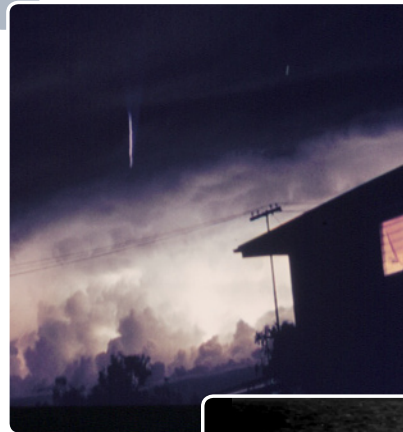


# MEGALIGHTNING

1 X 1 HOUR

**Between earth and space is a stunning and dangerous world which scientists are only just beginning to discover – columns of flame, blue tongues of fire, giant jelly fish shaped lights and beautiful double helix patterns that travel up into space.**

The discovery of these new forms of extremely powerful and positively charged lightning – which strikes upwards – has been likened by one scientist “to biologists discovering a new body part”. Once the stuff of myth and fable, this “megalightning” is all too real – it can fire above the clouds to a height more than 20 times that of Mount Everest and it is at least ten times more powerful than conventional, negatively charged lightning.



Although the official investigation into the ill-fated Columbia space shuttle found other explanations for its demise, fears remain about the dangers of these lightning bolts. NASA has set up an investigation committee to analyse the dangers for space craft and air accident investigators have recommended a six-fold increase in the resilience of some aircraft construction materials.



The raw beauty of this lightning continues to leave its observers awestruck. Giant jets of blue lightning spurting from clouds and jelly fish lightning dancing as a chorus line. With original footage and CGI enhanced images, Megalightning reveals the hidden world of the stratosphere and tells the story of the pioneers endeavouring to understand its origins calculate and – maybe one day – harness its power.



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