

# WHY THIS? WHY THEN?

| C.E. | ASTRO-PHYSICAL   | SOCIAL & POLITICAL  | POPULAR CULTURE   | Star Wars in Development  |
|------|--|---|---|---|
| 1957 |  |   | <i>The Sky at Night</i> (BBC) 50-year programme                                 |   |
| 1962 | Radio astronomy discovers <u>Quasars</u> (hyperluminous nuclei of active galaxies) |   |   | Lucas graduates from high school  |
| 1963 |  |   | <i>Doctor Who</i> (BBC)   |   |
| 1965 | <u>discovery</u> of Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation                          | US begins "active combat" in the <u>Vietnam War</u>   | Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) organize large anti-war campus protests |   |
| 1966 |  |   | <i>Star Trek</i> (original series)  | Lucas <u>graduates</u> from USC with BFA in film  |
| 1967 |  |   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lucas tries and fails to join the air force (<u>speeding tickets</u>)</li> <li>Lucas is drafted for service in Vietnam but fails his physical (<u>diabetes</u>)</li> <li>Lucas enrolls in USC grad school for film production</li> </ul> |
| 1968 | <u>Apollo 8</u> (lunar orbiter with crew)  |   | <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>  | Lucas meets and befriends Spielberg?  |
| 1969 | <u>Apollo 11</u> (lunar landing with crew)   |   |   |   |
| 1970 | <u>Venera 7</u> (Soviet craft successfully lands on Venus; transmitting data)      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>April 30</u>: Nixon announces US invasion of Cambodia</li> <li>May 1970 Student Anti-war Strikes (including Lucas's alma mater, USC)</li> </ul> |   |   |
| 1972 | Irrefutable evidence of the existence of <u>black holes</u>                        |   |   |   |
| 1973 | <u>Skylab</u> (earth orbiter with crew)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trial of the Watergate Burglars begins</li> <li>US withdraws from Vietnam</li> </ul>   |   | Lucas starts writing!   |
| 1975 |  | Vietnam War ends (after 20 years)   |   |   |
| 1976 |  |   | <i>Taxi Driver</i> premiers   |   |
| 1977 |  |   |   | <p><b>Star Wars premiers!</b></p> <p>May 1: First public screening<br/>May 25: Full theatrical release</p>  |
| 1978 |  |   | <i>The Deer Hunter</i> premiers   |   |
| 1979 |  |   | <i>Apocalypse Now</i> premiers  |   |
| 1983 |  | Reagan <u>refers</u> to the Soviet Union as the "Evil Empire"   |   |   |

SPACE RACE