

MOTION INSTITUTE PRESENTS

THE KEPLER STORY

Theater + Science + Harmony

An engulging visual, stage,
and musical presentation
about 17th Century mystic
and astronomer
Johannes Kepler



Designed for Planetarium Domes

Created by Nina Wise • Music by Zoë Keating • Visuals by Cymatrix, California Academy of Sciences



The Kepler Story is an immersive theater production about 17th

Century astronomer and mystic **Johannes Kepler**.

Written by Nina Wise and developed in collaboration with

California Academy of Sciences, the piece is

performed by a **solo actor** in a **planetarium dome**.

Blending live theater, engulfing visuals and surround sound,

The Kepler Story tells the **deeply moving** story of one of the

greatest scientific geniuses of all time.



AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY

The Kepler Story takes the audience on a narrative journey through Kepler's game-changing astronomical discoveries, professional and personal challenges, and the spiritual epiphanies that informed his science. Despite discovering the three laws of planetary motion that remain universal laws to this day, Kepler remained destitute. Due to an irrepressible impulse to give voice to his controversial theories about the structure of the universe, Kepler was banished from one country after the next and forced time and again to seek asylum for himself and his family. The powers that be, eager to suppress Kepler, arrested and tried his mother for witchcraft and it fell upon Kepler to craft her defense. While these obstacles would silence most, Kepler was unstoppable in his pursuit of the secrets of nature and his unerring faith in a harmonious universe. These stories all come to life in The Kepler Story.





AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE

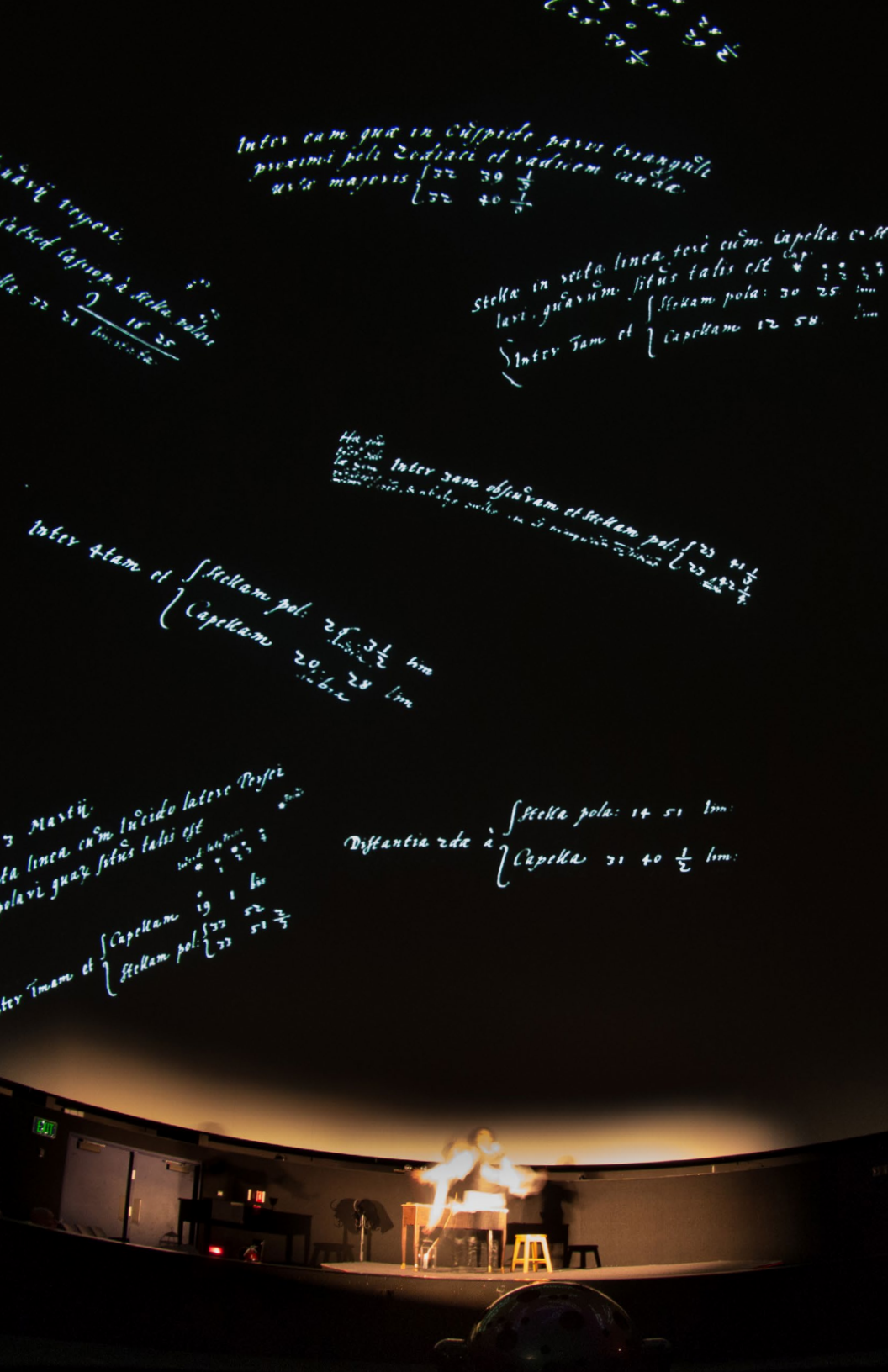
Full-dome 3D environments have the capacity to affect both the mind and the body of the audience. In The Kepler Story we employ this cutting-edge technology to create an impact beyond the capacity of proscenium-defined art forms as we tackle one of the most important themes of modern culture: the often conflictual relationship between science, spirituality and politics.

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

The Kepler Story opened at California Academy of Sciences' Morrison Planetarium in San Francisco in the fall of 2013. It played seven sold-out shows, attracted 2,000 audience members, and received rave reviews. It was the first theater production ever produced for a run at Morrison and its unparalleled success opened doors for further projects of this nature.

In the spring of 2016, The Kepler Story was produced at the Fiske Planetarium in Boulder, Colorado. It played seven sold out shows and attracted 1400 audience members, an unprecedented achievement by the Fiske.





SERVING THE MISSION OF SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

THE KEPLER STORY:

- **Attracts New Audiences**

In San Francisco, over 80% of the audience were not members of the Academy of Sciences. Most audience members voiced their intention to return during regular hours. In Boulder, audience members disclosed they had not been to a planetarium since childhood and now were eager to return on a regular basis and to bring their family and friends.

- **Educates People about the History of Science**

The Kepler Story not only teaches people about the history of the Scientific Revolution but also informs them about the nature of scientific discovery itself.

- **Inspires People to Pursue a Career in Science**

Several younger audience members told us that the story of Kepler's life and the struggles he encountered left them deeply motivated to pursue their own passions in the field of science despite what obstacles might arise.

- **Explores the Connection Between Art and Science**

Experimenting in the ways art and science can merge is one of the most exciting collaborative endeavors available to artists and scientists today. In a culture rife with anti-science sentiment, art and science can join forces to tell the story of the natural world in a way that is accurate, accessible, exciting and inspirational. The products created by the art/science partnership are far greater than the sum of their parts and so can have an impact beyond what each discipline can do on their own.

THE TEAM



NINA WISE

Writer, Producer, Actor



RYAN WYATT

Director, California Academy
of Sciences Morrison
Planetarium



ZOE KEATING

Composer, Cellist



**CHRISTOPHER
HEDGE**

Sound Designer



JAN ZEHN

Animator



STEFAN BERKE

Animator



RALPH ABRAHAM

Mathematician Script
Consultant



MOLLY NOBLE

Director

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