

THE PITCH

They rip straight from the pages of classic sci-fi pulp in their sleek, turbo-charged spaceships as they blast off on exotic adventures to alien planets. They're Star Wars, Lost In Space and National Geographic all wrapped up into one thrilling package of dynamite characters and explosive plots. Go ahead: Light the fuse, fasten your seat belt and get ready to blast off with Fred and The Worm as they battle the mind-numbing brain leeches of Mars, the crawling skin fungus of Jupiter and inevitably - each other.

At the conclusion of each mad adventure their fragile alliance crumbles into bitter dust and they fly off towards opposite ends of the galaxy. Invariably, they will meet again. For there exists some inexplicable farce of nature that is always plotting their next impossible encounter.

Billions of light years of mostly empty space and somehow, that just isn't big enough.



- Rip roaring ADVENTURE that will knock your socks off!



- Awe inspiring DRAMA that will captivate your heart!



- A roller coaster ride of frantic SUSPENSE that will have you biting your toe-nails!



- Bizarre and EXOTIC aliens beyond your wildest imagination!



- Plenty of GOOD TIMES to be had by all!

THE PLAN

Each episode will be 11 minutes long. There will be an initial 9 minute adventure followed by 2 minutes of educationally flavored Q&A:

The initial 9 minutes of animation will follow Fred and the Worm on some outlandish adventure. A roller coaster ride into the cosmos.

The subsequent 2 minute Q&A session will bring things back down to Earth. Fred and the Worm will discuss, with actual scientists, aspects of the animation that have a basis in reality. Many of the responses will be swapped around with different questions so that, while they remain scientifically accurate, there will never-the-less be an element of absurdity.

The show and characters have great potential to migrate to both publishing and the internet. There is a copy of this document, some additional images and the two existing animations located at the following URL:

fredandworm.bluebellylizard.com

For far less than the billions that the president proposes to spend, we can take the children of Earth to Mars and beyond. With far fewer resources than those commanded by NASA, we can create a space program capable of launching millions of young minds into the cosmos.

Is there life in outer space? You bet there is - and we can deliver it to you wholesale.

The characters, as animated in the two short films: Chocolate & NASA Test) use a technique known as “digital puppetry”. This approach uses motion capture technology to “perform” the characters in real-time.

This product provides nutritious calcium-like fortification for growing funny bones as well as the minimum daily requirement of the major mood groups that are so essential to the development of a strong and healthy imagination (see nutrition table below):

PROGRAM CONTENT	% RDA	WITH A PARENT
frolic acid	100 %	110 %
pulp magazanesium	100 %	110 %
anti-boridant	100 %	110 %
excitamin	100%	110 %
moral fiber	25 %	100 %
envy	*	*
sloth	*	*

* These substances are present in amounts too small to measure accurately.

THE PRIMATE



Fred is a Russian monkey who was launched into orbit many years ago and left to fend for himself. Over the years he has been able to build quite a comfortable life-style from all the junk floating around in space. He spends countless hours contemplating strange, hare-brained schemes with which to torment the Worm.

Does Fred have any interesting talents? Yes, he can play the guitar (balalaika). Russian folk tunes are his favorite but he can also do some Hendrix-type stuff.

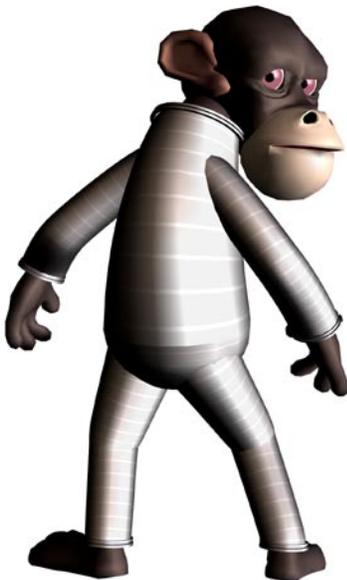
Where did Fred get his spaceship? It's a modified version of the original sputnik spacecraft that carried Fred into orbit in 1957. The inside of his ship is decorated with mementos of the great Russian revolution.

How old is Fred? Due to the relativistic effects of space travel he could be anywhere between 10 and 45.

Does Fred have any other talents? Yes, he is a phenomenal storyteller (i.e. liar). He will often tell horrendous lies (I mean stories).

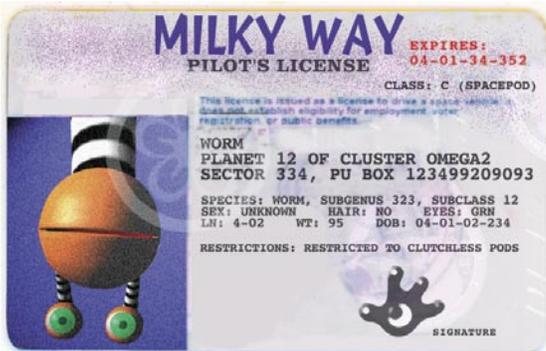
Where was Fred born? Fred was born in the Jungles of Africa. As a young chimp he was snatched from his family and taken to a special Russian training facility in Siberia. It was there, under the watchful eyes of his Russian trainers, that Fred was able to hone his mental and physical abilities to the point where he was selected for the elite Space Monkey academy.

Why is Fred so nasty? Fred was in top shape when first selected for the Russian space program. However, the years of ensuing solitude have played havoc with his brain. Try shutting yourself in a closet for a few days and you might begin to have some inkling of what Fred has had to deal with for most of his life. That doesn't excuse his behavior but perhaps a little sympathy is called for.



FRED

THE PARASITE



The Worm is one of a thriving species that has managed to colonize much of the universe. He can play the harmonica and when he's cornered he uses this ability to charm his enemies into a blissful stupor while he contemplates his next move. Friendly, outgoing and gullible. His gullibility, oddly enough, often works to his advantage.

What color is the Worm's blood? It's red, just like ours, except that it tastes like cherry cough syrup.

Can you tell me something more about the Worm's spaceship? The Worm's ship is a microcosm of his ancestral home. The cockpit is lined with soft, cool dirt that provides some protection against the inevitable psychological trauma of an existence in deep space.

Does the Worm have any strange quirks? Whenever he eats he always gets some of it on his face. He is unaware of this when it happens and other creatures are reluctant to point it out.



Why does the Worm have a hand on the end of his tail? So that he can pick things up. In addition, the Worm will suffer occasional bouts of space paranoia and will often talk to himself using the fingers of his hand as a sort of subconscious puppet. Kind of like the kid in "The Shining".

Where does the Worm keep his harmonica? He stores the harmonica in one of his many stomachs and can regurgitate it at will.

Why does the Worm like to roll into a circle? This is the classic Ouroboros pose and induces, in the Worm, a state of deep relaxation and meditation. The Worm is also able to roll down hills really fast to elude an enemy.

WORM

THE PILOT

“THE RED JELLY BEAN PLANET”

The Worm flies to Mars where he finds that the planet is covered with jelly beans. Unfortunately, a massive Factory on Wheels is scraping them all up to sell to the children of Earth. After his spaceship is sucked up by the Factory the Worm joins up with a band of rebel worms who've been driven into the hills by The Mad Monkey (the hated commander of the Factory).

That night, as the rebels gather around a campfire, the Worm learns that the delicious Jelly Beans are actually “deposited” by strange flightless birds known as the Doe-doe Birds of Paradise. Because of this he unintentionally violates one of the rebel taboos but is soon able to smooth things over with his virtuoso harmonica performance.

After everyone goes to sleep the Worm is visited by his Fairy God Father who tells The Worm how to stop the Factory Ship. The next morning, the Worm tells the rebels of his plan and they immediately head to the Cave of the Giant Doe-doe where the Worm and several of the rebels are swallowed whole and “deposited” encased in Giant Jelly Beans. The Factory Ship scoops them up and loads them into a storage room with mountains of other jelly beans. There they find the Worm's ship and are able to make their way (after a few wrong turns) to the control room.

As it turns out, the Mad Monkey is none other than Fred. In the final confrontation, the Fairy God Father Worm turns out to be a double agent working for Fred. The rebels are trapped and appear to be doomed when suddenly Fred's head falls off, revealing that a bonsai worm (a double agent working for the rebels) has taken control of his body. After the skirmish, Fred's head manages to activate an escape pod and blasts off into space.

AN EXCERPT OF WHAT THE SUBSEQUENT 2 MINUTE Q&A MIGHT LOOK LIKE:

Worm (to the camera): Mars. The red planet. Smaller than the Earth and further from the sun. Nearly 100 million miles away and yet it seizes our imagination in its vice-like grip.

Fred: We have with us today Dr. Pickett from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. (Fred turns to the scientist) Doctor, I think the question we are all asking is this: Are there really jelly beans on Mars?

Scientist (answering a different question: Is there life on Mars):

We simply don't know one way or the other. The atmosphere is too thin and the surface is bombard- ed with high doses of radiation which makes it highly unlikely that we'll find anything.

Worm: Yes, yes - but what about the Blue Jelly Beans? Doesn't the high frequency of the color blue protect them from the effects of high dose cosmic radiation?

Scientist (answering a different question: Could life have existed in the past):

Well yes, many scientist believe that to be quite possible. In fact, many of the missions to Mars have been sent to answer that very question.

THE PLOTS

“HOME STINKY HOME”

Our heroes are lost in a blizzard on some alien world and find shelter in the rotting corpse of a gigantic beast. They crawl in through the gaping mouth and to their delight there are six stomachs so that each of them can have his own bedroom, still leaving plenty of space for guest rooms and a dining room.

Educational opportunities: Multiple Stomachs, Digestion, Decay ...

“OLYMPUS MONS”

Fred and Worm climb to the top of Olympus Mons (the largest volcano in our solar system) where Fred discovers that the large, 100lb pack that he’s been carrying doesn’t have any food but instead contains the Worm’s coin collection. In the ensuing chaos they discover that in order to survive they must learn to trust each other - a difficult prospect to say the least.

Educational opportunities: Volcanism, Trust, Teamwork ...

“I WAS HERE FIRST”

Fred stumbles onto a band of chimps similar to himself and falls in love with a lovely monkey, only to learn that she has a parasitic worm living in her stomach which turns out to be none other than the Worm. “Hey! I found her first,” says the Worm.

Educational opportunities: Parasites, Sharing, Love ...

“STICKY BUTTERSCOTCH SUNDAY”

It’s discovered that the sun is made of butterscotch and the candy companies are poised to siphon it off and plunge the solar system into darkness. They must be stopped.

Educational opportunities: The Sun, Solar System, Stars, Nuclear Fusion ...

“BLACK MONOLITH”

A large black monolith appears near Jupiter and Fred and the Worm are soon on the scene to check it out. As it turns out, the monolith is made of licorice which Fred and Worm devour in a vicious feeding frenzy. Scientists on Earth report that the giant black monolith has disappeared and been replaced by two large Jovian moons.

Educational opportunities: Obesity, Moderation ...