

This Then is the Moon

By George Roberts

Audio and Visual Description

Event taking place on Friday 5th – Saturday 7th July 2019, at Sherborne Abbey.
Open daily between midday and midnight.

Visual Description

This This is the Moon is a virtual reality (VR) experience, housed within space-helmet made from a mixture of PVC and cotton fabric, modelled on Eugene Cernan's Apollo 17 helmet (the last person to view the Moon). The helmet is white and offwhite in colour with red detailing, and gold PCV fabric at the front to represent a visor.

The headpiece is mounted on a steel plinth, which stands 4 foot (or 1.25m) high.

Audience members are invited to first place a VR headset over their eyes and head, held in place with adjustable elasticated straps. Once the VR headset in place, the wearer is then invited to wear the helmet over the top of this to complete the full experiences. (Audiences wishing to only wear the VR headset or helmet headpiece as separate items are also welcome to do so).

Once the wearer is comfortable wearing the VR headset an immersive video is played, which due to the way the video is created, provides the wearer with a visual illusion that they are looking in to a 3D space – as the wearer moves their head, so too does the video footage appear to move in correlation with the wearer's movements.

At first the wearer can see a landscape as if they are stood on the moon. It is dark and the surface of the moon can be seen when the wearer looks down, and stars if they look up. Directly in front of them there is a video screen area. On pressing play a 2:26 duration video plays, showing a mixture of real-life footage of different space missions from the 1960s to present day, interlaced with film footage from famous Sci-Fi films.

On-lookers will see a single person, wearing the replica helmet.

Audio Description

The video includes an auditable soundtrack which accompanies the on-screen visuals. This includes sound-bites of various space race news features and segments from the films. Electronic music also plays.