

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLICATION OF ‘JIM HENSON: THE BIOGRAPHY’ CELEBRATED WITH DISCUSSION, RARE CLIPS, AND BOOK SIGNING

With author Brian Jay Jones, Fran Brill, Dwight Bowers, Bonnie Erickson, Karen Falk, Barbara Miller, and Craig Shemin in person

Special event launches new monthly series *Jim Henson’s World*, leading to the opening of a new gallery and exhibition devoted to Henson and his creations

Tuesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m. preceded by reception at 6:00 p.m.

Astoria, New York, September 24, 2013—Museum of the Moving Image and The Jim Henson Legacy will celebrate the publication of *Jim Henson: The Biography* (2013, Ballantine Books), by Brian Jay Jones, with a special event featuring a reception, screenings of rare clips, a panel discussion, and book signing on Tuesday, October 1. Jones’s eagerly awaited biography, written with the cooperation of Jim Henson’s family, covers the full arc of Henson’s all-too-brief life, exploring the creation of the Muppets, Henson’s contributions to *Sesame Street* and *Saturday Night Live*, his nearly ten-year campaign to bring *The Muppet Show* to television, and such non-Muppet projects as the richly imagined movies *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*.

This is the first event in a new monthly series *Jim Henson’s World*, featuring screenings and personal appearances relating to Henson’s prolific and unparalleled work in film and television. The programs will culminate in 2015 with the opening of a new gallery and exhibition devoted to exploring Henson’s creative process. The gallery will be the New York home for hundreds of puppets and artifacts donated by the family of Jim Henson. At the press conference announcing the new gallery and donation, hosted by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg this past May, the Museum launched a \$6 million fundraising campaign, of which \$3 million has already been raised primarily from The City of New York for the construction of the new gallery, including support from private donors.

The October 1 event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception in the Museum’s lobby, hosted by The Jim Henson Legacy and Random House. This will be followed by a program in the Redstone Theater with a panel discussion featuring some of the world’s leading experts on Henson’s life and his work. Participants include **Brian Jay Jones**,

author; **Fran Brill**, the beloved *Sesame Street* performer; **Bonnie Erickson**, Executive Director of The Jim Henson Legacy; **Dwight Bowers**, curator of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History; **Karen Falk**, archivist for The Jim Henson Company; and **Barbara Miller**, Curator of the Collection and Exhibitions for Museum of the Moving Image. The program, moderated by **Craig Shemin**, President of The Jim Henson Legacy, will include rare clips of Henson talk show appearances, a 35mm screening of Henson's Oscar-nominated experimental short film *Time Piece* (1965, 9 mins.), and other rarities.

Tickets for "Celebrating *Jim Henson: The Biography*" are \$20 public / \$12 Museum members. Advance tickets may be purchased online at movingimage.us or by phone at 718 777 6800.

A book signing will follow the theater program. Copies of *Jim Henson: The Biography* will be available for purchase in the Museum Store (Museum members receive a discount).

About The Jim Henson Legacy

The Jim Henson Legacy is a non-profit 501(C3) 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.

About Museum of the Moving Image

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 expanded and renovated 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.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

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.

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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