

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Albuquerque Museum 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 ballroom costumes for Jareth and Sarah from *Labyrinth* featured in this exploration of the visionary entertainer's work

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Albuquerque Museum is pleased to announce *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*. Organized by Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI), the traveling exhibition will open on November 23, 2019 and remain on view through April 19, 2020.



PHOTO CAPTION: Jim Henson and his iconic creation Kermit the Frog, in front of a mural by Coulter Watt. Photo by John E. Barrett. Kermit the Frog © Disney/Muppets. Courtesy The Jim Henson Company/MoMI

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited is a dynamic new 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.

"We are fortunate to be able to bring this exhibition to New Mexico, not only because of the universal appeal of Jim Henson's creativity, but also because of the rich connections to Albuquerque and New Mexico," says Albuquerque Museum Director Andrew Connors. "Michael McCormick, one of Henson's collaborators and a globally lauded puppeteer lives in Albuquerque. Jim and Jane Henson and their children vacationed regularly in New Mexico and visited family members who lived here."

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.

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, and then follows his steady rise and immense contributions to the art and industry of the moving image. Highlights include a Kermit the Frog puppet from 1978; handwritten scripts from Henson's first television series, *Sam and Friends* (1955–1961); a clip from his Academy Award–nominated experimental film *Time Piece* (1965); Jen and Kira puppets from *The Dark Crystal* (1982); familiar *Sesame Street* puppets including Grover, Ernie, Bert, and Count von Count; plus costumes from *Labyrinth* (1986).

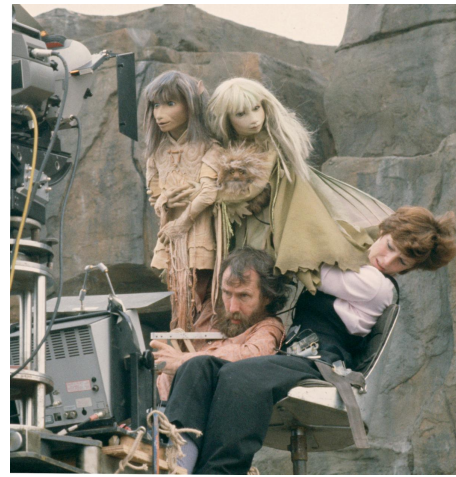


PHOTO CAPTION: Jim Henson and Kathryn Mullen performing the puppets Jen and Kira on the set of *The Dark Crystal* in 1981. Photograph by Murray Close. © The Jim Henson Company. Courtesy The Jim Henson Company / MoMI.

The exhibition prominently features an exploration of *The Muppet Show* (1976–1981) from a concept Henson first developed in the early 1960s to an internationally beloved series. This section features iconic puppets that helped define this world-wide brand, including Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, Beaker, and Scooter, as well as material from the Muppets' transition to the big screen, with set models and storyboards illustrating how sets were designed to accommodate puppets and performers.

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.

IF YOU GO

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited

On view at Albuquerque Museum
November 23, 2019–April 19, 2020
cabq.gov/henson

\$5 additional special exhibit surcharge for *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*. No surcharge for children 12 and under. Surcharge applies to all others, including members, and during free days and events at Albuquerque Museum.



PHOTO CAPTION: Ernie and Bert from the television series *Sesame Street*. Photo by John E. Barrett. © 2018, Sesame Workshop. Courtesy Sesame Workshop / MoMI.

About Albuquerque Museum

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday,



Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW
Albuquerque NM 87104
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cabq.gov/museum



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Cultural Services Department, City of Albuquerque

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays.

General Admission - New Mexico residents:
Adults and Teens \$5, Seniors \$4, Children \$3.

\$5 additional special exhibit surcharge for
*The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination
Unlimited.*

General Museum admission is free every
Sunday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., on the first
Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. - 5
p.m., and on the 3rd Thursday evening of
every month from 5-8:30 p.m.

Albuquerque Museum has served as the city's cultural center since 1967. Located in the heart of Old Town, the Museum is a leading institution for art, history and culture in the Southwest. Albuquerque Museum is a division of the Cultural Services Department, City of Albuquerque.

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