



**PBS**

**TIME**

**PBS and Time Inc. Present  
BEYOND A YEAR IN SPACE**

**Part Two of A YEAR IN SPACE Premieres  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

**TCA Panelist Bios**



**Scott Kelly (Participant)** is a former military fighter pilot and test pilot, an engineer, retired astronaut, and a retired U.S. Navy captain. A veteran of four space flights, Kelly commanded the International Space Station (ISS) on three expeditions and was a member of the yearlong mission to the ISS. In October 2015, he set the record for the total accumulated number of days spent in space, the single longest space mission by an American astronaut. A native of Orange, New Jersey, he now lives in Houston, Texas. His memoir, *Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery*, will be published by Knopf on October 17, 2017.



**Jessica U. Meir (Participant)** was selected by NASA in 2013. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Brown University, a Master of Science in Space Studies from the International Space University, and a Doctorate in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD). In her research, the Caribou, Maine, native studied the physiology of animals in extreme environments. From 2000 to 2003, Dr. Meir worked for Lockheed Martin's Human Research Facility, supporting human physiology research. During this time, she also participated in research flights on NASA's reduced gravity aircraft and served as an aquanaut in an underwater habitat for NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO).

Dr. Meir was selected in June 2013 as one of eight members of the 21<sup>st</sup> NASA astronaut class. Her astronaut candidate training included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, spacewalks, robotics, physiological training, T38 flight training, and water and wilderness survival training. She completed astronaut candidate training in July 2015, and is now qualified for future assignment.



**Bill Gardner (Vice President, Programming and Development, PBS)** oversees the acquisition, development and production of historical, cultural, current and world events, natural history and science programming for the PBS Primetime schedule. Before joining PBS, Mr. Gardner was executive producer at Discovery Studios, where he developed projects in the reality, lifestyle and science genres. He also oversaw national productions including Animal Planet's "Puppy Bowl" and served as show runner on Science Channel's "Human Nature with Dan Riskin."

Prior to Discovery, he spent over a decade in the independent production world as director, producer, writer and show runner on programs for multiple networks, including "Digging for the Truth" on the History Channel, "Treasure Quest" and "Solving History" on Discovery, "CNN Presents" and "Explorer" for National Geographic.

Mr. Gardner has produced in over 30 countries, including spending two months embedded with US Special Forces investigating the looting of the Baghdad museum. During this time he was also the first Westerner allowed to film inside the holy Shi'i Shrines of Hussein and Abbas in Karbala.

Before entering television, Mr. Gardner performed anthropological fieldwork among Arab expatriates in the United States, in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and among Muslim Sufi mystics in Marrakech, Morocco, as well as in the world of crack cocaine addiction in the US Virgin Islands. He is a member of the board of CINE and has a Masters Degree in cultural anthropology.