

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Nina Hatch, Evelyn Johnston, Boris Häussler

Jamie Ownsworth, Bruno Rodriguez, Dan Lee, Meghan Gray, Lizzie Cooke, James Nightingale, Carl Mundy, Kshitija Kelkar, Dongyao Zhao, James Smith, Georgia Bishop Daniel Sykes, Naila Waked, Grace Baxter, Alex Griffiths, Ben Prestwich, Mariam Khalfey, Zac Stentiford, Ana Chies-Santos, Alice Mortlock, Kate Rowlands, Sophie Morris, Will Hartley, Caterina Lani, Lyndsay Old, Julian Onions, Mattia Fornasa, Frazer Pearce, Markus Hammonds

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

How it all began



- The Big Bang science fair asked us to participate, but not give talks.
- Planetarium cost £15,000-20,000

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



How we got the money

- Asked Mike→Karen Cox (PVC for outreach)→Annual Fund Grant→Applied for ~ £17,000
- Asked research office (Rebecca Stokes)
- Both funded us and we got the money for July 31st deadline
- SoP agreed to cover running costs (Richard Bowtell)

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Aims of project

- educational and inspirational
- 5 year project
- 2000 people a year (schools & science fairs)
- target ‘widening participation’ schools
- make links between undergraduates,
astronomy group and local community

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Behind the scenes

- Selecting volunteers
- Training
 - Child protection
 - Practical sessions
- Selecting schools
 - David Woolley (secondary), Lisa Owen (primary)

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Our team

- 3 managers
- 6 team leaders: in charge of school visit / event & present most of the shows
- 14 team members (5 postgrads + 9 undergrads), more for public events
- Meghan Gray, Lisa Owen
- Markus, design and website

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



The typical school visit

Arrival (Wednesdays)

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



The typical school visit

Arrival (Wednesdays)



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

The typical school visit

Arrival

typically 5-6 shows

Light pollution

navigation by the stars

how to identify a planet

constellations

stellar evolution, star formation, star clusters

star temperatures

Milky Way

Moon Phases

Greek myths, signs of the Zodiac

Harry Potter names, Elvish sky



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Endless possibilities



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Endless possibilities



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

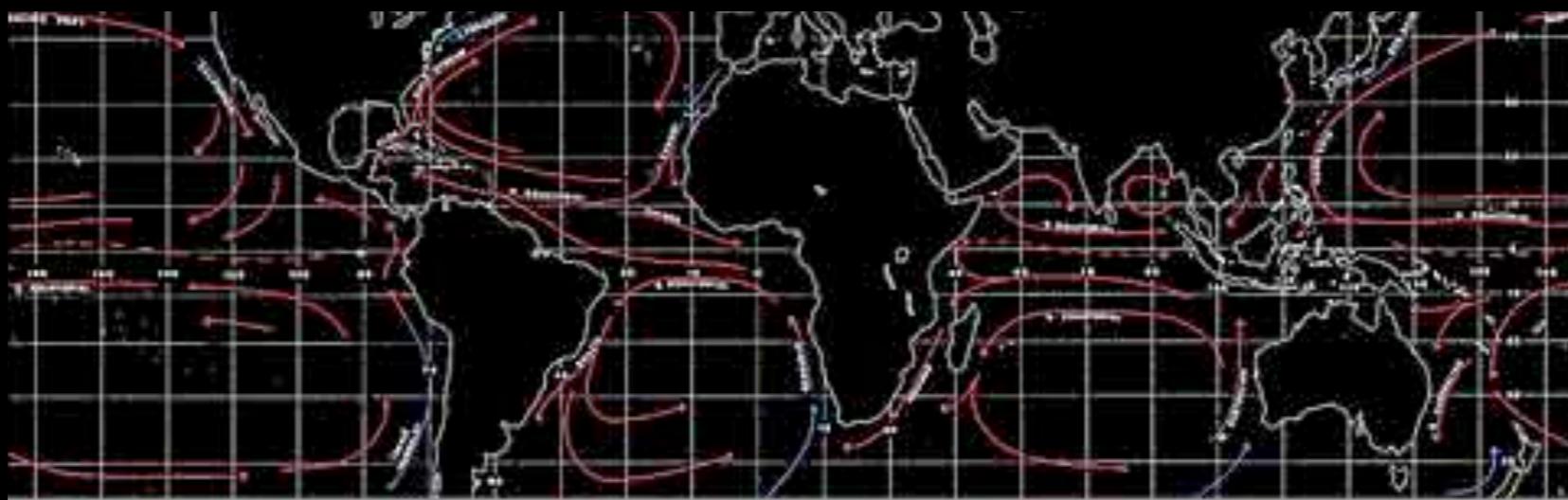
Endless possibilities



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Endless possibilities

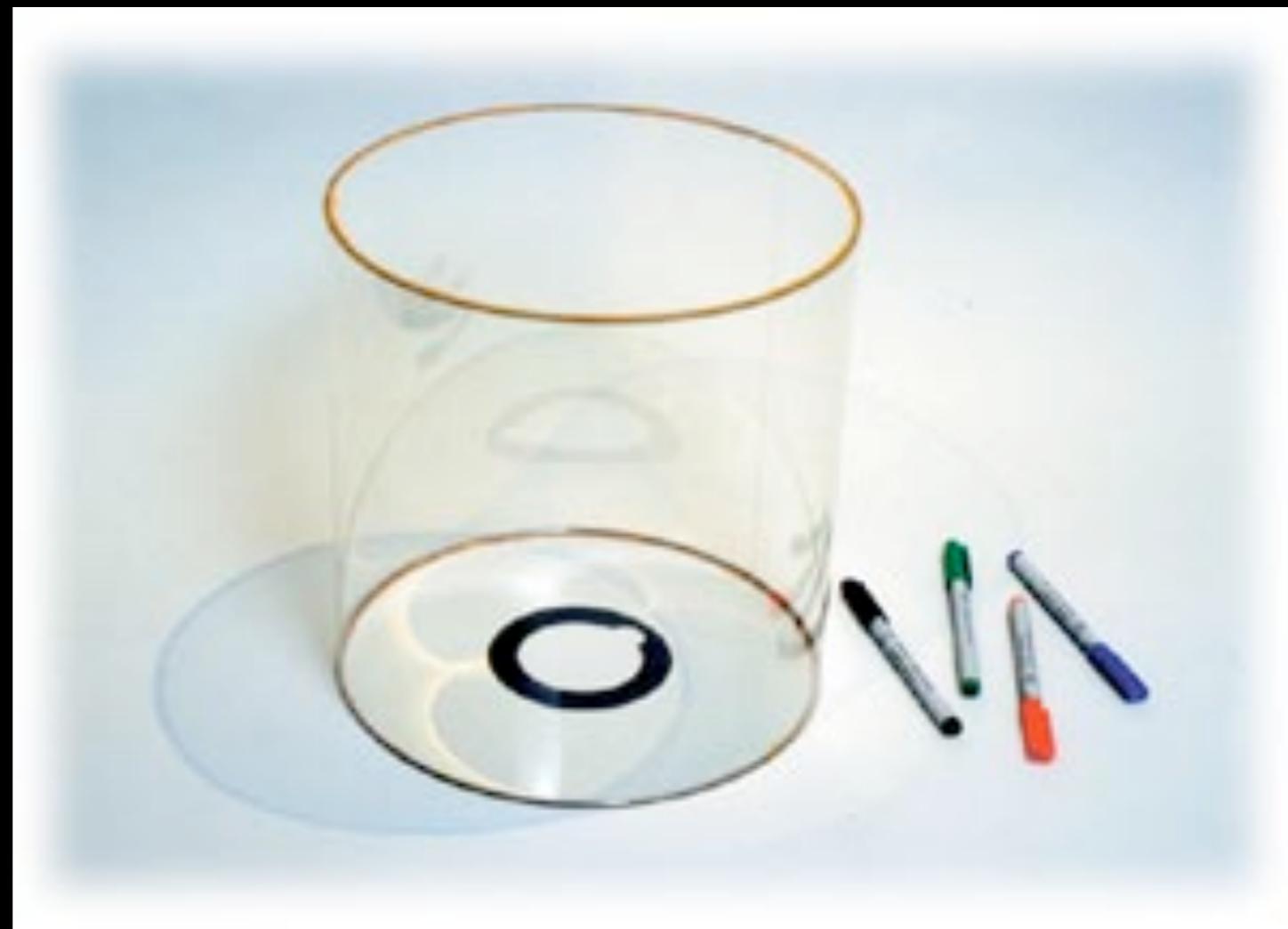


The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Endless possibilities



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium

Outside activities

Scaled Solar system

Solar System Memory game

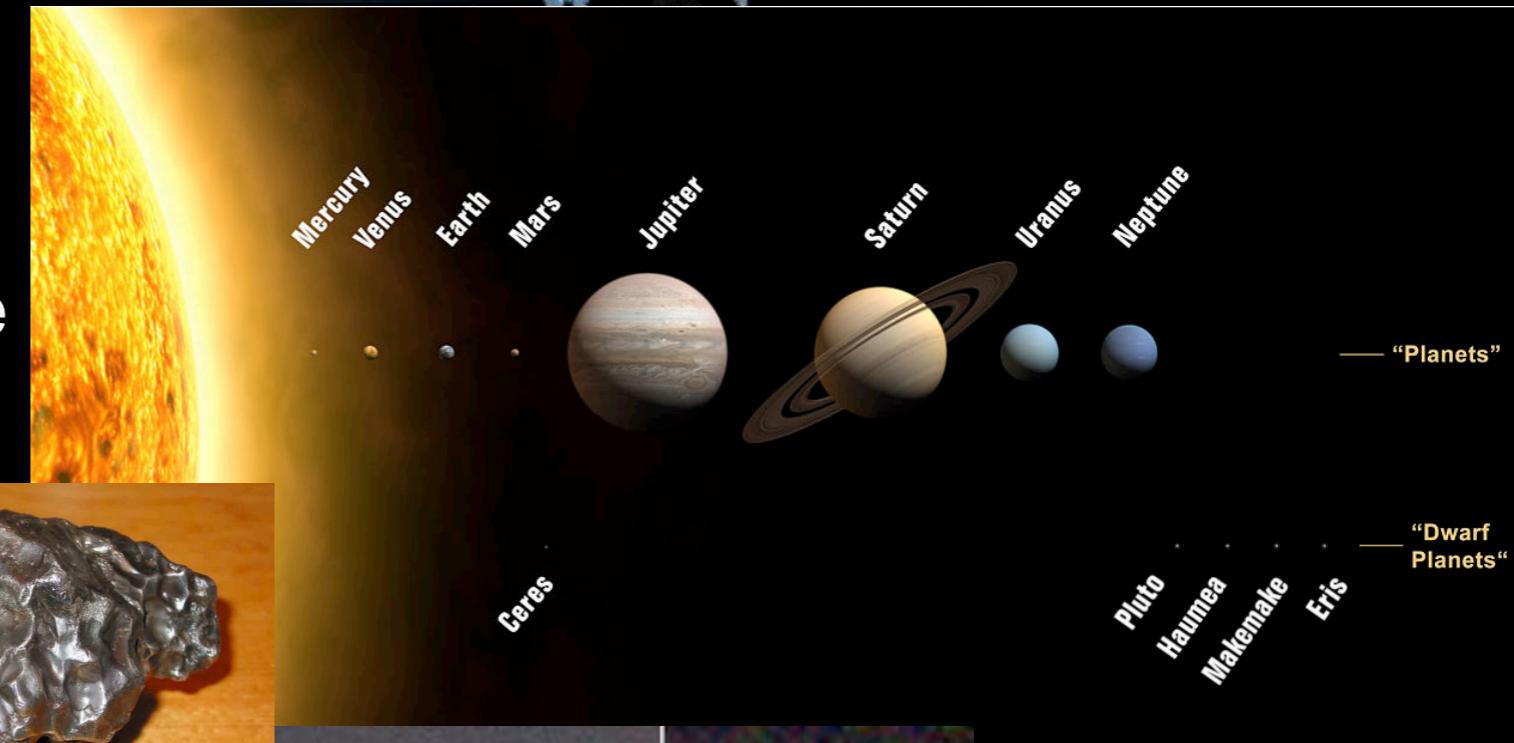
Meteorites (Iron & Stone),
Tektites

Galaxies

The pale blue dot

Others

Laptop with Stellarium and
Celestia, Teaching
Resources (mostly from
other organisations),
Stickers, ...



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



The typical school visit

pack up (~20 minutes)

back in time for 'meet-the-speaker'



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Events

Annual events include:



A promotional graphic for BBC Two's Stargazing Live. It features a dark, star-filled background. The title "STARGAZING LIVE" is in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below it is the website address "www.bbc.co.uk/stargazing". In the bottom right corner is the BBC Two logo, which consists of a teal square with "BBC" in white at the top and "TWO" in white below it.

The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Events

One-off and interdisciplinary events include:

- Launch of Impact: The Nottingham Campaign
- The Impact Campaign campus visit for young carers
- The Institute for Science and Society at the University of Nottingham
- Brain Awareness Week at the University of Nottingham
- Brownie visits to the University



Impact: The Nottingham Campaign



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Achievements

- ~3400 visitors since Summer 2011, 19713 views on youtube
- A talk at the IAU given by Jamie Ownsworth
- Built better relationships between the undergraduates and postgraduates at the University



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Achievements

- Website (complete and hundreds of clicks, including international)
- Boris- Hermes Fellowship
- Evelyn- short-listed for the IOP Very Early Career Physics Communicator Award 2012
- Nina- outreach for Rutherford Fellowship



The Inflativerse

Nottingham University's
Inflatable Planetarium



Future Work

- Recruit a new manager and new team leaders in the coming weeks
- Recruit new student volunteers in September/October
- Join the 'Scoobie-Doo Tour Bus' that Shaun Beebe wants to set up to visit potential new students in the surrounding counties

