



*Foolish Earthling Productions presents*

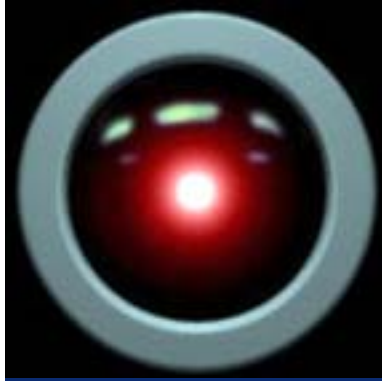
# **ROBO-QUEST**

*The evolution will be televised.*



©2004

# Robo-Quest creates television's next big star. Literally.



Our world is full of robots. Mostly, they're remote-controlled, single-task automatons. They can vacuum a rug or help assemble a new car, but they are not the fully-functional artificial beings science-fiction has promised us for a century. That's why we're going to build a *real* robot. The *first* one – Robot Prime. On television. In 13 episodes.

In fact, **Robo-Quest** will be the first multi-season reality program to be promoted on the covers of *Scientific American* and *Discover* magazines.

**Robo-Quest** brings together a dream team of the finest minds in robotics, artificial intelligence, biomechanics, software design, visual effects, prosthetics, engineering, animatronics and others. The team will include pioneers at the level of Academy Award-winning makeup and creature designer Rick Baker, Jet Propulsion Laboratories planetary scientist and robotic mission leader Dr. Richard Terrile, and mechanical systems designer Mike Cameron.

Their task will be to design and build the world's fully autonomous robot – the kind that interacts with us and will do useful things all by itself. Our dream team is going to build the robot we've wanted since we were kids.

Keeping tabs on the team, commenting on their progress and giving events context will be a group of world-famous science-fiction writers, scientists, filmmakers, futurists and guest stars (Robert J. Sawyer, Larry Niven, Harlan Ellison, Joe Haldeman – perhaps Ray Bradbury and Arthur C. Clarke).

Today, we could build a facsimile of the robots of 1950s science fiction films. Those robots were big "appliances" capable of retaining if/then commands and of performing much the same functions as the household-chore robots now entering the market.



**Robo-Quest** aims higher. We will use real-time television to advance the robotics to the next level, in which robots have minds of their own and know what to do without being told by us. **Robo-Quest** presents cutting-edge technology with the excitement and unpredictability of the best real-world shows. It's NOVA by way of AMERICAN CHOPPER.

Clear, stringent rules will be established at the very beginning – a set of specific performance objectives that our robot must achieve by the end of the series. The team will stake their professional reputations and their personal pride on meeting each of those objectives on time as they strive for a self-contained, self-actuating, darn near self-aware *being* that will act and react as we do.

Audiences will share the joy of unrestricted creativity and the unrelenting pressure to meet each goal on the way to finally powering-up the first fully autonomous humanoid robot.

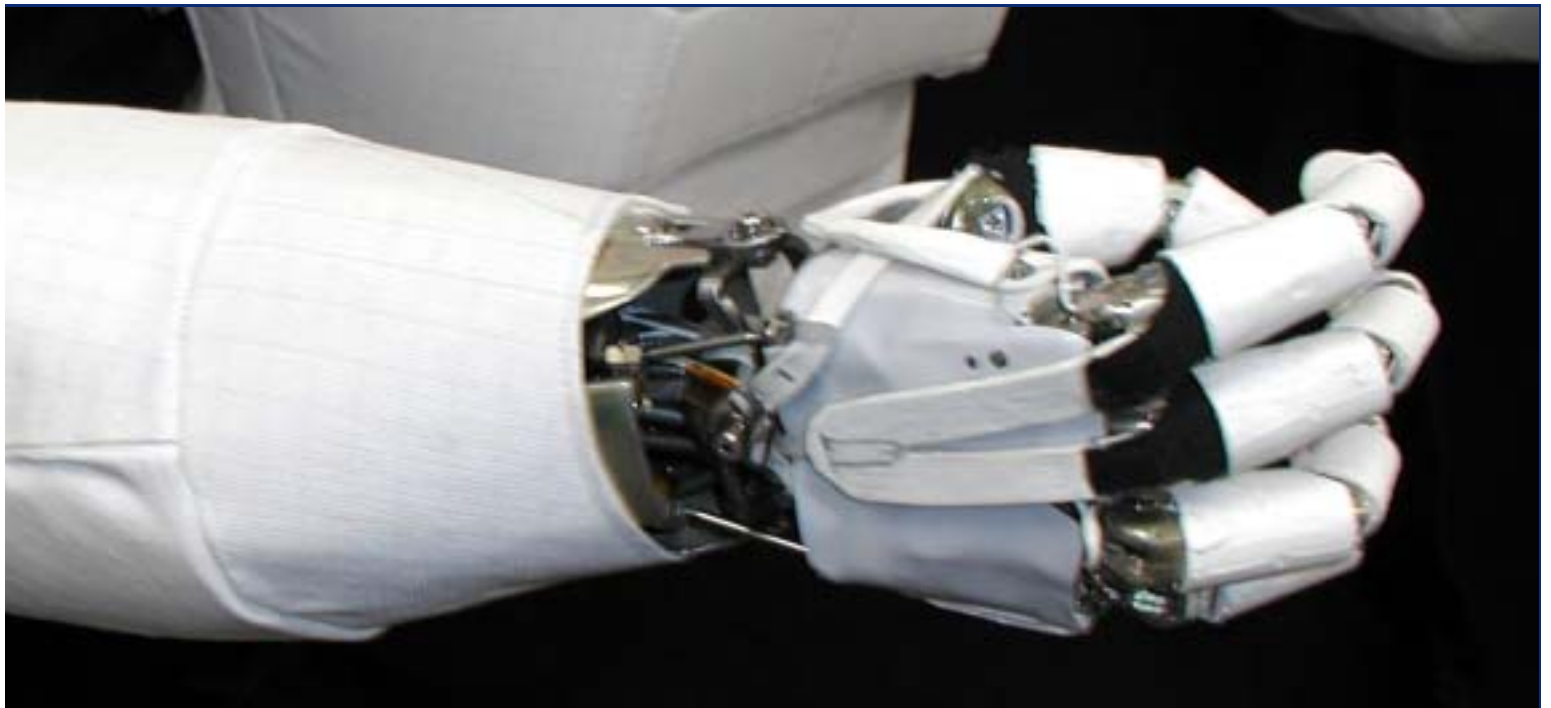


## EXCITING COMPETITION AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENCE

At the beginning of every season of **Robo-Quest** the winners of the toughest science fairs at the senior high school and college levels will compete on camera for a spot on the two design teams.

Under the watchful eyes of science and industry experts our teams will compete to accomplish each step on the way toward the season's ultimate goal. Each team will find their own creative solutions for the challenges and setbacks they'll face.

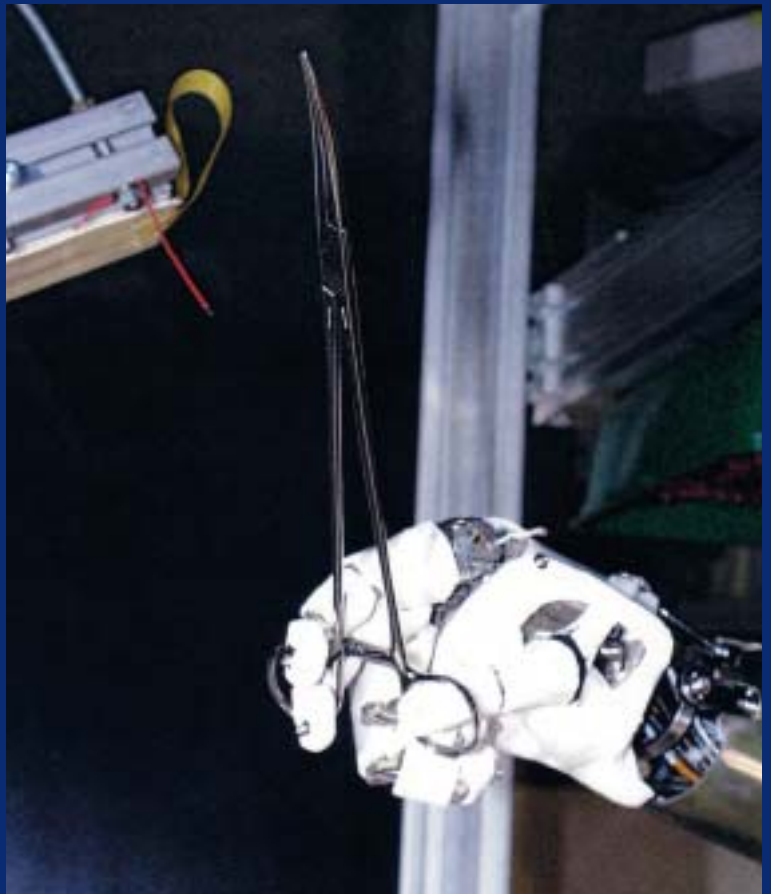
Part of the fun will be watching different personalities and talents come together to produce radically different proto-robots, reflecting the individual styles of their young creators.



Current robotics involves operators with control mechanisms who are actually doing the thinking. A key goal of **Robo-Quest** will be the marriage of advanced servo-mechanisms with next-generation artificial intelligence. There will be no human hands guiding our robot. It will have to think for itself.

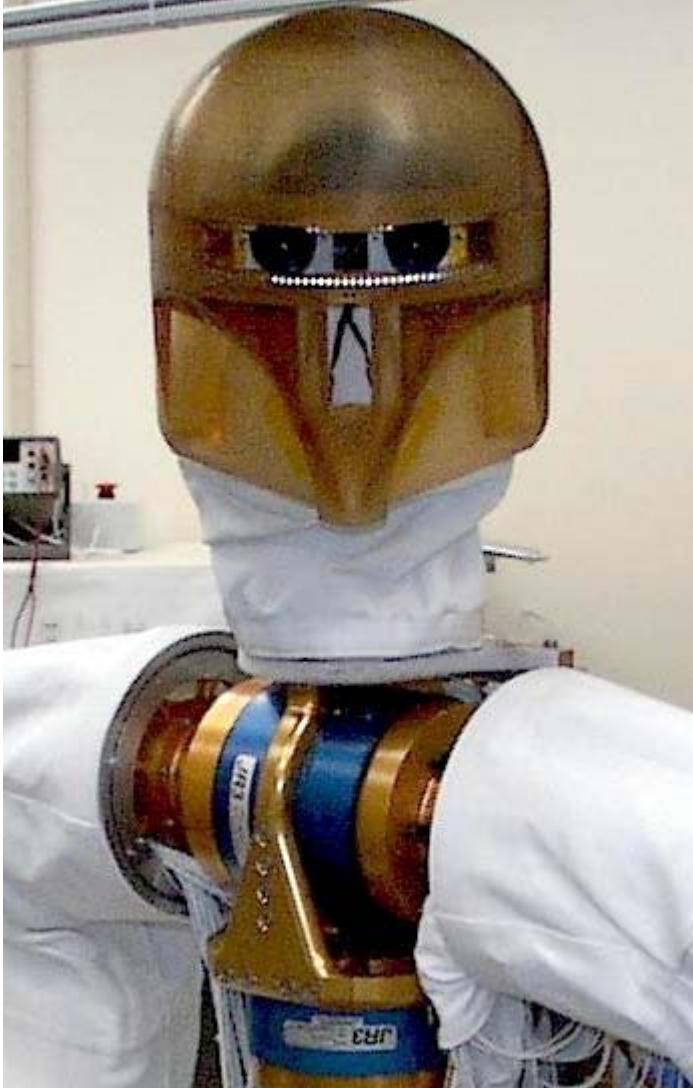
Each weekly episode of **Robo-Quest** will set objectives for our teams. Each objective will move us toward our goal of a nearly-sentient being stepping forward to introduce itself at the climax of the first season's final episode. Or not.

There are no guarantees of success. This is genuine leading-edge research, development and prototyping at the limits of scientific knowledge and capability. At those far reaches of the "envelope," failure is always possible.



Each week the team must solve complex problems, design, build and test components no one has ever seen before – all under ultra-tight deadlines on the way to a goal nobody has ever reached before. Circuits will fry. Sparks will fly. Servo motors will strain and couplings will burst. Ultimately, we will learn the true capabilities of our team – and the true potential of their humanoid creation.

RoboNaut – going where no robot has gone before?



RoboNaut wants to play!

NASA's soon-to-be-revealed *RoboNaut* is the closest engineers have yet come to a truly humanoid robot. Designed as a robust, fully-functional crewmember that will extend the capabilities of astronauts in dangerous situations, *RoboNaut* is still less a true robot than a powerful precision puppet doing the bidding of remote human operators.

**Robo-Quest** will take the next step. **Robo-Quest** will build a being that understands what you tell it and, if it doesn't agree with you, will do what it thinks is right.



NASA head Sean O'Keefe greets his new RoboNaut.



*"Robots are our future. Given our own limited spans, they will become both our extensions and our emissaries."*

~Sir Arthur C. Clarke -  
author, "2001: A Space Odyssey"

*"The quest for the humanoid robot is also the quest to design and create our own immortality - or our own replacements."*

~Dr. Richard Terrile  
NASA/JPL

*"Anyone who thinks life was created in six days has obviously never tried to do it."*

~ Richard Edlund  
Visual effects supervisor:  
"Star Wars" trilogy,  
"Indiana Jones" trilogy,  
"2010"

# ROBO-QUEST

produced by

Michael Lennick  
Christopher Darling  
Shirley-Ann Gulliford  
Michel Plaxton

created by

Michael Lennick

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Producer/writer/director MICHAEL LENNICK's series "ROCKET SCIENCE" (Discovery Channel) was recently awarded the Gold "Remi" for Best Direction in a Documentary Series at the Houston International Film Festival.

He and his team at Foolish Earthling Productions have won many awards for their science and history documentaries over the past dozen years.



Find out more about Foolish Earthling Productions.

Visit our website: [www.foolishearthling.com](http://www.foolishearthling.com)