



Jim Henson: The Works - The Art, the Magic, the Imagination

By Christopher Finch



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The ultimate gift for Muppet lovers everywhere, this extraordinary tribute celebrates 40 years of Henson's creative genius--from his best-known inventions to his lesser known but equally fascinating notions for everything from designs for futuristic nightclubs and homes to experimental films. 500 color illus.



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Editorial Review

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At the time of his death in 1990, Jim Henson had created some of the world's most beloved characters, invigorated the d{,}emod{,}e art of puppeteering, and achieved in TV and films critical and commercial success unheard of since the heyday of Walt Disney. This oversize, colorful volume, sure to delight Henson's many fans, traces his career from local TV in the mid-1950s through the triumphs of *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, his leap into movies (*The Muppet Movie*, *The Dark Crystal*, etc.), and late projects like *Fraggle Rock*. The book also covers Henson's little-known forays into experimental film and the contributions of his Creature Shop puppetmakers to non-Henson movies. The authorized nature of this project gave Finch access to fascinating archival materials, such as behind-the-scenes photos. Unfortunately, it also results in an annoying lack of critical detachment and a one-dimensional portrait of Henson. Even so, Finch convincingly portrays Henson's visionary dedication to the craft of puppetry. The continuing popularity of Kermit, Big Bird, and Henson's other creations ensures that this showcase of them will be in demand for many years to come. *Gordon Flagg*

About the Author

Christopher Finch was born and raised on the island of Guernsey in the British Channel Islands. He lived in London and Paris before moving to New York City in the late 1960s, the setting of *Good Girl, Bad Girl*. After working as a freelance writer and artist in New York for more than two decades, he moved to Los Angeles, where he continues to write and make art. Christopher has mounted one-man shows in both New York and Los Angeles, and his work has been included in museum exhibitions. He has occasionally written for television; his Judy Garland biography, *Rainbow*, was made into a movie for television. He is married to Linda Rosenkrantz, who is an author and the cofounder of the website [nameberry.com](#). They have a daughter named Chloe.

James Maury "Jim" Henson (September 24, 1936 May 16, 1990) was an American puppeteer, artist, cartoonist, Imagineer, inventor, screenwriter, film director and producer, best known as the creator of The Muppets. As a puppeteer, Henson performed in various television programs, such as *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, films such as *The Muppet Movie* and *The Great Muppet Caper*, and created advanced puppets for projects like *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Labyrinth*. He was also an Academy Award-nominated film director (for his short film *Time Piece*), Emmy Award-winning television producer, and the founder of The Jim Henson Company, the Jim Henson Foundation, and Jim Henson's Creature Shop. Jerry Juhl was an American television, movie writer, and Jim Henson's frequent writing partner, best known for his work with Jim Henson's "Muppets."

HARRY BELAFONTE is known worldwide for his achievements as a singer, actor and producer and for his commitment to human rights. Beginning with the American civil rights movement in the 1950 s, he has established a long and distinguished record of human rights advocacy. In the early 1950s, Belafonte developed a strong relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Belafonte worked tirelessly to mobilize artists in support of the civil rights movement. Mr. Belafonte spent an increasing amount of the 1970s and 1980s as a tireless humanitarian. In 1985, he again rallied the global artistic community to raise awareness of the famines, wars and droughts plaguing many African nations. USA for Africa raised more than \$60 million for this cause with "We Are the World" and Hands Across America. A longtime anti-apartheid activist, Belafonte hosted former South African President Nelson Mandela on his triumphant visit to the United States. He remains active within the South African community to this day.

Candice Bergen's film credits include "The Sand Pebbles", "Carnal Knowledge", "Starting Over "(for which she received an Oscar nomination)", "and "Miss Congeniality". On television, she made headlines as the tough-talking broadcast journalist and star of "Murphy Brown", for which she won five Emmys and two Golden Globes. She later starred with James Spader and William Shatner in the critically acclaimed series "Boston Legal".

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