

## ABOUT SPACE PANORAMA

Ten years after its West Coast premiere and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, theater maker Andrew Dawson returned to CAP UCLA this fall with *Space Panorama*, an original work inspired by the 1960's space race.

In this solo recreation of the Apollo 11 moon landing, Dawson uses only his hands and face to recount the entire mission—in under an hour! Accompanied by Shostakovich's 10th Symphony, dramatic narration, and historic audio recordings, Dawson takes us from Houston to the moon and returns us safely to earth, conveying the colossal distances and the dizzying risks through his deft movements. Dawson has performed *Space Panorama*—which he staged for the first time in northern England in 1989—at theatres and festivals throughout the world, and at the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, DC.

## ABOUT ANDREW DAWSON

Andrew Dawson is a dancer, a theater artist, a puppeteer and, most of all, a storyteller. Dawson has created his own unique brand of theater using only the finely tuned gestures of his hands and the expressions of his face to act out the details of complex narratives. He often refers his craft as "physical theater."

He has created solo adaptations of other monumental tales, like Wagner's *Ring Cycle* (an epic 17-hour opera), as well as deeply personal, human-scale original stories.

Dawson has worked with an extraordinary range of theatrical and creative projects with companies around the world, including as lead puppeteer for the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremonies in London. He has served as movement director for productions at Metropolitan Opera New York and the English National Opera.

Reflecting his curiosity into the physical body, mindfulness and movement, Andrew has taught yoga and mindful movement techniques.



## ONE GIANT LEAP: Landing on the Moon

When the Apollo 11 mission arrived on the surface of the moon in July of 1969, it marked the completion of an ambitious national goal set by President John F. Kennedy in 1961: to land humans on the moon and return them safely to Earth, and do it in the next 9 years. It had been just a few weeks since the first human ever—Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin—had traveled into space. Nine years seemed like an impossibly short timeline for landing on, and relaunching from the moon. But, with the hard work of hundreds of thousands of scientists and engineers, the Apollo program moved ahead at lightning speed. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins became the U.S. astronauts who would make the historic trip from Earth.

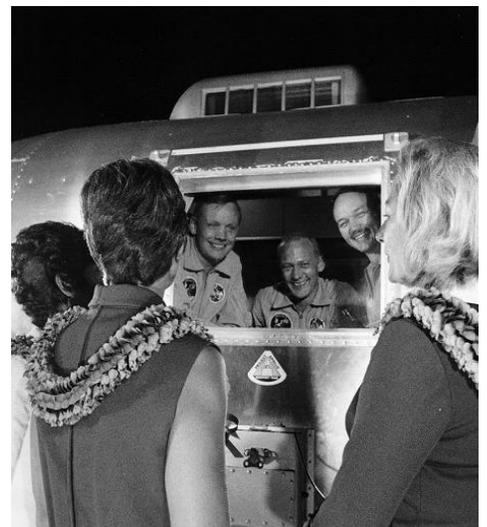
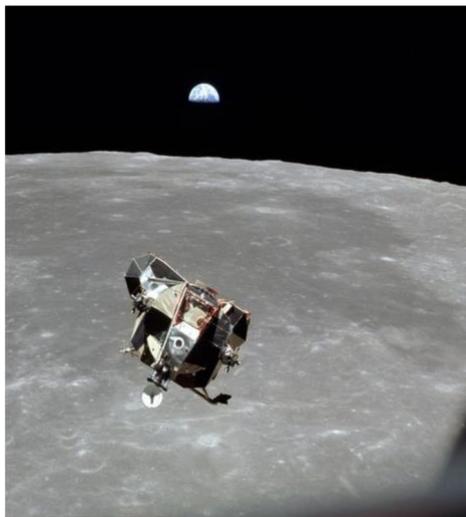
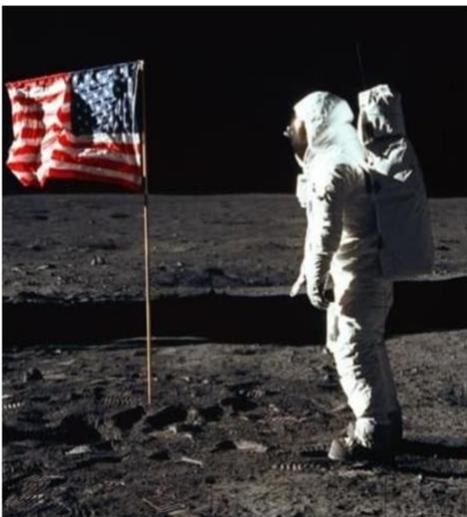
Apollo 11 launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida (now known as Kennedy Space Center on Cape Canaveral) on July 16, 1969. After traveling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11's command module, Columbia, entered lunar orbit. The next day, Armstrong and Aldrin crawled through a hatch into the lunar landing module, Eagle, and separated from Columbia. Collins remained on board, continuing to orbit the moon. Two hours later, the Eagle began its descent to the lunar surface. The craft touched down on the southwestern edge of the Sea of Tranquility—a large, smooth place on the moon's cratered surface. Armstrong immediately radioed to Mission Control in Houston, a now-famous message: "The Eagle has landed."

As Armstrong stepped off the ladder and took his first step on the moon, he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Aldrin joined him on the moon's surface 19 minutes later, and together they took photographs of the terrain, planted a U.S. flag, collected samples, and set up scientific equipment to monitor lunar conditions. Armstrong and Aldrin spent just over 21 hours on the moon's surface. After a rest period that included seven hours of sleep, the ascent stage engine fired, lifting Eagle back to Columbia.

Armstrong and Aldrin successfully docked and rejoined Collins. Apollo 11 began its 3 day journey home, safely splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969.

More than 50 years later, it remains a stunning—and inspiring—achievement.

Get a complete overview of the [Apollo 11 Mission in a 5 minute video.](#)



*Buzz Aldrin salutes the American flag on the moon; Eagle descends to the moon's surface. On the horizon, earth rises. Collins took this iconic picture from inside Columbia; The three returned astronauts greet their wives from a quarantine van.*

## **Did You Know...**

- Your smartphone is a million times more powerful than the NASA computers in 1969.
- Apollo 11 was the fifth manned mission of the Apollo program—the first four did not land.
- Around 400,000 engineers, technicians, and scientists worked on the Apollo program.
- An estimated 600 million people around the world tuned in to watch the moon landing live on TV.
- In addition to the American flag, the crew left hundreds of other items behind on the moon, including scientific monitoring equipment and a tiny golden olive branch, representing peace.

### **KEY PEOPLE & TERMS**

**Apollo 11:** The name of the mission that first landed humans on the moon. There were many missions in NASA's Apollo space program, and each brought us one step closer to a safe moon landing. For example, Apollo 8 astronauts orbited the moon for the first time, but did not attempt to land.

**The Space Race:** A popular term for the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union trying to be the first to achieve scientific and space exploration milestones. It began in the mid 1950s, and ended 20 years later with a joint project. The Space Race left a great legacy of technological development and increased focus on science education.

**Lunar Module:** A small spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back. The Apollo 11 lunar module was called the *Eagle*.

**Command Module:** A space craft in which astronauts can live and work, like a mobile base. The Apollo 11 command module was called the *Columbia*.

**Neil Armstrong:** Mission commander for Apollo 11 and the first person to walk on the moon.

**Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin:** Apollo 11 lunar module pilot and the second person to walk on the moon

**Michael Collins:** Apollo 11 command module pilot who flew around the moon while his crewmates, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, took the lunar module to the moon's surface.

### **Dig Deeper: Videos, Further Reading and Discussion Topics**

Check out NASA's [Apollo 11 gallery](#) for pictures of Eagle and Columbia.

Read more about [Apollo 11](#) and how the mission took place.

Relive the historic moment by watching live [footage](#) of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

- Can movement and gesture tell a story or present an idea? Can it represent an emotion?
- Can just one person tell a story as big as the Apollo 11 moon landing?
- Across human history, the moon has been an inspiration for mythology, music, poetry, and art. Why do you think that is? What does the moon make *you* think of? Why is the moon "poetic?" Can you imagine being the first human to land on, or walk on the moon?

**Try These Activities:**

Design your own [Lunar Lander](#) and [Command Module](#) using recycled materials.

Explore moon mythology in the arts with this "[Moon Rabbit](#)" [poetry and visual art activity](#).