

MEDIA RELEASE

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Star Crossed Lovers

Stories of star crossed lovers abound in star lore, and have been handed down for millennia. There are tales of sacrifice for one's lover, a hero's quest to prove their devotion and beautiful maidens who win the hearts and minds of gods and mortals alike.

Once a year, Stardome Observatory & Planetarium gather these legends together to weave a magical night of romance for couples that attend their special Valentine's Day shows. These lucky few are treated to bubbles and canapés on arrival, before being ushered inside the planetarium theatre where stories will unfold accompanied by beautiful images of planets, star clusters and gas cloud nebulae.

Take an up close look at Venus, named for the god of love. Visit Mars, the Moon and hear stories and poems that pay tribute to the most romantic celestial objects. The beautiful stars of the Pleiades (Matariki) have many different legends sourced from different cultures around the world, but consistently this is one of the most venerated star clusters. Questions from the audience are encouraged in the planetarium, so the shape of the show differs in each session to accommodate this.

For the first time this year, tickets to Valentine's Day shows include a beautiful personalised gift basket, bubbles and chocolate to share plus your very own Adopt a Star. Only at Stardome can you literally give your partner the stars this Valentine's Day.

Star gazing through the powerful Stardome courtyard telescopes follows all Valentine's Day planetarium shows (weather permitting). Learn how to find some of the key constellations in the Auckland night sky, and use their stories to help you remember why they are there. Take this skill away and use it again on any clear night.

This year the stars will shine bright for lucky couples who manage to secure tickets. Four shows run at 7pm, 8pm, 9pm and 10pm. Double passes cost \$120 and are selling fast. Booking is essential on 09 624 1246 or at www.stardome.org.nz.

Find out more at the Stardome website <http://www.stardome.org.nz/valentines-day/>.

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For further information, promo/prize tickets or images contact:

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