

RESEARCH NEWS BRIEF

NY08

World Science Festival

The World Science Festival aims to spark a movement in which science shifts from the cultural outskirts to the cultural center.

-Dr. Brian Greene
Co-founder,
World Science
Festival

Immerse yourself in a world of scientific discovery as the **WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL** takes you on a thought-provoking journey - making the esoteric understandable and the familiar fascinating.

World Science Festival hits New York City

This month, New York City will host the first annual World Science Festival. Three days packed with events will take place at many venues throughout Manhattan. In addition to events scheduled at The City University of New York, Columbia University and New York University, the program includes events at the American Museum of Natural History, The Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The New York Academy of Sciences, The New York Botanical Gardens, The New York Historical Society, the Rubin Museum of Art, Symphony Space. The World Science Festival will host an unprecedented number of renowned scientists, philosophers, journalists, and authors on topics ranging from cosmology to quantum physics, the origins and essence of humanity, sustainability efforts, and the science of Disney.

I would like to encourage you to view the Program and attend some of these unique events with your family and friends. Many of the events are geared specifically for children and families, including the Science of Disney Imagineering, the WSF Street Fair, and Mathematician. Please encourage your students and staff to attend this inaugural celebration of science in New York City.

Gillian Small
University Dean for Research

World Science Festival Signature Events at CUNY

The CUNY Graduate Center will host two World Science Festival Signature Events:

Pioneers in Science** and **Echoes from the Beginning: A Journey through Space and Time



Pioneers in Science (May 29th, 4:00 - 5:30 PM, CUNY Graduate Center) will feature a panel of six New York City public high school students. This select group of students will interview two prominent scientists: **Cynthia**

Breazeal, Associate Professor of Media

Arts and Director of the Personal Robotics group at the Media Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Nobel Laureate, **Leon Lederman**, Director Emeritus of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) and Pritzker Professor of Science at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Dr. Breazeal is an expert on the interaction between humans and robots. Dr. Lederman won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1988 for his contribution to neutrino physics and has authored several popular books, including, *The God Particle* and *Symmetry and the Beautiful Universe*. Dr. Lederman is also a graduate of both CUNY and Columbia.



Echoes from the Beginning: A Journey through Space and Time

(May 29, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM, CUNY Graduate Center). Award-winning TV and radio host, **Ira Flatow** will discuss new advances in our understanding of the cosmos and our place in the universe.

Joining Mr. Flatow are **Helge Kragh** (Professor of History of Science, University of Aarhus, Denmark), **Lawrence Krauss** (Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics, Case Western Reserve University), **Lyman Page** (Henry DeWolf Smyth Professor of Physics, Princeton), and **Paul Steinhardt** (Albert Professor of Science, Princeton).

Dr. Kragh is a leading historian focusing on the science of cosmology. Dr. Krauss, author of *The Physics of Star Trek*, is a theoretical physicist. Dr. Page studies the electromagnetic signature of the Big Bang. Dr. Steinhardt is a theoretical physics and one of the founders of the "cosmic inflationary" model of the universe.



Other CUNY Events at World Science Festival



In addition to the two Signature Events, the CUNY Graduate Center will host other events for this month's World Science Festival: a performance of Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann's *Oxygen* and three performances of Alan Lightman's *Einstein's Dreams*.



What is discovery? Why is it important to be first? These questions plague the characters in *Oxygen* (May 29, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, CUNY - The Graduate Center: Segal Theatre), a play by esteemed chemists, **Carl Djerassi** (Professor Emeritus, Stanford) and Nobel Laureate

Roald Hoffmann (Rhodes Professor, Cornell). *Oxygen* alternates between 1777 and 2001 as the Nobel Foundation inaugurates a retro-Nobel award and naturally starts at the discovery of oxygen that launched the Chemical Revolution. Soon they realize that their task is not an easy one as they try to piece together the contributions of three scientists — Lavoisier, Priestley, and Scheele. To date, *Oxygen* has been performed in ten languages.



Einstein's Dreams (see dates and times in Schedule of Events) is a stage adaptation of **Alan Lightman's** international best selling novel. Set in Berne, Switzerland in 1905, the play portrays Einstein, a modest but brilliant

patent clerk in a new marriage, struggling to make ends meet, while in the back of his mind re-conceiving time. The play will be performed by Boston's Underground Railway Theater.

Dr. Lightman was the first professor at MIT to receive joint appointments in the sciences and humanities. To date, *Einstein's Dreams* has been translated into more than 30 languages.

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World Science Festival

May 29 - June 1 2008

Schedule of Events

May 29

Pioneers in Science

CUNY – Grad Center
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Green Buildings

The New York Academy of Sciences
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Parallel Worlds, Parallel Lives

Paley Center for Media
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Oxygen

CUNY – Grad Center (Segal Theatre)
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

You and Your Irrational Brain

Water Taxi Beach (LIC)
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Toil and Trouble...Stories of Experiments Gone Wrong

The Moth at Symphony Space
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Einstein's Dreams

CUNY – Grad Center
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Illuminating Genius

NYU - Skirball Center
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Echoes from the Beginning

CUNY – Grad Center
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Science of Morality

92nd Street Y
8:15 PM - 9:45 PM

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World Science Festival

May 29 - June 1 2008
Schedule of Events

NY08

World
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May 30

Cool Jobs

NYU - Kimmel Center
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

The Brain and Bourne

The Museum of Modern Art
 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Mind's Eye

The Museum of Modern Art
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

IJK

New Victory Theater
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Armitage Gone! Dance:

The Elegant Universe

Works & Process at the
 Guggenheim Museum
 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

The Sixth Extinction

Columbia - Miller Theatre
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Future Cities

NYU - Kimmel Center
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Invisible Reality

NYU - Skirball Center
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

When We Left Earth

AMNH
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Einstein's Dreams

CUNY – Grad Center
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

May 31

WSF Street Fair

NYU Campus
 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

May 31

Science of Disney Imagineering

NYU - Skirball Center
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Brain Tricks

NYU - Lecture Hall
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Science of Sports

NYU - Coles Sports Center
 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Einstein, Time & Cool Stuff

NYU - Lecture Hall
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Science of Disney Imagineering

NYU - Skirball Center
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Your Biological Biography

NYU - Kimmel Center
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Einstein's Dreams

CUNY – Grad Center
 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Seeds, Survival, Stalin

NY Botanical Gardens
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Science of Sports

NYU - Coles Sports Center
 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Science of Disney Imagineering

NYU - Skirball Center
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Mathemagician

NYU - Lecture Hall
 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Faith & Science

NYU - Kimmel Center
 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Greengenuity

NYU - Lecture Hall
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

May 31

Music and the Brain

Abyssinian Baptist Church
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Powering the Planet

NYU - Kimmel Center
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Peak Experience

Rubin Museum of Art
 7:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Armitage Gone! Dance:

The Elegant Universe

Works & Process at the
 Guggenheim Museum
 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

What it Means to be Human

NYU - Skirball Center
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

QED: A Reading

Columbia - Miller Theatre
 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

June 1

Beyond Einstein

NYU - Kimmel Center
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Science Sunday at the Met

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Plague in Gotham

New-York Historical Society
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Looking for the Laws of Life

NYU - Kimmel Center
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

90 is the New 50

NYU - Kimmel Center
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Dear Albert

Columbia - Miller Theatre
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM