



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“STARDANCER” KATHLEEN MCDONAGH AND AUTHOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
JEANNE ROBINSON TO COMPLETE FIRST ‘DANCE’ ON ZERO GRAVITY FLIGHT
FOR “STARDANCE” FILM PROJECT**

LAS VEGAS – On December 30, a dream will be realized when award-winning author and choreographer Jeanne Robinson, along with her “Stardancer” Kathleen McDonagh, perform the world’s first choreographed dance aboard a flight by Zero Gravity Corporation (ZERO-G®), the first and only FAA-approved provider of commercial weightless flights. The experience offered by ZERO-G is the only opportunity on Earth for the general public to experience true "weightlessness" without going to space. During multiple zero gravity interludes, McDonagh will put Robinson’s concepts of “dance beyond the bonds of gravity” to the test as part of pre-production for her large format film “Stardance” (www.stardancemovie.com). The flight will depart from McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

“The principal purpose of this trip is to inform the choreography for the Stardance film through direct experience of the weightless environment. I’ve had zero-gravity choreography in my mind and heart for more than 30 years – now I’m going to know it on a cellular level,” said Robinson, who originated the concept of zero-gravity dance in her novel “Stardance,” co-authored with her husband, acclaimed science fiction writer Spider Robinson.

Originally slated to be the first zero-gravity dancer through NASA’s “Civilian In Space” program, Robinson’s opportunity of a lifetime vanished when the program was scrubbed in the wake of the Challenger disaster. Ansari X-Prize creator and ZERO-G co-founder Dr. Peter Diamandis renewed the opportunity by offering two slots on a ZERO-G flight after hearing Robinson’s Stardance film presentation; she was quite overwhelmed by his generosity. “He’s going to end up having affected our film as profoundly as he affected the entire human race by creating the \$10 million Ansari X Prize. Like him, we want the Stardance experience to help continue to fuel humanity’s fire to travel to space. This planet is simply too fragile a basket to keep all our eggs in.”

Also on board for the ride will be Robinson’s collaborator and producer/co-director of the Stardance film, James Sposto (www.sposto.com). The advertising executive and filmmaker was also intrigued by Robinson’s speech and offered his assistance. When queried as to what provided the impetus for his involvement in the project, he commented, “I was inspired by the opportunity to create a film that combines artistic and humanistic themes within the backdrop of science and space exploration. This film will transcend genre and elevate the public’s perception of what space and space exploration can mean to humanity in our own time, as well as in the future.” Having been a long-time reader of the Robinsons’ work solidified his resolve to bring to bare his skills as a hands-on media creator and allow Jeanne to realize her vision.

Weightless flight is an experience that few have tried, but those who have call it amazing and life-changing. Professor Stephen Hawking, Martha Stewart, Billy Bush, Burt Rutan, Miles O’Brien, and cast members of “The Apprentice,” and “The Biggest Loser” are just a few notable passengers who’ve flown with ZERO-G and proclaimed it to be one of the most thrilling experiences of their lives. Numerous astronauts including Buzz Aldrin and Anousheh Ansari also have enjoyed ZERO-G voyages. When experiencing zero gravity, guests can fly the length of an airplane cabin like superman, flip like an Olympic gymnast, pour water in the air and watch the droplets hover before your eyes or release a handful of M&M’s and chase them down like a game of human PacMan.



About The Project

The Stardance Experience (www.stardancemovie.com) is loosely based on the Robinson's series of novels, *Stardance* (Dial Press 1979), *Starseed* (Ace Books 1991) and *Starmind* (Ace Books 1995). It follows the story of astronaut Treya Anderson, a full-time maintenance worker on a space station orbiting earth in the not too distant future. Both a dancer and an engineer, she chose science and space over a career in dance, but circumstances and opportunity combine to allow her to merge her two passions into transcendent art, with cosmic consequences. Slated to be shot in large format (The 15/70 format pioneered by the IMAX corporation), the film will push the boundaries of the medium, combining live action and digital FX to create an emotional and visceral connection with the audience. The film's ultimate goal is to help fuel humanity's fire to go to the stars -- to reach ordinary people and communicate the majesty, beauty, grace, mystery and transcendence that await us all, just above our heads: the bliss of the stars.

Jeanne Robinson is a writer, choreographer, former dancer and teacher. She studied at the Boston Conservatory and the Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey and Erick Hawkins schools, and performed with Beverly Brown Dance Ensemble in New York. Artistic Director of Halifax's Nova Dance Theatre for eight years, she choreographed thirty original works. Her Hugo and Nebula winning 1976 novella "Stardance" pioneered the concept of zero-gravity dance and inspired three novels. Robinson is a lay-ordained Buddhist monk in the Soto Zen lineage of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi.

Kathleen McDonagh is one of Vancouver's premier dance artists; a dynamic performer, teacher and choreographer, she is also the director of g space, a studio specializing in the physical training modality of the Gyrotonic® Method. McDonagh has been a principal performer with many of Canada's contemporary dance companies having performed locally, throughout Canada and internationally for the last 18 years. In 2003, Kathleen was the second recipient of the Isadora Award that recognizes artists for their outstanding contribution to dance in Vancouver.

James Sposto is an entrepreneur, filmmaker and co-founder/creative executive of new-media advertising/design and communications agency Sposto Interactive (www.sposto.com). Both he and his company have won numerous awards for various national advertising campaigns, commercials, Web sites and interactive experiences.

About ZERO-G

Zero Gravity Corporation (www.GoZeroG.com) is a privately held [space entertainment](#) and tourism company whose mission is to make the excitement and adventure of weightlessness accessible to the public.

The *ZERO-G Experience* consists of a brief training session for passengers followed by a 90-minute flight aboard *G-FORCE ONE*. The *ZERO-G Experience* provides its *Flyers* with twice the amount of weightless time achieved in a typical sub-orbital flight into space. ZERO-G operates under the highest safety standards as set by the FAA (Part-121) with its partner Amerijet International of Ft. Lauderdale Florida. Aircraft operations take place under the same regulations set for large commercial passenger airliners.

The *ZERO-G Experience*, which includes training led by a professional astronaut, a flight of 15 parabolas, flight suit, complimentary merchandise, awards, a post-event party, photos, and a DVD of the flight, is offered at a price of \$3,500 per seat. For the current flight schedule, more information or to book a seat, visit www.GoZeroG.com, www.sharperimage.com or call 1-800-937-6480.

###

Contact:

- James Sposto: james@stardancemovie.com, 610.657.7994
- Jeanne Robinson: Jeanne@stardancemovie.com, 604.947.2437