



## SCIENCE CHANNEL DECEMBER 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

\*All times ET/PT

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The marking "(wt)" designates a working title and may be subject to change.

\*\*Denotes programs with artwork available for download at  
[www.press.discovery.com](http://www.press.discovery.com).

### SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

#### **MAN MADE MARVELS: THE FORGOTTEN CITY OF XIAN**

**World Premiere**

**Sunday, December 7 at 9 PM**

The modern city of Xian is world-famous as the home of the terracotta warriors and for its massive 600-year old city walls. But that's only scratching the surface. Over a thousand years ago, Xian was the site of the world's biggest city and home of some of ancient China's greatest engineering and architectural marvels. With computer animation, dramatizations, and revelations from science, we resurrect the glory of China's long-lost "greatest city never known" in four incarnations over two thousand years.

#### **SEARCH FOR THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM**

**Encore Presentation**

**Monday, December 21 at 9 PM**

Science Channel unveils how modern science is re-examining the mystery behind the most famous astronomical story in **SEARCH FOR THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM**. Recent developments in computer technology are allowing astronomers, historians and scientists to map the ancient world's stars with exceptional accuracy. They are uncovering new evidence supporting that the story of the Star of Bethlehem is based upon a real astronomical event.

### SERIES PREMIERES

#### **SCI-FI SCIENCE: PHYSICS OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**

**World Premiere**

**Tuesday, December 1 at 10 and 10:30 PM**

**SERIES AIRS TUESDAYS AT 10 PM**

**[TV-G]**

**\*\*Artwork Available**

Based on the New York Times best-selling book, "Physics of the Impossible," Dr. Michio Kaku takes viewers to the frontiers of science with an authoritative exploration of the

world of phasers, force fields, teleportation, time travel and more. He investigates the physics behind some of science fiction's wildest offerings and concludes that many of the technologies once thought impossible may actually be inevitable.

<b>Wednesday, December 1</b> <b>10 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>How to Explore the Universe</b> Dr. Michio Kaku shows viewers how humans might explore the universe one just like the crew of the Starship Enterprise. He visits Brookhaven National laboratory's atom smasher where particles are accelerated to near light speed, and investigates a loophole in Einstein's theory of relativity that shows how a spacecraft could travel at warp speed.
<b>Wednesday, December 1</b> <b>10:30 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>How to Travel to a Parallel Universe</b> Dr. Kaku is on a mission to design a gateway to a parallel universe – but which type should he visit? MIT cosmologist Alan Guth explains his recipe for creating your own universe in the lab, and physicist Neil Turok explains how a parallel universe is only an atom's length away from us.
<b>Wednesday, December 8</b> <b>10 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>How to Blow Up a Planet</b> The crosshairs are lined up, a death ray is fired and a planet is vaporized. Sci-fi fantasy? Not according to Dr. Kaku who draws up blueprints to show how a real death star might work.
<b>Wednesday, December 15</b> <b>10 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>How to Teleport</b> Teleportation is sci-fi's most exciting way to travel. Imagine zapping your molecules through space on a transporter beam right out of "Star Trek." Dr. Kaku reveals how we might all one day be saying, "Beam me up Scotty."
<b>Wednesday, December 22</b> <b>10 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>How to Become Invisible</b> A cloak of invisibility isn't just a Harry Potter fantasy. In this episode, Dr. Kaku draws the blueprints for a real invisibility cloak and reveals that vanishing into thin air could be much closer than we think.

## ONGOING SERIES

### MONSTER SWAMP

Series airs Wednesday at 8 PM

[TV-G]

Host Nigel Marven travels to Brazil to explore the 54,000 square mile Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, on a search to find the elusive jaguar. Along the way Marven's adventure leads to close encounters with caiman and anacondas, and he swims alongside capybaras (the world's largest rodent), as well as giant otters.

<b>Wednesday, December 9</b> <b>8 PM</b> <b>North American Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	<b>Episode 6</b> Marven showcases all of the most intense close encounters he had on his four week adventure through the Pantanal.
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### **NICK BAKER'S WEIRD CREATURES**

**Series airs Wednesdays at 9 PM**

**[TV-PG]**

**\*\*Artwork Available**

From the rainforests of Borneo to the Australian outback, the far-flung islands off Panama to the mayhem of Mexico City, naturalist Nick Baker takes us to some of the remotest and most inhospitable corners of the earth on a colorful, exhilarating and fact-packed journey to seek out the strangest animals on the planet. Finding them is never going to be easy, but Nick's hunt is helped by leading scientists at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and local experts.

<b>Wednesday, December 2</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>North American Premiere</b> <b>[TV-PG]</b>	<b>Horseshoe Crab</b> Baker tracks down one of the oldest creatures on the planet – a half billion year old living fossil that is currently in danger. In this process he hopes to witness one of nature's most spectacularly weird spawning events.
<b>Wednesday, December 9</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>North American Premiere</b> <b>[TV-PG]</b>	<b>Tamandua</b> Baker heads to Panama in search of the ant eating Tamandua. To his surprise and delight he becomes the first person to document the animal dining on the fruit of the forest. He gets more than he bargained for when he stumbles across a battery of army ants.
<b>Wednesday, December 16</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>North American Premiere</b> <b>[TV-PG]</b>	<b>Pygmy Sloth</b> Baker heads to a group of desert islands in Panama where strange things have been happening to the animals. He hangs out with the pygmy sloth, a species only identified in 2001, and discovers a species of frog with an identity crisis.

### **SCIENCE OF THE MOVIES**

**Series airs Thursdays at 8 PM**

**[TV-G]**

**\*\*Artwork Available**

Appealing to the movie junkie in us all, this new series explores the remarkable scientific world that exists behind the screen, spotlighting the visionary artists, entrepreneurial spirit, innovative technology and remarkable techniques responsible for creating unforgettable moments in blockbuster films. On a journey to the cinematic intersection of art and science, host and self-proclaimed movie geek Nar Williams, breaks down famous movie scenes to show viewers the inside science on how each sequence was strung together.

<b>Thursday, December 3</b> <b>8 PM</b> <b>U.S. Premiere</b>	<b>Puppet Meisters – The Magic Behind “Team America: World Police”</b> Nar learns how makers of South Park crank out
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<b>[TV-G]</b>	episodes at breakneck speeds, and visits with The Chiodo Brothers who are pushing the envelope of puppet sculpting. To top it off, Williams gets extraordinary access to Clint Eastwood's personal colorist at Technicolor.
<b>Thursday, December 10 8 PM U.S. Premiere [TV-G]</b>	<b>The Magical World of George Lucas</b> Williams gets a first-hand look at how ILM uses motion capture affects to create Davy Jones' beard in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequels. He also explores the science of lighting at Mole Richardson, and watches as Flash Filmworks creates explosive chopper crashes for "The Day the Earth Stood Still."
<b>Thursday, December 17 8 PM U.S. Premiere [TV-G]</b>	<b>Transformers: Bumblebee Rises</b> Nar helps special effects experts reconstruct a 20-foot replica of Bumblebee from "Transformers." Nar also reveals the scientific secrets of 3-D moviemaking at Stereoscope.

## HOW IT'S MADE

**Series Airs Fridays at 9 PM**

**[TV-G]**

From holograms and fiber optics to chocolate and hockey sticks, find out how many of the everyday objects we seldom stop to think about become the things they are. In each episode of this series, you'll be amazed to see how many common items are manufactured in high-tech factories around the world.

<b>Friday, December 4 9 PM U.S. Premiere [TV-G]</b>	<b><i>Season 6: Episode 23</i></b> Fly Fishing Reels, House Paint, Weaving Looms, Ice Makers
<b>Friday, December 11 9 PM U.S. Premiere [TV-G]</b>	<b><i>Season 6: Episode 24</i></b> Graphite Pencil Leads, Clarinets, Special Effects
<b>Friday, December 18 9 PM U.S. Premiere [TV-G]</b>	<b><i>Season 6: Episode 25</i></b> Air Boats, Onions, 3D Metal Printing, Curved Cabinet Doors

## HEAD GAMES

**Series airs Saturdays at 9 PM**

**[TV-G]**

**\*\*Artwork Available**

Think you know it all? Science Channel is willing to bet cold hard cash that you don't in **HEAD GAMES**, the network's first-ever trivia show for television and online. From the creative genius of executive producer Whoopi Goldberg and her production company Whoop Inc., the all-new irreverent trivia series uses humor and fascinating science facts to put the intellect of contestants and viewers alike to the test. Hosted by comedian and actor Greg Proops, **HEAD GAMES** gives viewers science trivia they can chew on.

In each episode, contestants test their aptitude against questions about peculiar, unexpected facts from the natural and scientific world.

<b>Saturday, December 5</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	What happens when you put metal in a microwave oven? What surprising animals have been on the space shuttle? What happens when you squeeze liquid from an orange peel near a flame?
<b>Saturday, December 12</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	What happens to pure sodium when it is dropped into fresh water? What does the water in an average cumulous cloud weigh? What animal has no sweat glands?
<b>Saturday, December 17</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	How does a gecko clean its eyes? What happens when you place soap in a microwave? Did the stegosaurus use its bony plates for defense?
<b>Saturday, December 26</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>World Premiere</b> <b>[TV-G]</b>	Do Americans eat more beef or chicken? In what decade was the first manmade object put into orbit? Are fire ants more closely related to roaches or spiders?