Wonderland... only this isn't the Wonderland you know. At least not yet.

AliSin is a twisted new take on Alice in Wonderland – it's like a Backstage Pass to a bizarro version of the Taylor Swift Eras Tour, inspired by Edward Scissorhands... that had a baby with Rocky Horror, Princess Bride, and Spinal Tap.

AliSin sends you tumbling down the rabbit hole with an exhilarating mix of music, film and animation, served up with a pinch of mischief, a healthy dose of anarchy and a whole lot of attitude.



2025 Dome Under Film Festival Awards Ceremony

The Dome Under Film Festival Jury will present five awards for Best Science Film, Best Children's Film, Best Narrative Film, Best Art Film and Best Short Film

(Approximately 15 mins)



Impossible Space

Germany | 46mins | dir. Rocco Helmchen & Johannes Kraas

Impossible Space is an odyssey into the cosmos. A symphonic journey through real and artificial visual worlds, inspired by the spirit of science and discovery. This show interprets ‘outer space’ as more than just the night sky universe. Everything is space: it also unfolds in our everyday lives, within our brains, in a computer algorithm or in the unimaginably small building blocks of reality itself. These themes are artistically reimagined and adapted to create a unique audiovisual experience.

The original music is closely coupled to the visuals and fuses epic orchestral film score with electronic synth-driven minimalism, ranging from moving melodic motives to transforming beats and vast, expansive soundscapes. It always aims to guide and emotionally engage, to transform each visual into a vivid and tangible world that might even exist somewhere within the infinite stretches of the universe. The imagery ranges from fractal-mathematical nebulae to envisioned planets, from strangely (un)familiar AI-generated dimensions to nature on earth, and from abstract depictions of reality back to human shapes: A vortex of color, light, and sound inviting the audience on a fascinating ride through a profoundly impossible space.

PROGRAM

Friday 31 January

SESSION ONE 7:30—8:45PM

Astronomy 1

Dark Biosphere

MMX: Martian Moons eXploration

SESSION TWO 9:00—10:30PM

World Stories

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SESSION THREE 2:30—3:45PM

Kids 1

The Stellars

Total Eclipse: Chasers of the Lost Sleep

SESSION FOUR 4:00—5:15PM

Family

Dinosaurs Under the Northern Lights

Niyah and the Multiverse

SESSION FIVE 6:15—7:30PM

Astronomy 2

Total

The Universe in a Room – the story of the planetarium

The Universe Through All the Senses

SESSION SIX 8:00—9:40PM

Mind Blowing Art

U221E

Within

What I Am

Entropy

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Fabulous Fulldome

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Alisin

2025 Dome Under Film Festival Awards

Ceremony

Impossible Space

