Bakersfield College “Season of Light” Holiday Evening Show

Taking place in the William M. Thomas Planetarium. The event is open to the public.

On Thursdays, November 30 and December 7, the William M. Thomas Planetarium will be giving the popular holiday evening show "Season of Light" from 7:30 to 8:45 PM. **Doors will open at 7:00 PM and will be closed during the holiday program with no late admittance.** Tickets are available at the Bakersfield College Ticket Office and [online](#) only (tickets will NOT be sold at the door) starting November 17. Prices are $8 for adults and $6 for seniors and children 5-12 years old. The BC Ticket Office is in Business Services (661-395-4326) and the William M. Thomas Planetarium is on the second floor, on the northwest end of the Math-Science Building, Room 112. [See attached map](#). No food, drink, or gum/candy is allowed in the planetarium.

Each show will begin with a short tour of the evening sky using the planetarium's Goto Chronos star projector followed by the 37-minute all-dome presentation from Loch Ness Productions called "Season of Light" using our Spitz SciDome projector. This presentation traces the history and development of many of the world's most endearing holiday customs, all of which involve lighting up the winter season — from the burning Yule log, sparkling Christmas tree lights and candles in windows, to the lighting of luminarias in the American Southwest and the traditional ritual of the Hanukkah Menorah.

“Season of Light” also recounts the historical religious and cultural rituals practiced during the time of winter solstice — not only Christian and Jewish, but also Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Irish, Mexican and Hopi. It also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions: from gift-giving and kissing under the mistletoe, to songs about lords a-leaping and ladies dancing, and the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles. St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, and Santa Claus all drop by as well.

Naturally, there is some astronomy in “Season of Light”. Audiences learn a selection of Northern hemisphere winter constellations, and find out why we even have seasons, as we demonstrate the Sun's path across the sky throughout the year, and the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun. And of course, the program explores the possible astronomical explanations for a 'Star over Bethlehem' in the last quarter of the show: comets, meteors, novae and supernovae, and planetary conjunctions.

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Bakersfield College offers a rigorous and supportive learning environment that fosters students' abilities to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate competencies and skills in order to engage productively in their communities and the world, while simultaneously contributing to the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of the communities it serves.

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Event: Bakersfield College “Season of Light” Holiday Evening Show
Day: For Immediate Release:
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