

ORIGINS

Back to the Beginning

1x60



International

Origins: Back to the Beginning

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Who would have predicted that a hot spot left over from the Big Bang would eventually lead to the Earth, the cosmos—and to us? NOVA covers all the exciting steps in between on *Origins: Back to the Beginning*, a one-hour film on the beginnings of Earth, life, and the universe.

Hosting the series is astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History and one of the world's most popular lecturers on astronomy.

Origins: Back to the Beginning turns back the clock to the beginning of time itself to understand how a universe conducive to life materialized from the cataclysm known as the Big Bang.

For centuries most astronomers assumed that the universe was eternal. Then, just forty years ago, two researchers stumbled on the cosmic echo of the Big Bang, the event that started it all. Scientists are still gleaning data from this all-pervasive microwave “whisper” from deep space. *Back to the Beginning* focuses on two teams racing to measure the echo with unprecedented precision in order to discern what actually happened during the Big Bang and how it was that the first stars, galaxies, and ultimately the universe we inhabit now, came to be.

Meanwhile, other scientists are working to unravel the processes by which stars explode and disperse newly forged elements throughout space, which then serve as the building blocks for new generations of stars. This “star stuff” is recycled over and over, and it provided the raw material for Earth—and us. To demonstrate how this happens, star chef Michael Romano of New York City's renowned Union Square Café joins Tyson to cook up a cosmic broth—a soup rich with all the building blocks of life.

Summing up the current state of knowledge, astrophysicist Jeff Hester of the University of Arizona says, “We've reached the point that we can start with the origins of the universe, we can end with a conversation among intelligent beings about how things work, and we can have an awfully good understanding of every step that came in between the two.”

04.07.078

NOVA

CREDITS

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A Tom Levenson Productions and Unicorn Projects, Inc. production for NOVA/WGBH, Boston.

Cover Photo Credit: NASA and The Hubble Heritage Team (STSc I/Aura)

Acknowledgement: N. Scoville (Caltech) and T. Rector (NOAO).



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