



BATAVIA

MARTIN CUFF

OVERVIEW

FORMAT:	Limited TV Series - 8 episodes*
GENRE:	Sci-Fi, Action Adventure, Psychological Thriller, Survival Drama, Psychological Thriller
COMPARISONS:	Lord of the Flies meets The Expanse.
STORY:	An original sci-fi adventure inspired by the true history of the wreck of the <i>Batavia</i> off the coast of Australia in 1628.
TARGET RELEASE:	June 2028 – 400 th anniversary * <i>Batavia</i> is conceived as a self-contained limited series. (it could equally work across 3 seasons) The story resolves decisively but the world naturally extends, allowing for a thematically connected sequel exploring the corporate and political fallout – and possibly a renewed Cornell/Uzo clash aboard the rescue vessel <i>Sardam</i> .
CREATOR	Martin Cuff

LOGLINE

When the O.R.S *Batavia* is left fatally damaged near Jupiter's destructive gravity, 300 cold and starving survivors are left in the care of a Director with the sole legal authority to set out the rules for survival.

But when he uses his power to push his own insidious personal goals – the theft of the *Batavia*'s fortune in gold – and begins enslaving and murdering 200 people, the ship's brave doctor must go against the Company to save the Company. If she fails, the truth dies with her.





SYNOPSIS

It's 2078 and the VOC's super-freighter O.R.S. *Batavia* is travelling to the asteroid mining colonies on Jupiter's moons, carrying terraforming and mining equipment, workers and a fortune in gold. One night, the *Batavia* is clipped and fatally disabled by a meteoroid. The battered vessel is flung into Jupiter's orbit, where it's low on power, heat, oxygen and water and may be crushed at any minute by Jupiter's gravity. More troubling: 350 people are now roused from hypersleep, and there's only food on board for 100.

With no hope of reaching help through normal communications, Director Pelser decides to take a life-raft and race ahead to Jupiter for help. In doing so, he leaves Deputy Director Jerry Cornell in absolute command over the cold and hungry survivors.

But Jerry Cornell has a secret; he has no intention of dying on the ruins of the *Batavia*. He plans to steal the ship's gold when the Rescue Vessel returns with a small crew. But to do this, he needs fewer obstacles. Using the total power granted him as the most senior company officer on board, he decides 200 people have to die.

With a team of loyal Conspirators, he divides and isolates the survivors across the massive ship so that they are unaware of the regime of pure terror that he unleashes - rape, enslavement, murder. He creates an army of child soldiers out of cabin boys, forces women into sexual slavery, and has anyone who crosses him killed.

But the ship's doctor, Uzo Igwe, has noticed, and she must race assemble a rag-tag group of desperate Defenders in a race against both time and danger, to defeat Cornell, save the Batavia and rescue the remaining passengers.

When Pelser's rescue ship appears on the horizon the battle between Defenders and Conspirators is spun into another electrifying direction. Now everything is left to play for; there is a desperate scramble through the ruins of the Batavia, Defender versus Conspirator, Uzo versus Cornell, good versus evil, each trying to reach Director Pelser first and get their version of the story out.

Cornell is defeated and captured, only for the newly-arrived Pelser to release him again, and now there's one final desperate battle for survival that Uzo has to win – or the truth dies with her.

EPISODIC STRUCTURE

Possible single season arch.

- **COMBING THE CAT:** The Batavia preps for departure. We're introduced to the characters travelling on the Batavia – and the fortune in gold being carried to the colonies. A shock corporal punishment of the Batavia's captain sets up the unfolding crisis.
- **EVERYTHING ON TOP AND NOTHING HANDY:** After departure, relationships on board twist and settle. Alliances are formed. Uzo begins to suspect that Jerry Cornell is conspiring to steal the ship's gold. Cornell becomes Acting Director when Pelser is incapacitated. Uzo and Cornell continue to clash dangerously.
- **DEAD RECKONING:** Pelser recovers and takes back control. Cornell is now running out of time. He tries to provoke a riot by assaulting the passenger Saanvi Jain. When the riot does not happen, tensions escalate to breaking point. It's at this crucial moment that the Batavia is struck by a rogue asteroid.

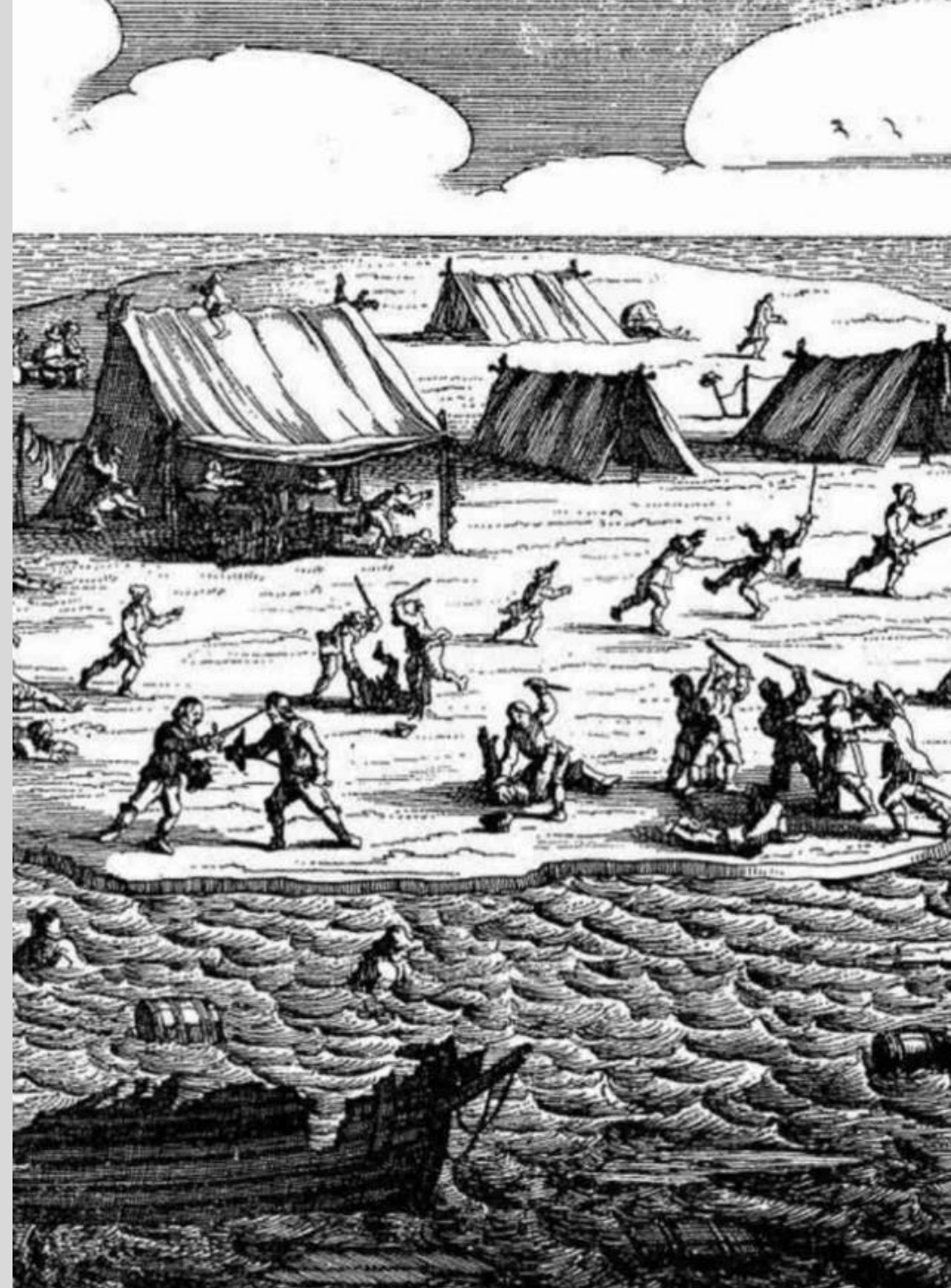
- **ALLISION:** The impact fatally damages the Batavia and sends it hurtling into the dead zone behind Jupiter. 350 crew and passengers survive the impact including hundreds of people waking from hypersleep. There's food only for 100. Pelser jumps in a life raft and races ahead for help, leaving Jerry in charge of the survivors.
- **HORSE LATITUDES:** The Batavia is floating "dead in the water." Jerry begins to eliminate opposition and reward loyalty. He splits the survivors up around the ship, so no one has the full picture of the depravities taking place. As medical officer, Uzo alone sees the terror unfold, and she resolves to stop it.
- **DEVIL TO PAY:** Isolated groups of survivors begin pushing back against Jerry's rules, and he deals with them mercilessly. Murder, rape, torture. Uzo tries to pull together a group of Defenders to counter the Mutineers. A random radio broadcast suggests Pelser is on his way with a rescue vessel. Time is running out.

- **TRUE COLOURS** The mask falls off; babies are murdered, children, the sick, anyone in their way. Uzo manages to hide and connect with the soldiers under Jon Lin. The Conspirators try to quash the threat of the soldiers, and Uzo escapes again. The Conspirators are short of food but they are well armed. The Defenders have food but few weapons. Stalemate. Jerry proposes a truce and offers to meet the Defenders.
- **ALL SEWN UP** Lead by Uzo and Saanvi, the women rise up against the Conspirators. The pitched battle is turned when Pelser's ship appears and starts to dock. Whoever reaches Pelser first will give their version of the story. Uzo races through the Batavia in a final desperate effort to save the survivors. When Pelser boards, he does the unthinkable: he allows Cornell to go free. Cornell immediately re-ignites his plan, leading to a final explosive confrontation.
- *Nb all episode titles are authentic 17th/18th Century naval expressions*

SUPPORTING INFO

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

The *Batavia* was a real VOC vessel that hit an uncharted reef and sank off the coast of (as yet undiscovered) Australia in 1628. The mutiny, the enslavement and murder of the survivors - all actually happened. Jeronimus Cornell was a real person. Frank Pelser existed, Jon Lin existed, Lakshmi Jain existed. Even the ship's doctor existed – though (s)he was obviously neither female nor black nor Nigerian at that time.



TONE

The tv series *Batavia* has the grim, blue-collar tone of *Alien*'s “truckers in space” - a future defined not by wonder and scientific progress, but by work. The ship is a workplace, not a symbol of progress: it's loud, claustrophobic, sickly, under-lit – with health and safety not even a thing anymore. Humans are the cog in the wheel of this industrial world; the crew is tired, replaceable, and bound by contracts they barely understand. Technology doesn't liberate them - it merely keeps the grind running.

Once the *Batavia* is fatally compromised, the modern world slips even further backwards into something recognisably pre-modern: deprivation, starvation, hierarchy enforced by fear, survival trumping law, and authority justified through necessity. The future peels away to reveal the same human depravity that ruled the seas in 1628.

RIGHTS

The novel *Batavia* and all derivative materials are original work by Martin Cuff. The story is inspired by true events surrounding the 1628 sinking and subsequent mass murder of the passengers and crew of the VOC ship Batavia off the coast of Australia in 1628. The film's storyline, locations, characters, and dialogue are fictionalised for dramatic purposes.

All literary, dramatic, and creative rights are wholly owned and controlled by Martin Cuff who retains exclusive rights to license, option, assign, or exploit these materials in any media worldwide, in perpetuity.





WHY THIS STORY NOW?

Batavia is set in 2079, a future close enough to taste. Mankind has expanded into space but has done so without care or conscience. Out past the asteroid belt, a new gold rush is underway, led by corporations reaping astronomical profits. The tech may be advanced, but the ethics are primitive; workers aren't pioneers - they're disposable parts, the cheapest replaceable thing to send into the void.

The world of Batavia is clearly fiction - but only just. In our present, billionaires already buy influence. Laws are rewritten not to protect people, but to protect capital and corporations. Tech bros crush institutions, and "security" is used to justify dismantling rights. The institutions of power are captured to support the greed and insanity of one powerful, charismatic man.

The future Batavia imagines isn't really science fiction - it's a warning. Yes, this is a story packed with action, suspense, and a cast of unforgettable heroes and villains. There are desperate battles, bleak choices, and a ticking clock. But beneath the spectacle, *Batavia* asks a harder and much more relevant question: what happens when power is stolen to serve the interests of one man?

BATAVIA: MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

One morning, I found a Time magazine left behind in the hotel's breakfast room, with a cover article about Asteroid Mining, and the massive profits to be made from scraping space bodies for metals and rare earth minerals, even water.

At the same time, I'd been reading a book about the Dutch East India Company (VOC) - in its day, it was richer than Apple, Google and Facebook combined. It ran countries, monopolized trade routes and wielded unprecedented political powers. It held life-and-death control over its desperate and disenfranchised work force who lived and worked in appalling conditions.

And I thought: for the 21st century space race to really kick off, it would require the space corporations to possess the same kinds of power not seen since the VOC in the 17th Century. How else could they compel workers to toil in desperate conditions of space, with only a 50% chance of making it out alive? Those workers would have had to give up all of their rights and freedoms.

Then I learned about the shipwreck of the VOC ship *Batavia* in 1628 - mutiny, murder and survival while cut off from the rest of humanity. This haunted me because of “Chronosonder” – the realisation that every person, right across history each had the same hopes and dreams and desires as we do. The people on the *Batavia* were just like us. And I thought, in the context of a celestial future....they may be again.

The rise of Donald Trump and the perversion of government to meet the lusts and desires of one corrupt man brings the *Batavia*’s challenges into fresh, uncompromising light. It is more relevant than ever to ask: what happens when the tools of state power are wielded in support of one man? Would you have the strength to fight back? Even if that government has been corrupted to the core? Even if it meant your death? The characters on the *Batavia* faced this in 1628, and they do again in my book, in 2078. 400 years later it seems the quest still has burning relevance.

CHARACTERS

UZO IGWE

Uzo Igwe is the reluctant ship's doctor whose instinct is always to save lives. She believes in care, evidence, and human dignity, even as authority aboard the *Batavia* begins to collapse inward around a single man.

Uzo's bravery begins as an act of thought: the refusal to accept that power equals truth. It becomes ethical resistance, and finally physical courage. She acts not to overthrow the system, but to save it from the man who is consuming it - and pays a personal cost of being the one who would not submit.





JERRY CORNELL

Jeronimus "Jerry" Cornell is the Deputy Chief and officially 2nd in command on the Batavia. Jerry is devious, sly, charming and sociopathic, and what he chooses to do with his unrestrained power defines the fate of all of the passengers and crew of the ship



LAKSHMI JAIN

A wealthy and beautiful heiress travelling in the First Class cabins, Lakshmi is Uzo's ally and great friend. Although she's married, she becomes the unwitting love interest of Pelser and Jerry Cornell, sparking a ruthless rivalry.

Once captured by Cornell, she learns to swallow her shock and humiliation and fight back. Lakshmi is ultimately key to helping Uzo overthrow the mutiny.



JON LIN

Jon Lin is the commander of a small troupe of Colonial Marines on board the *Batavia*. A fierce and loyal lover of Uzo, his skill at command creates a rival powerbase to Cornell, and is the *Batavia*'s main hope of rescue.



HOUPHIGNY

Denis Houphigny is a violent thug and Cornell's enforcer; officially Chief of Security following the crash, he's a dangerous, ruthless and cruel man who will follow Cornell to the depths of hell.



DRIVING ENGAGEMENT

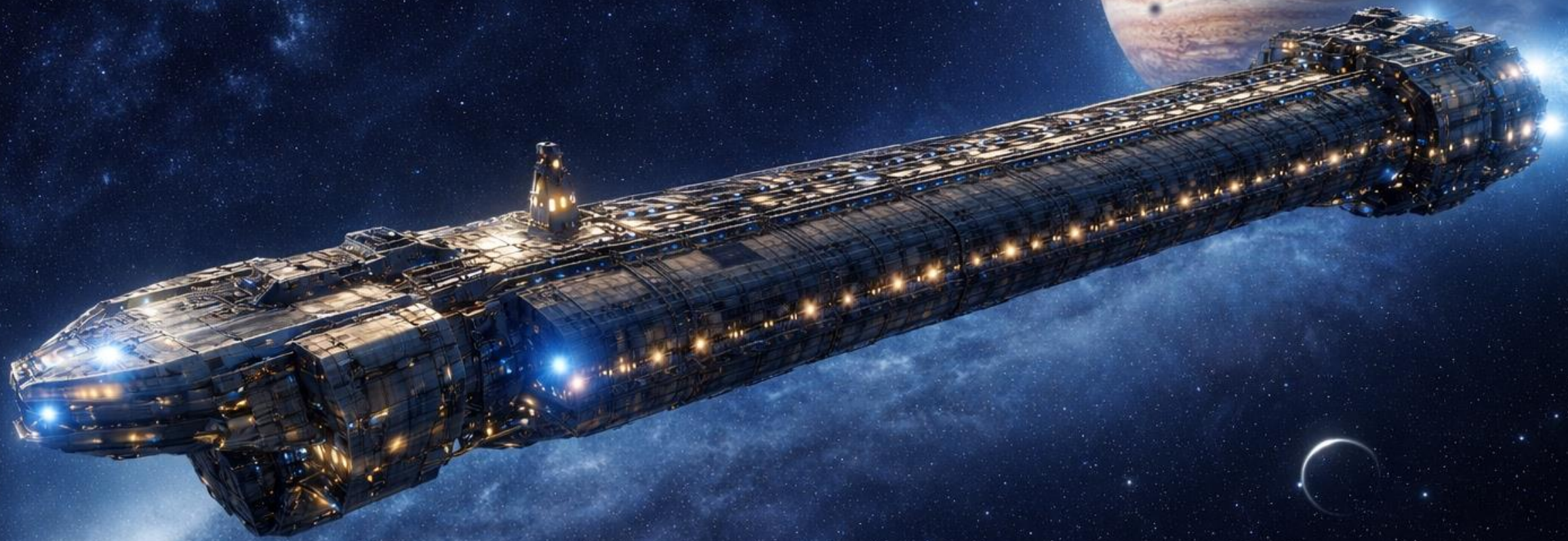
Deliberate Character nationality allowing for targeted campaigns:



Character	Country of Origin	Population (mil)
Jon Lin	China	1,384
Saanvi Jain	India	1,296
Jerry Cornell	USA	329
Ariano Barrantes	Brazil	208
Uzo Igwe	Nigeria	203
Mayken Cardoza	Mexico	125
Wirsan Ali	Ethiopia	108
Daniela Freitas	Philippines	105
Abel Mabinga	DRC	85
Mehmet Shah	Iran	83

REFERENCES IMAGES

ORS BATAVIA



THE BRIDGE



THE ATRIUM









UZO'S BUNK ROOM



CENTRAL CORRIDOR

OXPECKER: FARM SHIP



OXPECKER: MILITARY TRANSPORT



OXPECKER: PASSENGER SHIP



AFTER THE IMPACT











CASTING WISHLIST



Uzo: Wunmi Mosaku

Jon: Henry Fielding

Houphigny: Vincent
Cassel

Lakshmi: Freida Pinto

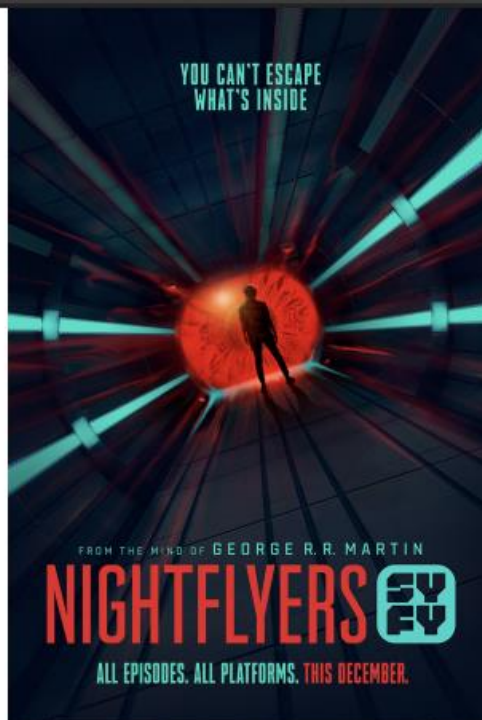
Cornell: Pål Sverre
Hagen

COMPARISONS

NIGHTFLYERS

Format: TV Series
Genre: Horror, Sci-fi

	Critics	Users
RT	35 / 100	57 / 100
MC	47 / 100	5.5 / 10
IMDB	/	5.9 / 10



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

Format: TV Series
Genre: Action, Adventure, Drama

	Critics	Users
RT	95 / 100	93 / 100
MC	89 / 100	8.7 / 10
IMDB	/	8.7 / 10



THE EXPANSE

Format: TV Series
Genre: Drama, Mystery, Sci-fi

	Critics	Users
RT	93 / 100	96 / 100
MC	70 / 100	9.1 / 10
IMDB	/	8.5 / 10



ANOTHER LIFE

Format: TV Series
Genre: Adventure, Drama, Mystery

	Critics	Users
RT	6 / 100	60 / 100
MC	33 / 100	4.5 / 10
IMDB	/	4.9 / 10



TRANSMEDIA ACTIVATIONS

Transmedia storytelling extends a narrative world beyond the screen through immersive digital, interactive, and physical touchpoints. Rather than repeating the story, it deepens it — allowing audiences to explore the systems, cultures, and hidden layers that shape the events they've watched.

Batavia is built on systems — corporate power, space industry, terraforming, labour economics, survival mathematics. Much of that world is real or scientifically plausible. Rather than burdening the series with exposition, we externalise that information into a parallel digital ecosystem. This allows audiences to explore the world at their own depth, without slowing the drama.

The more they explore, the more real the universe feels. And the more real it feels, the more they psychologically invest in it.

A. VOC WEBSITE

The VOC website presents the wider world of the series. It combines real scientific material - asteroid mining, orbital mechanics, terraforming research, long-duration space travel with a fictional corporate structure that controls it all. Visitors encounter investor dashboards, recruitment campaigns, safety statistics, and employment contracts that outline harsh working expectations. A single button links to tv series information.

By presenting real scientific information - terraforming, asteroid mining, space travel, within a fictional framework of a terrifyingly powerful corporation - including the terrible working conditions expected, we allow fans to go deep into the world, creating a psychological ownership and fan engagement.

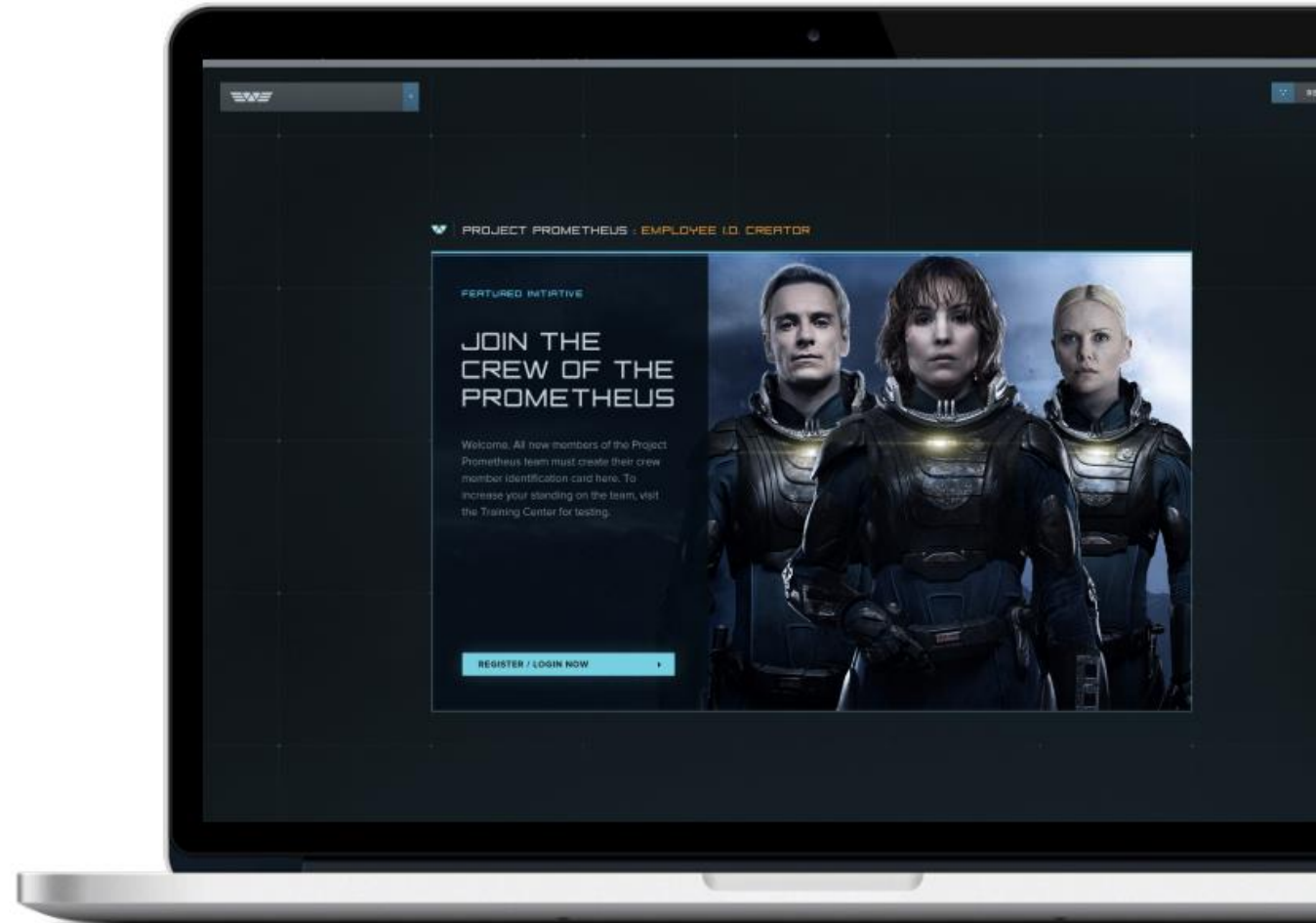
VOCO WEBSITE

Idea: Website for Fictional Company

Purpose: Tangible Feel of the Batavia World

Content:

- Investor information
- Stocks and shares
- Annual report
- Company policies
- Colonial outlooks
- Employment portal
- Training
- Board & management



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Map of the world for 2008-2009
2008-2009 - world rankings

Top countries for 2008-2009
1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Germany
4. France
5. Italy
6. Japan
7. Canada
8. Australia
9. South Korea
10. Brazil

Bottom countries for 2008-2009
1. Afghanistan
2. Somalia
3. Iraq
4. Sudan
5. Zimbabwe
6. Haiti
7. Cuba
8. North Korea
9. Belarus
10. Russia



Where's Wayland going with this? Thought fire was for all mankind. He's probably franchised using it now.
#TED <http://bit.ly/tgwQvj>

TED
ideas worth spreading



STOCK, SHARES & OFFICIAL VISION



VICKERS OLBURG COMPANY



BUSINESS FOCUS: ASTEROID MINING



SPACE MINING:

A GLOBAL SNAPSHOT OF THE FUTURE

The untapped potential of Asteroids

Near-Earth Asteroids are packed to the brim with precious metals and resources. Exploiting them could provide us with a near-infinite supply of precious resources.

Near-Earth Asteroids (NEAs) can be broken down into 3 main categories:

C-type Asteroids

Carbonaceous-type asteroid, composed mostly of carbon.



Resources

Water
Ammonia
Methane (Natural Gas)
Nitrogen

M-type Asteroids

Metal-type asteroids, made of pure nickel-iron (stainless steel).



Resources

Iron
Nickel
Cobalt
Platinum Group Metals

S-type Asteroids

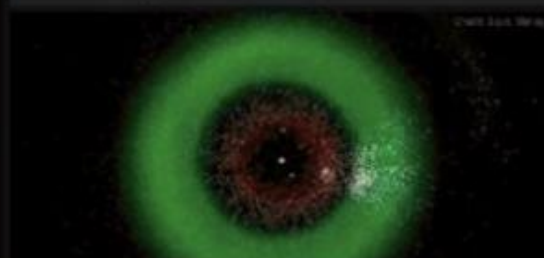
Stony-type asteroids, made mostly of iron and magnesium ores.



Resources

Iron
Nickel
Magnesium
Titanium

Opportunity • Asteroids



Near Earth Asteroids

- One asteroid could contain 30 million tons of nickel, 1.5 million tons of metal cobalt and 7,500 tons of platinum. The platinum alone would have a value of more than \$150 billion.
- There are about 10 billion asteroids greater than 100 m in diameter in our solar system.

Challenge • Asteroid Mining



Asteroid Fuel Depot

- The challenge is to develop viable plans to establish asteroid-based mining operations to extract ores, metals and other resources.
- Advanced research in robotics and artificial intelligence to enable novel applications and new work techniques such as self-mining.

Vision • Asteroid Mining



Asteroid Mining

- The asteroids selected for mining will eventually become space habitats. As these habitats grow, they will be turned into a band of life.
- The Asteroid Belt will be a major trade area of the entire solar system.

1 FIRST STAGE

The first stage would consist of launching a small network of small telescopes into near earth orbit to scan for asteroids that could be useful.

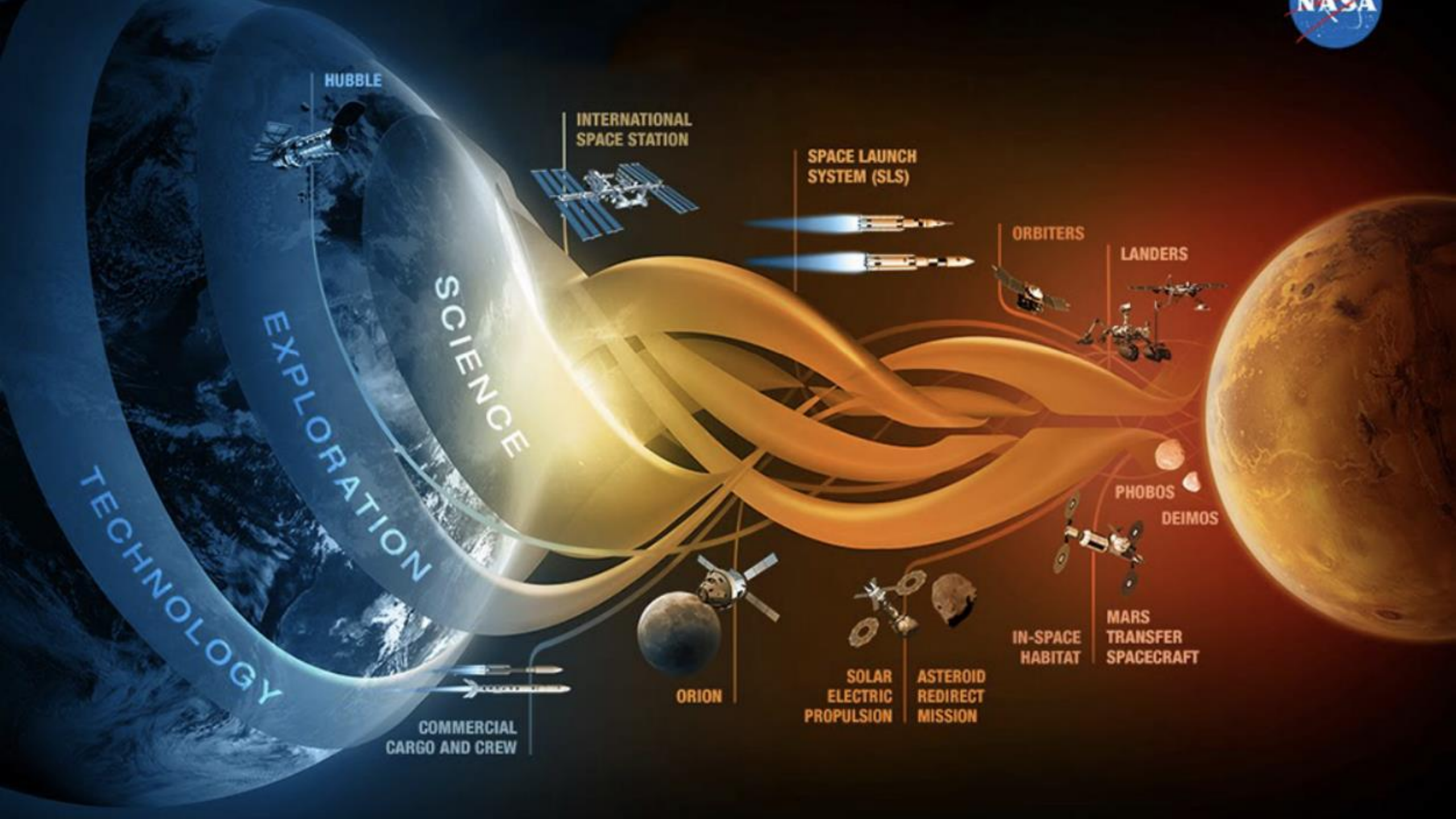
2 SECOND STAGE

The telescopes could align with asteroids orbit and scan for ice of valuable minerals.

3 THIRD STAGE

Surface robots could extract metals or dig shafts into the stone. Other possibility is the use of magnets to 'rake' the surface.

WATER IN SPACE
Ice filled asteroids
comet-like objects
evaporate the water



B. BATAVIA'S INFLIGHT DIGITAL MAGAZINE

- The *Batavia*'s glossy inflight magazine is designed to be open on the phones of viewers as they watch the tv series.
- Literally produced as the ship's actual magazine, it is a combination of real info (keeping healthy in space, routine and navigation info, space travel info,) alongside fictional elements (videos of crew talking about the mission, researchable crew databases, other information on punishments etc) we get to dive deeper into Batavia's world without filling screen time with exposition - and still creating psychological ownership of the project.

BATAVIA'S INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MAGAZINE

The e-handbook is conceived as the kind of information that a corporation would provide for passengers or crew members to download in order to understand more about the ship and its forthcoming mission to Epsilon IV.

- Information about the mission
- Information about the Commander, Deacon Pelser and his message to passengers and crew
- Information about the Oxpeckers & their Captains - ship layout, blueprints, access information, Captain's messages
- How the cargo holds are loaded (sales information for cargo bays)
- Information about New Staff Member
- Routing & Navigation Information
- Information about Epsilon IV / Space Mining & Terraforming information
- How to keep healthy in Space - nutrition & exercise information

CREW MANIFEST

VIEW MESSAGE

END OF MESSAGE

RECORDING

END

YOU HAVE A NEW COMMUNICATIONS BURST WAITING FOR YOU

ELIZA RESCUE CREW MANIFEST



RAP14 ROTHERY

723 6212



MUFG WARD

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP YOU



DOP1 SHAW

723 6212

LUNAR INDUSTRIES RESCUE CREWS HAVE YOUR BEST INTENTIONS AT HEART.

PLEASE TRY NOT TO PANIC UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.

REMAIN ON-STATION AND MAKE SURE YOU OBEY THEIR INSTRUCTIONS NO MATTER HOW STRANGE THEY MAY SEEM.

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE HERE TO HELP!

STANDING BY

SATELLITE FEED MAY BE PRONE TO SOLAR INTERFERENCE
IF SOLAR FLARE ACTIVITY PERSISTS AND SIGNAL IS INTERRUPTED DO NOT STRESS HARD LINKS

SYSTEM OPERATIONS

SARANG FACILITY RESCUE OPERATIONS HUB

PERCENTAGE READ	LOAD
BLOOD FLOW	REGULAR PT/6
OXYGEN LEVEL	OPTIMAL
WHITE CELL CT	22/1 OPTIMAL
GLUCOSE	METABOLISING

SYSTEM OPERATIONS ON 68 14

OV-M

T-SPEC TOLERANCE GOOD NEX-6
BMM-0

DIAGNOSTIC 
SARANG FACILITY DIAGNOSTIC SUITE

SEQUENCE READY 
IDLE MODE SET 

JAIC
SET

336-66 S&D
336-67 S&D

336-66 S&D
336-67 S&D

80
80

[illegible]

SATURN ORBIT INSERTION
1 JUL 2004

FLIGHT AND ROUTING INFO

SATURN'S ORBIT
29.1 YEARS

JUPITER'S ORBIT
11.8 YEARS

JUPITER
FLYBY
30 DEC 2000

VENUS
TARGETING
MANEUVER
3 DEC 1998

VENUS 2 FLYBY
24 JUN 1999

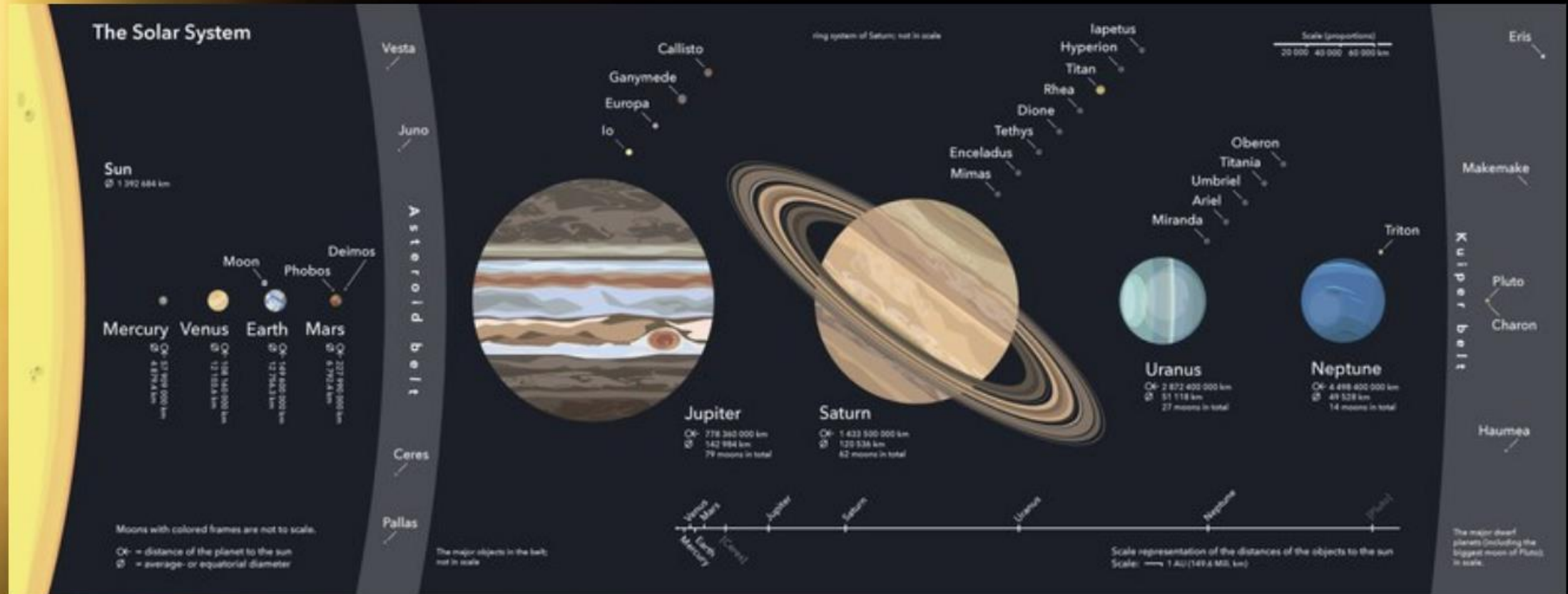
VENUS 1 FLYBY
26 APR 1998

LAUNCH
15 OCT 1997

EARTH FLYBY
18 AUG 1999

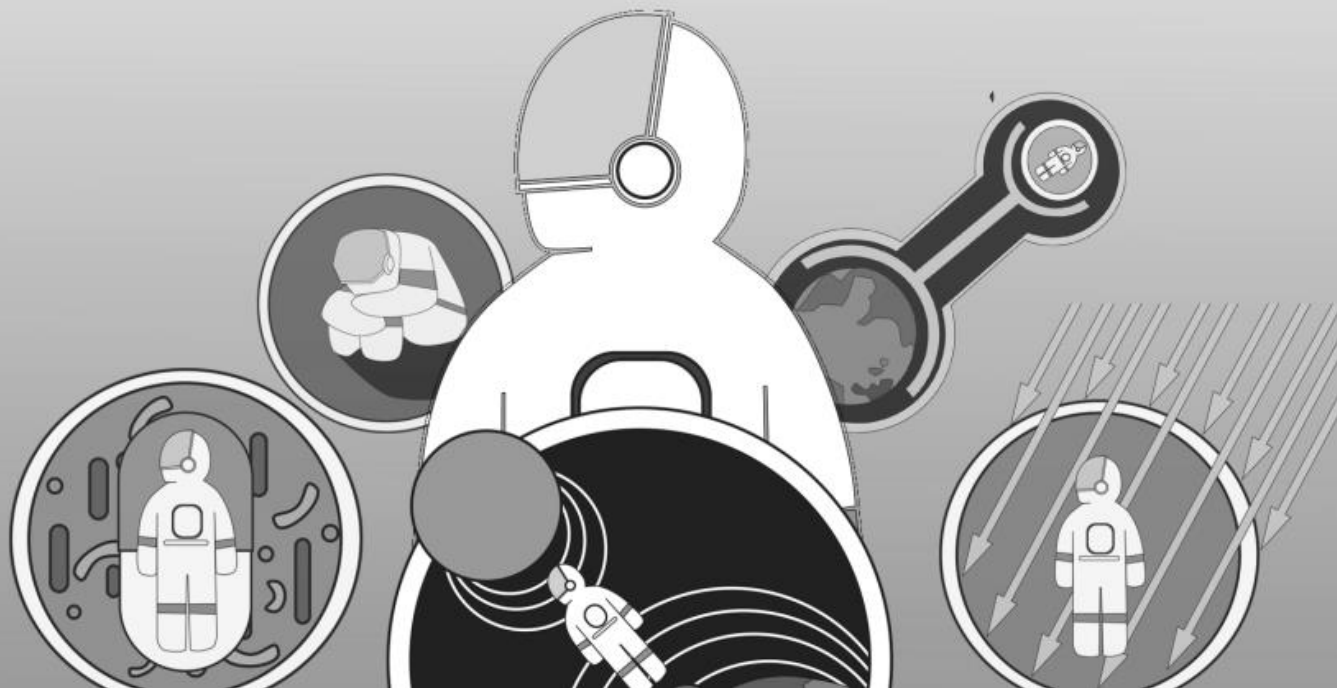


SCIENTIFIC INFO



KEEP **HEALTHY** IN SPACE

Tips on how to best take care of the body
when on long-haul flight.



HYPER_SLEEP INFO

hypersleep. *Noun.* (uncountable) (science fiction)
A form of suspended animation in which the
body's functions are not merely slowed down but
halted entirely.



C. BOOKS, GAMES & TOYS

What To Do on Chongzu Space Station



Easy-to-use
instructions

New-digital
guide look

Comprehensive
listings



Chongzu Space Station

Buy Wearable Tech



Calorie & Exercise Counters



Credit Score Game

- Could you join the VOC?
- What would your Credit score be?
- Which of your friends would you need to eject to gain extra credits?
- Win Prizes!



Instant Games on Messenger



D. TOURISM ACTIVATIONS – 400th ANNIVERSARY

Film tourism leverages audience engagement with a screen property to drive real-world travel experiences connected to its story and locations.

To align with the 2028 400th anniversary of the original 1628 *Batavia* disaster, we propose curated tourism products related to the historical wreck sites and related heritage locations in Australia, Indonesia and the Netherlands - creating a powerful bridge between the series and immersive cultural tourism, and creating more options for psychological ownership.

AUSTRALIA



AMSTERDAM



INDONESIA

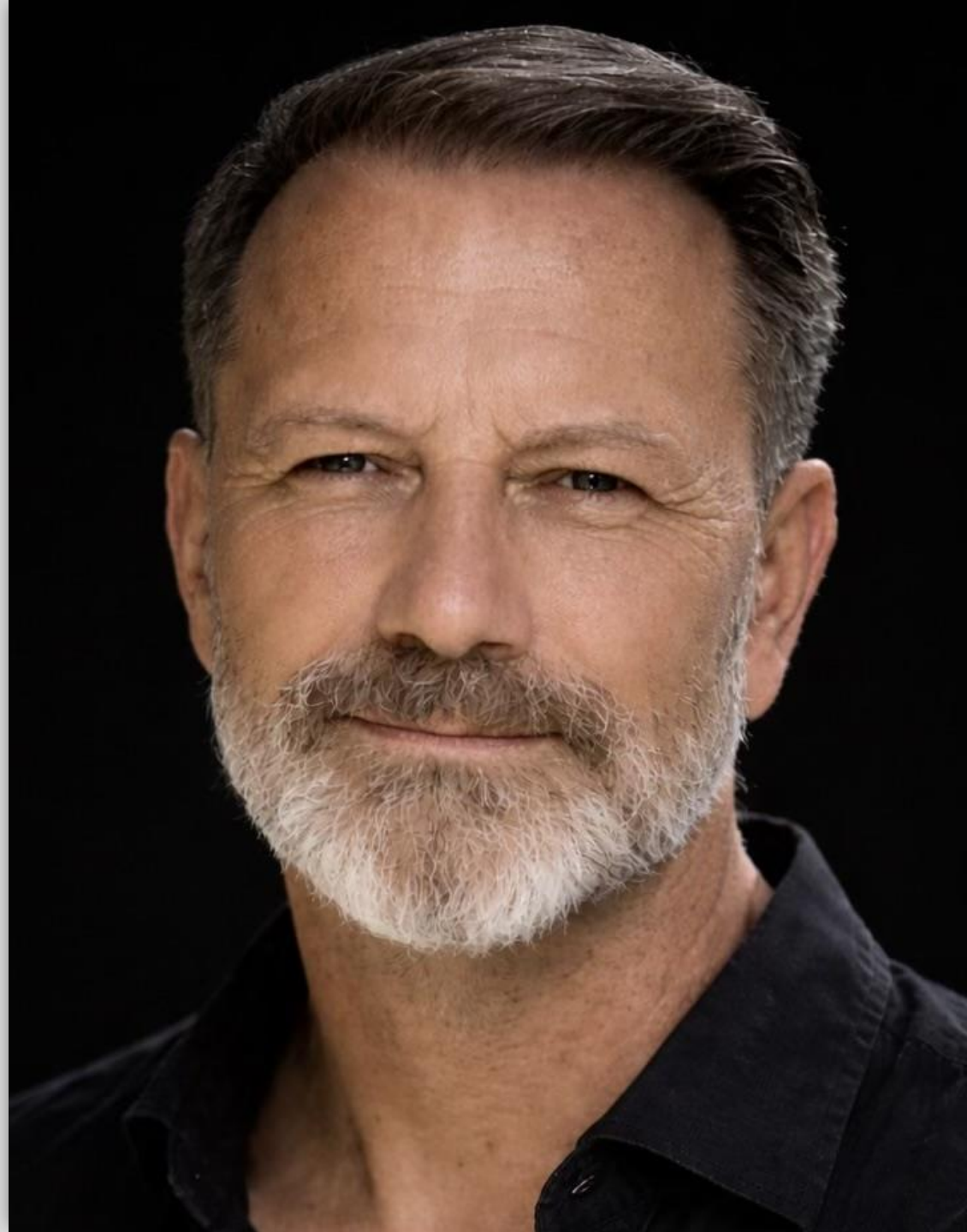




OTHER INFO

MARTIN CUFF

Martin Cuff is the former Executive Director of the Association of Film Commissioners International (Los Angeles), Executive Director of the Colorado Film Commission (Denver), Executive Director of the Cape Film Commission and Cape Town Film Permit Office (South Africa) and Chief Operating Officer of Sithengi, the Southern African International Film and Television Market.



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