



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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JIM HENSON SPECIAL EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

ATLANTA, September, 2007 – On the heels of announcing the planned Jim Henson Wing, the Center for Puppetry Arts will present a new special exhibit, *Jim Henson: Puppeteer*, beginning Tuesday, September 25, 2007 and continuing through August 3, 2008.

This exhibit will feature many puppets that Jim performed and created including Ernie, Rowlf the Dog, the La Choy Dragon, Dr. Teeth, Swedish Chef, Bugsy Them and others. In addition to these familiar puppets the exhibit features personal archival photographs, seldom seen designs and doodles, sketches, quotes and a behind-the-scenes video.

Jim Henson: Puppeteer is one in a series of anticipated special exhibitions opening prior to the proposed Jim Henson Wing in 2012. This unique display provides a glimpse of Jim Henson's many joyful creations that will be on view in the years to come.

The opening of *Jim Henson: Puppeteer* comes at a special time for the Center family. September 23, 2007 marks the 29th anniversary of opening day at the Center for Puppetry Arts, when Jim Henson and Kermit the Frog cut the ceremonial ribbon. "As we enter our 30th year it is only fitting that the Henson family continues with us in this remarkable journey to bring a world class puppetry museum to Atlanta for the entire world to enjoy," said Vince Anthony, Executive Director at the Center. "The opportunity to have the Jim Henson Wing as part of our future is a rare gift that challenges the Center and the community to make this dream come true."

Recently it was announced that the Jim Henson family, with the support of The Jim Henson Legacy, chose the Center as the proposed home for their definitive collection honoring Jim Henson. After hearing that the Center received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to re-imagine their permanent museum space, Cheryl Henson and the Henson family approached them with a proposal to add the Jim Henson Wing to the project with the stipulation that the gift of the collection be contingent on the Center raising the funds to build a wing to house and exhibit it.

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Although the Center has not yet begun its major capital campaign, donations are being accepted for the current phase of this developing project. Right now, a comprehensive facility development planning process charting the size, scope and parameters of the future museum, theater, and educational facility needs is nearing completion. The results of this process will lay the ground work for the major capital campaign. The Center hopes that special exhibits like ***Jim Henson: Puppeteer*** will engage the community and highlight the importance of making the Jim Henson Wing a reality.

The Center's museum hours are Tuesday – Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 11am-5pm. Museum Admission is included with all New Directions Series and Family Series performance tickets. If you would like to gain admission to the museum independent of a performance, please call the Ticket Office at 404.873.3391 for details.

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For updates on this continuing project and more information on Jim Henson, visit our web site at www.puppet.org

The Center for Puppetry Arts: The Center for Puppetry Arts is a non-profit, 501(C3) organization and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; the Georgia Council for the Arts, through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly (GCA is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts); and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Major funding for the Center is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Major support is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. The Center is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts. The Center also serves as headquarters of UNIMA-USA.

The Jim Henson Legacy: Established in 1992, The Jim Henson Legacy was created by family and friends in response to the extraordinary interest in the life and work of Jim Henson. The non-profit 501(C3) organization is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating Jim Henson's contributions to the worlds of puppetry, television and motion pictures, special effects and media technology. By making Jim's creative body of work available to the public through presentation and exhibits, the Legacy will share the power of his art, his imagination and his positive view of life with generations to come. Please visit our website: www.jimhensonlegacy.org.