

Venus, Jupiter, moon offer dazzling night show

February 23 2012, By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

(AP) -- Stargazers of the world are getting a treat this weekend.

On Saturday and again Sunday, Venus, Jupiter and Earth's moon converge for a brilliant night show.

Venus and Jupiter already are lining up in the western sky. In mid-February, the two planets were 20 degrees apart from a viewing perspective. The gap narrows to 10 degrees by month's end.

A crescent moon joins the show this weekend for a triple combination. The celestial encounter will be visible from around the world at <u>twilight</u>. The moon will appear closer to Venus on Saturday and closer to Jupiter on Sunday.

The moon then retreats from view, but Venus and Jupiter keep drawing closer. The two <u>planets</u> will be just 3 degrees apart by mid-March.

More information: NASA: <u>http://tinyurl.com/7b8vt6w</u>

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