

8 questions for astronaut Buzz Aldrin

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Buzz Aldrin

AGE: 78

JOB TITLE: Astronaut, moonwalker and narrator in new movie "Fly Me to the Moon"

TIME ON THE JOB: 45 years

Since becoming the second man to walk on the moon in the famous Apollo 11 landing in 1969, Buzz Aldrin has spent his life supporting space exploration. His latest project is lending his voice to the animated family film "Fly Me to the Moon," which opened Friday, about a group of flies who try to land on the moon.

What was your role with the film?

I was asked to participate in the epilogue, to do the narration. I was filmed walking toward the camera, setting up the film. It's the cutest film. It has much more valid entertainment and lessons than other movies I've seen recently.

What are your hopes for the future of space exploration?

We are in a very crucial time in electing a new President, with the things he will think about and do with the space program. I'm very interested in leadership and cooperation from other countries - but not racing, of course.

What future projects are you working on?

Well, I'm helping to celebrate 40th reunions of all the Apollo missions and developing lotteries for people to travel in space - like Richard Branson's flight, but also for orbital flights. In California, I'm also developing some education programs. I'm also strongly supporting and working with oilman T. Boone Pickens and his plan for energy alternatives. I want him to include solar power on satellites in space.

Wow, so outer space is even going green.

Even down to the [construction]. In order to build the satellites to collect the

solar energy in space, it requires many many, very big rockets, and my engineers are developing reusable rockets to be able to do that.

I'm sure you get this a lot, but what's it like to walk on the moon?

I would describe it in two words: magnificent desolation. The magnificence of human beings to be able to travel and land on the moon but also the utter desolation and lifelessness of the moon and everything around it.

Do you believe in any of the rumors that spacecrafts have landed here on earth?

I do not believe that any spacecraft has been here; I do not believe that information would be withheld.

It has been reported that you saw a UFO while on Apollo 11. What's the truth behind this?

We saw a light outside the spacecraft moving relative to the stars, and we asked Mission Control where we were relative to it. When they answered, we felt that we weren't looking at parts of the ship that had fallen away.

What was misinterpreted from our statements is just evidence of the bizarre fantasy people want to believe.

Do you think there's any possibility of life in other galaxies?

A possibility, yes. But when you use the statement "I believe," you really should have something to back that up and I have nothing to back that statement up - unless you're just going on faith. So I'm not sure I can say, "I believe," but it is a possibility.

Nicole Carter with Amy Eisinger