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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Dr. Erin Macdonald (Astrophysics) joins the team of**  
***Moonlight and Mawazo***  
**(a science fiction and fantasy short story competition)**  
**as a celebrity judge.**

Dr. Erin Macdonald joins the team *Moonlight and Mawazo* (a science fiction and fantasy short story competition) as a celebrity judge. Dr. Macdonald holds degrees in both Astrophysics and Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her Ph.D. is from the University of Glasgow in Gravitational Astrophysics.

Erin's PhD and postdoctoral research with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration on gravitational waves from dead and colliding stars and black holes contributed to the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics. In addition, Erin is currently the science advisor for the entire *Star Trek* franchise and has made a name for herself as "The Julia Child of Science.". Erin has written and narrated the popular science audiobook "The Science of Sci-Fi", and wrote "Star Trek: My First Book of Space", a baby board book. She has also written several television pilots and features available for production: including *To Skye*, *Faire Days*, *Amalgam One*, and *We Can Get It Yesterday*.

She is also the founder and owner of Spacetime Productions, a film company dedicated to lifting and sharing marginalized talent and stories. In this, Erin embodies the *Moonlight and Mawazo* mission. Dr Erin says, "I love reading science fiction and fantasy because it allows me to escape to other worlds and imagine different lives and environments that I could have. Basic, I know, but true!".

*Moonlight and Mawazo* strives to give authors of underserved communities, such as people of color, women, and the LGBTQ+ community, a chance to tell uniquely different stories with characters who look, sound, and otherwise reflect them. While the genre has blossomed in recent years, there is always room for "your story." Winners will be announced at the end of July. The 3 finalists and other winners will be published in an anthology in late Fall 2024. For more information about the contest, visit [www.moonlightandmawazo.com](http://www.moonlightandmawazo.com).

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