

# The First Annual Isaac Asimov Memorial Panel Debate

2001

## The Theory of Everything

Can the entire Universe be explained with a single, unifying theory?

Our distinguished panel of experts will debate this and related questions on the frontier of cosmic discovery.

Main Auditorium  
American Museum of Natural History  
Tuesday Evening, 13 February 2001  
7:30 – 9:00

## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

### Supporters

**Brian Greene** is professor of physics and mathematics at Columbia University. He has lectured in more than twenty countries and is widely regarded for a number of groundbreaking discoveries in superstring theory. He has had many national media appearances, and his book, *The Elegant Universe*, won Europe's top prize for a book on science, and spent half a year on the New York Times bestseller list.

**James Gates** is John S. Toll Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland. His research includes theoretical physics of super-symmetric particles, fields & strings, quarks, leptons, gravity, super & heterotic strings and, of course, unified field theories. He has consulted for the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, the Educational Testing Service. He is the author of *Superspace, or 1001 Lessons In Supersymmetry*.

**Lisa Randall** is professor of physics at MIT. Her specialty is theoretical particle physics. She has studied subjects ranging from the fundamental theory of matter, to physics beyond the standard model including supersymmetry, to the study of gravity and string theory. Her most recent work could lead to a radical revision in the connection between string theory and the observable universe, in particular in its treatment of additional spatial dimensions.

### Doubters

**Lawrence Krauss** is chair and professor of physics and astronomy at Case Western Reserve University. He is a theoretical physicist who works to interface elementary particle physics and cosmology. He is the author of numerous popular books, including *Quintessence* and the soon to be released *Atom*. Last year he was awarded the AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science, joining previous awardees Carl Sagan and E. O. Wilson.

**Sheldon Glashow** is a son of Russian immigrants and a product of the New York City Public School system. Having taught physics in California, Texas, France, and Harvard (for some 35 years), he recently crossed to the right bank of the Charles River to become the Metcalf Professor of the Sciences at Boston University. He shared the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics with his Bronx HS of Science classmate, Steven Weinberg and the late Abdus Salam.

### Host & Moderator

**Neil deGrasse Tyson** is Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium and Lecturer at Princeton University's Department of Astrophysics, a graduate of Bronx HS of Science, Harvard and Columbia University. He is author of numerous publications and books including the companion book to the Rose Center, *One Universe: At Home in the Cosmos* (co-authored with Charles Liu and Robert Irion).

# THE EVENING'S PROGRAM

## **Welcome & Introduction of Panelists**

*Neil deGrasse Tyson*

## **Asimov Reminiscences**

*panelists*

## **Establishing the Historical Landscape**

*Neil deGrasse Tyson*

## **Opening Questions to Panelists**

*Brian Greene*

*James Gates*

*Lisa Randall*

*Lawrence Krauss*

*Sheldon Glashow*

## **Directed Free Debate Among Panelists**

## **Questions from the Audience**

## **Closing Remarks**

*Neil deGrasse Tyson*

## **Adjourn**

## **Book Sale / Book & Program Signing**

*Hall of Northwest Coast Indians*

*panelists and host*

The late Dr. Isaac Asimov, one of the most prolific and influential authors of our time, was a great friend and supporter of the American Museum of Natural History. In his memory, the Hayden Planetarium is honored to host the First Annual Isaac Asimov Memorial Panel Debate.

This evening's event inaugurates an annual panel series, generously endowed by Dr. Asimov's widow and many other relatives, friends and admirers of his work. The Isaac Asimov Memorial Panels will bring the finest scientific minds in the world to the Museum each year to discuss and debate some of the most important and interesting questions on the frontier of cosmic discovery. Proceeds from the ticket sales of the Isaac Asimov Memorial Panels will benefit the scientific and educational programs of the Hayden Planetarium.

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To get your name on the Hayden Planetarium listserv for cool sky events and upcoming Hayden news, send an e-mail to [majordomo@amnh.org](mailto:majordomo@amnh.org) don't type anything in the subject header, but in the body of the e-mail, type *subscribe star-struck your e-mail address*