

Tim Furniss PRESENTS...

THE ADVENTURES OF A SPACE NUT



The illustrated and inspiring story of a 12 year old space enthusiast who became an international spaceflight journalist, author and broadcaster.

*"A real feel-good evening"
"Funny, moving - and honest"
"Brought back space race memories"
"Infectious enthusiasm"*

Gagarin, the beginning - Space school days - Spotting satellites - First job in Space - Apollo 8, the greatest mission - Apollo 11 anticlimax - Meeting the astronaut heroes - Apollo 13, the launch I can't remember - Apollo 15, the launch I did - Suited for space - Soviet Star City secrets - Radio and TV flops and highs - The foolhardy Shuttle launch - The rural spaceman - A Baikonur first - Flying shuttle simulations - The planets and the Universe - Earthrise epilogue

Presented at: Malvern Theatres - Cirencester Theatre - The Winding Wheel, Chesterfield - Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven - Dorking Halls - Elmbridge Civic Centre

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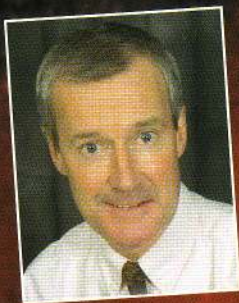
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Biography



Yuri Gagarin's flight in April 1961 fired up the then 12 year old Tim's interest in space. In 1962, he bought his first copy of Flight International, the weekly British magazine that covered space (and of which he would become its spaceflight correspondent in 1984). Tim was obsessed with space during his schooldays and the great space decade of the Sixties. He got his first job on a magazine, Space in 1966 and at the age of 20, flew to the USA on a new Jumbo jet and headed for Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) on a Greyhound bus during an 18,000 mile journey around the States. Tim was badged up to see his first launch, a Titan IIIC, and was there to see Apollo 13 launched, photographing the astronauts as they left for the launch pad, in April 1970. He met many

astronauts whose pictures used to hang on his bedroom wall and was back at the KSC again in July 1971 to see Apollo 15 launched and to meet more of his heroes. In 1972, Tim checked out an Apollo spacesuit at ILC Industries in Dover, Delaware. The first of his 35-plus books was published in 1971 and he began to do interviews on local radio, while working in advertising and public relations, with BTR and Air Products. Declared redundant in 1982, Tim went freelance and continued work in radio and made his TV debut, which was followed by a lot of TV work, including extensive coverage of the Challenger accident in 1986 and resident space expert on BBC's Saturday Superstore and Going Live. In 1984, Flight International - the magazine that had fired his interest in space - had rung and asked him to "do some work". Tim has been the Flight's spaceflight correspondent since then, visiting many of the world's space centres and interviewing moonmen, astronauts, cosmonauts and space chiefs and covering Space Shuttle and other launches and missions. He was one of the first journalists allowed into the Star City cosmonaut training centre, near Moscow in 1984 and in 1988, one of the first British journalists to cover a manned launch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, the same year in which he moved from his hometown of Epsom, Surrey to an "electronic cottage" near Bideford, Devon - one of the country's first "remote" journalists. In 1994, he joined the STS 62 Space Shuttle crew for launch simulation sessions at Houston. Tim also operates a commercial spaceflight photo library, Genesis which he established in 1990. It now specialises in space history images. Tim writes a daily space diary for the Swedish Space Corporation's web site. He presents entertaining and well-received lectures for schools, colleges and other audiences and also presents "The Adventures of a Space Nut", an "evening with" style presentation for theatres, telling the story of a 12 year old boy, his ambition to be a space journalist and the adventures of reporting space events around the world.

