

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Schedule updated on January 9, 2012)

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE ANNOUNCES A SEVEN-WEEK EXTENSION OF ‘JIM HENSON’S FANTASTIC WORLD’

The popular exhibition about the creator of *The Muppets*™ and special programs will continue through March 4, 2012

Astoria, New York, December 20, 2011—Carl Goodman, Executive Director of Museum of the Moving Image, today announced a seven-week extension for *Jim Henson’s Fantastic World*, the Smithsonian traveling exhibition that explores the creative process of the world-renowned puppeteer, filmmaker, and television pioneer. The popular exhibition, which was scheduled to close on January 16, will now be on view through Sunday, March 4, 2012.

“The Henson exhibition has delighted Museum visitors of all ages and backgrounds,” said Mr. Goodman. “By the end of its run, we expect more than 100,000 visitors to have seen the exhibition. Many of them will also have experienced a screening of one of Jim Henson’s movies or television shows in our theaters or participated in a related workshop.”

Museum of the Moving Image is the thirteenth and final venue scheduled to host *Jim Henson’s Fantastic World* and the only one in New York State. Since it opened on July 16, 2011, the exhibition has been seen by nearly 90,000 visitors. During this period, special guests including Frank Oz, Brian Henson, Cheryl Henson, Bob McGrath, Brian Froud, Kevin Clash, Fran Brill, Bonnie Erickson, and other performers, family members, 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.

Working closely with The Jim Henson Legacy, which co-organized the exhibition with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the Museum will also continue presenting Henson-related screenings and programs every weekend through March 4 in its theaters.

Upcoming special programs include a *Muppet Movie* marathon on February 26 (day of the televised Academy Awards presentation); the compilation program “Jim Henson and Friends: Inside the *Sesame Street* Vault”; screenings of full episodes of *The*

Muppet Show, guest-curated by Craig Shemin; a *Muppet Movie* Sing-along hosted by Heather Henson (March 2 and 3); workshops presented by professional puppeteers; and a special closing day program. A full schedule of programs is included below.

"It has been very special to have this exhibition right here in New York City where Jim lived and worked," said Bonnie Erickson, Executive Director of The Jim Henson Legacy. "Because this is the last venue of our national tour, we want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to experience his creative process."

"Since 2007 we have had the great fortune to share *Jim Henson's Fantastic World* with museum-goers in thirteen cities across the country," said Anna R. Cohn, Director of SITES. "It has been an extraordinary journey and we're thrilled that Kermit the Frog and his friends will continue to celebrate Jim in the city that they all called home."

Jim Henson's Fantastic World features more than 120 artifacts, including drawings, storyboards, and props, and video material that illustrate Henson's boundless creativity and innumerable accomplishments. A special addition to the exhibition at the Museum is a puppet of Miss Piggy from *The Muppets Take Manhattan*. Among other highlights are fourteen additional iconic original puppets of such characters as Kermit the Frog, Rowlf, Bert, and Ernie; photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work; and excerpts from Henson's early projects and experimental films. The exhibition spans Henson's entire career, beginning with drawings, cartoons, and posters produced during his college years in the late 1950s and concluding with objects related to the inspired imaginary worlds of his popular fantasy film *The Dark Crystal* (1982) and the HBO television series *Fraggle Rock*. Visitors will encounter materials from Henson's best-known projects, *The Muppet Show*, *The Muppet Movie* and its sequels, as well as objects related to his *Sesame Street* characters. Visitors will also learn about *Sam and Friends*, an early show Henson created in the 1950s, Henson's television commercial work in the 1960s, and the segments Henson made for *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Educational programs will include 30-minute guided tours of the exhibition (every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.) and family workshops.

In the first five months of its run at Museum of the Moving Image, *Jim Henson's Fantastic World* has garnered much praise from the press:

"Henson the subversive advertising genius is just one of the lesser-known identities the exhibition reveals. It also portrays Henson the graphic designer, Henson the product of the '60s counterculture, Henson the experimental filmmaker and Henson the creative collaborator." — *The New York Times*
"Go see the Henson exhibit. First because Muppets are cute and funny, and we could all use a lighthearted break these days. But second so you can read this

Jim Henson quote in the context of the trajectory of his hard work and the ups and downs of his career: 'I believe that we form our own lives, that we create our own reality, and that everything works out for the best.'"— *Newsday*

"The exhibit celebrates Henson's extraordinary life and anarchic humor."— *New York Daily News*

"Children of all ages are sure to be inspired by looking at Henson's earliest sketches and seeing how his work evolved into the highly polished creations we're so familiar with today."— *Time Out New York Kids*

"What's most striking about 'Fantastic World' is how much non-Muppet material is explored."— *Variety*

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 Institute 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 Five Napkin Burger, The Astor Room, and Schmutter, Strull, Fleisch, Inc.

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.

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.

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.

Press contacts:

Tomoko Kawamoto, Moving Image / tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830

Jennifer Schommer, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)
schommerj@si.edu / 202 633 3121

Arthur Novell, The Jim Henson Legacy / 212 439 1558

'JIM HENSON'S FANTASTIC WORLD' SPECIAL PROGRAMS,
JANUARY 7, 2011–MARCH 4, 2012

Unless otherwise noted, programs are included with Museum admission and take place at the Museum, located at 36-01 35 Avenue, in Astoria, New York.

The Muppet Show

Award Winners: Rita Moreno / Carol Burnett

Saturday, January 7, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 5 and 111. Two legendary ladies headline these award-winning episodes of *The Muppet Show*. Oscar, Tony, Grammy and Emmy winner Rita Moreno took home her Emmy for her *Muppet Show* appearance, which aired as the series premiere. Carol Burnett finds herself in the middle of a dance marathon in an episode honored with the Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Variety, Music or Comedy Program.

The Muppet Show

A Galaxy Far, Far Away and A Long Time Ago: Mark Hamill & the Stars of *Star Wars* / Wally Boag

Saturday, January 14, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 15, 1:00 p.m.

Monday, January 16, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 89 and 116. *The Empire Strikes Back* was in production across the street at Elstree Studios when Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels and Peter Mayhew reprised their *Star Wars* characters on *The Muppet Show*. Jim Henson, a fan of Disneyland, flew Disney legend Wally Boag, star of Frontierland's *The Golden Horseshoe Revue*, to London for an appearance on *The Muppet Show*. Eventually, The Muppets and the *Star Wars* characters would also make their home at the Disney theme parks.

The Muppet Show

Book Rapport: Brooke Shields / Marty Feldman

Saturday, January 21, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 102 and 114. From time to time, *The Muppet Show* dispensed with the standard variety format and experimented with "book" shows in which they interpreted classic stories with a Muppet twist. Brooke Shields played the title role in their version of *Alice in Wonderland*,

while Marty Feldman is Scheherazade in *1001 Arabian Nights*.

The Muppet Show

A Little Bit Country...: Loretta Lynn / Johnny Cash

Saturday, January 28, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 29, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 56 and 117. The Coal Miner's Daughter and the Man in Black brought their unique country music styles to *The Muppet Show* in two very memorable episodes. Loretta Lynn stars in the only episode of the series to not take place in the Muppet theater: The show takes place at a train station because the theater is being fumigated. Johnny Cash's episode is "simulcast" on fictional country radio station WHOG, which soon fights for control of the show.

The Muppet Show

...A Little Bit Rock and Roll: Elton John / Paul Simon

Saturday, February 4, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 38 and 107. Singer-songwriters Elton John and Paul Simon brought their catalogs of hits to *The Muppet Show* in the second and fifth seasons, respectively. John performs "Crocodile Rock" with crocodiles and joins Miss Piggy for a duet of "Don't Go Breakin' My Heart." Paul Simon's episode contains nothing but Simon hits—although performed in very different ways.

The Muppet Show

You Will Believe a Pig Can Fly: Lynda Carter / Christopher Reeve

Saturday, February 11, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 91 and 90. Best known for playing superheroes, Lynda Carter and Christopher Reeve turned in their D.C. Comics uniforms to take on *The Muppet Show*. In Lynda's episode, the Muppets try their hand at the superhero business as Ms. Carter sings. Julliard-trained Reeve revisits his classical roots with a performance from Hamlet and plays doctor in a "Veterinarian's Hospital" sketch.

The Muppet Show

Silly Walks and Banjos: Steve Martin / John Cleese

Saturday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 19, 1:00 p.m.

Episodes 32 and 47. Two of the greatest comic actors of our generation visit the Muppet theater with hilarious results. Martin arrives on audition day and, between the auditions of new Muppet acts, entertains the cast with comedy and banjo music. John Cleese is a reluctant participant (refusing to work with pigs), but after some not-so-gentle persuasion, he joins in on the fun and even appears (sort of) in a musical finale.

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. *Please note, a previously distributed schedule listed another screening of this program on March 3 at 1:00 p.m. This has been replaced with *The Muppet Movie* Sing-a-Long.

Puppetry Workshops Led by Professional Puppeteers

Sponsored in part by Heather Henson’s Handmade Puppet Dreams

The Sweatshirt Sheep Workshop with John E. Kennedy

Saturday, February 4, 2:30 p.m.

Recommended for ages 8+. John E. Kennedy, puppeteer on such productions as *Sesame Street*, *Jack’s Big Music Show*, and *Activity TV*, brings a sweatshirt sleeve to life in this puppet workshop featured in his book *Puppet Planet*. In this two-hour workshop, participants will see John’s short film, *The Sure Sheep*, then create their very own sheep puppets. Finally, they will try their hands at performing, getting an introduction to the advanced techniques of monitor work. **\$10 materials fee / \$5 for Red Carpet Kids members**

Frankenfoam Workshop with Jamie Shannon

Thursday and Friday, February 23 and 24, 2:30 p.m.

Recommended for ages 8+. A writer, director, and producer for film and television, Jamie Shannon specialized in bringing inert objects to life. In this two-and-a-half hour workshop, participants will begin with an assortment of materials—sponges, yarn, chopsticks, marbles, pins, thread, glue, feathers, etc.—and then use them to create puppets made of foam. After making several puppets, they will then manipulate their foam creations for the camera. **\$10 materials fee / \$5 for Red Carpet Kids members.**

President’s Week with The Muppets

Muppets Go to the Movies

Monday, February 20–Saturday, February 25, 1:00 p.m.

Monday, February 20–Friday, February 24, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Peter Harris. 1981, 55 mins. Dudley Moore and Lily Tomlin join the Muppets in an hour of hilarious movie spoofs. Kermit hosts the festivities, introducing Muppet-fied versions of *Gone with the Wind*, *Casablanca*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Heat Wave* with you-know-who in the part of Marilyn Monroe, and many others.

Oscar Day Muppets Triple Feature

Sunday, February 26

The Muppet Movie

12:00 p.m.

Dir. James Frawley. 1979, 95 mins. With Jim Henson, Frank Oz. Kermit the Frog makes his way from humble origins in a swamp to fabled Hollywood, assembling his team as he goes, including

Fozzie Bear, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, and others. This enchanting and clever road movie includes Kermit's heart-tugging rendition of "The Rainbow Connection."

The Great Muppet Caper

2:30 p.m.

Dir. Jim Henson. 1981, 95 mins. With Frank Oz, Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt, Dave Goelz. Intrepid reporters Kermit, Fozzie Bear, and Gonzo go to London to interview a fashion designer whose jewels have been stolen. When the thieves strike again and Miss Piggy is accused of the crime, it's Kermit and friends to the rescue.

Muppets Take Manhattan

5:00 p.m.

Dir. Frank Oz. 1984, 94 mins. With Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt, Dave Goelz, When the Muppets' college revue is a big hit, they decide to take it all the way to Broadway. Filled with cameos by such New Yorkers as Mayor Ed Koch, Gregory Hines, and Liza Minnelli, the movie ends with a wedding between Kermit and Miss Piggy. Is it part of the show... or could it be real?

Closing Weekend Extravaganza

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.

***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. Special surprises are in store for this closing program, on the final day of the exhibition.

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. **Holiday Hours:** The Museum will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mondays January 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and February 20 (Presidents Day).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled.

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

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.

###