Light Falls

Premieres nationwide Wednesday, May 29 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/lightfalls and the PBS Video app

Synopsis:

On the 100th anniversary of the confirmation of Albert Einstein’s most important breakthrough, take a theatrical journey with renowned physicist Brian Greene as he explores how Einstein discovered his far-reaching general theory of relatively in Light Falls, premiering nationwide Wednesday, May 29 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/lightfalls and the PBS Video app. Written and performed by Greene with an all-Broadway ensemble cast and immersive theatrical effects, the play weaves together Einstein’s brilliant insights, near-misses and final triumph, which revolutionized human understanding of space and time.

Directed for the stage by Scott Faris, the scientist’s struggle comes to the fore as Greene intermingles Einstein’s story with key historical characters and celebrated figures such as Isaac Newton, David Hilbert and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Jerome Weidman, and incorporates language from Einstein’s archives including research papers, autobiographical accounts and other historical documents. The story follows Einstein’s early fascination with the workings of a compass through his unrelenting odyssey to understand the force of gravity, and his passionate and ultimately tragic pursuit of a unified theory.

Michael Winther, Brian Avers and Francesca Faridany form the versatile ensemble cast, joined by movement specialist Drew Dollaz and violinist Joanna Kaczorowska. Hi-tech, immersive animations and projections by Tony- and Olivier Award-winning design team 59 Productions (“War Horse”) and an original score by Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Beal (“House of Cards”) enhance the story as Greene melds science with drama to create a singular theatrical event. Described by The New York Times as a “cerebral spectacle with a theatrical twist,” Einstein’s story can now be experienced as never before.

Notable Talent:

- **Brian Greene** – physicist; mathematician; author of “The Elegant Universe,” “The Fabric of the Cosmos,” and “The Hidden Reality;” Peabody Award-winning host of two NOVA (PBS) miniseries based on his books; director of Columbia University’s Center for Theoretical Physics; chairman and co-founder of World Science Festival

- **Jeff Beal** – five-time Emmy Award-winning composer (House of Cards)
• **David Horn** – television director and five-time Emmy Award-winning executive producer *(Great Performances)*

• **Tracy Day** – executive producer and four-time Emmy Award-winning television producer; co-founder and CEO of the World Science Festival

**Notable Facts:**
- Filmed on February 19, 20 and 21, 2019, at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater in New York City
- National broadcast premiere commemorates the 100th anniversary to the day of the confirmation of Einstein’s general theory of relativity on May 29, 1919.

**Running Time:** 90 minutes

**Short Listing:**
Follow physicist Brian Greene on a theatrical journey about Einstein’s general theory of relativity.

**Long TV Listing:**
Take a theatrical journey with physicist Brian Greene exploring Albert Einstein’s most far-reaching discovery. A cast of Broadway veterans, immersive visuals and an original score help bring Einstein’s dramatic odyssey comes to life.

**Production Credits:**
Directed for television by David Horn and produced by Mitch Owgang, *Light Falls* is a production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC and World Science Festival. Executive producers are Tracy Day and David Horn with Stephen Segaller as executive in charge for WNET.

**Underwriters:**
Major funding provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the John Templeton Foundation; additional support provided by Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III.

**About WNET**
WNET is America’s flagship PBS station: parent company of New York’s THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new ALL ARTS multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including *Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend,* and the nightly interview program *Amanpour and Company.* In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

**About World Science Festival**
Hailed a “new cultural institution” by The New York Times, the World Science Festival produces innovative live, digital and broadcast content that brings the latest discoveries and the greatest minds in
science and the arts to audiences around the world. Through discussions and debates, intimate salons and major outdoor extravaganzas, theatrical works and musical productions, the Festival’s diverse, highly produced programming inspires and educates the public of all ages. The World Science Festival’s original musical and theatrical works tour nationally and internationally, and this production marks the Festival’s first foray into nationwide live-theatrical television broadcasting.

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