



1

00:00:00,719 --> 00:00:04,580

NARRATOR: For thousands of years, the course of exploration had been determined by staring

2

00:00:04,580 --> 00:00:09,710

toward the stars and moving forward with bold progress into the vast unknown.

3

00:00:09,710 --> 00:00:12,280

STRAUGHN: Astronomy is the oldest science.

4

00:00:12,280 --> 00:00:16,660

People have been looking up at the stars since we sort of stopped walking around on our knuckles.

5

00:00:16,660 --> 00:00:20,099

The way astronomers become interested in astronomy to begin with is just by looking at the sky.

6

00:00:20,099 --> 00:00:21,099

TYSON: If it's happening outside of our atmosphere - comets, asteroids, planets, stars, galaxies

7

00:00:21,099 --> 00:00:28,730

- cosmology, the study of the birth, life, and fate of the universe, that's what we worry

8

00:00:28,730 --> 00:00:29,730

about.

9

00:00:29,730 --> 00:00:39,380

And we use the laws of physics as discovered here on Earth and apply them to phenomenon

10

00:00:39,380 --> 00:00:40,690

in the cosmos.

11

00:00:40,690 --> 00:00:47,500

NARRATOR: Humanity reached out and explored

farther and farther, until a place once reserved

12
00:00:47,500 --> 00:00:55,300
for the imagination and the distant view of
a telescope's lens was now walked upon by

13
00:00:55,300 --> 00:00:56,300
humankind.

14
00:00:56,300 --> 00:00:59,220
Music
ARMSTRONG: That's one small step for man.

15
00:00:59,220 --> 00:01:03,910
MUSGRAVE: I had to run outside and look at
the moon and say, "You see that thing?"

16
00:01:03,910 --> 00:01:05,489
Well, there's people on there right now."

17
00:01:05,489 --> 00:01:08,550
ARMSTRONG: One giant leap for mankind.

18
00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:14,070
NARRATOR: It was 1969, as ticker tape fell
from the sky and rock and roll blazed across

19
00:01:14,070 --> 00:01:16,850
the American landscape.

20
00:01:19,580 --> 00:01:18,210
Music

21
00:01:19,580 --> 00:01:25,030
MIKULSKI: America loves discovery.

22
00:01:25,030 --> 00:01:33,200
We just--that's in our national DNA.

23
00:01:33,200 --> 00:01:38,400
When Lewis and Clark was sent out on their expedition by a president of the United States,

24
00:01:38,400 --> 00:01:40,270
it was called discovery.

25
00:01:40,270 --> 00:01:43,140
And that's when we send out our astronauts.

26
00:01:43,140 --> 00:01:48,650
That's when we've now sent out a space telescope, to go where no other telescopes had gone before

27
00:01:48,650 --> 00:01:51,490
and to see things that had never been seen.

28
00:01:51,490 --> 00:01:53,200
MOUNTAIN: So, astronomy is about exploration.

29
00:01:53,200 --> 00:01:54,799
It's what NASA does.

30
00:01:54,799 --> 00:01:55,799
NASA explores.

31
00:01:55,799 --> 00:02:00,490
NARRATOR: A telescope that would go beyond the atmospheric limits of the Earth; it's

32
00:02:00,490 --> 00:02:01,900
a simple problem.

33
00:02:01,900 --> 00:02:06,650
When you desire to look at objects far away, there are limitations.

34
00:02:06,650 --> 00:02:10,479

Through technological advancement, you can remove these limitations.

35
00:02:10,479 --> 00:02:14,590
The handheld telescope supersedes the naked eye.

36
00:02:14,590 --> 00:02:19,900
That small glass telescope was replaced by larger models, then mirrors are added and

37
00:02:19,900 --> 00:02:22,080
then more advancements.

38
00:02:22,080 --> 00:02:28,640
As the size and capacities of the device grow so do the discoveries, from mapping a few

39
00:02:28,640 --> 00:02:34,200
heavenly bodies circling the sun to seeing beyond ours and into other galaxies.

40
00:02:34,200 --> 00:02:38,590
GARCIA: Before we ever put, you know, men in space, astronomers are already thinking

41
00:02:38,590 --> 00:02:43,880
about getting, you know, off of the planet above the atmosphere in order to get the crystal

42
00:02:43,880 --> 00:02:44,920
clear view.

43
00:02:44,920 --> 00:02:50,160
NARRATOR: But, obstacles such as atmosphere, clouds, light pollution, and even our own

44
00:02:50,160 --> 00:02:56,190
sun's brightness stand in our way of seeing things clearly or watching around the clock.

45

00:02:56,190 --> 00:02:57,290

The solution?

46

00:02:57,290 --> 00:03:00,239

A non ground-based robotic observatory.

47

00:03:00,239 --> 00:03:05,060

TYSON: Well, there's that famous song, twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you

48

00:03:05,060 --> 00:03:06,060

are.

49

00:03:06,060 --> 00:03:11,569

That left a lot of people thinking that twinkling stars is exactly what astronomers want, BUT

50

00:03:11,569 --> 00:03:13,849

it is the opposite of what they want.

51

00:03:13,849 --> 00:03:17,770

MASSIMINO: One thing I've noticed as an astronaut is that when you get into space and you look

52

00:03:17,770 --> 00:03:20,300

at stars, they don't twinkle like they do on Earth.

53

00:03:20,300 --> 00:03:23,520

What you're seeing in twinkle, twinkle little star is because the light is coming through

54

00:03:23,520 --> 00:03:26,660

the atmosphere and causing them to twinkle.

55

00:03:26,660 --> 00:03:28,890

TYSON: Starlight does not twinkle on its own.

56
00:03:28,890 --> 00:03:31,220
It twinkles coming through Earth's atmosphere.

57
00:03:31,220 --> 00:03:36,370
And it's that bump, AND grind and jiggle and wiggle, moving through the layers, different

58
00:03:36,370 --> 00:03:43,210
temperature layers of the atmosphere, that disrupts the precision of your imaging of

59
00:03:43,210 --> 00:03:44,210
the night sky.

60
00:03:44,210 --> 00:03:48,670
MASSIMINO: THE space telescope was thought of originally by--Lyman Spitzer had the idea

61
00:03:48,670 --> 00:03:53,090
that if you could get above the atmosphere you could see a lot more clearly.

62
00:03:53,090 --> 00:03:58,090
NARRATOR: Renowned astrophysicist Lyman Spitzer gathered support in the astronomy community

63
00:03:58,090 --> 00:04:04,409
for a large space telescope, which later on would be named in honor of astronomer Edwin

64
00:04:04,409 --> 00:04:05,970
Powell Hubble.

65
00:04:05,970 --> 00:04:08,930
It was Hubble who discovered the universe was expanding.

66
00:04:08,930 --> 00:04:15,159
Through the lens of a hundred inch telescope,

he made calculations that the universe was

67

00:04:15,159 --> 00:04:20,160

made up of billions of galaxies, well beyond the visible Milky Way.

68

00:04:20,160 --> 00:04:24,790

His observations pointed out that these galaxies seemed to be moving away from us.

69

00:04:24,790 --> 00:04:28,370

IDLE: (Singing) We're 30,000 light years from galactic central point.

70

00:04:28,370 --> 00:04:30,920

We go around every 200 million years.

71

00:04:30,920 --> 00:04:37,300

And our galaxy is only one of millions of billions in this amazing and expanding universe.

72

00:04:37,300 --> 00:04:46,000

NARRATOR: Using known stars to calculate distances between galaxies, Edwin Hubble confirmed this

73

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:47,000

galactic retreat.

74

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:48,900

WEILER: Now, let's take it ever further back.

75

00:04:48,900 --> 00:04:53,530

A lot of people don't realize this, but the Hubble Space Telescope was dreamed up by Lyman

76

00:04:53,530 --> 00:04:56,150

Spitzer back in 1948.

77

00:04:56,150 --> 00:04:59,990

And he wrote a paper on the advantages of putting a telescope in space to get above

78

00:04:59,990 --> 00:05:02,360

the atmosphere, etc.

79

00:05:02,360 --> 00:05:07,240

And that started a lifelong--a quest by Lyman to get the Hubble Space Telescope up there.

80

00:05:07,240 --> 00:05:12,280

He fought with the Congress with the able help of John Bahcall, who I consider the granduncle

81

00:05:12,280 --> 00:05:14,419

of Hubble, both at Princeton.

82

00:05:14,419 --> 00:05:20,850

And he and John fought with Congress and convinced Congress to provide the early funding in the

83

00:05:20,850 --> 00:05:21,850

late '70s.

84

00:05:21,850 --> 00:05:27,151

ALTMAN: It looks out at galaxies and brings them to us, crosses vast distances that we

85

00:05:27,151 --> 00:05:28,990

don't have the technology to travel.

86

00:05:28,990 --> 00:05:34,259

But, we can travel in a time machine using the Hubble to show us what the universe was

87

00:05:34,259 --> 00:05:40,000

like 13 billion years ago with the light that it pulls in, and also exposes us to just how

88

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:46,710

vast the universe really is, with billions
and billions of galaxies full of billions

89

00:05:46,710 --> 00:05:47,710

of stars.

90

00:05:47,710 --> 00:05:52,979

NARRATOR: To build a telescope in many ways
is a decision to build a time machine.

91

00:05:52,979 --> 00:06:00,760

The United States Congress approved a large
space telescope in 1977, sparking work to

92

00:06:00,760 --> 00:06:06,330

begin on creating this large, complex, and
capable orbiting telescope.

93

00:06:06,330 --> 00:06:08,800

LECKRONE: Well, it wasn't easy.

94

00:06:08,800 --> 00:06:15,050

It was a long slog, difficult politically
at first to have it accepted and funded in

95

00:06:15,050 --> 00:06:16,580

the US Congress.

96

00:06:16,580 --> 00:06:18,220

And then, technically it was difficult.

97

00:06:18,220 --> 00:06:25,389

CEPOLLINA: We need to find a new way and the
new technology to approach the development

98

00:06:25,389 --> 00:06:33,590

of expensive satellites that would go to orbit,
that could somehow take advantage of human

99

00:06:33,590 --> 00:06:37,220

repair and perhaps a space transportation system.

100

00:06:37,220 --> 00:06:42,320

NARRATOR: An advanced international observatory with multiple tools, multiple cameras, instruments,

101

00:06:42,320 --> 00:06:43,320

and capabilities.

102

00:06:43,320 --> 00:06:45,570

MASSIMINO: It's an amazing machine.

103

00:06:45,570 --> 00:06:51,430

It can orbit around the Earth at 17,500 miles an hour.

104

00:06:51,430 --> 00:06:55,500

And the reason it can take all these great images is not only because it's above the

105

00:06:55,500 --> 00:07:03,020

atmosphere, but because it can very steadily hold its gaze on an object in space.

106

00:07:03,020 --> 00:07:10,880

ROMAN: Aerospace companies came in with proposals for a space telescope, a large space telescope.

107

00:07:10,880 --> 00:07:15,139

All of them had men riding around with the telescope.

108

00:07:15,139 --> 00:07:17,590

This was the last thing that astronomers wanted.

109

00:07:17,590 --> 00:07:22,250

In the first place, we were trying to get

rid of the atmosphere, and a man needs an

110

00:07:22,250 --> 00:07:23,250

atmosphere.

111

00:07:23,250 --> 00:07:25,630

In the second place, a man's going to wiggle.

112

00:07:25,630 --> 00:07:31,260

I don't care how careful he is, when you're taking a half hour or an hour exposures, he's

113

00:07:31,260 --> 00:07:33,170

going to wiggle sometimes.

114

00:07:33,170 --> 00:07:37,500

And when you wiggle in space, the spacecraft wiggles the opposite way.

115

00:07:37,500 --> 00:07:42,240

NARRATOR: A globally connected telescope, built through a partnership with the European

116

00:07:42,240 --> 00:07:47,419

Space Agency, which would look into the stars well beyond international borders.

117

00:07:47,419 --> 00:07:49,009

SCOLESE: It takes a lot of people.

118

00:07:49,009 --> 00:07:54,500

You know, it takes people that--obviously the scientists to conceive of it.

119

00:07:54,500 --> 00:07:58,880

It takes engineers to design it and build it and test it.

120

00:07:58,880 --> 00:08:02,051

It takes technicians to actually build it.

121

00:08:02,051 --> 00:08:07,510

It takes the people to keep the rooms clean,
the facilities up and operating.

122

00:08:07,510 --> 00:08:14,270

So, it takes people from every walk of life
in order to do it, every skill set that you

123

00:08:14,270 --> 00:08:15,270

can think of.

124

00:08:15,270 --> 00:08:20,710

NARRATOR: To then place this telescope into
orbit to send back to us the data that scientists

125

00:08:20,710 --> 00:08:23,460

needed, unobstructed and unencumbered.

126

00:08:23,460 --> 00:08:28,130

WISEMAN: And when it was launched in 1990,
it really opened a new vista on the whole

127

00:08:28,130 --> 00:08:32,550

universe simply by enabling us to get sharper
images above the atmosphere.

128

00:08:32,550 --> 00:08:37,119

MUSGRAVE: Humanity has always looked out there,
to the heavens, to get the meaning and the

129

00:08:37,119 --> 00:08:39,089

hope of their life here.

130

00:08:39,089 --> 00:08:42,739

So, you look out there for what's going on
down here.

131

00:08:42,739 --> 00:08:48,249

People understood that about Hubble before we carried it up there, and so that's the

132

00:08:48,249 --> 00:08:49,249

magic.

133

00:08:49,249 --> 00:08:53,839

Bolden: And at the time, I was the--what we called the PLT, or the pilot for the Hubble

134

00:08:53,839 --> 00:08:58,209

deploy mission, which was STS-31 aboard the Shuttle Discovery.

135

00:08:58,209 --> 00:09:02,499

All of us in the crew had a certain feeling of exhilaration and excitement.

136

00:09:02,499 --> 00:09:06,160

We knew that this was going to be an important mission.

137

00:09:06,160 --> 00:09:09,820

UNIDENTIFIED: Two, one, and liftoff of the Space Shuttle Discovery with the Hubble Space

138

00:09:09,820 --> 00:09:14,070

Telescope, our window on the universe.

139

00:09:14,070 --> 00:09:20,089

NARRATOR: On the 25th of April in 1990, the Space Shuttle Discovery, piloted by a future

140

00:09:20,089 --> 00:09:24,940

administrator of NASA, deployed the Hubble Space Telescope into an orbit around Earth.

141

00:09:24,940 --> 00:09:25,940

UNIDENTIFIED: Discovery, Houston.

142

00:09:25,940 --> 00:09:32,001

You have a go to open the doors.

143

00:09:32,001 --> 00:09:33,001

UNIDENTIFIED: Roger, Houston.

144

00:09:33,001 --> 00:09:37,839

BOLDEN: The mission itself was pretty intense in training, because we had to train for any

145

00:09:37,839 --> 00:09:42,160

number of contingencies that we all prayed would not happen.

146

00:09:42,160 --> 00:09:43,420

UNIDENTIFIED: Morning, Story.

147

00:09:43,420 --> 00:09:44,420

REEVES: Good morning, Discovery.

148

00:09:44,420 --> 00:09:49,550

Good morning from Bill Reeves and the Orbit One Team, and you got a go for HST deploy

149

00:09:49,550 --> 00:09:50,550

ops.

150

00:09:50,550 --> 00:09:52,480

UNIDENTIFIED: And Houston, Discovery.

151

00:09:52,480 --> 00:09:56,589

The transfer to internal power is complete.

152

00:09:56,589 --> 00:10:01,059

The umbilical is dead-faced, and we'll be standing by for your go for umbilical release.

153

00:10:01,059 --> 00:10:04,172

MUSGRAVE It was the people's instrument long before we launched it.

154

00:10:04,172 --> 00:10:12,490

So, and like I said, I was the lead communicator in the carry-up and deploy mission, STS-31,

155

00:10:12,490 --> 00:10:14,690

but it was the people's machine then.

156

00:10:14,690 --> 00:10:18,079

UNIDENTIFIED CHATTER

BOLDEN: Ironically, one of those contingencies

157

00:10:18,079 --> 00:10:21,410

was failure of the solar array to deploy.

158

00:10:21,410 --> 00:10:25,809

It took us much of the day for the flight control team to say, "Look, we--this is not

159

00:10:25,809 --> 00:10:26,809

working out.

160

00:10:26,809 --> 00:10:29,189

We don't think we're going to get the solar arrays deployed."

161

00:10:29,189 --> 00:10:37,709

All of a sudden this great experience turned out to just go, "This is not good," when the

162

00:10:37,709 --> 00:10:40,399

ground control team called and said, "Stop, stop.

163

00:10:40,399 --> 00:10:42,170

We think we found a solution.

164

00:10:42,170 --> 00:10:44,809

You know, just stop where you are.

165

00:10:44,809 --> 00:10:45,809

We're going to try this."

166

00:10:45,809 --> 00:10:49,399

And they did and it worked, and so we went ahead and deployed.

167

00:10:49,399 --> 00:10:51,410

UNIDENTIFIED: The deploy activity so far is going very smoothly.

168

00:10:51,410 --> 00:10:53,299

BOLDEN: Okay, they copy you, Story.

169

00:10:53,299 --> 00:10:54,559

And we're at five--.

170

00:10:54,559 --> 00:10:59,809

BOLDEN: --It all worked out because of the incredible work of the combination of the

171

00:10:59,809 --> 00:11:06,910

crew onboard, the flight control team in Houston, but most especially very smart people at the

172

00:11:06,910 --> 00:11:13,079

Goddard Space Flight Center who actually knew the Hubble Space Telescope about as well as

173

00:11:13,079 --> 00:11:14,369

any people around.

174

00:11:14,369 --> 00:11:15,369

UNIDENTIFIED: J.C.?

175

00:11:15,369 --> 00:11:16,369
UNIDENTIFIED: Go.

176
00:11:16,369 --> 00:11:17,379
UNIDENTIFIED: Network go.

177
00:11:17,379 --> 00:11:19,100
Payloads, waiting on you.

178
00:11:19,100 --> 00:11:20,389
UNIDENTIFIED: Flight payloads.

179
00:11:20,389 --> 00:11:21,679
We are go.

180
00:11:21,679 --> 00:11:22,970
UNIDENTIFIED: Go ahead.

181
00:11:22,970 --> 00:11:25,410
CapCom, we have a go for release.

182
00:11:25,410 --> 00:11:27,989
UNIDENTIFIED: Discovery, go for Hubble release.

183
00:11:27,989 --> 00:11:29,279
BOLDEN: Houston, Discovery.

184
00:11:29,279 --> 00:11:30,999
MUSGRAVE: Go ahead, Charlie.

185
00:11:30,999 --> 00:11:32,290
BOLDEN: Okay, Story.

186
00:11:32,290 --> 00:11:34,009
We've been taking marks.

187
00:11:34,009 --> 00:11:38,970
Residuals and ratios look good, and we'd like

to go ahead and go to the filter state.

188

00:11:38,970 --> 00:11:41,499

MUSGRAVE: We concur, Charlie.

189

00:11:41,499 --> 00:11:46,660

WEILER: We launched Hubble April 24th, 1990,
and we were all on top of the world.

190

00:11:46,660 --> 00:11:52,269

Many of us astronomers had never done an interview,
and suddenly we were on Today and Nightline

191

00:11:52,269 --> 00:11:54,920

and Good Morning America, etc.

192

00:11:54,920 --> 00:11:56,489

And the media loved us.

193

00:11:56,489 --> 00:11:58,889

The Hubble was big news across the country.

194

00:11:58,889 --> 00:12:00,149

Everybody loved us.

195

00:12:00,149 --> 00:12:05,299

UNIDENTIFIED: And it's here, 381 miles up,
where the telescope is to be place in orbit

196

00:12:05,299 --> 00:12:06,299

tomorrow.

197

00:12:06,299 --> 00:12:08,160

So, the celebration will continue.

198

00:12:08,160 --> 00:12:09,399

UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, yes.

199

00:12:09,399 --> 00:12:12,850

Hey, I get to launch something here, guys.

200

00:12:12,850 --> 00:12:17,819

UNIDENTIFIED: Westfall's family, neighbors,
and colleagues who had traveled here from

201

00:12:17,819 --> 00:12:19,759

California toasted the telescope.

202

00:12:19,759 --> 00:12:23,859

BRAD BIRD: The science that is astronomy would
never be the same.

203

00:12:23,859 --> 00:12:28,179

STRAUGHN: When people think about a telescope
here on Earth, they think about a mirror with

204

00:12:28,179 --> 00:12:29,439

a tube around it.

205

00:12:29,439 --> 00:12:31,540

And that's exactly what Hubble is.

206

00:12:31,540 --> 00:12:35,889

It's a huge mirror with a huge tube around
it in space.

207

00:12:35,889 --> 00:12:39,649

And the--of course, the purpose of Hubble
is to take these beautiful images that we

208

00:12:39,649 --> 00:12:40,649

learn about.

209

00:12:40,649 --> 00:12:45,670

And so, the images are recorded on cameras,
and then the data is sent back to Earth for

210

00:12:45,670 --> 00:12:46,670
us to study.

211
00:12:46,670 --> 00:12:51,429
NARRATOR: The Hubble Space Telescope powered
up, all systems nominal, and the data began

212
00:12:51,429 --> 00:12:56,799
to stream in; images of far off distances,
galaxies, and stars, but there was something

213
00:12:56,799 --> 00:12:57,799
wrong.

214
00:12:57,799 --> 00:13:02,579
The magnificent space observatory's imagery
was not clear, not crisp.

215
00:13:02,579 --> 00:13:06,619
BOLDEN: As a member of the deploy crew, we
had come back, done our debrief, and, you

216
00:13:06,619 --> 00:13:07,619
know, we had done our job.

217
00:13:07,619 --> 00:13:08,670
And so, we were happy.

218
00:13:08,670 --> 00:13:13,069
We thought everything was okay until the word
came that, ah, we saw the first light images.

219
00:13:13,069 --> 00:13:18,059
And to the amateur like me, it looked great
because we had made this great discovery right

220
00:13:18,059 --> 00:13:22,230
off the bat; what we thought was a single
star turned out to be a binary star, when

221

00:13:22,230 --> 00:13:25,079

we learned that no, it's not really that good an image.

222

00:13:25,079 --> 00:13:27,589

It's kind of blurred because we have this thing.

223

00:13:27,589 --> 00:13:33,639

FRANK CEPOLLINA: From an agency perspective and from a public perspective and a Congressional

224

00:13:33,639 --> 00:13:35,519

perspective, it was doom and gloom.

225

00:13:35,519 --> 00:13:42,359

MIKULSKI: Working on a bipartisan basis, we used the best tools to identify was this a

226

00:13:42,359 --> 00:13:48,980

techno turkey that we would just bag as a terrible mistake and say bye-bye boondoggle,

227

00:13:48,980 --> 00:13:51,180

or were we really going to try to fix it?

228

00:13:51,180 --> 00:13:56,639

WEILER: Couldn't get the telescope focused, had trouble pointing it sometimes, and that

229

00:13:56,639 --> 00:14:01,250

went on until about early June when people, smart people, finally figured out that what

230

00:14:01,250 --> 00:14:02,709

we had was a spherical aberration.

231

00:14:02,709 --> 00:14:04,529

CEPOLLINA: The mirror was polished incorrectly.

232

00:14:04,529 --> 00:14:06,369

And it wasn't by much.

233

00:14:06,369 --> 00:14:09,749

It was half the thickness of a human hair
across 100 inches.

234

00:14:09,749 --> 00:14:17,169

You know, you can try to imagine what--how
much sag something that weighed 2,300 pounds

235

00:14:17,169 --> 00:14:18,169

would have.

236

00:14:18,169 --> 00:14:24,540

And yet, we were off by half the thickness
of a human hair from center to edge.

237

00:14:24,540 --> 00:14:30,639

And that's pretty astounding, that, you know,
we could come so close and yet not make it.

238

00:14:30,639 --> 00:14:34,439

WEILER: The mirror was still a perfect smooth
curve, but it had the wrong prescription.

239

00:14:34,439 --> 00:14:36,899

It wasn't the right curve.

240

00:14:36,899 --> 00:14:40,610

Just like my eye is a perfectly good eye,
it's got a smooth curve to it, but it's the

241

00:14:40,610 --> 00:14:41,739

wrong prescription.

242

00:14:41,739 --> 00:14:43,939

Light doesn't come to a focus at the right

spot.

243

00:14:43,939 --> 00:14:45,699

So, how do we fix it?

244

00:14:45,699 --> 00:14:50,169

Well, we fix it with corrective lenses, the opposite prescription.

245

00:14:50,169 --> 00:14:56,269

And that's what we talked about on the famous press conference of June 27th, 1990, where

246

00:14:56,269 --> 00:15:00,899

I had the unique honor of explaining to the American people and the press that Hubble

247

00:15:00,899 --> 00:15:02,879

wouldn't be doing the science we had promised.

248

00:15:02,879 --> 00:15:09,119

WEILER: I'm going to try to give you a perspective on the short term ramifications of this particular

249

00:15:09,119 --> 00:15:14,869

issue and also the long term ramifications in terms of what we can do, the science we

250

00:15:14,869 --> 00:15:20,970

can do, the science we won't be able to do for a while in the short term, and most importantly,

251

00:15:20,970 --> 00:15:23,889

the solutions to this problem in the future.

252

00:15:23,889 --> 00:15:28,559

NARRATOR: Decades of planning and hope seemed extinguished by a blurring spherical aberration

253

00:15:28,559 --> 00:15:30,429
in Hubble's primary mirror.

254

00:15:30,429 --> 00:15:36,139
WEILER: We feel that we can characterize the
problem, this spherical aberration problem,

255

00:15:36,139 --> 00:15:40,579
well enough that we can take advantage of
an insurance policy that we haven't talked

256

00:15:40,579 --> 00:15:43,239
much about and that hasn't been in the press
much.

257

00:15:43,239 --> 00:15:46,449
And that is we started a long time ago to
plan a maintenance program.

258

00:15:46,449 --> 00:15:51,459
GRUNSFELD: The truly remarkable feature of
the Hubble Space Telescope is that it was

259

00:15:51,459 --> 00:15:54,350
designed to be upgraded and fixed.

260

00:15:54,350 --> 00:15:58,569
NARRATOR: On Earth, you'd order a replacement
part and correct the problem when the shipment

261

00:15:58,569 --> 00:15:59,569
arrived.

262

00:15:59,569 --> 00:16:06,819
But, Hubble was over 340 miles from the Earth's
surface, moving at nearly 18,000 miles per

263

00:16:06,819 --> 00:16:07,819
hour.

264

00:16:07,819 --> 00:16:09,380

You'd need a special repair team.

265

00:16:09,380 --> 00:16:15,079

MUSGRAVE: The team comes together through multiple domains, multiple disciplines, and

266

00:16:15,079 --> 00:16:17,739

multiple organizations, multiple divisions.

267

00:16:17,739 --> 00:16:22,639

You got to get a job done, and NASA is absolutely expertise on this.

268

00:16:22,639 --> 00:16:28,680

When you got to get the job done, the team comes from many different places.

269

00:16:28,680 --> 00:16:32,699

SEMBACH: When Hubble was first launched, it had the spherical aberration on its primary

270

00:16:32,699 --> 00:16:35,860

mirror, so the prescription for the mirror wasn't right.

271

00:16:35,860 --> 00:16:41,259

It took a team of people to figure out what that prescription actually was in practice

272

00:16:41,259 --> 00:16:45,359

as opposed to what it should have been, and then people to figure out how to actually

273

00:16:45,359 --> 00:16:49,489

solve Hubble's blurry vision at the time.

274

00:16:49,489 --> 00:16:59,819

This institute and NASA and its contractors

figured out a way to put together a prescription

275

00:16:59,819 --> 00:17:03,009

for correcting that spherical aberration.

276

00:17:03,009 --> 00:17:08,290

MUSGRAVE: After those two failures, the big boss came over and looked at me and said,

277

00:17:08,290 --> 00:17:09,500

"Story, fix it."

278

00:17:09,500 --> 00:17:10,980

Okay, I'll fix it.

279

00:17:10,980 --> 00:17:12,600

UNIDENTIFIED: Two, one.

280

00:17:12,600 --> 00:17:16,990

And we have liftoff, liftoff of the Space Shuttle Endeavor on an ambitious mission to

281

00:17:16,990 --> 00:17:18,660

service the Hubble Space Telescope.

282

00:17:18,660 --> 00:17:23,429

MUSGRAVE: The real magic on the Hubble mission is almost 40 hours of spacewalking, and we

283

00:17:23,429 --> 00:17:25,079

had almost no surprises.

284

00:17:25,079 --> 00:17:27,389

We had 13 major systems to fix.

285

00:17:27,389 --> 00:17:31,299

And day after day we just kept working away getting the system fixed, and they'd tell

286

00:17:31,299 --> 00:17:35,970

us this one is up and running and it's fixed.

287

00:17:35,970 --> 00:17:39,830

And we kept on going through five days.

288

00:17:39,830 --> 00:17:44,220

And finally we finished the job and, hey,
it's totally restored.

289

00:17:44,220 --> 00:17:49,340

MOUNTAIN: Because astronauts from NASA have
been able to go back and refurbish it, put

290

00:17:49,340 --> 00:17:53,429

in new instruments, repair it, and so that
25 years has made it an increasingly more

291

00:17:53,429 --> 00:17:54,429

powerful telescope.

292

00:17:54,429 --> 00:17:58,460

And it's the fact the Hubble is so powerful
today which is so remarkable.

293

00:17:58,460 --> 00:18:03,309

After 25 years, it's basically 10 to 100 times
more powerful than when it was first launched.

294

00:18:03,309 --> 00:18:07,600

GRUNSFELD: Crew members, women and men in
white spacesuits rode to the rescue like a

295

00:18:07,600 --> 00:18:08,880

great Western.

296

00:18:08,880 --> 00:18:14,180

And so, this was a huge deal for me personally
as an astronomer, astrophysicist, and astronaut,

297

00:18:14,180 --> 00:18:19,279

to have the privilege of going to Hubble on my first mission in 1999.

298

00:18:19,279 --> 00:18:22,480

GOOD: Like taking the car in for an oil change, rotate the tires.

299

00:18:22,480 --> 00:18:24,230

So, we were changing out batteries.

300

00:18:24,230 --> 00:18:29,549

We were changing out the gyros, things that just made the telescope work.

301

00:18:29,549 --> 00:18:33,909

MUSGRAVE: So, you have a satellite out there, and you got to maintain its attitude and you

302

00:18:33,909 --> 00:18:38,220

got to maneuver to point very closely.

303

00:18:38,220 --> 00:18:42,179

The only ultimate force that you impose on the machine is magnets.

304

00:18:42,179 --> 00:18:47,540

Now, as Hubble goes around the Earth, here's the magnetic field of Earth.

305

00:18:47,540 --> 00:18:54,820

And the magnetometers, which I replaced, those magnetometers, they sense where the magnetic

306

00:18:54,820 --> 00:18:59,789

field of the Earth is, and the computers say, "Okay, I'm going to turn these magnets on

307

00:18:59,789 --> 00:19:00,789
or off.

308

00:19:00,789 --> 00:19:02,360
And that's the way I'm going to control Hubble attitude."

309

00:19:02,360 --> 00:19:05,789
SEMBACH: Remember, up in space, you know, there isn't anything for Hubble to push against,

310

00:19:05,789 --> 00:19:09,289
so it has to push against something internal like these spinning wheels.

311

00:19:09,289 --> 00:19:15,910
FOALE: I did a mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, and it was a--it wasn't really

312

00:19:15,910 --> 00:19:16,970
a refurbishment.

313

00:19:16,970 --> 00:19:25,309
It was a rescue mission, because the Hubble Telescope uses gyroscopes to determine how

314

00:19:25,309 --> 00:19:30,000
it's moving and how to point, with absolutely no motion, at a star.

315

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:32,549
And those gyroscopes, six of them, were failing.

316

00:19:32,549 --> 00:19:37,190
And then, by the time we got there, only one, I think, was working.

317

00:19:37,190 --> 00:19:44,009
And so, it was a dead telescope at that point, and our role on that mission was to basically

318

00:19:44,009 --> 00:19:45,769

repair the Hubble Telescope.

319

00:19:45,769 --> 00:19:50,870

It was a real repair mission, just like the first repair mission to change the optics.

320

00:19:50,870 --> 00:19:54,929

If I had messed that up, I would be the one that had broken the telescope forever.

321

00:19:54,929 --> 00:19:59,139

MCARTHUR: This amazing telescope with all this history and, you know, what if I wreck

322

00:19:59,139 --> 00:20:00,139

it?

323

00:20:00,139 --> 00:20:01,139

What if I do something bad?

324

00:20:01,139 --> 00:20:04,070

GRUNSFELD: Then I got the opportunity to go a second time as the payload commander on

325

00:20:04,070 --> 00:20:05,740

STS-109.

326

00:20:05,740 --> 00:20:10,769

And when we actually were doing the spacewalks and I went out and shook hands with Mr. Hubble,

327

00:20:10,769 --> 00:20:16,160

the telescope, you know, holding on to the side, I truly felt like, you know, this was

328

00:20:16,160 --> 00:20:19,250

my partner and that we were here, you know,

to help.

329

00:20:19,250 --> 00:20:22,940

REZAC: I guess that's part of the excitement of having worked a Hubble mission, because

330

00:20:22,940 --> 00:20:27,710

you know you've got the best team on the ground, the best crew upstairs.

331

00:20:27,710 --> 00:20:31,059

It's exciting, but there is a level of confidence you're going to pull through this.

332

00:20:31,059 --> 00:20:32,940

MCARTHUR: It's incredible, the things that they can come up with.

333

00:20:32,940 --> 00:20:36,659

And they have the time and the resources to develop that here, and then we take, you know,

334

00:20:36,659 --> 00:20:40,160

sort of the best solution up with us to implement in space.

335

00:20:40,160 --> 00:20:41,160

There is it.

336

00:20:41,160 --> 00:20:42,429

It looks exactly the way it's supposed to look.

337

00:20:42,429 --> 00:20:47,712

It's exactly where it's supposed to be and I'm just going to reach over and grab it.

338

00:20:47,712 --> 00:20:48,712

So, it was a really good feeling.

339

00:20:48,712 --> 00:20:52,919

And what we did after we grappled the telescope and put it in the payload bay was, every day

340

00:20:52,919 --> 00:20:57,169

that the spacewalks were going on, which was the five days after we grappled the telescope,

341

00:20:57,169 --> 00:21:00,730

the two guys go outside and one of them is pretty much always on the end of the arm.

342

00:21:00,730 --> 00:21:01,730

Unidentified: Go on three, bueno.

343

00:21:01,730 --> 00:21:02,730

GOOD: Copy.

344

00:21:02,730 --> 00:21:03,730

Go three.

345

00:21:03,730 --> 00:21:04,730

Unidentified: So, we'd drive them around and put them into position to do their work.

346

00:21:04,730 --> 00:21:05,730

Unidentified: You are clear to continue and increase the rate of your--.

347

00:21:05,730 --> 00:21:06,730

UNIDENTIFIED: --Yep.

348

00:21:06,730 --> 00:21:07,730

You can increase the rate, Megan.

349

00:21:07,730 --> 00:21:08,730

MCARTHUR: Copy, picking up the rate.

350

00:21:08,730 --> 00:21:11,030

Unidentified Man: Oh, what a beautiful view.

351

00:21:11,030 --> 00:21:19,710

MCARTHUR: They'd ask me to bring them in closer or move them by the telescope.

352

00:21:19,710 --> 00:21:23,240

I'd have to ask them, "Hey, you need to check and verify how much space do I have."

353

00:21:23,240 --> 00:21:26,570

And of course, their mind is on their job, the instrument that they're holding, the tools,

354

00:21:26,570 --> 00:21:27,570

whatever.

355

00:21:27,570 --> 00:21:30,539

And so, having to work that coordination, training really helps there.

356

00:21:30,539 --> 00:21:34,370

But, it is--it's delicate in the sense of you don't want to hurt the hardware, you don't

357

00:21:34,370 --> 00:21:36,330

want to hurt the person, and you certainly don't want to hurt the telescope.

358

00:21:36,330 --> 00:21:38,600

Unidentified Man: Okay, you can stop there, Megan.

359

00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:39,740

MCARTHUR: Motion stopped, check.

360

00:21:39,740 --> 00:21:40,870

Unidentified Man: Thank you.

361

00:21:40,870 --> 00:21:45,370

GOOD: It was 19 years old at the time when we went up there, and the batteries were original

362

00:21:45,370 --> 00:21:46,480

equipment.

363

00:21:46,480 --> 00:21:50,399

And so, they're charging and discharging, you know, like your--think about your phone,

364

00:21:50,399 --> 00:21:51,399

your cell phone.

365

00:21:51,399 --> 00:21:54,039

You know, you're lucky to get a year or two out of that battery, right?

366

00:21:54,039 --> 00:21:57,380

So, this is original batteries, so we replaced the batteries.

367

00:21:57,380 --> 00:21:58,539

Those are still working great.

368

00:21:58,539 --> 00:22:03,870

But, then some of the more interesting parts were actually replacing some of the science

369

00:22:03,870 --> 00:22:04,870

instruments.

370

00:22:04,870 --> 00:22:09,429

So, we took up a new camera and a new spectrograph and put those in.

371

00:22:09,429 --> 00:22:12,330

And then, we also fixed some broken instruments up there.

372
00:22:12,330 --> 00:22:15,210
There was a broken camera and a broken spectrograph.

373
00:22:15,210 --> 00:22:18,850
These are the science instruments so that
when the light comes in the telescope, these

374
00:22:18,850 --> 00:22:23,910
are the things that take the pictures and
do all the science for the--you know, for

375
00:22:23,910 --> 00:22:24,910
the astronomers and everybody back here on
Earth.

376
00:22:24,910 --> 00:22:30,450
JOHNSON: The breaking off of one of the hand
tools that Massimino--Mike Massimino had to

377
00:22:30,450 --> 00:22:31,450
do.

378
00:22:31,450 --> 00:22:32,450
Unidentified Man: Houston, you ready for this?

379
00:22:32,450 --> 00:22:33,450
Unidentified Man: Go.

380
00:22:33,450 --> 00:22:34,450
We're ready.

381
00:22:34,450 --> 00:22:35,450
Unidentified Man: Okay, Mass, you have a go.

382
00:22:35,450 --> 00:22:36,450
MASSIMINO: Here we go.

383

00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:38,410

It's off.

384

00:22:38,410 --> 00:22:41,550

Disposal bag, please?

385

00:22:41,550 --> 00:22:48,860

JOHNSON: It was pretty exciting watching that from inside, 'cause that had a lot of bearing

386

00:22:48,860 --> 00:22:51,720

on whether we got that part of the mission accomplished.

387

00:22:51,720 --> 00:22:52,970

So, it was pretty interesting.

388

00:22:52,970 --> 00:22:54,860

GRUNSFELD: A third time I got to go back.

389

00:22:54,860 --> 00:23:01,110

And, you know, I just can't tell you how thrilled I was and how thrilled I was that we had a

390

00:23:01,110 --> 00:23:05,350

great team and we were able to leave the Hubble in even better shape, such that now we're

391

00:23:05,350 --> 00:23:08,370

able to celebrate the 25th anniversary.

392

00:23:08,370 --> 00:23:12,769

I was a little bit worried that when we deployed the Hubble, you know, I'd feel really sad

393

00:23:12,769 --> 00:23:14,759

again, but this time I didn't.

394

00:23:14,759 --> 00:23:18,389

I just felt thrilled that we hadn't broken the Hubble, that we'd upgraded it, that it

395

00:23:18,389 --> 00:23:22,690

was in the best shape of its life, and that we'd done our job and a little bit more to

396

00:23:22,690 --> 00:23:28,120

give Hubble a very long life, bringing back all of its rewards to us here on planet Earth

397

00:23:28,120 --> 00:23:29,470

in terms of great discoveries.

398

00:23:29,470 --> 00:23:35,330

STRAUGHN: The fact that astronauts were able to go up and fix Hubble was really a groundbreaking

399

00:23:35,330 --> 00:23:36,330

thing.

400

00:23:36,330 --> 00:23:41,580

And it tells a really critical part of NASA's history, when science and human space exploration

401

00:23:41,580 --> 00:23:44,120

worked together really critically for the first time.

402

00:23:44,120 --> 00:23:50,930

SEMBACH: Without the repair missions, you wouldn't have Hubble lasting 25 years.

403

00:23:50,930 --> 00:23:53,510

Hubble's best days are still to come.

404

00:23:53,510 --> 00:23:57,279

NARRATOR: Astronauts and support staff on the ground had made tremendous improvements

405

00:23:57,279 --> 00:24:00,480

to Hubble's already majestic payload.

406

00:24:00,480 --> 00:24:05,940

With the repairs completed, Hubble blew the world away with what it saw and what we now

407

00:24:05,940 --> 00:24:13,740

could behold: sharp, clean, and crisp data, images of stars forming, and Ultra Deep Field

408

00:24:13,740 --> 00:24:19,529

images of thousands of galaxies showing just a glimpse at how big this universe is.

409

00:24:19,529 --> 00:24:22,049

MASSIMINO: I do have a favorite Hubble image.

410

00:24:22,049 --> 00:24:27,429

I have a couple of them, but the one that pops into my mind is the Cone Nebula.

411

00:24:27,429 --> 00:24:32,080

And it is an early release image, and the reason I like that is because it showed that

412

00:24:32,080 --> 00:24:35,200

we installed the advanced camera for surveys correctly.

413

00:24:35,200 --> 00:24:41,210

JOHNSON: Hubble has brought just knowledge of the universe that I think is beyond belief

414

00:24:41,210 --> 00:24:42,899

to the normal person.

415

00:24:42,899 --> 00:24:48,690

And some of the discoveries of the Hubble

Space Telescope in terms of the universe expanding

416

00:24:48,690 --> 00:24:50,409
are just mindboggling.

417

00:24:50,409 --> 00:24:56,509
FLANAGAN: Every time I look at it, I stare
and I stare and I want to see what's in that

418

00:24:56,509 --> 00:24:58,860
finger, you know, what's in that pillar?

419

00:24:58,860 --> 00:25:03,779
And interestingly, if you look at it in the
infrared, you can actually see into it.

420

00:25:03,779 --> 00:25:06,809
STRAUGHN: The Hubble Ultra Deep Field was
released in 2004 when I was in grad school.

421

00:25:06,809 --> 00:25:12,559
And to this day, I really remember the day
when that image came out.

422

00:25:12,559 --> 00:25:18,399
My grad advisor printed this image, this beautiful
image with galaxies that we'd never seen before

423

00:25:18,399 --> 00:25:22,529
on a huge sheet of paper and rolled it out
on the table for us grad students to look

424

00:25:22,529 --> 00:25:24,879
at, and just said, you know, "Look at this
image.

425

00:25:24,879 --> 00:25:25,970
Look what's here.

426

00:25:25,970 --> 00:25:28,179

What can we learn from this?"

427

00:25:28,179 --> 00:25:33,360

And so, I really loved that visual, sort of tangible representation of look at this beautiful

428

00:25:33,360 --> 00:25:34,870

thing and what can we learn.

429

00:25:34,870 --> 00:25:40,130

NARRATOR: Circling the globe at five miles per second, this school bus sized observatory

430

00:25:40,130 --> 00:25:45,760

was the most technologically advanced device ever launched, and has stayed amazingly advanced

431

00:25:45,760 --> 00:25:50,870

through five repair and upgrade missions, from the first mission critical optics repair

432

00:25:50,870 --> 00:25:58,289

on Space Shuttle mission STS-61 to the last servicing mission, STS-125, which added the

433

00:25:58,289 --> 00:26:04,129

wide field camera three and replaced or improved sensors, batteries, and numerous other components.

434

00:26:04,129 --> 00:26:07,610

BOLDEN: The Hubble was an incredible undertaking.

435

00:26:07,610 --> 00:26:13,909

If I look at the very last Hubble servicing mission, STS-125, it was perhaps the most

436

00:26:13,909 --> 00:26:18,659

ambitious single mission that this agency has ever undertaken.

437

00:26:18,659 --> 00:26:24,309

It was five spacewalks back to back to back to back to back.

438

00:26:24,309 --> 00:26:28,950

That's no break in between the spacewalks like we normally will do.

439

00:26:28,950 --> 00:26:34,570

The magnitude of the things that they wanted to accomplish almost meant certain failure

440

00:26:34,570 --> 00:26:35,570

somewhere.

441

00:26:35,570 --> 00:26:39,370

But, the crew said--the crew and the whole team, the team that put the mission together

442

00:26:39,370 --> 00:26:41,019

said, "Look, we can do this.

443

00:26:41,019 --> 00:26:45,779

You know, we will have accomplished so much more in making Hubble better than it is ever

444

00:26:45,779 --> 00:26:46,999

believed to be."

445

00:26:46,999 --> 00:26:53,929

So, Hubble gave us an excellent example of people, a team, that was not afraid of failure.

446

00:26:53,929 --> 00:26:55,889

SCOLESE: Failure was not an option.

447

00:26:55,889 --> 00:26:57,590

We were going to succeed.

448

00:26:57,590 --> 00:27:01,509

GRUNSFELD: What's really exciting to me is just the breadth of the scientific discoveries

449

00:27:01,509 --> 00:27:06,240

it's been able to make, everything from the age of the universe to proving the existence

450

00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:12,330

of black holes to discovering brand new things like the universe is accelerating due to mysterious

451

00:27:12,330 --> 00:27:13,330

dark energy.

452

00:27:13,330 --> 00:27:17,260

TYSON: I grew up, telescopes put into orbit wouldn't last more than three, at most five

453

00:27:17,260 --> 00:27:18,260

years.

454

00:27:18,260 --> 00:27:25,480

So, they never had a chance to grow on you, to become part of your soul of expectation

455

00:27:25,480 --> 00:27:28,110

for the next astronomical discovery.

456

00:27:28,110 --> 00:27:35,090

With Hubble, the fact--I think the fact that it was repairable meant it could just stay

457

00:27:35,090 --> 00:27:39,410

with you for decades, now 25 years.

458

00:27:39,410 --> 00:27:41,600

GARCIA: Everybody knows Hubble.

459

00:27:41,600 --> 00:27:43,179

It's really true.

460

00:27:43,179 --> 00:27:48,669

Worldwide, all throughout the US, everybody,
all ages, all walks of life, you say Hubble

461

00:27:48,669 --> 00:27:52,070

Space Telescope, people know what you're talking
about.

462

00:27:52,070 --> 00:27:53,070

That's extraordinary.

463

00:27:53,070 --> 00:27:58,350

NARRATOR: More than a simple telescope, Hubble
is humanity's grand observatory of the vastness

464

00:27:58,350 --> 00:27:59,870

of space.

465

00:27:59,870 --> 00:28:03,960

And we've kept exploring by staring into the
universe and moving forward.

466

00:28:03,960 --> 00:28:07,789

STRAUGHN: The great thing about Hubble now,
this year, is that it's still going strong.

467

00:28:07,789 --> 00:28:11,919

And we expect it to last out 'til 2020, maybe
even longer.

468

00:28:11,919 --> 00:28:14,519

But, we definitely have to start thinking
about the future.

469

00:28:14,519 --> 00:28:19,230

And NASA right now is building and putting together and testing the James Webb Space

470

00:28:19,230 --> 00:28:20,230

Telescope.

471

00:28:20,230 --> 00:28:24,090

MASSIMINO: That's going to be put even further away from the Earth than Hubble, and be able

472

00:28:24,090 --> 00:28:29,370

to see much further into the universe and provide even more information and even better

473

00:28:29,370 --> 00:28:30,370

images.

474

00:28:30,370 --> 00:28:32,980

I think that's going to be very exciting when we get that into space.

475

00:28:32,980 --> 00:28:38,230

NARRATOR:: The team here at NASA will continue that momentum with the next great observatory

476

00:28:38,230 --> 00:28:44,779

coming soon to the NASA inventory, the James Webb Space Telescope, with a primary mirror

477

00:28:44,779 --> 00:28:48,840

six times larger than Hubble's and over a hundred times more powerful.

478

00:28:48,840 --> 00:28:52,350

GRUNSFELD: There are places that the Hubble just can't see.

479

00:28:52,350 --> 00:28:58,179

The Hubble Space Telescope can't see inside the dark cocoons of dust and gas where baby

480

00:28:58,179 --> 00:29:01,659

stars are born and planets form.

481

00:29:01,659 --> 00:29:05,559

The James Webb Space Telescope and the infrared will be able to peer into those cocoons and

482

00:29:05,559 --> 00:29:09,160

show us the details of those first moments of star and planet formation.

483

00:29:09,160 --> 00:29:14,070

ALTMAN: The big thing is how exciting space is for the future.

484

00:29:14,070 --> 00:29:15,580

It's going to be incredible.

485

00:29:15,580 --> 00:29:21,710

We're at the cusp of a new era with new machines being designed, new missions being flown.

486

00:29:21,710 --> 00:29:27,039

We are going to visit other planets, and I'm--I just hope that young people can get excited

487

00:29:27,039 --> 00:29:29,009

about taking us that next step.

488

00:29:29,009 --> 00:29:31,169

I can't wait to watch them do it.

489

00:29:31,169 --> 00:29:32,179

It's a great time.

490

00:29:32,179 --> 00:29:37,710

JOHNSON: Growth in space; for kids that are involved in science and technology, I think

491

00:29:37,710 --> 00:29:42,029

space is a great way to aim your career at.

492

00:29:42,029 --> 00:29:44,230

I think we're going to discover new things.

493

00:29:44,230 --> 00:29:49,010

I'm really excited that NASA's got a number of programs going, including the James Webb

494

00:29:49,010 --> 00:29:53,179

Telescope, which'll bring the same kind of discoveries Hubble has.

495

00:29:53,179 --> 00:29:55,080

So, the future's pretty bright.

496

00:29:55,080 --> 00:30:00,169

NARRATOR: Today Hubble is still making new discoveries, seeing distant stars and galaxies

497

00:30:00,169 --> 00:30:05,590

that have never been seen before, improving our knowledge of the early universe, and clarifying

498

00:30:05,590 --> 00:30:07,409

images of our closest neighbors.

499

00:30:07,409 --> 00:30:08,830

CEPOLLINA: Look at the Washington Post.

500

00:30:08,830 --> 00:30:14,009

On the front page of the Washington Post there is a colored picture of a brand new galaxy

501

00:30:14,009 --> 00:30:15,730

just discovered by Hubble.

502

00:30:15,730 --> 00:30:22,010

And to be able to look at that picture and say, "My gosh, we did that," that's exciting.

503

00:30:22,010 --> 00:30:23,010

That's exciting.

504

00:30:23,010 --> 00:30:33,190

TYSON: Hubble has consistently taken us to places we've never been visually, of course,

505

00:30:33,190 --> 00:30:38,990

and given--and empowered us to answer questions that, in a previous generation of telescopes,

506

00:30:38,990 --> 00:30:40,940

we couldn't even pose.

507

00:30:40,940 --> 00:30:47,000

NARRATOR:: From comets and asteroids to some of the most distant galaxies yet discovered,

508

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:52,059

Hubble continues to revolutionize astronomy in our solar system and beyond.

509

00:30:52,059 --> 00:30:56,090

Hubble has changed the way we view our universe and ourselves.

510

00:30:56,090 --> 00:30:59,941

STRAUGHN: There is no doubt that the Hubble Space Telescope has changed the way that we

511

00:30:59,941 --> 00:31:02,169

as astronomers understand the universe.

512

00:31:02,169 --> 00:31:06,909

But, I think even more significantly than

that, Hubble's changed the way that the world

513

00:31:06,909 --> 00:31:07,909

views space.

514

00:31:07,909 --> 00:31:11,549

WEILER: You know, when you look back on the last 25 years of Hubble, it's just incredible

515

00:31:11,549 --> 00:31:19,389

because we have made major breakthroughs in almost every field of astrophysics, from planetary

516

00:31:19,389 --> 00:31:24,690

nearby to our own galaxy to the very, very beginning of time.

517

00:31:24,690 --> 00:31:32,279

And to think that we mere humans are sitting here and getting close to understanding this

518

00:31:32,279 --> 00:31:37,679

incredible universe that's around us, and Hubble has been a key component in that over

519

00:31:37,679 --> 00:31:38,740

the last 25 years.

520

00:31:38,740 --> 00:31:40,419

NARRATOR: We're on a never-ending journey.

521

00:31:40,419 --> 00:31:45,779

And the Hubble Space Telescope celebrates its quarter century of exploration as part