



1
00:00:00,516 --> 00:00:06,666
What were your first impressions of space
once you got on orbit, each one of you?

2
00:00:07,406 --> 00:00:12,366
Scott - Well certainly when the
solid rocket motors light, you know,

3
00:00:12,416 --> 00:00:14,196
for the first time, that gets your attention.

4
00:00:14,196 --> 00:00:19,696
I mean, there's nothing that, that prepares
you for the amount of energy that's involved

5
00:00:20,296 --> 00:00:22,276
with getting the space shuttle into space.

6
00:00:22,276 --> 00:00:27,296
It's, you know, seven and a half million
pounds of thrust all in an instant.

7
00:00:28,116 --> 00:00:30,696
You know, you get the impression
you're going somewhere.

8
00:00:31,226 --> 00:00:34,056
You're really not sure where but
you're, you're going there in a hurry

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00:00:34,056 --> 00:00:35,366
and you're not coming back to Florida.

10
00:00:35,466 --> 00:00:39,906
I mean, it just, you know, kind of looks
slow when you're watching it as a spectator

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00:00:39,906 --> 00:00:42,006
but when you're inside there's

nothing slow about it.

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00:00:42,006 --> 00:00:43,426

I mean, it just really takes off.

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00:00:43,996 --> 00:00:53,196

You know, that's certainly ma-, makes a significant impact, significant impression

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00:00:53,196 --> 00:00:55,586

and also, you know, just seeing the earth for the first time.

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00:00:55,586 --> 00:01:00,616

It's incredibly blue, you know, brilliant color blue and incredibly beautiful.

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00:01:00,616 --> 00:01:06,736

Mark - I have this very vivid recollection of about Mach 15 on my first flight,

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00:01:07,386 --> 00:01:13,546

looking over my right shoulder out the window and seeing this blue planet behind me and it,

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00:01:13,546 --> 00:01:18,196

it's a view I've never had before, you know, it was the first time seeing something like that

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00:01:18,196 --> 00:01:19,946

and it was really, really impressive.

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00:01:20,676 --> 00:01:23,926

I even said something to, to Dom at the time, Dom Gorie, my,

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00:01:24,306 --> 00:01:26,896

the Shuttle Commander, that, you know, it's like, "Wow!"

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00:01:26,896 --> 00:01:28,116

That is really amazing."

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00:01:28,326 --> 00:01:33,036

Scott - I, you know, obviously we've had similar, like we've discussed, you know,

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00:01:33,036 --> 00:01:37,676

similar backgrounds and experiences, you know, similar training as astronauts

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00:01:37,676 --> 00:01:43,866

and between the time I flew my first flight and when Mark flew his, I tried to explain

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00:01:43,866 --> 00:01:49,046

to him what that first eight and a half minutes was going to be like and, and after his flight,

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00:01:49,046 --> 00:01:54,056

when he landed I was there in the, you know, the crew transport vehicle when the hatch opened

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00:01:54,056 --> 00:01:57,156

and the crew came out and the first thing he said to me when he,

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00:01:57,156 --> 00:02:02,366

when he came out of the shuttle after his first flight was, he said, "I had no idea what

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00:02:02,366 --> 00:02:03,656

that ascent was going to be like."

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00:02:03,656 --> 00:02:05,606

Mark - That's true, you know.

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00:02:05,606 --> 00:02:10,036

You just try to describe it to other people

that are getting ready to do this and, you know,

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00:02:10,036 --> 00:02:14,906

I remember after the solids lit and the main engines looked okay and I had a few seconds,

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00:02:14,906 --> 00:02:18,156

I looked over, you know, I started thinking, "Well, this just doesn't feel

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00:02:18,766 --> 00:02:20,836

like I expected it to feel, you know."

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00:02:20,836 --> 00:02:24,136

It's not as smooth as you expect, kind of feels like you're

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00:02:24,136 --> 00:02:26,706

on a runaway train going a thousand miles an hour.

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00:02:27,176 --> 00:02:30,126

I remember looking over at Dom because I thought, "Well, this wasn't,

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00:02:30,306 --> 00:02:35,086

this isn't quite right" and he, you know, he was okay with it, so like, "Well,

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00:02:35,316 --> 00:02:36,526

must be what it's supposed to feel like."

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00:02:38,176 --> 00:02:41,696

Was, how much of a 'wow moment' was it for you, Scott, when you first pulled

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00:02:41,696 --> 00:02:47,956

up alongside the Hubble Space Telescope knowing this icon of astronomy you were about it,

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00:02:48,136 --> 00:02:51,816

you and your crew were about to go
service it, upgrade it and for you, Mark,

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00:02:51,956 --> 00:02:56,036

to see the International Space Station
at that time in its fledgling state

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00:02:56,106 --> 00:02:57,906

but nonetheless pretty impressive.

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00:02:57,906 --> 00:02:58,706

What were your thoughts?

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00:02:59,146 --> 00:03:03,696

Scott - Well, you know, just knowing, you know,
what we've learned from Hubble and how far back

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00:03:03,696 --> 00:03:11,086

in time it can see, you know, it's, it's
impressive for those reasons, you know.

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00:03:11,086 --> 00:03:15,906

It's, it's about the size of a school bus
so as far as telescopes go it's pretty big

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00:03:15,906 --> 00:03:20,656

but just understanding, you know, the impact
it's made on our understanding of the origins

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00:03:20,656 --> 00:03:24,556

of the universe is, you know,
makes it a very impressive sight.

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00:03:24,706 --> 00:03:29,356

Now, compared to the space station, you know,
the, you know, especially the last time I,

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00:03:29,556 --> 00:03:34,446

well when I saw it on my one flight,
it's, you know, Hubble's a lot smaller

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00:03:34,446 --> 00:03:36,676

and less, you know, visually impressive.

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00:03:37,246 --> 00:03:43,936

Mark - As the pilot of the space shuttle doing a
rendezvous, approach and a docking like the ISS,

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00:03:43,936 --> 00:03:46,076

you're actually not doing the piloting.

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00:03:46,076 --> 00:03:46,886

The Commander is.

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00:03:46,886 --> 00:03:50,916

He's doing the, the flying and the final
phases of the rendezvous and the approach

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00:03:50,916 --> 00:03:55,196

so as we first approach the space
station, I'm sitting in the left seat

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00:03:55,196 --> 00:04:02,016

so I can't really see anything so I didn't have,
you know, my first look at the space station was

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00:04:02,016 --> 00:04:08,136

after we docked and, you know, having
that big picture view of station

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00:04:08,136 --> 00:04:11,156

as a shuttle pilot you don't
get until you undock and you,

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00:04:11,156 --> 00:04:13,566

you're leaving space station
and it's, it's, it's impressive.

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00:04:13,566 --> 00:04:16,096

I've seen the thing grow,
you know, over the years.

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00:04:16,096 --> 00:04:23,006

I've visited ISS in 2001, 2006 and 2008 so I've
seen through, you know, from the beginning here

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00:04:23,396 --> 00:04:24,976

through a lot of different stages.

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00:04:26,806 --> 00:04:33,486

Scott, as Commander of STS-118 and, Mark,
as Commander of STS-124, I have to ask who,

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00:04:33,976 --> 00:04:35,926

who threaded the needle the best for docking?

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00:04:36,556 --> 00:04:38,106

Scott - I don't know.