

Starry Night 4 DVD Set **Review**

by Paul Neumann



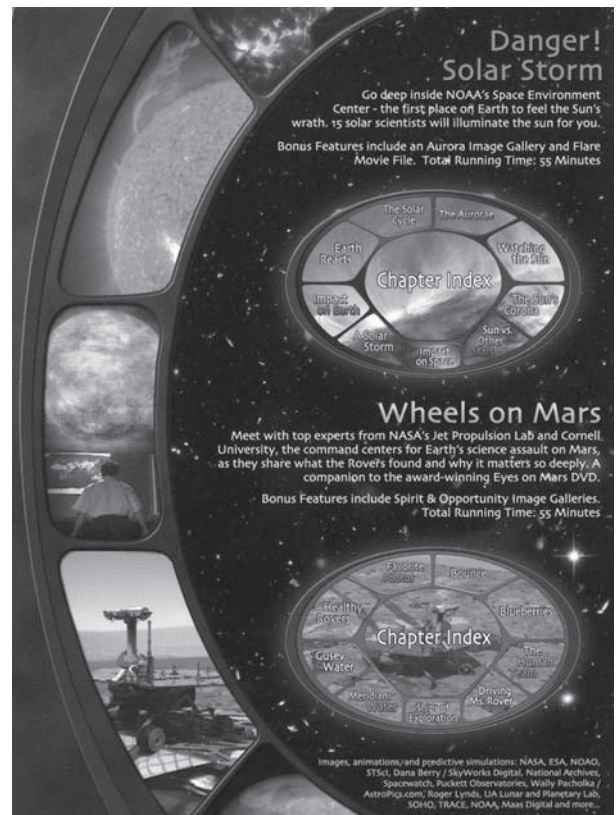
set from IMAGINOVA. You can see their website at www.starrynight.com, where a recent perusal showed that Sky and Telescope Magazine had awarded them their HOT Product 2006 award for Starry Night Pro Plus!

Inside of the DVD set was included a brochure about their astronomy products, a \$20 rebate form for those products, and of course the

for Front Row, this prize only needs any DVD capable viewer, such as my 'regular' DVD player with my television. I do enjoy watching them on my 20" iMac, though.

The DVDs are in widescreen, and are a lot of fun to watch. Sliding a DVD into the side slot of the iMac (configured to automatically start a video DVD) it comes up with the same introduction on all of them: the Imaginova name against a star-filled background, then going to a background appropriate for each DVD with an identically formatted menu. All offer playing the main feature (of course), each with about an hour long show. They all have choices called "Starry Night website" and "SPACE.com website" that when chosen blink the screen, but do not appear to do anything else - no browser starting up pointed to their site, no other information shown, on either the iMac nor the television.

They all have the choice to see the



Starry Night

A quick search of the web shows that this title was not based on the Don McLean song Vincent Lyrics, which begins:

"Starry starry night
paint your palette blue and grey
look out on a summer's day
with eyes that know the darkness of my soul."

No, this is certainly an astronomy prize. While I do not consider myself an astronomer, I did learn the names and how to find most of the major northern hemisphere constellations when I was in grade school. (A long time ago for me, but less than a blink of an eye cosmicly speaking.)

The raffle item I won was a 4 DVD

DVDs:

- Danger! Solar Storm (55 minute main feature)
- Wheels on Mars (55 minute main feature)
- Comet Hunters Asteroid Seekers (77 minute main feature)
- Searching for SuperStars (55 minute main feature)

While at home we have an Apple II GS, a 6100AV, 2 clamshell iBooks, a Bondi-blue iMac, and 2 20" G5 iMac's with iSight and the new mini remotes

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tions of phones, GPS systems, and even electrical service. The probes sent to Mars have extended our knowledge not only about Mars, but also of what can be done with remote robots and communications. Asteroids and comets may provide us with new sources of materials, or threaten us with near or actual collisions. And knowledge of superstars expands our information about the beginning and ongoing life of our universe.

It's an amazing world out there, and these DVDs help point out what we know about some of it. I can hardly wait for the sequel, hopefully on a human time scale. 🍎

“Chapters Index”, which of course has different choices for each DVD. This has been my way of watching them, a chapter here, a chapter there. It would probably make sense to watch the whole thing through at once some time...

They all also offer Bonus Features, such as the Flare File with time-lapse photos of flares on our sun, behind the scenes look at Tenagra Observatory, and photos from a Rover on Mars.

I learned that our sun has an eleven year cycle for a “heartbeat”, which sends an expected pulse toward Earth, affecting us all. Think back about how we used electronics eleven years ago, and now with GPS even in cell phones. What will advance in another eleven years, and how will those flares affect us?

I would recommend this set to anyone with any interest in our earth or space. Solar flares affect us all, with interrup-

About Starry Night 4-DVD Gift Set 4 DVDs

- Danger! Solar Storm
- Wheels on Mars
- Comet Hunters Asteroid Seekers
- Searching for SuperStars

Total Run Time: 285 minutes

From IMAGINOVA.

Website: www.starrynight.com

\$49.95