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The Children's Museum premieres new Astronaut space show while NASA to launch space shuttle Atlantis

West Hartford, CT (December 5, 2007)...NASA's shuttle Atlantis is ready for launch on Thursday, December 6 at 4:31 p.m. EST. Within a time frame of a mere 8 _ minutes, the seven astronauts on-board will experience three times Earth's gravity causing breathing to become very difficult as the shuttle shakes and rattles going from 0 to 17,500 miles per hour. After 8 _ minutes the thrust from the engines drops off to zero, the pressure on their chests will disappear, and they become weightless. They are now in space.

While most of us will never get the thrill (or terror depending on how you look at it) of an actual shuttle launch you can get to experience what it is really like in outer space in **Astronaut – A fulldome experience like nothing on Earth.** Premiering December 26, 2007, Astronaut is the newest space show at the Travelers Science Dome located at The Children's Museum.

Scottish actor Ewan McGregor (featured in films such as *Moulin Rouge* and the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy), who narrates the show, opens with the dramatic statement, "Stand anywhere on Earth and

space is never more than a mere 10 kilometers away. At this distance you are beyond Earth's atmosphere and are officially an astronaut."

Audiences will experience a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut and see what it is like to float around in the International Space Station. Working and living in space is risky business. Discover the perils that lurk in space as we subject 'Chad,' our test astronaut, to everything that space has to throw at him. "Astronaut is a must-see for anyone fascinated by astronauts and exploration. Each show promises to be even better with a "live-night sky" tour using the new SciDome projector" says Director & Staff Astronomer Jason Archer.

Sneak previews are available to the press and media. Schedule a sneak peak of this exciting new show by contacting Jason Archer. The Travelers Science Dome was made possible thanks to a major gift by Travelers.

Established in 1927, The Children's Museum is a one-of-a-kind museum featuring hands-on science exhibits, live animals, digital space and science shows, and programs for the whole family. The Museum includes the United Technologies Wildlife Sanctuary, the new Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT, and The Children's Museum Preschool, one of the oldest preschools in the country. The Children's Museum serves close to 180,000 people annually, is the fifth oldest children's museum in the country, and is Connecticut's largest museum. Located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford, the Museum is accessible from I-84 Exit 43 and offers free parking. For more information and specific show schedules, visit the website: www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org

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