

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLIDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS IN DECEMBER

Artmaking studios and screenings of *The LEGO Batman Movie* during winter recess; *Muppet Christmas Carol*, *Emmet Otter*, and other Jim Henson holiday specials; *The Princess Bride* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*; more

Holiday hours: Open daily December 23 through January 1, except for Christmas Day (early closings on December 24 and 31)

Astoria, Queens, New York, November 29, 2017—This holiday season, Museum of the Moving Image offers expanded holiday hours and a wide range of screenings, workshops, and exhibitions for family visitors of all ages. In addition to the traditional Winter Recess programs—this season, daily matinees of *The LEGO Batman Movie* on the big screen, accompanied by drop-in artmaking studios—the Museum has events happening throughout the month of December.

Every Saturday and Sunday in December, the Museum presents family matinees at 11:00 a.m. including 30th anniversary screenings of Rob Reiner's hilarious fairy-tale parody *The Princess Bride* in 35mm (Dec. 16 & 17); the Oscar-winning animated feature *The Secret of Kells* preceded by an Irish dance demonstration (Dec. 9), co-presented with the Irish Arts Center; and the Vincente Minnelli–Judy Garland classic *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Dec. 2 & 3).

Every weekend also features a screening in the month-long *Happy Henson Holidays* series, including a 30th anniversary screening of *A Muppet Family Christmas* hosted by Craig Shemin of The Jim Henson Legacy and featuring rare behind-the-scenes home movies from the production (Dec. 9 & 10); a 40th anniversary screening of *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* featuring a special appearance by Marilyn Sokol, the voice of Ma Otter (Dec. 23); and anniversary screenings of *Bear in the Big Blue House* with performers Noel MacNeal and Tyler Bunch in person (Dec. 30) and *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (Dec. 16 & 17).

Ticket purchase to a screening also includes same-day admission to the Museum's galleries. Before or after the screening, families are welcome to drop into the Moving Image Studio, which features artmaking activities (ages 4 and older), or to explore *The Jim Henson Exhibition*, the core exhibition *Behind the Screen*, and *Video Arcade*, which features more than twenty playable classic video arcade games.

Please note: During Winter Recess, December 26 through January 1, access to *The Jim Henson Exhibition* will be managed via timed-entry ticketing. Advance reservations are available [online](#). For guaranteed admission to both the exhibition and a Henson screening on the same day, please consider purchasing a Henson Premium ticket for \$20 (discounted for seniors, students, and children).

All holiday and family programs are free for Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels and above. More information at movingimage.us/membership.

A complete schedule is below and posted online at movingimage.us.

DECEMBER 2017 FAMILY AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Advance tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us>. Unless otherwise noted, tickets for screenings are \$15 adults / \$11 seniors and students / \$7 youth (ages 3–17) / free for Museum members and children under 3. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the galleries.

WORKSHOP

Moving Image Studio

EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 11:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

WINTER RECESS: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 1, DAILY 11:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 4 and up and their adult companions

Moving Image Studio is the Museum's drop-in space where visitors of all ages can create media and other projects. Families are welcome to stop by and build their own puppets and animation inspired by *The Jim Henson Exhibition* and the core exhibition *Behind the Screen*. Activities include stop-motion animation, puppet making with found objects, create your own meme, and coloring. During Winter Recess, activities will include making one's own LEGO animations and superhero masks, and designing superhero costumes.

Free with Museum admission. No reservations necessary.

EARLY MUSEUM ACCESS FOR FAMILIES ON THE SPECTRUM

Access Mornings @ MoMI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:30–10:30 A.M.

Theme: Portraits. Join us the first Saturday of each month for exclusive Museum access for families on the autism spectrum. This early access hour, before the Museum is open to the general public, will allow visitors of all ages to explore the exhibitions and participate in artmaking projects, facilitated by Museum educators. A different theme will be offered each month. Light breakfast refreshments will be served. Reservations required.

Tickets: \$5 per person. Free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above.

SCREENING

Meet Me in St. Louis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 11:00 A.M.

Recommended for ages 6 and up

Dir. Vincente Minnelli. 1944, 113 mins. 35mm. With Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien. Set over the course of the year 1903, this classic film follows the Smith family as they face a move from St. Louis to New York. Judy Garland plays one of the four Smith daughters distressed by this impending move and leaving her home and the boy next door—and on the eve of the World's Fair opening in St. Louis. The film includes Garland singing classic songs like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Trolley Song." Part of Family Matinees

SCREENING

John Denver and The Muppets: A Christmas Together & The Muppet Show with John Denver

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Screenings of ***The Muppet Show***, hosted by John Denver (Dir. Peter Harris. 1979) and ***John Denver & The Muppets: A Christmas Together*** (Dir. Tony Charmoli. 1979). Combined running time: 75 mins. Digital projection. In 1979, John Denver appeared on *The Muppet Show*, collaborated with the Muppets on a record album and rounded out the year by joining the Muppets for an ABC television special inspired by the album. This month of Henson holiday merriment kicks off with a double-feature of Denver's *Muppet Show* episode and the Christmas special, *John Denver and the Muppets: A Christmas Together*, commencing with a classic rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," performed by the singer-songwriter and the Muppets. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

SCREENING & LIVE EVENT

The Secret of Kells

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 11:00 A.M.

Presented in collaboration with the Irish Arts Center

Recommended for ages 9 and up

Dirs. Tomm Moore, Nora Twomey. 2009, 75 mins. 35mm. With the voices of Evan McGuire, Brendan Gleeson, Mick Lally. *The Secret of Kells* is a beautiful and colorful Oscar-nominated animated film set in medieval Ireland on the eve of a Viking invasion. A young boy, Brendan, becomes swept into an adventure when a master illuminator arrives asking for his help with a book filled with secret powers.

Prior to the screening, which begins at 11:30 a.m., members of Darrah Carr Dance will present a fun, interactive Irish dance demonstration. Part of *Family Matinees*

30TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

A Muppet Family Christmas

Introduced by Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Dir. Peter Harris. 1987, 50 mins. (plus additional clips). Digital projection. With Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Dave Goelz, Richard Hunt, Jerry Nelson, Steve Whitmire, Kathryn Mullen, Karen Prell.

Among the many holiday programs created by Jim Henson, *A Muppet Family Christmas* holds a very special place in the hearts of Muppet fans, as it unites the Muppet characters, the Fraggles (including Doc & Sprocket), and the *Sesame Street* characters in one big family reunion. In addition to a complete, uncut version of the program, Craig Shemin will present rare behind-the-scenes home movies from the production, and a compilation of some memorable moments from other Henson holiday productions. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

The Princess Bride

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 11:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 11:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Dir. Rob Reiner. 1987, 93 mins. 35mm. With Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Billy Crystal, Andre the Giant. Inconceivable! This year marks the 30th anniversary of *The Princess Bride*, the beloved action-adventure-love story adapted from William Goldman's 1973 novel. The film is just as much of a fantastic—and quotable—tale filled with royalty, pirates, heroes, villains, and true love, as when it debuted. Part of *Family Matinees*

25TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

The Muppet Christmas Carol

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 5 and up

Dir. Brian Henson. 1992, 85 mins. Digital projection. With Michael Caine, 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 *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

WINTER RECESS FAMILY MATINEE

The LEGO Batman Movie

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23–MONDAY, JANUARY 1 (EXCEPT FOR DECEMBER 25 WHEN THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED), DAILY AT 11:00 A.M.

Recommended for ages 7 and up

Dir. Chris McKay. 2017, 104 mins. DCP. Featuring the voices of Will Arnett, Michael Cera, Rosario Dawson, Ralph Fiennes. Batman must face the villains of Gotham City again, but this time with his new sidekick Robin and fellow caped-crusader Batgirl, along with his ally Commissioner Barbara Gordon. This lively animated movie combines our favorite Gotham City characters with the LEGO toy universe, for hilarious superhero fun.

WINTER RECESS FAMILY WORKSHOP

Superhero-themed Moving Image Studio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23–MONDAY, JANUARY 1 (EXCEPT FOR DECEMBER 25 WHEN THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED), DAILY 11:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Create your own superhero world during winter recess with the Museum's drop-in artmaking

workshops for families. Activities include making one's own LEGO animations and superhero masks, and designing superhero costumes. **Free with Museum admission. No reservations necessary.**

SCREENING & LIVE EVENT

Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas

Introduced by Marilyn Sokol

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 5 and up

Dir. Jim Henson. 1978, 60 mins. (plus additional clips). Digital projection. With Jerry Nelson, Frank Oz, Marilyn Sokol, Dave Goelz, Richard Hunt, Eren Ozker. Featuring original songs by Paul Williams. One of Jim Henson's most beloved television specials tells the story of Ma Otter and her son Emmet, who both secretly enter a talent contest to win money for each other's Christmas presents. This restored presentation includes Kermit the Frog's segments. Jim Henson Legacy President Craig Shemin (producer of the award-winning documentary *Behind the Scenes in Frogtown Hollow*) will be joined by Marilyn Sokol (voice of Ma Otter) to present outtakes from the special and excerpts from the documentary. The 40th Anniversary DVD Edition of *Emmet Otter* will be available for purchase at the Museum shop and Marilyn Sokol will sign DVDs after the screening. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

SCREENING

Christmas Eve on Sesame Street

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Dir. Jon Stone. 1978. Digital projection. With Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Caroll Spinney, Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt, Linda Bove, Northern Calloway, Debbie Chen, Will Lee, Loretta Long, Sonia Manzano, Bob McGrath, Roscoe Orman. In the Emmy Award-winning holiday special Christmas Eve on Sesame Street, 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. Total running time: 75 mins. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

EARLY MUSEUM ACCESS FOR FAMILIES

Mornings @ MoMI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 9:30 A.M.–10:30 A.M.

Theme: Portraits. This early access hour, before the Museum is open to the general public, will allow visitors of all ages to explore the exhibitions and participate in artmaking projects, facilitated by Museum educators. A different theme will be offered each month. Light breakfast refreshments will be served. Reservations required. **Tickets: \$5 per person. Free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above.**

SCREENING & LIVE EVENT

Bear in the Big Blue House: "A Berry Bear Christmas"

With Noel MacNeal and Tyler Bunch in Person

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Dir. Mitchell Kriegman. 1999, 46 mins. Digital projection. With Noel MacNeal, Tyler Bunch. In honor of the 20th anniversary of *Bear in the Big Blue House*, we'll keep the holiday season going with a special screening of the special two-part episode, "A Berry Bear Christmas," introduced by Noel MacNeal (Bear) and Tyler Bunch (Treelo, Pop, Doc Hogg). In the episode, Bear sets out to find the traditional Winter Berry while he and his friends prepare for the holidays. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

SCREENING

Jim Henson's The Christmas Toy / "The Bells of Fraggle Rock"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1:00 P.M.

Recommended for ages 6 and up

Screenings of *The Christmas Toy* (Dir. Eric Till. 1984. With Dave Goelz, Kathy Mullen) and *Fraggle Rock* episode "The Bells of Fraggle Rock" (Dir. Douglas Williams, 1986. With Jerry Nelson, Jim Henson). Combined running time: 75 mins. Before *Toy Story*, there was Jim Henson's *The Christmas Toy*. In this ABC holiday special, a group of toys comes to life whenever their owner, Jamie, leaves the room. Last year's favorite gift, Rugby Tiger (Dave Goelz), is nervous about the arrival of a new toy and plans to sneak under the Christmas tree so he can once again be a new gift. In *The Bells of Fraggle Rock*, Cantus arrives for the Festival of the Bells and Gobo sets out on an adventure—to find out if the mythical Great Bell of Fraggle Rock is really real. Part of *Happy Henson Holidays & Jim Henson's World*

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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 facility—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: 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 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours: Closed December 25. Open Tuesday, December 26, and Monday, January 1 (New Year's Day), 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Modified hours: Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults (18+); \$11 senior citizens (65+) and students (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, ticket are \$15 adults / \$11 Standard members, seniors and students / \$7 youth 3–17 / Free for members at the Film Lover and Kids Premium levels and above. (Tickets for New Releases are discounted 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. Q (weekdays only) or N to Broadway.

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.