

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE MUPPETS CHARACTER ENCYCLOPEDIA*, NEW ESSENTIAL BOOK FOR JIM HENSON FANS, CELEBRATED WITH TRIVIA CONTEST AND VIDEO CLIPS**

Author Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy, will sign books following the program on Saturday, February 22

Museum will also present daily screenings of *The Muppet Show* episodes featuring Carol Burnett, Steve Martin, and Rita Moreno, February 17–21

Astoria, New York, February 7, 2014—Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy and author of the lavishly illustrated and meticulously researched new ***Muppets Character Encyclopedia*** (2014, DK Publishing), will present a program featuring memorable moments from the biggest Muppet stars, as well as rare highlights of some lesser known characters featured in his book. The event, on Saturday, February 22, at 1:00 p.m., will include video clips and a Muppet trivia contest with prizes, followed by a book signing. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the Museum store.

Among the featured games will be "Man or Muppet," where audience members will have to guess if an unusual name belongs to a real person or a Muppet character; "Piggy, Babs, or Both," in which contestants are challenged to determine if certain biographical facts pertain to Miss Piggy, Barbra Streisand, or both of the legendary superstars; and a Muppet Impression contest. While some video clips will be used in game play, other clips include a compilation of memorable moments from some of the characters featured in *The Muppets Character Encyclopedia*.

From Kermit the Frog, to Animal and Fozzie Bear, the whole menagerie of Jim Henson's Muppet creations are included in *The Muppets Character Encyclopedia*. Each page of this fun and friendly guide features a different Muppet profile packed with interesting facts about these beloved characters. The book also includes full bios of the characters featured in the upcoming movie *The Muppets Most Wanted*.

Leading in to this special program, the Museum will present daily screenings (at 1:00 p.m.) of three episodes of *The Muppet Show* from Monday, February 17 through Friday, February 21, during New York City public schools' Midwinter Recess. These

three episodes feature guest stars currently being honored for their lifetime achievements: Rita Moreno, winner of the Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Grammy-Oscar-Emmy-Tony winner, earned her first Emmy for her appearance on the series' debut broadcast in 1976. Steve Martin, who recently received an Honorary Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, brought his act to Episode 208 (1977). Finally, Carol Burnett, the 2013 recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor danced her way through Episode 515 (1980), a dance marathon episode which won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing.

The Muppet s Character Encyclopedia event and *Muppet Show* screenings are recommended for ages 8 and older (although younger avid Muppet fans are certainly welcome!). Tickets for screenings are included with paid Museum admission (\$12 adults / \$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members). Museum members may reserve tickets in advance.

These programs are part of the monthly series *Jim Henson's World*, organized by Craig Shemin as guest curator. In 2015, the Museum will open a permanent gallery and exhibition devoted to the work of Jim Henson that will showcase 200 puppets, costumes, and other production materials, which were donated to the Museum by the family of Jim Henson. For more information about how to support the Museum's efforts and to get involved, please contact Director of Development Christina Marouda at cmarouda@movingimage.us or by phone at 718 777 6844.

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 <http://www.jimhensonlegacy.org>.

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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.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open Monday, February 17

(Presidents Day) and Tuesday, February 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Tickets for regular film screenings are included with paid Museum admission and free for members.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. 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

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

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. 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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