

# NEWS RELEASE

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Skirball Cultural Center celebrates the creative vision of Jim Henson in new exhibition

## THE JIM HENSON EXHIBITION: IMAGINATION UNLIMITED

June 1–September 2, 2018

Puppets from *Sesame Street*, *The Muppets*, *Fraggle Rock*, and *The Dark Crystal*, as well as handwritten scripts, costumes from *Labyrinth*, and more, are featured in this interactive exploration of the visionary entertainer's work

LOS ANGELES, CA—The Skirball Cultural Center has announced the June 1 opening of *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*, a dynamic new visitor experience exploring the legacy of Jim Henson (1936–1990). Featuring more than 100 objects drawn from the beloved worlds of *Sesame Street*, *The Muppets*, *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, *Labyrinth*, and much more, the traveling exhibition highlights Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television and his transformative impact on popular culture. It reveals how Henson—together with his team of builders, performers, and writers—created an unparalleled body of work that continues to delight and inspire people of all ages.

Organized by the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI), New York, *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited* will be at the Skirball through September 2. This traveling exhibition is a version of MoMI's ongoing *The Jim Henson Exhibition*, which is on view at its home in New York City.

At the Skirball, visitors will have the opportunity to view a broad range of artifacts, including more than twenty puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, photographs, film and television clips, behind-the-scenes footage, and costumes. Interactive stations will invite visitors to try their hand at puppeteering on camera and designing a puppet.

In keeping with its mission, the Skirball will delve into the social impact of Henson's work, illuminating his vision to forge human connections. In particular, the Skirball will highlight how Henson's characters and stories represent individuals and communities of diverse backgrounds and abilities, inspiring the public to look beyond differences and cultivate a more compassionate, inclusive world.

*The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited* begins with a brief look at Henson's early life through images of Henson as a young man and reproductions of some of his early drawings and sketches. It then follows the steady rise of his career—from early works and experiments to the famed worldwide brands of *Sesame Street*, *The Muppets*, and beyond. Highlights include:

- Kermit the Frog puppet from 1978
- Handwritten scripts from Henson's first television series, *Sam and Friends* (1955–1961)
- A clip from Henson's Academy Award–nominated experimental short film *Time Piece* (1965)
- Puppets from *Sesame Street* (1969– ), including Grover, Ernie and Bert, and Count von Count
- Section on *The Muppet Show* (1976–1981), including puppets of Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, Beaker, and Scooter, as well as material from the Muppets' transition to the big screen, such as set models and storyboards
- Jen and Kira puppets from *The Dark Crystal* (1982)
- Red Fraggle from *Fraggle Rock* (1983–1987), which celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary this year
- Jareth's and Sarah's ballroom costumes from *Labyrinth* (1986)

*The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited* is a traveling exhibition organized by Museum of the Moving Image (Astoria, NY) in cooperation with The Jim Henson Company, The Muppets Studio, and Sesame Workshop, and toured worldwide by Flying Fish. The exhibition features puppets and other objects donated to MoMI by the family of Jim Henson, plus works on loan from The Jim Henson Company's archives.

*The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited* made its world premiere at the Museum of Pop Culture, Seattle, May 2017–February 2018, in advance of the July 2017 debut of MoMI's permanent gallery dedicated to Henson.

### Opening Night Late Hours and Summertime Film Screenings

On Friday, June 1, 6:00–10:00 p.m., the Museum will be open for rare evening Museum hours. The public is welcome to enjoy the exhibition on opening night, as well as food trucks, a cash bar, DJ sets, and more TBA. Over the summer, the Skirball's annual Outdoor Film Screenings will feature *The Muppet Movie* (Friday, June 29, 8:30 p.m.) and *Labyrinth* (Friday, July 13, 8:30 p.m.). Tickets for these exhibition-related programs will be available for purchase in mid-April on [skirball.org](http://skirball.org).

**EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:** Information on press previews of *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited* at the Skirball will be announced in the coming weeks. A selection of images that may be used to illustrate editorial coverage of the exhibition is available by request.

### About the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is a place of meeting guided by the Jewish tradition of welcoming the stranger and inspired by the American democratic ideals of freedom and equality. We welcome people of all communities and generations to participate in cultural experiences that celebrate discovery and hope, foster human connections, and call upon us to help build a more just society.

### Visiting the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday 12:00–5:00 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays and holidays. Admission to exhibitions beginning March 1, 2016: \$12 General; \$9 Seniors, Full-Time Students, and Children over 12; \$7 Children 2–12. Exhibitions are always FREE to Skirball Members and Children under 2. Exhibitions are FREE to all visitors on Thursdays. For general information, the public may call (310) 440-4500 or visit [skirball.org](http://skirball.org).