

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GRAND FINALE WEEKEND FOR *JIM HENSON'S FANTASTIC WORLD***

***Final weekend of the exhibition features Heather Henson's Sing-along with The Muppet Movie, special closing program, and free gift for all visitors***

**UPDATE: Museum hours on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, extended one hour to 8:00 p.m.**

The popular and acclaimed exhibition *Jim Henson's Fantastic World* will be on view at Museum of the Moving Image for only one more week—**closing on Sunday, March 4**. The final weekend of the show, Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 2012, features several special programs to mark the close of the successful national tour of this Smithsonian traveling exhibition, organized in partnership with The Jim Henson Legacy. In addition, the Museum will give away a free limited edition commemorative bookmark to ALL visitors (while supplies last).

The special weekend programs open with Heather Henson's Sing-along with *The Muppet Movie* on Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3. Full of interactive surprises and characters coming right out of the screen into the audience, Muppet fans of all ages will enjoy renewing their "rainbow connection" with Kermit, Miss Piggy, and the whole gang. On Sunday, March 4, the Museum will present a special closing program with guest speakers and a screening of an exclusive video compilation celebrating the life and legacy of Jim Henson. Also on Sunday, there will be a final screening of *The Muppet Show*, with episodes featuring Julie Andrews and Gene Kelly. Full details are included in the schedule below.

In addition, from Tuesday, February 28 through Friday, March 2, the Museum will present Jim Henson's Oscar-nominated short film *Time Piece* (1965, 9 mins.) in the Video Screening Amphitheater. This experimental short film tells what Henson—who also stars in the film—called "the story of Everyman, frustrated by the typical tasks of a typical day."

Please note: The Museum is closed to the public on Monday, February 27.

The exhibition *Jim Henson's Fantastic World* features more than 120 artifacts,

including drawings, storyboards, props, video material, and fifteen iconic original puppets of such characters as Kermit the Frog, Rowlf, Bert, and Ernie. It has traveled to thirteen museums throughout the United States with Moving Image as the final presenter. Since the show opened at the Museum on July 16, 2011, the exhibition has been seen by more than 100,000 visitors. During this period, special guests including Frank Oz, Brian Henson, Cheryl Henson, Heather Henson, Jane Henson, Bob McGrath, Brian Froud, Kevin Clash, Fran Brill, Bonnie Erickson, and other performers and colleagues of Jim Henson have participated in public programs. Many of these programs were compiled and presented by Craig Shemin, President of the Jim Henson Legacy.

*Jim Henson's Fantastic World* is curated by Karen Falk, Archivist for The Jim Henson Company, and is organized by The Jim Henson Legacy and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), in cooperation with the Henson Family; The Jim Henson Company; The Muppets Studio, LLC; and Sesame Workshop. The exhibition is made possible by the BIO channel. Additional support has been provided by The Jane Henson Foundation and Cheryl Henson. Support for the exhibition at Museum of the Moving Image is provided by The Jane Henson Foundation; Cheryl Henson; Joan Ganz Cooney; Five Napkin Burger; Schmutter, Strull, Fleisch, Inc.; and The Astor Room.

The Jim Henson Legacy is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating Jim Henson's contributions to the worlds of puppetry, television and motion pictures, special effects and media technology. More information at [www.jimhensonlegacy.org](http://www.jimhensonlegacy.org).

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history. More information at [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

Museum of the Moving Image is the only institution in the United States that explores the art, industry, and innovation of screen culture in all its forms. Embracing topics that range from nineteenth-century optical toys to the latest Internet developments, it provides insight into every phase of the production, promotion and exhibition of moving images. Engaging an international audience of all ages, the Museum offers a distinctive, highly interactive core exhibition; contemporary and retrospective programs of films from around the world; public discussions with leading figures in film and television; a unique collection; inspiring education programs; stimulating changing exhibitions; and groundbreaking online projects. More information at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

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### **Jim Henson's Fantastic World Closing Weekend Extravaganza**

**February 28–March 4, 2012**

Unless otherwise noted screenings are included with Museum admission and take place at the Museum (36-01 35 Avenue, Astoria, New York).

#### **Heather Henson Sing-along with *The Muppet Movie***

Friday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 3, 1:00 p.m.

We're throwing a party...Muppet style! With a sing-along screening of *The Muppet Movie*, Heather Henson and friends will lead an audience of cheering, singing fans to renew their "rainbow connection" with our fleecy friends who started it all. Full of interactive surprises and characters coming right out of the screen into the audience! Muppet fans of all ages can purchase goodie bags for five dollars, full of song books, beepers, squeakers, dazzlers, and shooters to enhance the film's climactic scenes and musical moments.

**Tickets: \$15 public / \$10 Museum members.** Free for Silver Screen members and above.

#### ***The Muppet Show***

##### **A Little Song...A Little Dance...: Julie Andrews / Gene Kelly**

Sunday, March 4, 12:30 p.m.

Episodes 41 and 97. Music fills *The Muppet Show* with two episodes featuring legendary performers Julie Andrews and Gene Kelly. Julie reprises "The Lonely Goatherd" from *The Sound of Music* and sings (and co-wrote) a special "Song for Kermit." In his episode, Gene Kelly arrives as a spectator and has to be tricked into performing, eventually teaching Kermit to dance and joining Miss Piggy in a duet. Although his episode aired as the first episode of the fifth season, Kelly holds the distinction of appearing in the last episode of *The Muppet Show* taped.

#### ***Jim Henson's Fantastic World Special Closing Program***

Sunday, March 4, 2:00 p.m.

Join us to celebrate Jim Henson's most enduring legacy, the films and television programs that he helped create, and the work that The Jim Henson Company has continued ever since his death. Craig Shemin, president of The Jim Henson Legacy, and Karen Falk, archivist for The Jim Henson Company, will present a compilation of recent Henson programs. Additional guest speakers will include Carl Goodman, the Museum's Executive Director; Bonnie Erickson, Executive Director of The Jim Henson Legacy; Frederica Adelman of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service;

David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator; and Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson.

**MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Monday.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

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