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Santa Fean is set to show his film today at scheduled launch of Orion spacecraft in Florida

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## Santa Fe man to show film at Orion launch

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Michael Becker is going to uncharted territory. The Santa Fe resident will show his film, "Delivery From Earth" at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida today during the scheduled launch of the first Orion test flight.

The film also will be shown after 8 a.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, which plans a live broadcast of the launch. If the launch is delayed, the film still will be shown. The museum is open to the public, and there will be a food truck at the event beginning at 8 a.m.



Santa Fe resident Michael Becker recently won a \$5,000 grant for his film "Delivery From Earth," which will be shown today in Florida at the scheduled launch of the first test flight of NASA's Orion spacecraft.

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DELIVERY FROM EARTH

A scene from Michael Becker's "Delivery From Earth," which he is presenting in Florida.

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The film follows a young Navajo boy and his family as they watch history in the making — the birth of the first human born on Mars.

Becker recently was awarded the Lockheed Martin Filmmaker Grant from the New Mexico Film Foundation. He was one of 30 New Mexico independent filmmakers who submitted an application for the grant.

The film was shot primarily in Santa Fe, Gallup and the Navajo Nation with an almost entirely Native American cast.

Working with Native people on screen and off, Becker learned more about Native worldviews, which he hopes will be visible to the viewer.

"Few films do anything to challenge the stereotypes of Native Americans," Becker

said. "While a child born beyond the boundaries of the Earth is a big idea, an even bigger one is about who that child will be — from what race or what nation? The film gives Native Americans relevance in the future, as they struggle now for relevance in the present."

The film opens with a young boy holding a model of NASA's Orion spacecraft, piloting it through the air with his hands against a backdrop that could be Mars — but really is just the Four Corners area of New Mexico.

The boy stops and walks across a mesa toward a makeshift "space station" crafted from a plastic tarp, a 50-gallon drum and a tent, before heading home to catch the action on television in a house set in the not-too-distant future. As he settles in to watch, the television goes on the blink and the boy implores his grandfather to

help him fix it so he can "see the Martian" being born.

Quoting a Shawnee proverb, the grandfather reminds him, "We are all one child, spinning under Mother Sky."

Becker describes himself as a "space nut" during his teens and remembers how people gathered around their television screens worldwide viewing the latest triumphs of NASA, from the Apollo missions to the moon and back, to the space shuttle and the Mars rover landings.

"Space was once the great equalizer," he said. "The world stopped when there was a rocket or shuttle launch, and in crafting this film, I tried to consider what is the moment that would create that kind of interest in space exploration again?"

Becker moved away to make movies, but has settled back in Santa Fe. He says he

will continue to make films in the state and bring awareness to the local film industry.

"Hollywood comes here and uses many people in 'below-the-line' positions, but there are many creative talents here who can work 'above-the-line' jobs as well," he says. "I think the time is right for New Mexico to be making her own movies."

If the launch goes according to plan, after 8 a.m. the film will be shown at the following locations:

- New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo.
- New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and Hefferan Planetarium in Albuquerque.
- Robert H. Goddard Planetarium at the Roswell Museum and Art Center in Roswell.
- E3 Children's Museum & Science Center in Farmington.