

Public Lecture: “The Martian” – Science Fiction and Science Fact

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The best-selling book about an astronaut stranded on Mars was brought to life in Ridley Scott’s film, *The Martian*. Before production started, Ridley called NASA to obtain information about NASA’s plans for human exploration of Mars in addition to the science of Mars that would contribute to a realistic look and feel of the film in keeping with the approach laid out in Andy Weir’s book. An intense period of interaction over several months followed between Ridley’s design team and NASA journey to Mars personnel on everything from habitats, vehicles, spacesuits, ion engines, radioisotope power systems, and Mars terrains. The result was a tremendously popular and award winning film. Having been one of the main consultants on the film, Dr. Green will discuss what NASA’s real plans and challenges are to sending humans to Mars as compared to this fictional account.