

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Revised December 5, 2011)

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DAILY SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS: DECEMBER 8, 2011–JANUARY 2, 2012

ON VIEW IN THE GALLERIES

Jim Henson's Fantastic World, through January 16, 2012

The work of the internationally renowned puppeteer, filmmaker, and television pioneer is explored in this Smithsonian traveling exhibition which 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. The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive series of special screenings, personal appearances, and workshops. (See below).

Jim Henson's Fantastic World was organized by The Jim Henson Legacy and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the Henson family, The Jim Henson Company, The Muppets Studio, LLC, and Sesame Workshop. This exhibition is made possible by the BIO channel. Additional support has been provided by The Jane Henson Foundation and Cheryl Henson.

Behind the Screen, Ongoing

Behind the Screen, the Museum's core exhibition, featuring more than 1,400 historical artifacts, art works, video clips, and interactive experiences that show how moving images are made, marketed, and exhibited—now completely reinstalled with new materials and interactive experiences added.

Persona Performa Panorama

(2011, Ming Wong)

November 10, 2011–April 1, 2012, in the Museum lobby

As part of his site-specific theatrical event *Persona Performa*, Ming Wong created a 50-foot long video panorama that features 24 actors playing 24 "personas" fused together in action and image, inspired by Ingmar Bergman's film *Persona*.

Surviving Life: Collages by Jan Svankmajer

(2010, Jan Svankmajer)

November 17, 2011–February 26, 2012, in the Amphitheater Gallery

The installation consists of 50 collages made during the production of the film *Surviving Life*, revealing the gentle surrealism and whimsical humor behind Svankmajer's artistry. In conjunction with the exhibition, a 50-minute compilation of short films by Svankmajer will be shown continuously in the Video Screening Amphitheater.

FILM SERIES AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Jim Henson Screenings and Programs (Ongoing through January 16, 2012)

In conjunction with the exhibition *Jim Henson's Fantastic World*, the Museum presents weekly screenings and events, many accompanied by special guest speakers. Highlights include special appearances by Brian Henson and Brian Froud; 25th anniversary screenings of *Labyrinth*; and holiday Muppet specials.

See It Big! (Through January 1, 2012)

This new series, guest curated by *Reverse Shot* editors, features big-screen movies that range from classics (*Lawrence of Arabia*, *Play Time*, *Lola Montes*) to sci-fi and horror (*The Shining*, *Alien*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) to recent epic films (*Tree of Life*, *Avatar*) to be shown in the Museum's beautiful theater with the films in their proper formats (70mm, 3-D, widescreen).

Magicians on Screen (December 10, 2011–January 1, 2012)

Guest-curated by JoAnn Hanley, a selection of films and presentations that trace the rich intersection of magic and the movies. Programs include a live magic show by Ben Johnson and films by Orson Welles, Harry Houdini, Georges Méliès, and more.

Ongoing monthly film series include the martial arts film showcase ***After Hours, Fist and Sword*** and ***Korean Cinema Now***.

DAILY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: December 8, 2011–January 2, 2012

Unless otherwise noted, film screenings take place in the main Moving Image Theater and in the Celeste and Armand Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria, and are included with Museum admission. Advance tickets for some special screenings and events are available online at <http://movingimage.us> or by calling 718 777 6800.

Thursday, December 8

7:00 p.m.

The Color Wheel

With Alex Perry in person

Dir. Alex Ross Perry. 2011, 83 mins. With Perry, Carlen Altman. Perry's highly original second feature, beautifully filmed in black-and-white 16mm, follows the calamity and chaos when JR forces her disappointing younger brother Colin on a short road trip to move out of her professor-turned-lover's apartment. The film, which has been developing a following on the festival circuit, was recently called "The future of cinema, I hope," by Ignatiy Vishnevetsky for *At the Movies*. (Part of *After Hours*)

Tickets: \$10 public / \$5 Museum members / Free for Silver Screen members and above.

Friday, December 9

7:00 p.m.

Raging Bull

Dir. Martin Scorsese. 1980, 129 mins. Restored 35mm print. With Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, Cathy Moriarty. With *Raging Bull*, Scorsese turned the boxing movie on its head, forgoing every cliché to create an indelible work of art. In an Oscar-winning role, De Niro is Jake La Motta, whose life story is dramatized with a mix of Shakespearean tragedy and documentary-like realism. Michael Chapman's glistening black-and-white cinematography is one of the glories of contemporary cinema. (Part of *See It Big!*)

Tickets for Friday evening screenings: \$12 (\$9 for senior citizens and students) and includes admission to the Museum's galleries, which are open until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 10

1:00 p.m.

“Christmas Eve on *Sesame Street*” and *Sesame Street* Holiday Moments

85 mins. In “Christmas Eve on *Sesame Street*” (dir. Jon Stone, 1978), Big Bird camps out on his roof to prove to Oscar the Grouch that Santa Claus does, in fact, deliver the presents to every house on Christmas Eve. The episode will be preceded by a compilation of clips from *Sesame Street* holiday programs. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Programs.)

3:00 p.m.

Disappearing Tricks: Early Film and Magic: A presentation by Matthew Solomon

Film historian Matthew Solomon shows how early cinema was shaped by magicians, who were ubiquitous figures in popular entertainment and became some of the first film exhibitors, performers, and makers. Solomon will show short films by Georges Méliès, Segundo de Chomón, and others, and scenes from the silent films of Harry Houdini. The program will include some beautifully restored archival prints of hand-colored films. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

4:30 p.m.

Live Magic Show by Ben Robinson

Ben Robinson is an internationally acclaimed master magician noted for his ability to entertain adults and children simultaneously. His engagement at Hollywood's famous Magic Castle was reviewed as “comedy magic at its finest.” This delightful and amazing half-hour program is presented free of charge with Museum admission. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

5:30 p.m.

Haldane of the Secret Service

With live music by Donald Sosin

Dir. Harry Houdini. 1923, 88 mins. New 35mm preservation print provided by George Eastman House, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. With Houdini, Gladys Leslie Internationally famed escape artist Harry Houdini directed, produced, and starred in this silent feature. After his detective father is murdered, Haldane dedicates himself to tracking down the villains. Trapped in ropes, chains and strongboxes, our hero wriggles out of his predicaments with the skill of—Houdini. ***The Talking Tea Kettle***. Dir. Terese Svoboda. 2011, 7 mins. Video artist Terese Svoboda explores Harry Houdini's and magician David P. Abbott's battles against fraudulent mediums in the early years of the twentieth century. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Sunday, December 11

1:00 p.m.

“Christmas Eve on *Sesame Street*” and *Sesame Street* Holiday Moments

85 mins. See Saturday, December 10, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Programs)

4:00 p.m.

The Day He Arrives

Dir. Hong Sang-soo. 2011, 79 mins. With Kim Sang-Jung, Yu Jun-Sang. In the latest from master filmmaker Hong Sang-soo, Sungjoon, a director who no longer makes films, heads to Seoul to meet a friend. He runs into an actress he used to know, shares a drink with some young film students, and against his better judgment, heads to his ex’s house. The next day, or perhaps some other day, Sungjoon finally meets his friend. They go to a bar whose owner bears a striking resemblance to his ex. The next day goes very much like the first; the one after that, the same. Eventually, Sungjoon has no other choice than to face his “today.” (Part of *Korean Cinema Now*)

7:00 p.m.

Magic Boy* and *The Orson Welles Magic Show

The Orson Welles Magic Show

Dir. Orson Welles. 1979–1985, 30 mins. The director and actor Orson Welles, who was also an accomplished magician, worked to develop a television series in which he performed magic. This fascinating and fragmentary work is a compilation of material from the project, combining some of Welles’s best magic tricks and elements of autobiography and history. The footage was restored by the Munich Film museum.

Magic Boy

Dir. Adam Wong. 2007, 88 mins. With Anjo Leung, Tsui Tin Yau. Magic comes to the streets of Hong Kong in this youth romance about a love triangle between two amateur magicians and a salesgirl. Young star Anjo Leung, a real-life apprentice of Hong Kong magic guru Harry Wong, handles the film’s many illusions with showmanship and panache. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Wednesday, December 14 (NEW)

7:00 p.m.

Preview Screening: *Corman’s World: Exploits Of A Hollywood Rebel*, and A Live Video Conversation With Roger Corman

Dir. Alex Stapleton. 2011, 95 mins. With Roger Corman, Peter Bogdanovich, Joe Dante, Jonathan Demme, Peter Fonda, Ron Howard, Jack Nicholson, John Sayles, Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino. With his high-octane, low-budget, no-holds-barred approach to filmmaking, Roger Corman has been the most prolific producer-director-writer in American film in the past 60 years. He has helped launch the careers of such directors as Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Jonathan Demme, and Peter Bogdanovich, while turning out such movies as *Monster From the Ocean Floor*, *Night Call Nurses*, and *Rock ‘n Roll High School*. This entertaining star-studded features a delightfully candid interview with Jack Nicholson. This preview screening will be followed by a live video conversation with Roger Corman.

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

Thursday, December 15

7:00 p.m.

The Yards

With James Gray in person

Dir. James Gray. 1999, 115 mins.. With Mark Wahlberg, Joaquin Phoenix, Charlize Theron. New York-born writer-director James Gray makes movies (*Two Lovers*, *Little Odessa*, *We Own the Night*) that are at once lyrical, psychologically astute, and as hard-boiled and riveting as a Warner Bros. 1930s genre picture. On the occasion of the publication of Jordan Mintzer's new book *James Gray*, the director will be present for a discussion following a screening of *The Yards*. Filmed in the nearby Sunnyside train yards, Gray's melodramatic and thrilling second feature is a story of family bonds and city corruption. (Part of *After Hours*)

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

Friday, December 16

7:00 p.m.

Nashville

Dir. Robert Altman. 1975, 159 mins. With Keith Carradine, Geraldine Chaplin, Henry Gibson, Lily Tomlin. The peak of Altman's prolific career was this panoramic view of American life circa 1975, set in the nation's country-music capital. Cramming his wide screen with the comings and goings of a 24-character ensemble, Altman creates an incredible cacophonous entertainment, equal parts comedy and tragedy, which features terrific original songs and an unforgettable ending. (Part of *See It Big!*)

Tickets for Friday evening screenings: \$12 (\$9 for senior citizens and students) and includes admission to the Museum's galleries, which are open until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 17

1:00 p.m.

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Dir. Brian Henson. 1992, 85 mins. With Michael Caine, voices of Dave Goelz, Steve Whitmire, Jerry Nelson, Frank Oz. The Dickens classic is recast with Muppets, including Gonzo as Charles Dickens, Kermit at Bob Cratchit, and Fozzie Bear as Fozziewig. This faithful adaptation is as full of Christmas spirit as the original. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs)

3:00 p.m.

Magic and the Silent Clowns: A Presentation by Ben Robinson

There is a strong link between some of cinema's great comedians and magic. Performers such as Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, and Harpo Marx started out in the world of vaudeville; many of their finest gags grew directly out of their love of magic. Magician and author Ben Robinson will show scenes from such movies as *Grandma's Boy*, *Sherlock Jr.*, *The Circus*, and *Duck Soup* to examine this important connection between magic, comedy, and cinema. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

5:00 p.m.

Chandu the Magician

Preceded by *Felix Monkeys with Magic*

Dirs. William Cameron Menzies, Marcel Varnel. 1932, 71 mins. With Edmund Lowe, Irene Ware, Bela Lugosi. Magician/yogi Chandu battles the evil Roxor, who attempts to dominate the world using his death-ray machine. Menzies's fabled design enhances this fantasy/adventure, which was photographed by James Wong Howe. *Felix Monkeys with Magic*: Dir. Otto Mesmer. 1925, 10 mins. Felix the Cat's master, a magician, constantly plays tricks on Felix, until Felix decides to make some magic and mischief of his own. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

6:30 p.m.

The Mad Magician

Dir. John Brahm. 1954, 72 mins. With Vincent Price, Eva Gabor. Double-crossed by his manager and dumped by his wife, a turn-of-the-century illusionist seeks revenge. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Sunday, December 18

1:00 p.m.

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Dir. Brian Henson. 1992, 85 mins. See Saturday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs)

3:00 p.m.

***Ernie Kovacs's Festival of Magic*
Introduced by Ben Robinson**

1957, 75 mins. The first magic special on network television was hosted by Ernie Kovacs for NBC and was presented live, with performances by the Great Cardini, Milbourne Christopher, P. C. Sorcar, Robert Harbin, and many others. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

5:00 p.m.

The Magic Land of Allakazam

Created by Mark Wilson. 1960–65. Master magician Mark Wilson created *The Magic Land of Allakazam*, the first network television magic series ever. The shows were taped with a live studio audience of children and included sleight of hand sequences, audience participation, magical commercials, and major illusions. Greg Wilson (Mark Wilson's son) has selected rare archival copies of some of the most important episodes. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

7:00 p.m.

***The Wizard of Gore*
Preceded by *Morto the Magician***

Dir. Herschell Gordon Lewis. 1970, 95 mins. With Ray Sager, Judy Cler. "Is it magic or wholesale slaughter?" asks a tagline for this outrageous cult masterpiece. A television talk-show hostess investigates a magician who attempts to use his mind-bending powers to control his audience's perceptions, in order to stage gory, Grand Guignol onstage illusions. *Morto the Magician* - 2010, 5 mins. Steve Martin's webtoon about a decidedly untalented illusionist. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Thursday, December 22

7:00 p.m.

The Tree of Life

With Special Photographic Effects Supervisor Douglas Trumbull in person

Dir. Terrence Malick. 2011, 139 mins. With Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Jessica Chastain, Hunter McCracken. One of the movie events of this year (and probably the past decade), this mammoth work of cinematic poetry is Malick's personal vision of a young boy's coming of age in suburban 1950s Texas. It's also a deeply philosophical take on life, death, and the whole shebang, featuring an astonishing depiction of the creation of the world. It must be experienced in a theater. (Part of *See it Big!*)

Tickets: \$15 public / \$10 Museum members / Free for Silver Screen members and above. Call 718 777 6800 to reserve tickets or order online.

Friday, December 23

7:00 p.m.

Lola Montès

Dir. Max Ophüls. 1955, 115 mins. Restored 35mm print. With Martine Carol, Peter Ustinov, Anton Walbrook. The Austrian director Max Ophüls was known for his swoon-inducing camera moves and ornate, melodramatic entertainments. His final film—his first shot in color—is his most wonderfully grandiloquent, a moving drama about a real-life courtesan and showgirl. Full of visual invention, this is large-scale filmmaking at its most extravagant, as well as a provocative, ahead-of-its-time look at the downside of fame. (Part of *See it Big!*)

Saturday, December 24

1:00 p.m.

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Dir. Brian Henson. 1992, 85 mins. See Saturday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs.)

3:00 p.m.

A-Haunting We Will Go

Preceded by *Magician Mickey*

Dir. Alfred L. Werker. 1942, 68 mins. With Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Dante the Magician. After being kicked out of town, Laurel and Hardy have to take a not-so-dead body to Dayton, where they discover that the coffin has been swapped with one used by the real-life world famous magician Dante in his stage show. The boys then become Dante's assistants, with hilarious consequences. *Magician Mickey* - Dir. David Hand. 1937, 8 mins. Mickey is a stage magician, Goofy is the stagehand, and Donald, of course, is the heckler. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Saturday, December 24–Monday, January 2

Daily at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00p.m. (except for Christmas Day when the Museum is closed)

Magic and Movies Workshops

(Ages 10+) Participants will watch clips from some innovative early films and learn how the special effects in the films were achieved. Then, using a variety of live-action and animation techniques, they will produce a magic-show movie starring themselves.

\$5 materials fee / Free for Red Carpet Kids members. Register upon arrival at the Museum.

Monday, December 26–Friday, December 30

1:00 p.m.

A Muppet Family Christmas and A Classic Henson Holiday

67 mins. A Muppet Family Christmas (dir. Peter Harris, 1989) is about a holiday gathering at Fozzie's mother's country house. The compilation A Classic Henson Holiday collects the finest moments from various holiday shows. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs)

3:00 p.m.

A Muppet Family Christmas and A Classic Henson Holiday

67 mins. A Muppet Family Christmas (dir. Peter Harris, 1989) See Monday, December 26, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs.)

Thursday, December 29

7:00 p.m.

Avatar

Dir. James Cameron. 2009, 162 mins. Dolby Digital 3-D. With Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver. In Cameron's state-of-the-art epic, a paraplegic marine is dispatched to the moon Pandora and sent in avatar form on a unique mission. In this enthralling, provocative story that questions and embraces the place of technology in the natural world, Cameron pushes the limits of filmmaking to create an awesome, immersive 3-D experience. *Avatar* is the all-time box office champion (although adjusted for inflation, *Gone With the Wind* is number one). (Part of *See it Big!*)

Tickets: \$15 public / \$10 Museum members / Free for Silver Screen members and above. Call 718 777 6800 to reserve tickets or order online.

Friday, December 30

7:00 p.m.

Barry Lyndon

Dir. Stanley Kubrick. 1975, 184 mins. Restored 35mm print. With Ryan O'Neal, Marisa Berenson, Patrick Magee. William Makepeace Thackeray's novel about an eighteenth-century Irish opportunist's rise and fall is, in Kubrick's hands, a painting come to life. Oscar-winning cinematography, art direction, costume design, and music combine with Kubrick's fine-tuned sense of irony and drama for a one-of-a-kind sensory and intellectual experience. Ever the innovator, Kubrick employed special camera lenses built for NASA to best capture candlelight on screen. (Part of *See it Big!*)

Saturday, December 31

1:00 p.m.

Jim Henson and Friends: Inside the Sesame Street Vault

83 mins. This program highlights the contributions of Jim Henson and his early *Sesame Street* collaborators, Frank Oz (Bert, Grover, Cookie Monster), Jerry Nelson (Count Von Count, Snuffleupagus), Fran Brill (Prairie Dawn, Zoe), and Carroll Spinney (Big Bird, Oscar the Grouch). This is a unique opportunity to see rare clips from specials and guest appearances on other television programs. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs)

3:00 p.m.

The Great Buck Howard

Dir. Sean McGinly. 2008, 87 mins. With John Malkovich, Colin Hanks. In this offbeat comedy, a law student quits school to become the apprentice of a cantankerous illusionist who is taking his show on the road in an attempt to revive his fading career. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

Sunday, January 1

1:00 p.m.

Jim Henson and Friends: Inside the *Sesame Street* Vault

83 mins. See Saturday, December 31, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs.)

3:00 p.m.

The Prestige

Dir. Christopher Nolan. 2006, 130 mins. With Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson. Rival magicians attempt to outdo each another with increasingly elaborate (and dangerous) tricks and offstage deceptions. This leads to seduction, murder, the involvement of mysterious scientist Nikola Tesla (David Bowie), and a particularly delightful climax. (Part of *Magicians on Screen*)

6:00 p.m.

Barry Lyndon

Dir. Stanley Kubrick. 1975, 184 mins. See Friday, December 30, 7:00 p.m. for description. (Part of *See it Big!*)

Monday, January 2

1:00 p.m.

Jim Henson and Friends: Inside the *Sesame Street* Vault

83 mins. See Saturday, December 31, 1:00 p.m. for description. (Part of Jim Henson Screenings and Special Programs.)

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 on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 26 and January 2. On Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), the galleries will close at 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25).

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.

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