



The Maryland Center for History and Culture Celebrates the Creative Vision of Jim Henson in *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*

Kermit the Frog (The Muppet Show), Ernie and Bert (Sesame Street), Jen and Kira (The Dark Crystal), plus the ballroom costumes of Jareth and Sarah from Labyrinth featured in this exploration of the visionary entertainer's work

Baltimore, MD (May 24, 2023) – [Maryland Center for History and Culture \(MCHC\)](#) is excited to announce *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*. Organized by the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI), the traveling exhibition will open on May 26 and remain on view through December 30, 2023. The traveling exhibition is a version of MoMI's ongoing *The Jim Henson Exhibition*, which is on view at its home in New York City.

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited is a dynamic visitor experience exploring Jim Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television and his transformative impact on popular culture. This comprehensive exhibition reveals how Henson and his team of builders, performers, and writers brought to life the enduringly popular worlds of *The Muppet Show*, *Sesame Street*, *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, and much more. It also includes material from Henson's experimental film projects and his early work, presenting him as a ~~restlessly creative performer, filmmaker, and technical innovator~~. The exhibition features a broad range of artifacts related to Henson's unparalleled career, including more than 20 puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, photographs, film and television clips, behind-the-scenes footage, iconic costumes, and interactive experiences that allow visitors to try their hand at puppeteering on camera and designing a puppet character. This iteration of the traveling exhibition also includes a new section especially developed for MCHC expanding on Jim Henson's early life and legacy in Maryland.

MCHC is celebrating this exhibition as a homecoming for an iconic Marylander. While Henson was born in Mississippi, his family later moved to Hyattsville, Maryland and consider the state home. Henson attended the University of Maryland at College Park in 1954, where he studied home economics. And it was in Maryland that Henson first explored puppetry by using linen cuttings and ping pong balls to create the first iterations of the puppets that would evolve into the characters of his first television show, *Sam and Friends* which aired on NBC affiliates in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City metros.

"Few people in the 20th century had such enduring, wide-reaching, and intergenerational appeal as Jim Henson," said MCHC President & CEO Katie Caljean. "His innovations in storytelling revolutionized children's education, and his work – from *Fraggle Rock* to *The Dark Crystal* – had

a profound impact on generations. This exhibition showcases MCHC's commitment to exploring expansive and inclusive Maryland stories and welcoming people far and wide to our Baltimore City campus. Everyone can find their history and something new to explore at MCHC."

MCHC has developed a [robust list of virtual and on-site programs and events](#) through the course of the exhibition. Fans of all ages are invited to join the grand opening celebrations at MCHC on June 3 from 10 am to 8 pm. The Henson Homecoming: *The Jim Henson Exhibition* Opening Festival will include live music, shows for all generations, film screenings, food trucks, art-making, and more. Registration is required – those interested can reserve a ticket for the event, [here](#).

This exhibition's Maryland debut is made possible thanks to the leading support of Brown Advisory and our official Youth and Family Programs Sponsor PNC. Maryland Public Television is the official media sponsor with additional support provided by LifeBridge Health and DALY Computers.

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited is a traveling exhibition organized by Museum of the Moving Image (Astoria, New York) in cooperation with The Jim Henson Company, The Muppets Studio, and Sesame Workshop. The exhibition features puppets and other objects donated to the Museum by the family of Jim Henson, plus works on loan from The Jim Henson Company archives as well as from private lenders.

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About Maryland Center for History and Culture

The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) collects, preserves, and interprets the history, art, and culture of Maryland. Originally founded as the Maryland Historical Society in 1844, MCHC inspires critical thinking, creativity, and community through its Museum, Library, and education programs. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm with extended hours on Thursdays until 8 pm. The H. Furlong Baldwin Library is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and the second Saturday of the month. Learn more at mdhistory.org, or find us on social @mdhistory.

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