

From Earthlings to Martians: Season 2 of National Geographic's *MARS* portrays what life could really be like once we settle on the Red Planet

*The Acclaimed Hybrid Series, Executive Produced by Brian Grazer and Ron Howard,
Returns 15th November, with Veteran Showrunner Dee Johnson at the Helm.*

*Expert 'Big Thinkers' Including Elon Musk, Bill Nye, Ellen Stofan, Michio Kaku, Andy Weir,
Leland Melvin and Stephen Petranek Weigh in on the Conflicts Between Science and
Industry As Humans Terraform This Brave New World.*

HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 1, 2018 – The prospect of Mars has never been more palpable. The idea once was considered science fiction, but in the blink of an eye, we'll be there. Season 2 of National Geographic's acclaimed series **MARS** – dubbed *impressive, inspiring* and *scientifically honest* by critics - returns **15th November at 9pm HTK**, with a six-episode arc continuing with last season's unique hybrid format: alternating scripted and documentary sequences to predict what life will be like on the Red Planet forecasted by what's happening today on Earth.

National Geographic partners again with Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Michael Rosenberg and Justin Wilkes of Imagine Entertainment, as well as executive producers Jon Kamen and Tommy Turtle of RadicalMedia to envision what might happen when Earthlings become the planet's first Martians.

This season on **MARS**, the story delves into the boundaries between science and industry on an isolated, unforgiving frontier. Throughout history, there's been a constant tug of war between human motivations and interests with profitability on one end of the spectrum and exploration on the other. When becoming interplanetary, can humans break the chain, or are they doomed to repeat the same mistakes in this new world?

MARS picks up five years after the conclusion of Season 1, following the successful maiden mission to the Red Planet when the original International Mars Science Foundation (IMSF) crew struggled to safely land on and create an initial settlement. It's now the year 2042, and IMSF has established a fully-fledged colony, Olympus Town, but they cannot finance the Mars expedition alone. Doors of opportunity have swung wide open to the private sector, but tensions arise among original mission-driven scientists and miners sent by the for-profit corporation, Lukrum Industries, which create a new world of challenges for everyone on the Red Planet.

On the scripted front, the series tackles seemingly everyday occurrences – pregnancy, break ups, new romances, epidemics, breakdowns, power outages, injuries, exercise, mealtimes and socializing. But when they occur approximately 54.7 million isolated kilometres from Earth – where there is no escape – they are anything but ordinary. And while the mission-driven scientists, who

first set foot on Red Planet nine years earlier, initially are alarmed by their new neighbours, some soon find themselves understanding and comingling with ‘the other side.’ Life on Mars intensifies when scientists who are searching for new life get upended by Lukrum’s mining mission; the worst natural disaster hits home; the first-generation Martian baby enters the new world; and when loved ones draw their last breath.

The **MARS** cast is comprised of returning actors from Season 1 along with several newcomers, including Jihae (*Mortal Engines*), Jeff Hephner (*Chicago Med*, *Code Black*) and Esai Morales (*Ozark*, *NYPD Blue*).

A full list can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

On the documentary front, present-day vignettes draw parallels to the future happenings on Mars by looking at some of the dire issues facing Earth’s last frontier – the Arctic. This includes a spectrum of events that currently are compromising life on Earth – and could plague us in the future as we become an interplanetary species: drilling, glacial melting, rising sea level and indigenous health epidemics which surface when the permafrost melts.

On-camera experts – dubbed our ‘Big Thinkers’ – once again navigate the audience through the struggles and opportunities awaiting humans on Mars. This elite group includes some of the biggest names in human exploration, technology, the environment and social science, such as Elon Musk, SpaceX CEO; Andy Weir, bestselling author of *The Martian* and *Artemis*; Ellen Stofan, former NASA Chief; Leland Melvin, former NASA astronaut; Michio Kaku, theoretical physicist and futurist; Antonia Juhasz, leading oil and energy expert; Naomi Klein, bestselling author, activist and award-winning journalist on climate change; Casey Dreier, director of space policy at the Planetary Society; Lucianne Walkowicz, Astrobiology Chair at the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress and astronomer at the Adler Planetarium; and Bill Nye, CEO of The Planetary Society.

In addition to the Big Thinkers, **MARS’** scientific advisors give the scripted drama some heft. In this role, Stephen Petranek, award-winning author of *How We’ll Live on Mars*; Mae Jemison, former NASA astronaut; and Robert Braun, professor of aerospace engineering sciences at University of Colorado Boulder, guide the futuristic story on the Red Planet, assuring that everything is grounded in reality.

“Last season, we envisioned getting to Mars, so now, we’re shifting the conversation to what will happen once we’re on a planet where everything is alien and extraordinary,” says **MARS** Season 2 showrunner Dee Johnson (*Nashville*, *Boss*, *ER*). “Mars is a pressure cooker -- there’s a constant push-pull between science and industry, and as a result, emotions run high. Although conflicting, their agendas are not mutually exclusive; with the advancement of science and exploration also comes industry and money making.”

“The series underscores how human nature doesn’t change when we become Martians, but navigating how we harness our instincts, emotions and behaviours on Mars is uncharted territory,”

says Justin Wilkes, co-creator and executive producer of **MARS**, RadicalMedia. “**MARS** delves into how we’ll cope with heartbreak, mental health, illness, contamination, death, the first pregnancy and first baby on Mars, natural disasters and the quest for the planet’s natural resources, like water, which we often take for granted on Earth.”

“In **MARS**, everything as simple as the quotidian, like personal hygiene and meals, requires greater effort and is exponentially more difficult in this foreign frontier of limited resources where new rules are often written on the fly,” says Stephen Petranek, **MARS**’ co-executive producer, scientific advisor and Big Thinker. “Leaving Earth insures long-term human survival, and we have the technology and spirit to get there, but what will it actually take to live there? **MARS** is a six-to-nine month trip *one way*...so before we get there, we better make sure we can permanently make it our own.”

Directors Stephen Cragg (*Scandal*, *How to Get Away with Murder*) and Ashley Way (*Doctor Who*, *Homeland*) join returning director Everardo Gout (*Days of Grace*) for the second season.

MARS is produced by Imagine Entertainment and RadicalMedia for National Geographic. For Imagine Entertainment, Brian Grazer, Ron Howard and Michael Rosenberg are executive producers and Justin Wilkes is co-creator and executive producer. For RadicalMedia, Jon Kamen and Tommy Turtle are the executive producers. Dee Johnson serves as the executive producer and showrunner with Taimi Arvidson and Meredith Kaulfers serving as supervising producers, and Jen Isaacson is the co-producer.

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About National Geographic Partners LLC

National Geographic Partners LLC (NGP), a joint venture between National Geographic and 21st Century Fox, is committed to bringing the world premium science, adventure and exploration content across an unrivalled portfolio of media assets. NGP combines the global National Geographic television channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO, Nat Geo PEOPLE) with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, licensing and e-commerce businesses. Furthering knowledge and understanding of our world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for 128 years, and now we are committed to going deeper, pushing boundaries, going further for our consumers ... and reaching over 730 million people around the world in 172 countries and 43 languages every month as we do it. NGP returns 27 percent of our proceeds to the non-profit National Geographic Society to fund work in the areas of science, exploration, conservation and education. For more information visit natgeotv.com or nationalgeographic.com, or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#).

About Imagine Entertainment

Imagine Entertainment was founded in 1986 by Brian Grazer and Ron Howard create independently produced feature films, television programs and other original programming. Imagine Entertainment has been honoured with more than 60 prestigious awards including 43 Academy Award nominations and 187 Emmy® award nominations. Past productions include the Academy Award Best Picture winner *A Beautiful Mind*, as well as Grammy Award Best Film winner *The Beatles: Eight Days A Week – The Touring Years*. Additional films include *Get on Up*, *Rush*, *J. Edgar*, *Frost/Nixon*, *American Gangster*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Apollo 13*, *8 Mile*, *Liar, Liar*, *Backdraft*, and *Parenthood* to name a few. Upcoming films include *The Spy Who Dumped Me* starring Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon and the documentary *Pavarotti*. Television productions include Fox's *Empire*, *Shots Fired* and the *24* franchise; NatGeo's *Genius* anthology series and *Breakthrough*; NBC's *Parenthood* and *Friday Night Lights*; Fox's and Netflix's *Arrested Development*, as well as HBO's *From the Earth to the Moon*, for which Howard and Grazer won the Emmy® for Outstanding Mini-Series. Upcoming television productions include the fifth season of *Arrested Development* on for Netflix. Ron Howard and Brian Grazer began their collaboration in 1985 with the hit comedies *Night Shift* and *Splash*, and continue to run Imagine Entertainment as Executive Chairmen.

About RadicalMedia

RADICALMEDIA is an Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Peabody Award-winning studio whose work includes the Oscar-winning documentary, *The Fog of War*, Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winning film, *What Happened, Miss Simone?*, Oscar-nominated, *Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory*, *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*, Emmy-winning *Under African Skies*, *Keith Richards: Under the Influence*, *Whitey: The US vs. James J. Bulger*, *Hamilton's America* and the SXSW award-winning *May It Last: A Portrait of the Avett Brothers*. Recent television credits include *Abstract: The Art of Design*,



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