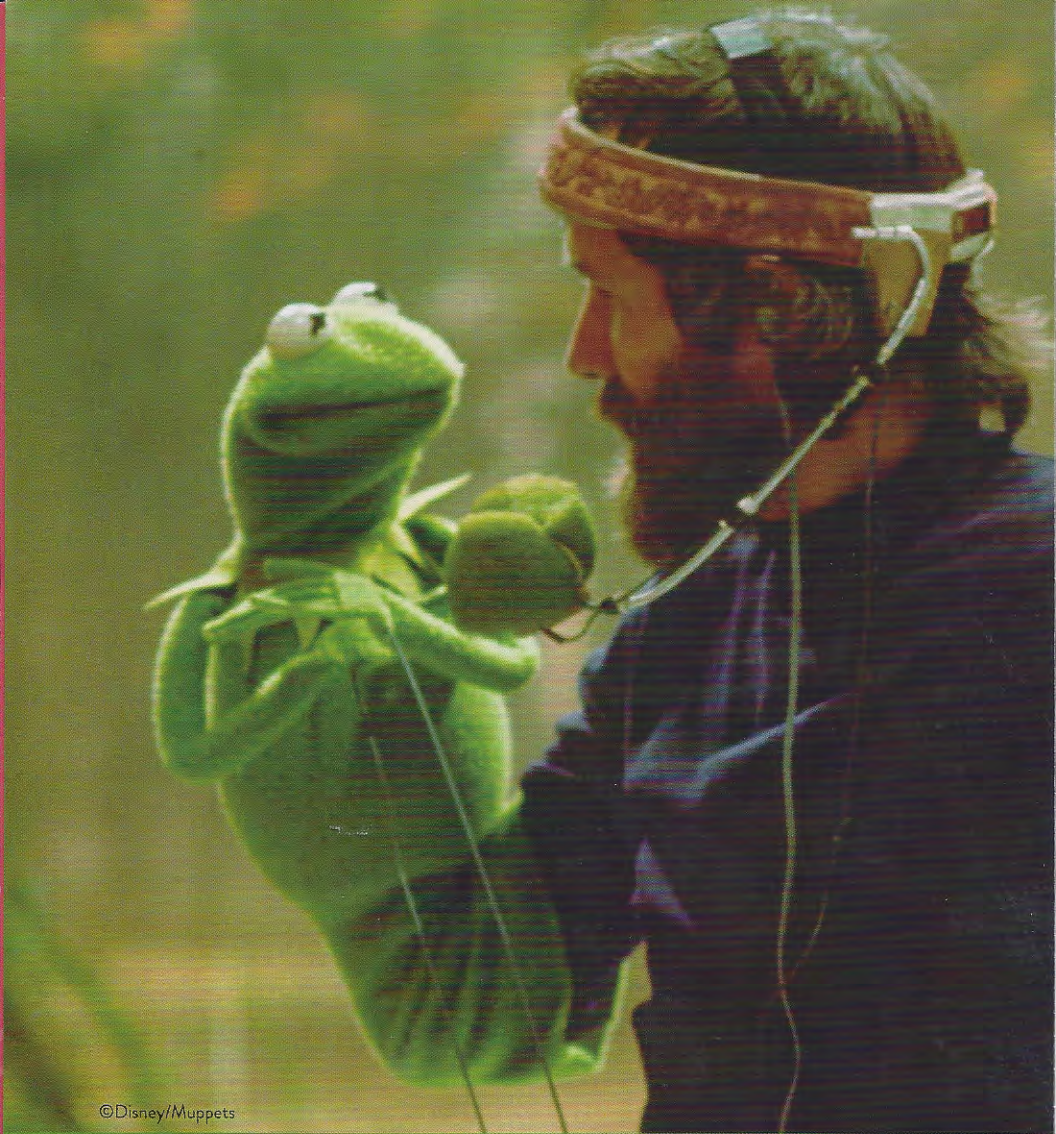


The **JIM**
HENSON
Exhibition

Imagination
Unlimited

June 1–September 2, 2018



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In his groundbreaking television shows and films, Jim Henson (1936–1990) brought to life characters representative of diverse cultures, genders, identities, and abilities—enlisting the power of empathy to help viewers identify with those who are different from themselves. Henson’s imaginary worlds continue to inspire generations of children to understand that diversity makes the fabric of our shared community stronger.



SESAME STREET

SESAME STREET (1969–PRESENT)

The residents of Sesame Street are a community of compassionate and widely diverse characters who celebrate one another's uniqueness. Since *Sesame Street's* revolutionary debut on public television during the height of the civil rights movement, the show has been both deeply reassuring to children and an example of how to find common ground with neighbors seemingly unlike ourselves.

As children encounter and absorb opinions about what is considered “normal,” who belongs, and what beliefs are valued in our society, *Sesame Street* models how to respect social, political, cultural, and racial differences without sacrificing connectedness.

GROVER (DEBUTED 1970)

Grover, *Sesame Street's* lovable, furry blue monster, exudes childlike exuberance. Like so many children, he embodies both confidence and an endearing vulnerability, as well as an open-minded eagerness to help. Failure never breaks his spirit—Grover has amazing perseverance and optimism. This is especially evident in Grover's alter ego, “Super Grover.” While he may not always solve every problem, Super Grover's free-spirited approach inspires children to think creatively about how to help themselves.



ERNIE AND BERT (DEBUTED 1969)

On *Sesame Street*, Ernie and Bert show us that friends can have different likes and dislikes and yet still be best buddies. Even though jokester Ernie might annoy orderly Bert nearly to the breaking point, they find ways to embrace their similarities and differences. They help each other see the perspective of others as well as understand and express conflicting emotions. Ernie and Bert know one thing is key to keeping a friendship through thick or thin: forgiveness. Also—and just as important—laughing together!

KERMIT THE FROG (DEBUTED 1955)

“It’s not easy being green,” says Kermit the Frog, inviting us to understand that everyone feels vulnerable sometimes, that our appearance doesn’t define us, and that it’s good to embrace who we are and to share our feelings with others. He models self-acceptance, which is at the root of authentically connecting with ourselves and others.



The MUPPET SHOW

THE MUPPET SHOW (1976–1981)

The Muppet Show stars an eclectic cast of Muppet entertainers who produce a weekly comedy variety show at the Muppet Theater. Despite their peculiar all-too-human personalities and frequent conflicts, the Muppets inevitably band together to save their show from near-certain disaster in almost every episode. *The Muppet Show* demonstrates key messages for an all-ages audience who often watch the show together, especially the value of working together across different talents, viewpoints, and even species to cooperate for a greater goal.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW AND BEAKER (DEBUTED 1976 AND 1977)

Being angry when our friends make mistakes is far less important than sharing in friendships. Even though Dr. Honeydew is disappointed with his hapless assistant Beaker when Muppet Labs science experiments and demonstrations go awry, Dr. Honeydew is quick to forgive his friend. He knows that they need to stick together as a professional team and as close companions.



LABYRINTH (1986)

The feature film *Labyrinth*, created for older kids and adults, shows us the value of responsibility towards family. Sarah is a frustrated teenager tired of babysitting her half-brother, Toby. But she quickly regrets her wish that he disappear when the evil Goblin King, Jareth, snatches Toby away to his dark castle. Determined to rescue Toby before time runs out, Sarah must outsmart the endless traps of Jareth's terrifying labyrinth with bravery, calm, and the help of a group of unlikely creature friends.



THE DARK CRYSTAL (1982)

The Dark Crystal demonstrates the disastrous consequences that arise when division shatters harmony. In *The Dark Crystal*, the greedy Skeksis have banished their better halves, the gentle Mystics, in order to rule with impunity. Jen, a Gelfling whose race has all but been wiped out by the evil Skeksis, discovers that he holds the key to healing the planet—reuniting a shard of the broken crystal that split the powerful group into two. His act of courage brings harmony to this divided world. The film is an allegory on the destructive force of division and the healing power of unity.



FRAGGLE ROCK (1983–1987)

Created with the bold intention of providing an emphatic model of world peace, the characters in the children's television series *Fraggle Rock* show us that cross-cultural conflict resolution is possible between interdependent groups with different ways of life. Playful Fraggles, industrious Doozers, and greedy Gorgs all depend on the same resource—radishes. To survive, these three societies of creatures must learn to resolve their conflicts and appreciate each other's differences and contributions.



Related PROGRAMS

SKIRBALL AFTER HOURS

Late Night! *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*

Friday, June 1, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR FILM

The Muppet Movie

Friday, June 29, 8:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR FILM

Labyrinth

Friday, July 13, 8:30 p.m.

FILM AND Q&A

Muppet Guys Talking

Featuring a Q&A with puppeteer
Bill Barretta

Tuesday, August 7, 7:30 p.m.

Additional programs may be announced;
visit skirball.org for updates.

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, and toured worldwide by Flying Fish. 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.

**MUSEUM
OF THE
MOVING
IMAGE**



FLYING FISH

The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited and its related educational programs at the Skirball Cultural Center are made possible in part by generous support from the following donors:

Cheryl Henson

The Jane Henson Foundation

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#jimhensonexhibition @skirball_la

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