

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUTHOR/SCREENWRITER BRIAN SELZNICK SELECTS FILMS THAT INSPIRED 'WONDERSTRUCK' FOR MOMI SCREENING SERIES

A preview screening of *Wonderstruck*, with Brian Selznick, Mark Friedberg, and Sandy Powell in person, anchors nine-film series featuring *The Conversation*, *The Wind*, *The Night of the Hunter*, *Walkabout*, *Being There*, *Through Deaf Eyes*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Todd Haynes's *I'm Not There* and *Poison*

October 13–22, 2017

Astoria, Queens, New York, October 4, 2017—Brian Selznick's books, including *Wonderstruck* and *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, are cabinets of wonder, drawing us into their magical tales with child-eyed awe. Both novels drew upon cinematic influences for both story and visual style. On the occasion of the new movie adaptation of *Wonderstruck*, directed by Todd Haynes, Museum of the Moving Image will present the screening series [Inspiring Wonderstruck](#), featuring some of the movies that inspired both the book and the movie, from October 13 through 22, 2017. On October 14, during the opening weekend of the series, the Museum will present a preview screening of *Wonderstruck* with Selznick, production designer Mark Friedberg, and costume designer Sandy Powell in person, followed by a book signing with Selznick.

Wonderstruck is the best-selling, acclaimed 2011 novel written and illustrated by Brian Selznick. The film *Wonderstruck*, which features a screenplay by Selznick, will be released in theaters on October 20 by Amazon Studios. A pair of deeply emotional stories of obsession from different time periods ultimately converge in Todd Haynes's wondrous adaptation of Selznick's stunning book. Ben, a young deaf boy (Oakes Fegley), travels from Minnesota to New York in 1977 to look for the father he has never known; while in another storyline, set a half-century earlier, a girl named Rose (Millicent Simmonds), also deaf, dreams of a mysterious movie actress (Julianne Moore) and goes to New York to find her.

"It is fitting that *Wonderstruck*, which has been brilliantly brought to the screen by Todd Haynes, is partly set in two beloved New York museums, with key scenes in the American Museum of Natural History and the New York panorama at the Queens Museum," said Chief Curator David Schwartz. "Set in two different time periods—the 1970s and 1920s—*Wonderstruck* feels like a magical museum of sorts; collecting and

exploring the past are two of its key themes. We are pleased to partner with Brian Selznick in putting together a series of films that inspired the book and the film.”

Among the films in *Inspiring Wonderstruck* are two starring Lillian Gish, who was a direct inspiration for the character played by Julianne Moore in *Wonderstruck*: Victor Sjöström’s *The Wind* (1928) stars Gish “at the height of her powers, fighting the wind and insanity nonstop for the entire movie,” and will be presented in a restored 35mm archival print from MoMA; followed by *The Night of the Hunter* (1955), Charles Laughton’s gothic tale of abandoned children stalked by the evil preacher, with an “angelic” Gish, long past her silent era prime who “makes it feel as if the history of cinema itself has come to save the children.” Both screen October 15.

The series also includes a pair of films featuring astonishing performances by young people: *Walkabout* (1971, 35mm), Nicolas Roeg’s “cinematic freak-out set in the Australian Outback” and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962, 35mm), directed by Richard Mulligan and starring Gregory Peck.

Other films in *Inspiring Wonderstruck* are two by Todd Haynes, *I’m Not There* (2007, 35mm), a bold portrait of Bob Dylan featuring the legendary singer and songwriter embodied by multiple actors, and Haynes’s debut feature *Poison* (1991, 35mm), a favorite of Selznick’s; Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Conversation* (1974) for its ingenious sound design; Hal Ashby’s “enigmatic masterpiece” *Being There* (1979, 35mm), which directly inspired a scene in *Wonderstruck*; and the TV documentary *Through Deaf Eyes* (2007), an in-depth look at deaf life and culture in the United States, the film which inspired Selznick to write his book in the first place.

A complete schedule with descriptions written by Brian Selznick are included below and also posted at movingimage.us. Advance tickets are available online.

SCHEDULE

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria, Queens, NY. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15 (\$11 seniors, students, Standard level members / Free for Museum members at the Film Lover, and Kids Premium levels and above). Advance tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us>.

The Conversation

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Francis Ford Coppola. 1974, 113 mins. DCP. With Gene Hackman, John Cazale, Allen Garfield, Cindy Williams. “Gene Hackman at the height of the 1970s cinema of paranoia. A master of surveillance uses high-tech equipment to listen in on conversations. The movie’s sound design is genius, and when I was writing the screenplay for *Wonderstruck* I watched it to see the ways in which sound and silence could be used in a movie.”—Brian Selznick

PREVIEW SCREENING

Wonderstruck

With Brian Selznick, Mark Friedberg, and Sandy Powell in person

Followed by a book signing

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 4:00 P.M.

Dir. Todd Haynes. 2017, 117 mins. DCP courtesy Amazon Studios. With Oakes Fegley, Millicent Simmonds, Julianne Moore. A pair of deeply emotional stories of obsession from different time periods ultimately converge in Todd Haynes's wondrous adaptation of Brian Selznick's stunning book. A young deaf boy travels from Minnesota to New York in 1977, after his single mother dies, to look for the father he has never known. A half-century earlier, a girl named Rose, also deaf, dreams of a mysterious movie actress. An ideal blend of artistic sensibilities, *Wonderstruck* is one of the most enchanting and moving films of the year. This preview screening will be followed by a discussion with author and screenwriter Brian Selznick, production designer Mark Friedberg, and three-time Academy Award-winning costume designer Sandy Powell.

Tickets: \$20 public/\$15 Museum members/Free for Silver Screen members and above.

The Wind

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Victor Sjöström. 1928, 72 mins. Restored 35mm print from The Museum of Modern Art with original music and effects soundtrack, from the original Vitaphone discs. With Lillian Gish. "Lillian Gish at the height of her powers, fighting the wind and insanity nonstop for the entire movie. A silent film made just after the silent era ended, the film is now recognized as one of Gish's greats. The character of Lillian Mayhew, played by Julianne Moore in *Wonderstruck* is directly inspired by Gish, and the fictional movie within a movie, *Daughter of the Wind*, is exactly that, an offspring of this very movie."—Brian Selznick

Preserved by The Museum of Modern Art with support from The Lillian Gish Trust for Film Preservation

The Night of the Hunter

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4:00 P.M.

Dir. Charles Laughton. 1955, 92 mins. DCP. With Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters, Lillian Gish. "Both *Night of the Hunter* and *Walkabout* were movies that Todd recommended we watch to look at great performances by children. *Night of the Hunter* has long been one of my favorite films, a kind of gothic fairy tale lullaby, with two extraordinary siblings hunted by a nightmarish Robert Mitchum. The kids are saved by the angelic Lillian Gish. Long past her silent movie heyday, she makes it feel as if the history of cinema itself has come to save the children."—Brian Selznick

I'm Not There

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Todd Haynes. 2007, 135 mins. 35mm. With Cate Blanchett, Christian Bale, Heath Ledger. "Todd Haynes shows his mastery of cinematic languages with this fantasia on the life of Bob Dylan. Perhaps the least traditional bio-pic ever made, Todd uses interlocking stories, in color and black-and-white, and he even uses miniatures, as he did at the beginning of his career in his Barbie doll masterpiece *Superstar* (and which he delves back into with a long miniature

sequence in *Wonderstruck*). These stories evoke, rather than directly portray, Bob Dylan, yet in the end we feel like we've gotten a glimpse directly into the musician's (and the filmmaker's) soul."—Brian Selznick

Walkabout

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Nicolas Roeg. 1971, 100 mins. 35mm. With Jenny Agutter, David Gulpilil, Luc Roeg. "I'd never seen *Walkabout* before Todd's recommendation, though I'd always loved several of Nicolas Roeg's other movies. *Walkabout* is a stunner, a cinematic freak-out set in the Australian Outback with three unforgettable performances by very young actors. You can see Roeg's influence on *Wonderstruck* in the moment when a boy is hit by lightning and the editing and images evoke Roeg's wildness and shock."—Brian Selznick

Through Deaf Eyes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1:00 P.M.

Dirs. Diane Garey, Lawrence Hott. 2007, 120 mins. Digital projection. "The movie that inspired my book *Wonderstruck* in the first place. A rich and detailed look at deaf culture and deaf history, several key parts of this documentary became story points in *Wonderstruck*."—Brian Selznick

Poison

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 3:30 P.M.

Dir. Todd Haynes. 1991, 85 mins. 35mm. With Edith Meeks, Larry Maxwell. "Todd Haynes's first major film, it was a favorite of mine from the moment it came out at the height of the AIDS crisis in 1991. Todd tells three different narratives, in three different genres (including one in black-and-white) that prefigure much of the work he does in *Wonderstruck*."—Brian Selznick

To Kill a Mockingbird

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1:30 P.M.

Dir. Robert Mulligan. 1962, 125 mins. 35mm. With Gregory Peck, Brock Peters, Robert Duvall. "This classic film was another one that Todd Haynes recommended we watch to see great performances by children. Watch young Mary Badham's eyes as she tries to understand the world around her. The character of Ben, a hearing boy who suddenly finds himself deaf after a lightning strike, learns to take in the world by what he sees, and this movie was an inspiration. I've also always loved the opening credits, with the little box of treasures collected by Scout. These collections were an inspiration when I was first writing the book of *Wonderstruck*."—Brian Selznick

Being There

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Hal Ashby. 1979, 130 mins. 35mm. With Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine, Melvyn Douglas. "Hal Ashby's enigmatic masterpiece, a comedy, a tragedy, a political satire, and a one-sided love story, directly inspired a scene in *Wonderstruck*. When Peter Sellers's character, Chauncey Gardiner, first leaves the house where he's lived his life, he's accompanied by the familiar sound of the music from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but in a disco version by Deodato (the real title of the

music is “Also Sprach Zarathustra”), and this walk, and music, are used in a key moment in *Wonderstruck*.”—Brian Selznick

###

Press Contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

New Hours: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (group visits only). Wednesday–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 6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$7 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15 adults / \$11 students and seniors / \$7 youth (ages 3–17) / discounted or free for Museum members. Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum’s galleries.

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

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

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.