

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NOVA’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES WITH AN AWE-INSPIRING LINEUP OF NEW SPRING PROGRAMMING**

***The iconic PBS series explores the 2024 solar eclipse, data privacy, and 50 years of revolutionary discoveries that have shaped our understanding of the universe in new films premiering Wednesdays April 3, May 15, and May 22 on PBS***

***Shows will also be available for streaming at*** [***pbs.org/nova***](https://pbs.org/nova)***,*** [***NOVA on YouTube***](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)***, and the*** [***PBS App***](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

**BOSTON, MA; April 3, 2024 –** The **PBS** series, **NOVA,** a production of **GBH,** today announced more details for their spring lineup as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. The upcoming programs include **GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE** (April 3), **SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** (May 15), and **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** (May 22). The films, which will also be available for streaming at [**pbs.org/nova**](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/zero-to-infinity/)**,** [**NOVA on YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)**,** and the [**PBS App**](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/), will broadcast as part of the iconic science series’ anniversary festivities, in addition to special content and initiatives that will continue to roll out through the end of 2024.

First, leading up to this year’s total solar eclipse stretching from Texas to Maine, NOVA presents **GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE**, premiering Wednesday, April 3 at 8pm ET/9C on PBS. During the eclipse on April 8, 2024, the disc of the sun will completely disappear for the 31.5 million people who live in the path of totality plus millions more who will travel to experience this dramatic celestial event. While millions will enjoy the spectacle, scientists are among the most avid eclipse chasers, as they will be studying the sun on the ground, in the air, and touching the solar corona itself — a region of the sun that is normally invisible. Can scientists seize these precious moments of darkness to explore the solar corona? NOVA examines why an eclipse takes place, where the best place to view this cosmic event will be, what to expect, and how to safely view the rare and astonishing phenomenon.

**GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE** will be accompanied by unique activities to mark the total solar eclipse — which will not occur again in the contiguous United States until 2044 — including a livestream from the path of totality on April 8. The livestream will begin at 12pm ET and will feature interviews with NASA scientists and festival attendees. Virtual audiences can register for the livestream [**online**](https://wgbh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o6hvGOmITLqTK078qMuZTA#/registration), or stream it on NOVA’s [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/NOVApbs)**,** [**YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)**,** or[**TikTok**](https://www.tiktok.com/@novapbs). Additionally, NOVA is offering free eclipse toolkits online for educators and families and providing NOVA 50-branded eclipse glasses to public media stations in the eclipse’s path, along with local schools, libraries, and museums. NOVA eclipse content and resources can be found at[**pbs.org/nova.**](http://pbs.org/nova)

Next up is the new special **SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** premiering Wednesday, May 15 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS, where host, pediatrician, medical journalist, and all-around social media enthusiast **Alok Patel** explores just how much of our data could be available online, and how we can better maintain our privacy and security. In the film, Alok learns just how much of his personal data — including the addresses of his childhood neighbors — is available online, and how different companies can monetize and exploit it. **SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** delves into different techniques used by hackers including the man-in-the-middle attack, which can intercept the personal data that leaves an owner’s device, essentially eavesdropping on a conversation between them and the websites and applications they use.

In addition to showing all the ways our data is vulnerable, **SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** examines how we can protect our personal information, as well as visions for a more data-secure web, such as the decentralized web which focuses on the self-determination of users. Expertsexplain the current state of data privacy, as well as help Alok imagine what a more data-secure future could look like.

A lot has changed in the last 50 years, especially in our understanding of the cosmos. Premiering Wednesday, May 22 at 9pm ET/8C on PBS, **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** explores the last five decades in astronomical discovery, as well as the most pressing questions cosmologists are now trying to answer. How did our vision of the universe get completely overturned in just a few decades, and what new surprises might lie just over the horizon? Since the 1970s and the launch of the Voyager missions, scientists have confirmed the existence of planets beyond our solar system, supermassive black holes, and thousands of previously unknown galaxies.

Perhaps the most important discovery of the last half century has been how much is still unknown about the universe. **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** documents what we currently know about dark matter and dark energy, two properties that were only accepted as “real” during the last 50 years. Scientists now believe dark energy is the most powerful force in the universe. **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** is the first part of a two-part NOVA special tracing ground-breaking discoveries that have transformed our picture of the universe over the past 50 years, shedding light on everything from exoplanets to supermassive black holes to the size and ultimate fate of the cosmos. Part two, **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: QUANTUM** will air in fall 2024.

“The spring films explore major questions in science and technology,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Julia Cort**. “The expansion of human knowledge over the last 50 years that’s been made possible by science has been truly mind-blowing, and today researchers and engineers are pushing the frontiers even further. We’re excited to premiere more stories that reveal the universe in new ways and better prepare viewers for our rapidly changing world.”

“Our spring programming exudes the spirit of curiosity that defines NOVA,” said **NOVA Co-Executive Producer Chris Schmidt**. “We hope viewers enjoy these films, which shed light on the world we live in, and help us deepen our appreciation for the awe-inspiring world around us. From the expansiveness of the universe to the breadth of the reach of our data, these shows tackle important questions, and will hopefully inspire new ones.”

**Details on Spring 2024 Programming:**

**“GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE” Premieres Wednesday, April 3 at 8 p.m. ET/7 p.m. CT on PBS**

Explore the spectacular cosmic phenomenon of a total solar eclipse. In April 2024, the Moon’s shadow is sweeping from Texas to Maine, as the contiguous U.S. witnesses its last total solar eclipse until 2044. This extraordinary astronomical event will plunge some locations in the path of totality into darkness for more than four minutes — nearly twice as long as the last American eclipse in 2017. Learn how to watch an eclipse safely and follow scientists as they work to unlock secrets of our Sun — from why its atmosphere is hundreds of times hotter than its surface, to what causes solar storms and how we might one day predict them.

**“SECRETS IN YOUR DATA” Premieres Wednesday, May 15 at 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT on PBS**

Whether you’re on social media or surfing the web, you’re probably sharing more personal data than you realize. That can pose a risk to your privacy — even your safety. But at the same time, big data sets could lead to huge advances in health, transportation, climate science, and more. Host Alok Patel leads a quest to understand what happens to all the data we’re shedding and explores the latest efforts to maximize benefits — without compromising personal privacy.

**“DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS” Premieres Wednesday, May 22 at 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT on PBS**

How big is the universe? If it began with the Big Bang, will it also have an end? Is there life beyond our planet? Questions like these inspired the launch of Voyager I in 1977 and have driven innovative space research and exploration ever since. Trace the ground-breaking discoveries that have transformed our picture of the universe, from an age when we knew of no planets beyond our solar system, to today, when we have evidence of thousands and estimate trillions more. And follow the teams trying to solve two of the biggest mysteries in cosmology today: What are dark matter and dark energy?

Fall 2024 programming will be announced in the upcoming months and will include a three-part series on building our world — featuring some of the underlying principles and most innovative projects in engineering — and a five-part sequel to the acclaimed 2019 series“The Planets,” a BBC Studios Production with NOVA and GBH. More information about NOVA’s 50th anniversary celebration will be made available at [**pbs.org/nova**](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/)and by following the hashtag **#NOVA50**.

**NOVA airs** **Wednesdays** at **9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT on PBS** and is available for streaming at [**pbs.org/nova**](https://pbs.org/nova)**,** [**NOVA on YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/user/NOVAonline)**,** and the [**PBS App,**](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/) available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast, and VIZIO, as well as on the [PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel](http://amazon.com/pbsdocs). PBS station members can view many series, documentaries and specials via [PBS Passport](https://www.pbs.org/passport/videos/). For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](https://help.pbs.org/support/solutions/5000121793) website.

**GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE** is a NOVA Production by Windfall Films Ltd. (part of the Argonon Group) for GBH. Produced and Directed by Joby Lubman. Executive Producer for Windfall Films is Carlo Massarella.

**SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** is a NOVA Production by Structure Films for GBH. Produced and Directed by David Alvarado and Jason Sussberg. Written by Jason Sussberg. Edited by Ryan Shepheard. Hosted by Alok Patel.

**DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** is a NOVA Production by Big House Productions, Inc. for GBH. Written, Produced, and Directed by Daniel McCabe. Edited by Jaroslav Savol and Daniel McCabe. Supervising Producer, Cara Feinberg.

Senior Producer for NOVA is Caitlin Saks. Executive Producers for NOVA are Julia Cort and Chris Schmidt. NOVA is a production of GBH.

Funding for NOVA and **GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE** is provided by Carlisle Companies, the NOVA Science Trust with support from the Hoveida Family Foundation and Anna and Neil Rasmussen, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS viewers.

Major funding for **SECRETS IN YOUR DATA** is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding is provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the George D. Smith Fund, Inc. Funding for NOVA and this program is provided by Carlisle Companies, the NOVA Science Trust with support from Margaret and Will Hearst and Roger Sant, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS viewers.

Major funding for **DECODING THE UNIVERSE: COSMOS** is provided by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the George D. Smith Fund, Inc. Funding for NOVA and this program is provided by Carlisle Companies, the NOVA Science Trust with support from Margaret and Will Hearst and the Hoveida Family Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS viewers.

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**About NOVA**

[NOVA](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/?utm_source=promourl&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=nova_2019) is the most popular primetime science series on American television, demystifying the scientific and technological concepts that shape and define our lives, our planet, and our universe. The PBS series is also one of the most widely distributed science programs around the world, and is a multimedia, multiplatform brand reaching more than 55 million Americans every year on TV and online. NOVA’s important and inspiring stories of human ingenuity, exploration, and the quest for knowledge are regularly recognized with the industry’s most prestigious awards. As part of its mission to make the scientific enterprise accessible to all, NOVA is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its work, from the production process to the range of stories we tell and the voices we amplify. In addition, science educators across the country rely on NOVA for resources used in the classroom as well as in museums, libraries, and after-school programs. NOVA is a production of GBH; more information can be found at [pbs.org/nova](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/?utm_source=promourl&utm_medium=direct&utm_campaign=nova_2019), or by following NOVA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NOVApbs/), [X](https://twitter.com/novapbs) (formerly Twitter), or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/novapbs/?hl=en).

**About PBS**

[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’s premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math, and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV — including a 24/7 channel — online at  [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/), via an array of mobile apps, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following  [PBS on Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) or through  our  [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at  [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following [PBS Communications on X (formerly Twitter).](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR)

**About GBH**

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. It is the creator of such signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, *Arthur* and *Molly of Denali,* as well as WORLD Channel and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston’s Local NPR®; CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and inclusive of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide with PBS LearningMedia and has been recognized with hundreds of the nation’s premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at [wgbh.org](https://www.wgbh.org/).

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