

FACT SHEET

TITLE: *Seeing in the Dark*, a film by Timothy Ferris

PBS AIR DATE: Wednesday, September 19 at 8:00 p.m. (check local listings)

DESCRIPTION: Stargazing is the subject of *Seeing in the Dark*, a 60-minute, state-of-the-art, high-definition (HDTV) documentary written, produced and narrated by award-winning filmmaker, journalist and best-selling author Timothy Ferris. The program introduces viewers to the rewards of first person, hands-on astronomy. It is based on Ferris' book, *Seeing in the Dark* (Simon & Schuster, 2002), named by *The New York Times* as one of the ten best books of the year.

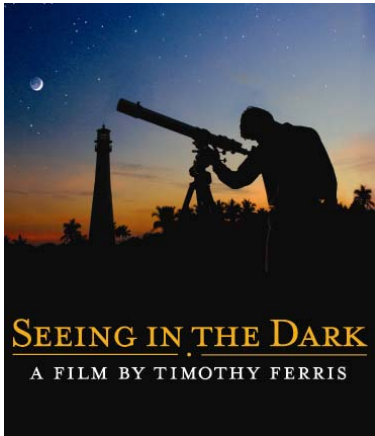
The program features remarkable high-definition astrophotography and introduces men and women who have seen and captured phenomenal images within and beyond our solar system and galaxy, both professionals and amateurs. They include:

- Robert Smith, former star NFL running back turned stargazer, Miami, Florida
- Barbara Wilson, who teaches at a public observatory near Houston, Texas
- Steven James O'Meara, an artist and astronomy writer who lives in Hawaii
- Ron Bissinger, a corporate CEO in Pleasanton, California who hunts for planets of distant stars
- Rob Gendler, a radiologist and deep-space astrophotographer in Avon, Connecticut
- Michael Koppelman, a musician who imaged light older than Earth from his observatory outside Minneapolis
- Debra Fischer, an astrophysicist at Cal Berkeley who works with amateur astronomers
- The Bisque Brothers, designers of telescope-control software and hardware in Golden, Colorado

The *Seeing in the Dark* Web site (pbs.org/seeinginthedark, going online in August) will enable viewers to print star charts for their time and location, view video tips on how to get the most out of stargazing, learn more about the people and concepts in the film, and find local star parties where they can look through amateur astronomers' telescopes free of charge. A *Seeing in the Dark* robotic telescope, located at a high-altitude site in New Mexico, will be available for students to image star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies for themselves.

Seeing in the Dark was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation and with support from the Public Broadcasting Service. The program DVD will be available for \$24.99 at www.pbs.org immediately following the broadcast.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Timothy Ferris and Cal Zecca
DIRECTOR: Nigel Ashcroft
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Francis Kenny, A.S.C.
EDITOR: Lisa Day, A.C.E.
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Cal Zecca
SPECIAL EFFECTS: Don Davis
SOUND DESIGN: Kate Hopkins
SOUND MIX: Walter Murch, C.A.S.
ORIGINAL MUSIC: Mark Knopfler and Guy Fletcher



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