

COLUMBIA ASTRONOMY OUTREACH PRESENTS:



# STARGAZING & LECTURE SERIES

## Captain Cook and the Cosmic Yardstick

A lecture by Martin Hendry  
Friday, November 4th, 7:00PM  
Pupin Hall, Columbia University

June 2012 will witness a transit of Venus, when for a few brief hours the planet will appear to cross the Sun's disk. This extremely rare astronomical event has an illustrious history: in 1769 a transit of Venus, observed by astronomers across the world, helped us determine for the first time the distance from the Earth to the Sun. This lecture charts the story of how we measured this cosmic yardstick, and looks ahead to the 2012 transit.

These are free lectures at a public level followed by guided stargazing with telescopes (weather permitting). All events are held at Pupin Hall at Columbia University. No reservations are needed. Lectures are 30 minutes, stargazing lasts 90 minutes.

For directions, weather updates and more information, please visit:

<http://outreach.astro.columbia.edu>