

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF 'SESAME STREET' WITH SCREENINGS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Events include *Sesame Street* Short Film Festival and a program of “Lost and Found” segments, with special guests including William Wegman, Sonia Manzano, and Bob McGrath

October–December 2019

Astoria, New York, October 2, 2019—The groundbreaking children's television series *Sesame Street* turns 50 this year. To celebrate this milestone, Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is presenting a series of events highlighting different aspects of the beloved series, including the “lost” segments that never aired, and a “film festival” of the short films that debuted as part of the program. The Museum's series, **Celebrating 50 Years of *Sesame Street***, will be accompanied by special guests including longtime cast members Bob McGrath and Sonia Manzano, William Wegman, and others.

On Sunday, November 10, MoMI will present a special screening of the premiere episode of *Sesame Street*, which aired on November 10, 1969. For a full schedule of events, see below or go to www.movingimage.us/sesamestreet50

“Through its ingenious mix of educational principles, infectious humor, and unforgettable human and puppet characters, *Sesame Street* has enriched the lives of millions of people around the world,” says Barbara Miller, Director of Curatorial Affairs. “MoMI is proud to be part of the year-long 50th anniversary celebration, and to be home to puppets from *Sesame Street*, on view in our ongoing Jim Henson Exhibition.”

Celebrating 50 Years of Sesame Street was organized by Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy, who will host most of the events.

Tickets (\$15 / \$11 seniors and students / \$9 youth ages 9–18 / free or discounted for Museum members) include admission to the Museum and access to *The Jim Henson Exhibition*, where a section devoted to *Sesame Street* features Big Bird, Elmo, Cookie Monster, and Prairie Dawn puppets.

SCHEDULE: 'CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SESAME STREET,' OCT–DEC 2019

All programs take place at Museum of the Moving Image, either in the Redstone Theater or the

36-01 35 Avenue Astoria, NY 11106 718 777 6800 movingimage.us

Bartos Screening Room. Tickets are available in advance online or at the Museum's front desk. Ticket purchase includes general museum admission.

The *Sesame Street* Short Film Festival

With William Wegman, John Dilworth, and Gene Barretta in person

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2:00 P.M.

Over the years, *Sesame Street's* producers commissioned hundreds of animated and live action short films for the show. This program includes classic and obscure shorts and a discussion with some of the filmmakers. Special Guests include William Wegman, who directed several short films featuring his dogs for *Sesame Street*; John Dilworth (*Noodles and Neddy*); and children's book author/illustrator Gene Barretta, who animated several shorts.

Sesame Street: The Premiere

With Bob McGrath, Frank Biondo, and Dick Maitland in person

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2:00 P.M.

On the actual date that marks the 50th anniversary of *Sesame Street's* debut, MoMI will present a screening of the first show with a special panel of guests including Bob McGrath (Bob), Frank Biondo (Camera Operator), and Dick Maitland (Sound Effects).

***Sesame Street* "Lost and Found"**

With Rosemarie Truglio and Norman Stiles in person

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2:00 P.M.

MoMI is cracking the vault wide open to take a look at rare footage of *Sesame Street* that never aired, was shelved after initial broadcast, or featured characters that have been retired. A panel of insiders will shed light on such stories as why Margaret Hamilton (who played the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*) never reappeared, and why viewers never saw Snuffy's parents get a divorce. Special guests include: Rosemarie Truglio (Sesame Workshop Senior VP of Curriculum and Content) and Norman Stiles (Former Head Writer)

Christmas Eve on Sesame Street

With Sonia Manzano in person

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Jon Stone. 1978. Digital projection. With Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Carroll Spinney, Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt, Linda Bove, Northern Calloway, Debbie Chen, Will Lee, Loretta Long, Sonia Manzano, Bob McGrath, Roscoe Orman. A special holiday screening of the beloved 1978 special, in which Big Bird deals with a major question (how does Santa fit down the chimney?) and Ernie & Bert face their own gift-giving dilemma. Special guests will be on hand to discuss the show and present clips from other Sesame Street holiday shows. Some lucky audience members will receive rare Sesame Street holiday gifts.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

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

stunning facility—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: Wed–Thurs, 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Fri, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$9 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum’s galleries. **New Release screenings are \$15** (discounted for Museum members, seniors, students, and youth)

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.