



Voyager

Executive Summary

Hemlock Films
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On a mission to explore, these men and women are in a race against time, greed, and technology.

LOGLINE:

After discovering a *rare alignment in the orbit of the planets*, scientists work mightily to seize this opportunity with a daring robotic mission to explore the far reaches of our solar system.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The *Voyager* film project is a one-hour documentary for PBS. Portraying the multi-decade events associated with the NASA Voyager mission, the film will utilize interviews with Voyager project personnel, archival materials, state of the art graphics and dramatic reenactments.

Hemlock Films is partnered with WIPB-PBS to produce the *Voyager* film project, distributing across PBS stations nationally for 50th anniversary of the Voyager mission's launch.

FILM SYNOPSIS

In 1964, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) finally took a close-up picture of our moon from a spacecraft. That same year, a JPL grad student made a monumental discovery. Through hand calculations he finds that Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune would be aligned; allowing a spacecraft to visit all four planets in one mission...known as the "Grand Tour."

The people at JPL design a "Grand Tour" mission, to create an expensive and audacious new spacecraft to take advantage of this once-in-several-lifetimes planetary alignment. The "Grand Tour" is shot down in Washington, due to cost. In its place, JPL creates a smaller mission, built with proven off-the-shelf parts, eventually known as Voyager.

In 1977, two Voyager spacecraft are created and launched towards their *approved* targets of Jupiter and Saturn to explore and collect scientific information about our universe. With rousing successes at both planets, a decision must be made; should one of the craft continue to the ice giants? After fighting off Washington's efforts to cancel the mission, Voyager 2 carries on with an extended mission to as-yet-unvisited Uranus, Neptune and beyond.

Today, both Voyager probes are still flying and transmitting, becoming the farthest objects humans have ever built. Both were designed to last at least 5 years. Now approaching half a century, the spacecraft continue their mission to explore through interstellar space.

Everyday JPL scientists listen to what the spacecraft report, learning new information about our galaxy.



FILM PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

The production will film reenactment scenes in Ohio, utilizing the state's 30% tax credit.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION PLAN

The film *Voyager* is being produced in partnership with WIPB- PBS in Indiana. Through WIPB, the production will be offered for national PBS distribution, accessing the over 65 million cross-platform PBS users per month.

UNDERWRITER EXPOSURE

Releasing in 2027 (the 50th anniversary of the launch of the spacecraft), *Voyager* will have broadcast and streaming across all the PBS platforms. Underwriters will have the opportunity to have their brand highlighted with every viewing of *Voyager*, becoming a partner in sharing with the world this quintessential American story of exploration.

PRODUCTION TEAM

The production has already created partnerships with key organizations, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who created and manages the Voyager mission. Connections have also been made with VFX companies who will help bring *Voyager's* interplanetary imagery to life.

Hemlock Films has won several Emmy awards for their documentary work, including *Space Chase USA*, which has been airing on PBS platforms for the past four years and counting.





ADAM WHITE – Producer/Director

Adam is an award-winning Producer and Cinematographer and licensed pilot. Producing twelve PBS documentaries and museum films, he has won multiple Emmys for his films *The Restorers* (TV series), *Beyond the Powder*, *Red Tail Reborn* and *Space Chase USA*. Adam also won a Best Cinematography Emmy for the PBS documentary *Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park*.

With over 30 years of experience and a graduate of Wright State University's prestigious film program, Adam has worked on big budget Hollywood films, independent films, television shows, documentaries, and commercials. *The Resistance*, a narrative film with Adam's work as cinematographer, has just finished its film festival tour, earning wins worldwide.



KARA WHITE – Writer/Director

"How to capture an image technically is one thing, but how to tell a story is another. Kara is a huge part of the reason Hemlock Films produces the kind of movies that cuddle up to your heart, open your mind, and settle well in your soul."

Linda Street-Ely (Journalist)

Kara is an award-winning Director and Producer of multiple documentaries and short films. She has received Emmy nominations for Director, Writing, and Research and has won Emmy awards for Writing, Best Documentary, and Technical Achievement, along with multiple film festival awards (Best Drama, Director, Screenplay, Editing, Audience Choice Award).

She directed the award-winning film *The Resistance* and documentary films *Rise Above: WASP, Witness to Revolution*, and *Beyond the Powder*, airing on PBS. She produced the Emmy Award winning documentaries *The Restorers* and *Space Chase USA* for PBS.

PRODUCTION PARTNERS



Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

A federally funded research laboratory, JPL is administered in partnership with NASA and CalTech. Started in 1936, JPL has been the leader in development and management of our nation's robotic spacecraft. In 1977 JPL launched Voyager 1 and 2 into space to begin their exploration journey. Traveling a million miles a day, both spacecraft are still reporting their findings to Earth.

INTERVIEWS



BILL NYE

Bill Nye is an American mechanical engineer, science communicator and television presenter. He is best known as the host of the science education television show *Bill Nye the Science Guy* and as a science educator in pop culture.



DR. GARY FLANDRO

A professor now at the University of Tennessee Space Institute, in 1965 Gary Flandro was a PhD candidate, working orbital equations for JPL. Eventually, Dr. Flandro and the team revealed a once in 175 year planetary alignment. With gravity assist, NASA could now take twenty years off a

direct flight from Earth to Neptune, visiting all four outer planets in one shot. It was an opportunity too good to pass up, and JPL set to work developing a mission that eventually became Voyager.



DR. JAMIE RANKIN

Jamie Rankin, Associate Research Scientist and Instructor of the Space Physics Laboratory class is the deputy project scientist for the Voyager Mission. At 34 years old she is one of the youngest to hold such a title.

While working on her Ph.D. at Caltech, Rankin was the last graduate student of Ed Stone who was the Project Scientist for Voyager. "I did the first thesis on Voyager's data from interstellar space," Rankin said. "I arrived at Caltech six days after Voyager 1 reached interstellar space, so I got to see that whole history unfold. Voyager allows us, for the first time, to look at our own star and our own planetary system from the outside."

