

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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APPLIED THEATER AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

**Abstract**

The First Nations had a deep-rooted connection to the stars. From the exact galactic tracking systems of the Mayans, to the Dogon tribe of Africa that say that the “Nommo” beings from the sky came to visit them, it is hard to imagine that ancient civilizations could have been more advanced. Yet how do we explain the Dogon cave paintings depiction of the exact Sirian binary star rotation? Although these topics tend to be controversial in academic and scientific circles, many mysteries remain which can be explored through an Applied Theater methodology. Why theater? The roots of theater stem from ritual practices which track cultural anthropology and provide a collaborative platform of spectacle, drama, and comedy. By approaching the world as a stage, we hold a mirror up to nature and present it in an interactive and engaging way through role-play. What if many of the stories of ancient peoples are not as metaphorical as many anthropologists and archeologists assume, but are in fact literal, revealing advanced technologies from other star systems? In a hands-on presentation, the audience will travel back in time using futuristic techniques to explore ancient views of our home and space.