

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Muppet Babies Take MoMI presented by Bank of America” offers fun activities for families on June 21 and 22

Newly restored puppets, including three Muppet Babies, will be on view at Museum of the Moving Image during a weekend of family-friendly activities



Pictured: restored Muppet Babies, courtesy of MoMI / Muppets characters ©Disney

Astoria, New York, June 4, 2025 — As part of its Open Worlds 2025 free community programs, on June 21 and 22, Museum of the Moving Image will host “Muppet Babies Take MoMI presented by Bank of America,” a weekend of fun and educational activities for families, anchored by the exhibition of newly restored puppets, including Muppet Babies puppets of Kermit the Frog, Baby Gonzo, and Baby Rowlf, in the Museum lobby. Visitors are invited to take photos with the puppets, participate in hands-on workshops, listen to live music from John Koozin and the Neighborhood, attend a panel discussion with Jim Henson’s Creature Shop about puppet conservation, and more!

“We are so grateful to have Bank of America’s support to preserve these historic puppets,” said Barbara Miller, the Museum’s Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. “We’re delighted to present them to the public during this fun weekend, and to share the story of MoMI’s ongoing collaboration with Jim Henson’s Creature Shop. “

To help preserve important artifacts and works of art for future generations of museumgoers, Bank of America partners with cultural institutions in New York City and beyond to support conservation efforts. In partnership with the bank, the Museum turned to Jim Henson's Creature Shop to restore ten puppets from its extensive collection of artifacts related to the career of legendary puppeteer and filmmaker Jim Henson. The restored puppets include those made for innovative television commercials and variety show appearances in the early 1960s; several characters from *The Muppet Show* (1976–1981) including Camilla the Chicken; and three Muppet Babies, which first appeared in a flashback scene in *The Muppets Take Manhattan* (1984). During the restoration process, the puppets were cleaned, given mounts to prepare them for exhibition, and had foam replaced to ensure they remain physically stable. None of these puppets have been in the public eye for decades; this initiative will enable visitors to explore Henson's legacy and delightfully unique body of work.

"Museum of the Moving Image is one of our city's treasures, and partnering with it to share the newly restored Muppet Babies and the magic of Jim Henson's beloved characters with families and visitors of all ages is a true joy," said Connie Verducci, market executive, Bank of America New York City. "The Muppets' place in history and their emotional connection to so many underscores the importance of conserving meaningful pieces of our cultural past."

In its grand Redstone Theater, the Museum will also present matinee screenings of *The Muppets Take Manhattan* (1984), which features the Muppet Babies in their feature-film debut. In addition, visitors can visit *The Jim Henson Exhibition* in the Museum's galleries (paid admission required), to see more than 50 puppets on view from every phase of Henson's career.

Schedule for "Muppet Babies Take MoMI presented by Bank of America"

Unless noted, all programs are free and take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, NY 11106. More information at www.movingimage.org

Saturday, June 21

1:00–5:00 p.m. **"Choose Your Own Adventure" hands-on workshops**

Featuring four different activities, including:

- **Draw Yourself as a Baby Muppet:** Kids can contribute their own Muppet Babies drawing to be displayed in the Museum's classroom space
- **Paper Bag / Plate Muppets:** DIY puppet-making workshop
- **Green Screen Station:** Bring your puppet to life in front of camera with an imaginative setting created using (green) screen. Led by MoMI Puppeteer in Residence Brian T. Carson.

1:00 p.m. **Screening: *The Muppets Take Manhattan*** (ticket required)

3:00–5:00 p.m. **Live music by John Koozin and the Neighborhood in the Kaufman Courtyard**

Sunday, June 22

1:00 p.m. **Screening: *The Muppets Take Manhattan*** (ticket required)

3:30 p.m. Jim Henson’s Creature Shop Panel Discussion

Jason Weber, Creative Supervisor, along with two other puppet builders from Jim Henson’s Creature Shop, in conversation with MoMI Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs Barbara Miller, discussing the process of puppet building and conservation.

“Muppet Babies Take MoMI presented by Bank of America” is part of the Museum’s Open Worlds initiative, which invites the public to use the building’s first-floor spaces as a free, accessible, 15,500-square-foot, climate-controlled, WiFi-enabled community resource. Visitors of all ages are able to convene, find creative inspiration, learn about and experience new media technologies, or participate in many diverse programming selections. Launched in May 2024, MoMI’s Open Worlds continues to offer one of the largest free community spaces in Queens. Programmatic support for Open Worlds is provided by the William Fox, Jr. Foundation. [See the 2025 schedule of events.](#)

About Museum of the Moving Image

Founded in 1985, MoMI celebrates the history, art, technology, and future of the moving image in all of its forms. Located in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation’s most comprehensive collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about MoMI, visit movingimage.org.

###

Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, MoMI, tkawamoto@movingimage.org

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 Kathy Hochul 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).