

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART proudly presents the exhibition  
***Jim Henson's Fantastic World***

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December 19, 2009–March 14, 2010

*Jim Henson's Fantastic World* offers a rare glimpse into the imagination and creative genius of the multi-talented innovator and creator of beloved characters like Kermit the Frog, Big Bird, and hundreds of others. From the beginning, the Mississippi native expressed his ideas in incredible bursts of invention, through a variety of visual forms, clever dialogue, songs, comic bits, and animation. This exhibition presents original artwork, including drawings and cartoons, as well as other objects like puppets and movie props, all of which reveal the brilliant mind of their creator.

Two interactive Family Corners are integrated into the exhibition: “Jim Henson’s Fantastic Life” highlights Henson’s Mississippi roots and creative legacy, while “Visual Thinking” further explores Henson’s strategy of the same name. Other interactive opportunities provided by a grant from SITES include the option to “Take a Puppet on Tour”—guests may select a woodland creature puppet to accompany them on their tour, where Puppet Prompts spark creative discussion; and group tours that book at least two weeks in advance have the option to make use of puppet-led tours, featuring characters from the Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) publication *The Four Dog Blues Band*.

*Jim Henson's Fantastic World was organized by The Jim Henson Legacy and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the Henson family, The Jim Henson Company, The Muppets Studio, LLC, and Sesame Workshop. This exhibition is made possible by The Biography Channel. Additional support has been provided by The Jane Henson Foundation and Cheryl Henson.*

*Jim Henson's Fantastic World is sponsored locally by Donna and Jim Barksdale. Additional support is provided by Mississippi Public Broadcasting, The Clarion-Ledger, and Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau.*

### **Closer Look Gallery: The Mississippi Puppetry Connection**

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In addition to the featured Henson exhibition, a tandem exhibition focuses on puppetry in Mississippi with information on Mississippi Public Broadcasting’s (MPB) contributions to the art over the last forty years. Featured puppets may include Clyde Frog, R. B. Bug, and Dr. Ticktock, and children may present their own production at the puppet stage in the Closer Look Gallery. The installation culminates in a gallery about PBS’s award-winning television program for children “Between the Lions,” which is filmed in Jackson. The areas of “Location,” “Operation,” and “Creation” explain the process of developing puppets and their settings, and an actual library set piece from the program creates a welcoming reading nook for visitors.

*This collaboration between MMA, MPB, and WGBH is sponsored by Sanderson Farms.*

### **Volunteer Training Sessions** (open to current MMA volunteers and members)

Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 1-2 p.m.

Friday, December 18, 2009, 9:30-11 a.m.—Tour of Henson exhibition with curator Karen Falk

### **Resources for Teachers**

**VIP Tour**—Friday, December 18, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—Teachers are invited to participate in MMA’s volunteer training tour of *Jim Henson’s Fantastic World*, led by curator and archivist of the The Jim Henson Company Karen Falk.

**Evening for Educators**—January 5, 2010, 3-6 p.m.—Teachers may visit the museum for a free preview of the Henson exhibition. Museum educators will be available to answer questions, provide information, and book group tours

**Roadmap for Educators**—Educators from MMA and Mississippi Public Broadcasting have developed an online guide for teachers based on the Henson exhibition. This Roadmap directs educators to existing resources and ties those resources to the state and national arts education standards.

### **My Favorite Muppet**

The Museum invites people of all ages to share their favorite Muppet with us and our visitors! Top designs will be featured on placemats at MMA’s The Palette Café by Viking. Coloring sheets may be downloaded at [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org) or picked up at either our location or from one of the “My Favorite Muppet” sponsors. Completed designs should be returned to the Museum by December 1, 2009.

*Sponsored by the Greenville-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Jim Henson Delta Boyhood Exhibit, and Children’s Medical Group.*

## **PROGRAMS presented in conjunction with *Jim Henson’s Fantastic World***

**Press Conference**—Friday, December 18, 2009, 11 a.m.

**Opening Day**—Saturday, December 19, 2009, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

The Museum presents a family-friendly opening day celebration for all to enjoy! We encourage the community to visit the Museum to learn about Mississippi native and creative genius Jim Henson through gallery activities and other ongoing presentations. Visitors may interact with puppets based on characters from the Museum publication *The Four Dog Blues Band*, participate in art activities based on the exhibition, and watch art-related episodes of “Between the Lions,” among other fun and educational opportunities. Visitors may also view the annual holiday installation of the *Bethlehem Tree: Younger Foundation Crèche Collection*.

### **Jim Henson Film Festival**

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 3 p.m.—*Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas* (1977)

\$5 MMA Members, \$7 Non-members, \$3 ages 1–5

Tickets on sale at 601-960-1515 and [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)

*Sponsored by Atmos Energy*

### **Leland Day**

Saturday, January 9, 2010

In honor of the community that helped to raise Jim Henson, the MMA invites all current and former residents of Leland and Stoneville, Mississippi, to the *Jim Henson’s Fantastic World* exhibition. Special activities are offered, included a workshop, and panel discussion, and special appearances by residents who “knew him when...”

### **Jim Henson Film Festival**

Saturday, January 9, 2010, 6 p.m.—*The Muppet Movie* (1979)

\$5 MMA Members, \$7 Non-members, \$3 ages 1–5

Tickets on sale at 601-960-1515 and [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)

*Sponsored by Atmos Energy*

**“Between the Lions” Live Show**—Friday, January 29, 2010, 9 a.m.\* & 11 a.m.\*

*\*Friday performances are reserved for school groups.*

**“Between the Lions” Live Show**—Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. / \$15 per person (if you have already had your 1<sup>st</sup> birthday), per 30 minute show  
Ticketholders may attend a meet and greet photo session after the performance for an additional \$10.

The Museum and special partners MPB and WGBH present a world-class puppetry performance for the community. This special performance is guaranteed to captivate children and the young at heart. Theo, Cleo, Leona and Lionel make an appearance, along with the Dixie Chimps and the Vowelles.

*Sponsored by BancorpSouth.*

### **Jim Henson Film Festival**

Saturday, February 20, 2010, 6 p.m.—*The Dark Crystal* (1982)

\$5 MMA Members, \$7 Non-members, \$3 ages 1–5

Tickets on sale at 601-960-1515 and [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)

*Sponsored by Atmos Energy*

### **“A Daughter Remembers” presented by Heather Henson, artist and performer**

Thursday, March 4, 2010, 5:30 PM hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, 6 PM program

\$5 MMA members, \$10 Non-members, tickets for sale at the door

The youngest of Jane and Jim Henson's five children, Heather provides a rare glimpse into the life and extraordinary career of her father. Starting with his birth in Leland, Mississippi in 1936, Heather shares the remarkable story of an American icon, whose impact and importance continues to influence and entertain families around the world. A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Heather is the founder and president of IBEX, a design and performing company whose venues include film, television and the stage.

### **Labyrinth**

Friday, March 5, 2010, 6 PM doors open, 6:30 PM movie begins

\$5 MMA members, \$7 Non-Members, tickets for sale at the door

Get lost in the world of Labyrinth. Sing out loud with David Bowie in this Jim Henson fantasy romp. Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson, provides all the goodies that you need to become a goblin inside the Labyrinth. Blow bubbles, dodge Ludo's rocks, throw heads with the Fire Gang. So join Heather and company in this live costumed performance with dimensional environmental elements on this journey through the Labyrinth. Audience members are encouraged to attend in costume and to participate in singing, tossing and shouting. Come early and get your food and beverages in The Palette Cafe by Viking.

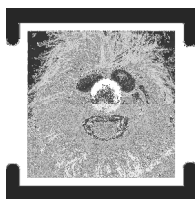
**Spring Family Day**—Saturday, March 6, 2010, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Come and enjoy free activities for the entire family inspired by the exhibition, *Jim Henson's Fantastic World*, featuring FREE hands-on art activities and FREE admission to the exhibition. The day features a special sing-along with *The Muppet Movie* at 2 PM led by Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson. Be a part of the rainbow connection and enjoy a day of family fun at the Mississippi Museum of Art. In addition, The Museum Store will offer Henson inspired door prizes throughout the day. *Sponsored by Regions, McDonald's, EastGroup Properties*

**High School Film Fest**—Saturday, March 6, 2009

High School Film Fest is an innovative program for students involving the creation of a short film inspired by Jim Henson's creativity. Students from Mississippi School of the Arts, Madison Central High School, and the Greenville Renaissance Scholars worked closely with the Museum and Mississippi Public Broadcasting on the puppetry project. The students' productions are filmed at

MPB studios, and the final products are screened at the Museum's annual Spring Family Day on March 6.



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART – 380 South Lamar Street – Jackson, MS 39201  
601.960.1515 – 866.VIEW ART – [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)