

## Neil deGrasse Tyson

Astrophysicist, author and visionary

Neil deGrasse Tyson was born and raised in New York City where he was educated in the public schools clear through his graduation from the Bronx High School of Science. Tyson went on to earn his BA in Physics from Harvard and his PhD in Astrophysics from Columbia.

Tyson's professional research interests are broad, but include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way. Tyson obtains his data from the Hubble Space Telescope, as well as from telescopes in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and in the Andes Mountains of Chile.

In 2001, Tyson was appointed by President Bush to serve on a 12-member commission that studied the Future of the US Aerospace Industry. The final report was published in 2002 and contained recommendations (for Congress and for the major agencies of the government) that would promote a thriving future of transportation, space exploration, and national security.

In 2004, Tyson was once again appointed by President Bush to serve on a 9-member commission on the Implementation of the United States Space Exploration Policy, dubbed the Moon, Mars and Beyond commission. This group navigated a path by which the new space vision can become a successful part of the American agenda. And in 2006, the head of NASA appointed Tyson to serve on its prestigious Advisory Council, which will help guide NASA through its perennial need to fit its ambitious vision into its restricted budget.

In addition to dozens of professional publications, Dr. Tyson has written, and continues to write for the public. He is a monthly essayist for *Natural History* magazine under the title Universe. And among Tyson's nine books is his memoir "The Sky is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist," and "Origins: Fourteen Billion Years of Cosmic Evolution," co-written with Donald Goldsmith. *Origins* is the companion book to the PBS-NOVA 4-part mini-series *Origins*, in which Tyson serves as on-camera host. The program premiered on September 28 and 29, 2004. And beginning in the fall of 2006, Tyson became the on-camera host of PBS-NOVA's spinoff program *NOVA ScienceNow*, which is an accessible look at the frontier of all the science that shapes the understanding of our place in the universe.

Tyson's latest two books are the playful and informative "Death By Black Hole and Other Cosmic Quandaries," which was a New York Times bestseller, and "The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America's Favorite Planet," chronicling his experience at the center of the controversy over Pluto's planetary status.

Tyson is the recipient of nine honorary doctorates and the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal. His contributions to the public appreciation of the cosmos have been recognized by the International Astronomical Union in their official naming of asteroid 13123 Tyson. On the lighter side, Tyson was voted Sexiest Astrophysicist Alive by People Magazine in 2000.

His new venture is Star Talk Radio, a popular commercial radio program devoted to all things space.

Tyson is the first occupant of the Frederick P. Rose Directorship of the Hayden Planetarium.

Tyson lives in New York City with his wife and two children.