Compiled by Jessika Walsten

With Classic Show's Return, The Sky's the Limit

Fox picks up where Carl Sagan's iconic PBS series Cosmos left off, debuting a 13-part successor March 9. The network may seem an unlikely home for a documentary science series, but there are powerful forces behind it.



Original Cosmos host Sagan

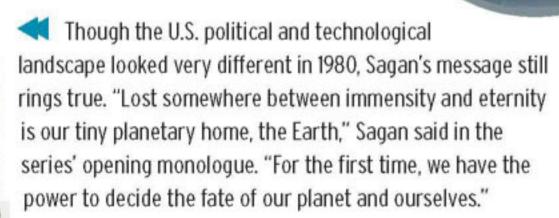
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CARL SAGAN's groundbreaking Cosmos: A Personal Voyage debuted on PBS on Sept. 28, 1980. It remains one of television's most-watched series with an estimated 750 million viewers worldwide and was PBS' biggest hit until The Civil War in 1990. In all, Cosmos aired only 13 episodes.

The show, hosted and cowritten by Sagan, featured stateof-the-art special effects and lilting narration by Sagan that

spawned "billions and billions" of affectionate parodies. It cost its producer, Los Angeles station KCET, nearly \$8 million to make.



With his hypnotic delivery and poetic phrasing, the Cornell professor of astronomy and space science,

who died in 1996, made science accessible. "Carl believed that science belongs to all of us," said ANN DRUYAN, Sagan's widow and cowriter of Voyage and the upcoming Fox reboot, Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey.

"He wanted to convey the thrill of its cosmic perspective to the widest possible audience." -Ann Druyan

The series got more commercial exposure in 1989 when **Turner Home** Entertainment bought it from KCET and made it available on VHS.

When Voyage turned 25 in 2005, the Science Channel rebroadcast a digitally enhanced version of the series that featured improved computer graphics and audio. Five years later, the Discovery-owned network produced its own successor to Cosmos called Through the Wormhole With Morgan Freeman. "I'm a big fan of science," Freeman told the Los Angeles Times. "All the questions about the cosmos. Carl Sagan was fascinating to me."





MacFarlane

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Carl Sagan

Family Guy creator SETH MACFARLANE, though synonymous with raunchy comedy, is sincerely passionate about science. When he found out a new take on Cosmos was being considered, he jumped onboard as a

producer. His quote when Fox announced the new version in 2011 was a surprising call to action. "Never

more than at this moment in the modern era have we needed a profound reminder of the colossally important and exciting role that science,

space exploration and the human quest for knowledge must continue to play in our development as a species," he said.

New host NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON will take viewers on this reimagined journey into "how human beings began to comprehend the laws of nature and find our place in space and time." The astrophysicist has helped the public understand science as host of PBS' Nova and Nova ScienceNow. Tyson also frequently guests on The Daily Show With Jon Stewart and Real Time With Bill

Fox is mobilizing considerable promotional support for Odyssey, simulcasting the Cosmos Studios/Fuzzy Door Productions series across 10 U.S. networks and 200-plus international channels. In total, the series will be available in 181 countries, reaching more than a half-billion homes.

"This is a golden opportunity to introduce Cosmos to a new generation," said KEVIN REILLY, Fox Broad-

Maher and has nearly 1.7 million Twitter followers.

casting president of entertainment.

"While admittedly on the periphery of our brand, we believe this can have the same massive cultural impact that the original series delivered." -Kevin Reilly



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