

The Moons of Jupiter / Journey to the Stars

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Abstract

The Moons of Jupiter/Journey to the Stars is an oral talk and performance, which describes a creative project uniting science and theatre arts. In the service of offering science education outside the classroom this presentation explores the use of theatre as a vehicle for inspiring interest in science.

In The Moons of Jupiter playwright Jessica Litwak uses planetary science and Greek mythology to engage the audience in an imaginative journey, which both provokes thought and embodies scientific knowledge within the plot and through the character. It focuses attention on climate change and the global water shortage, using planetary science as a vehicle to sensitize people on these issues. The Moons of Jupiter teaches us about the history of science, the future of planetary travel and the courage and necessity of always looking toward the unknown. It's also (like all good plays) about love.



The Moons of Jupiter by Jessica Litwak, has set out to collaborate with another inspirational project, Journey to the Stars by astronomer Eleni Chatzichristou, involving a large-range of stakeholders: public, schools, artistic entities, state officials, tourism professionals. The Moons of Jupiter/Journey to the Stars is a complex, multidisciplinary, multidimensional project, a true collaboration between the arts and

sciences, linking astronomy with theater both represented in Greek antiquity by the muses, the inspirational goddesses considered to be the source of knowledge.

This innovative project is aimed to inspire people to develop a genuine interest in the works of nature (our planet's fragile environment but also our place within the cosmos) and humanity, to develop affinity for the arts, and to appreciate the culture of our ancestors and of people around the world.

This presentation explores the educational and social value of the project, which encourages outreach and dialogue with the society. It is our intention that it becomes a starting point to further promote space science through artistic events and to, inversely, encourage artistic performances to accompany science dissemination activities.