



For immediate release

October 11, 2010

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ONE WORLD ONE SKY: BIG BIRD'S ADVENTURE

A new, educational show at the Arvin Gottlieb Planetarium for Children

KANSAS CITY, Mo. | Union Station Kansas City announces the opening of a new show at the Arvin Gottlieb Planetarium called *One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure*. Created by Sesame Workshop and its partners, the 25-minute show follows Big Bird and Elmo from *Sesame Street*TM as they explore the night sky with Hu Hu Zhu, a Muppet from *Zhima Jie*, the Chinese co-production of *Sesame Street*TM. Together, they take an imaginary trip from Sesame Street to the moon, where they discover how different it is from Earth.

One World, One Sky is a brilliant spectacle of light and color as the furry friends watch the stars twinkle over Sesame Street. Children attending the show can interact as they watch, drawing constellations and counting the time it takes the sun to set. The show aims to nurture a child's natural sense of wonder about the night sky. When Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu "travel" to the moon, they discover some basic but surprising scientific facts. For example, they can't fly a kite there because there is no wind. The fuzzy friends then excitedly realize that children like to fly kites in both China and the United States! At the end of the show, Big Bird, Elmo, and Hu Hu Zhu pick a friendship star to remind them that no matter how far apart they might be, they can always look into the night sky and cherish their shared memories.

To reinforce the planetarium show's key messages, Sesame Workshop is delivering outreach materials for children, caregivers, and educators. These materials include a parent/child activity brochure with an interactive poster, a facilitator guide and teacher materials including suggestions for activities and lessons. A DVD of the show will also be available for schools to show their students. With these materials, *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure* hopes to encourage and support collaboration between science educators and institutions in China and the United States.

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure is a creation of Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*TM; the Beijing Planetarium; Chicago's Adler Planetarium, and Liberty Science Center in New Jersey, with major funding from the National Science Foundation and the PNC Foundation. Additional support came from the W.L.S. Spencer Foundation, China Association for Science and Technology and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

(more)

The showing of *One World One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure* at Union Station has been made possible by a grant from the PNC Foundation, which supports early childhood education through *PNC Grow Up Great* and *PNC Crezca con Éxito*, a comprehensive, bilingual school readiness program. Through the 10-year, \$100 million initiative, with a focus on underserved children, PNC provides the leadership, advocacy, funding, tools, and volunteers to help educate parents, caregivers, and communities on how to prepare young children for school and life.

Tickets are \$6 per person, 2 and under get in free.

Planetarium admission is also FREE to Union Station Members.

Show times are 1pm Tuesday-Sunday, with an additional 11am show time on Saturday and Sunday. Regular showings begin Friday, October 15, 2010.

To purchase tickets, or for further details, visit www.unionstation.org or stop by the Union Station ticketing office.

About Union Station Kansas City

Union Station Kansas City is a historical landmark and civic asset renovated and reopened to the public in 1999. The organization, driven by its mission of science and history education and entertainment, features a science center, the KC Rail Experience, the Extreme Screen movie theater, live theater, shops and restaurants. Visit unionstation.org for details.

About PNC Foundation

The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group (NYSE: PNC), actively supports organizations that provide services for the benefit of communities in which it has a significant presence. The foundation focuses its philanthropic mission on early childhood education and community and economic development, which includes the arts and culture. Through its signature cause, *Grow Up Great*, PNC has created a 10-year, \$100 million initiative to enhance early childhood education and school readiness.

About Sesame Workshop

Sesame Workshop is the nonprofit educational organization that revolutionized children's television programming with the landmark *Sesame Street*. The Workshop produces local *Sesame Street* programs, seen in over 140 countries, and other acclaimed shows to help bridge the literacy gap including *The Electric Company*. Beyond television, the Workshop produces content for multiple media platforms on a wide range of issues including literacy, health and military deployment. Initiatives meet specific needs to help young children and families develop critical skills, acquire healthy habits and build emotional strength to prepare them for lifelong learning. Learn more at www.sesameworkshop.org.

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