

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JIM HENSON'S CHARACTERS TAKE CENTER STAGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IN SCREENINGS AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE**

### **Part of the new monthly series *Jim Henson's World***

Astoria, New York, (updated December 5, 2013)—The imaginative, playful, and creative film and television work of Jim Henson will be celebrated every month by Museum of the Moving Image in the screening series *Jim Henson's World*, often featuring personal appearances by Henson's colleagues. Over the holidays, these screenings—a Rowlf™ retrospective over Thanksgiving and daily showings of *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*™ over Christmas—will also be complemented by family workshops focused on puppetry.

On December 8, the Museum will present a special screening of *Emmet Otter*, accompanied by guest speakers, as a tribute to two Henson colleagues who died in the past year: the beloved puppeteer and special effects designer Franz "Faz" Fazakas and longtime producer Diana Birkenfield. Please see below for descriptions and schedule.

In 2015, the Museum will open a permanent gallery devoted to the work of Jim Henson that will showcase many of the puppets, costumes, and other production materials, which were donated to the Museum by the family of Jim Henson.

Tickets for screenings are included with paid Museum admission (\$12 adults / \$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members); there is a materials fee for participating in the workshop. Museum members may reserve tickets in advance.

Programs in the series *Jim Henson's World*™ are organized by Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy. The Legacy is a non-profit 501(C)3 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 <http://www.jimhensonlegacy.org>.

MUPPET, MUPPETS and the Muppets Characters are registered trademarks of The Muppets Studio, LLC.

**Press contact:** Tomoko Kawamoto, [tkawamoto@movingimage.us](mailto:tkawamoto@movingimage.us) / 718 777 6830

## **SCHEDULE FOR 'JIM HENSON'S WORLD™,' FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013**

All screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria. Screenings are included with Museum admission and free for Museum members unless otherwise noted.

### SCREENING

#### **A Dog's Life: A Rowlf™ Retrospective**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29–SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1:00 P.M. DAILY

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the premiere of *The Jimmy Dean Show*™ which catapulted Rowlf the Dog™ to superstardom. In honor of that milestone, we celebrate Rowlf's greatest moments (and Jim Henson's greatest performances) from commercials, industrial films, variety shows and, of course, *The Muppet Show*™. They say every dog has his day—and this day is dedicated to the Muppets™'s favorite hound dog, Rowlf™.

### SCREENING AND TRIBUTE PROGRAM

#### ***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*™ and Tribute to "Faz" Fazakas and Diana Birkenfield**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1:00 P.M.

Dir. Jim Henson, 1978, 65 mins. This beloved television special 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 presentation of the program includes Kermit the Frog™'s segments, as well as rare outtakes and behind-the-scenes footage. The program will also feature tributes to two Henson colleagues who died in the past year; the beloved puppeteer and special effects designer Franz "Faz" Fazakas, who was the technological mastermind behind *Emmet Otter's* famous rowing sequence, and longtime producer Diana Birkenfield, whose work with Henson dates to *The Jimmy Dean Show*™. Guest speakers to be announced.

#### ***Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas***

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1:00 P.M. DAILY (EXCEPT FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25)

Dir. Jim Henson, 1978, 65 mins. This beloved television special 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. These presentations of the program include Kermit the Frog™'s segments, as well as rare outtakes and behind-the-scenes footage.

In addition to the screenings above, the Museum will also present holiday family workshops focused on puppetry:

## FAMILY WORKSHOP

### **Holiday Puppet Party Workshop**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21–MONDAY, DECEMBER 23; THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26–TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2:15 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M. DAILY

Recommended for ages 7 and older. Kids become puppet makers and performers in this hour-long holiday workshop. Using simple materials, children will design their own unique characters. Then, using techniques similar to those pioneered by the legendary puppeteer Jim Henson, they will take turns performing with them in a short televised puppet show.

**Materials fee: \$10 per child (\$5 for Family-level Museum members.)** Register at the admissions desk upon arrival at the Museum; spaces will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](http://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.

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. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be closed November 28 (Thanksgiving Day), December 24, and December 25; and open 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 23; Monday, December 30; Tuesday, December 31; and Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day).

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](http://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](http://movingimage.us).

###