

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

CALENDAR ADVISORY (SEPTEMBER 27, 2023)

SCARY MOVIES AND HALLOWEEN FUN AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

New exhibit of materials from William Friedkin's *The Exorcist* to go on view in the core exhibition *Behind the Screen*

October 15: Hip-Hop & Halloween Family Day with free admission for kids

October 15–29: Screenings of spooky films for families and horror films for mature audiences

October 28–29: Cult horror film series *The Spawn of Pazuzu*

November 2: Day of the Dead Celebration



This October and early November, Museum of the Moving Image is pleased to surprise and delight visitors with exhibits, screenings, and other events embracing the spirit of Halloween and autumn's spooky season. A major highlight is ***Horrible Sites: Makeup and Production Design for The Exorcist***, a new exhibit featuring materials from the Museum's collection relating to William Friedkin's groundbreaking 1973 horror film, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, opening October 4 within the core exhibition *Behind the Screen*.

Kicking off fall's family-friendly events, MoMI will host a **Hip-Hop & Halloween Family Day** on October 15, with free admission for kids (ages 17 and under), featuring spooktacular mediamaking activities, face painting by local artist The Cheeky

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Chipmunk, and karaoke organized around a matinee of *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (ticket included with paid admission or available separately). Halloween-related screenings in October include ***The Witches*** (Oct. 20, 21, 27), the special compilation “**Halloween with The Muppet Show**” (Oct. 22), and ***Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*** (Oct. 28, 29, Nov. 3). Then, on November 2, the Museum invites all to a free community celebration of the Mexican holiday **Day of the Dead / Día de Muertos** with performances of Aztec Mexica dance, poetry, and music, hosted by Rosa Ruíz and Catrinamía; followed by a screening of Guillermo del Toro’s ***The Devil’s Backbone*** (this R-rated film is recommended for teens and adults; ticket purchase required for the film).

In addition to Family Day, on October 28 and 29, children in Halloween costumes (ages 17 and under) will receive free Museum admission.

For mature audiences, the Museum will present a cornucopia of horror and suspense films from October 20–29, including Kiyoshi Kurosawa’s ***Pulse***, ***Unfriended: Dark Web***, ***We’re All Going to the World’s Fair*** (with director Jane Schoenbrun in person Oct. 22), ***Lake Mungo***, M. Night Shyamalan’s ***The Village***, and John Carpenter’s ***Ghosts of Mars***. We will also present ***The Spawn of Pazuzu***, a special edition of cult and underground film–focused series Disreputable Cinema, with five films featuring demonic possession inspired by *The Exorcist*: ***976-EVIL***, ***1974: The Possession of Altair***, ***Demons***, ***Devil Fetus***, and ***The Exorcist III***.

Please find schedule and descriptions below and online at movingimage.us/halloween-at-momi/

SCHEDULE & DESCRIPTIONS

All programs take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, Queens, NY. General admission (\$10–\$20) includes a ticket to one same-day film screening.

Family-friendly programs will be noted as such below.

NEW EXHIBIT

Horrible Sites: Makeup and Production Design for The Exorcist

Opening October 4, in *Behind the Screen*

The Exorcist is widely considered one of the scariest films ever made. Released in 1973, the film, which pits the Catholic church against a demon for control of a young girl’s soul, has shocked and fascinated generations of viewers. Directed by William Friedkin and written by William Peter Blatty, adapting his own best-selling 1971 novel, the film made an essential contribution to the horror genre. With material drawn from MoMI’s permanent collection, this exhibit explores the film’s production and makeup design,

with the mechanical doll created by Dick Smith and Marcel Vercoutere and featured in an iconic scene of demonic possession taking center stage in the exhibit.

EVENTS

Hip-Hop & Halloween Family Day

Sunday, October 15, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

FREE MUSEUM ADMISSION FOR KIDS (THROUGH AGE 17)

MoMI presents an afternoon of family-friendly activities to celebrate 50 years of hip-hop music and to get in the mood for Halloween! Organized around a screening of the hip-hop-infused musical film *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*, which stars Whoopi Goldberg and Lauryn Hill, Family Day invites you to take part in karaoke (sing a song from the film or choose a spooky tune); get your face painted by local makeup artist the Cheeky Chipmunk; play a hip-hop video game and animate a dance scene; or green-screen yourself into a scene from the film! Plus, visitors are welcome to explore the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition* to look for furry monsters, famous costumes, makeup materials, and more. (Please note: some sections of *Behind the Screen* contain materials that may be scary for younger visitors; our visitor experience associates can point out these areas in advance.) [Event info](#)
Recommended for all ages

Day of the Dead Celebration / Día de Muertos

Thursday, November 2, 4:00–6:30 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Celebrate Day of the Dead at MoMI with performances of Aztec Mexica dance, poetry, music from indigenous dance troupe Yayauhki Tezcatlipoka, and a face-painting session inspired by historical characters from Día de Muertos. All ages are welcome to explore the Museum's ofrenda, a public altar honoring ancestors, in the Museum's courtyard, followed by a catrina and catrin contest hosted by artist historian Rosa Ruíz and Catrinamía. Visitors are welcome to arrive early to explore the Museum's galleries, which are open for free beginning at 2:00 p.m. Drop-in media and game labs offer hands-on activities for all ages. [Event info](#)

At 6:30 p.m. the Museum will present a screening of Guillermo del Toro's horror film *The Devil's Backbone* (recommended for teens and adults) in the Redstone Theater. See below for details.

SCREENINGS

The Witches

Friday, Oct. 20, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 27, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Nicolas Roeg. 1990, 91 mins. 35mm. With Anjelica Huston, Mai Zetterling, Rowan Atkinson. A singular collaboration between filmmaker Roeg (*The Man Who Fell to Earth*) and visionary artist Jim Henson, *The Witches* adapts one of Roald Dahl's most frightful books for children with phantasmagoric gusto. The film features extraordinary makeup artistry and puppetry by Jim Henson's Creature Shop. Presented as part of the series Four Fantastic Tales by Roald Dahl. [Event info](#)
Recommended for ages 8+

“Halloween with The Muppet Show”

Introduced by series programmer Craig Shemin, President of The Jim Henson Legacy
Sunday, Oct. 22, 1:00 p.m.

Three season-appropriate episodes of *The Muppet Show* will be shown, starting with a tribute to the late Alan Arkin with his season four appearance. In it, Arkin accidentally ingests Dr. Bunsen Honeydew's “Jekyll-Hyde” formula and finds himself transformed into a vicious bunny-throwing beast. Next, legendary supermodel and actress Twiggy finds herself among those terrorized by the Phantom of *The Muppet Show* (Uncle Deadly). Finally, it isn't a Muppet Halloween without Vincent Price, who brings his distinguished, albeit eerie, personality to The Muppet Theater for some frightful fun. The Muppet Show episodes are screened courtesy of Muppets Studio and The Walt Disney Company. Presented as part of the series Jim Henson's World. [Event info](#)
Recommended for ages 8+

Batman: Mask of the Phantasm

Saturday, Oct. 28, 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3, 3:00 p.m.

Dirs. Eric Radomski, Bruce Timm. 1993, 76 mins. 35mm. With the voices of Kevin Conroy, Mark Hamill, Dana Delany, Hart Bochner, Stacy Keach, Abe Vigoda. A cult favorite and perhaps the most faithful transposition of the Batman character from comic book to film, this animated film was a feature-length expansion of *Batman: The Animated Series* following its successful first season in 1992. Presented as part of the series World of Animation. [Event info](#)
Recommended for ages 8+

Lake Mungo

Friday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Joel Anderson. 2008, 87 mins. With Rose Traynor, Martin Sharpe, David Pledger, Talia Zucker. One of the most creative, unexpected, and chilling paranormal thrillers of the twenty-first century, *Lake Mungo*, takes the form of a traditional documentary, evoking the *Unsolved Mysteries* model, to tell a story in testimonials and “found” footage of a young woman who drowned during a family vacation and whose parents and sibling believe has returned to haunt them. Presented as part of the series *Reverse Shot* at 20. [Event info](#)

Ghosts of Mars

Friday, Oct. 20, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1:00 p.m.

Dir. John Carpenter. 2001, 98 mins. 35mm. With Jason Statham, Pam Grier, Natasha Henstridge, Ice Cube. On Mars, a prisoner escort force uncovers a mining colony that has been taken over by a hostile, seemingly feral group of raiders in Carpenter's sci-fi horror western. They soon discover that a more mysterious and evil force is at play and are forced to band together to escape from an ancient Martian civilization. Presented as part of the series Real Rap: Hip-Hop Star Power on Screen. [Event info](#)

The Village

Saturday, Oct. 21, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. M. Night Shyamalan. 2004, 108 mins. 35mm. With Bryce Dallas Howard, Joaquin Phoenix, Sigourney Weaver, William Hurt, Adrien Brody. M. Night Shyamalan's most conceptually complex, intricately patterned film is a Bush-era political allegory that also evokes the literature of Hawthorne and Irving in its deeply American fears of the unknown. Presented as part of the series Reverse Shot at 20. [Event info](#)

Unfriended: Dark Web

Sunday, Oct. 22, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Stephen Susco. 2018. 92 mins. DCP. The best and scariest of the new "desktop horror" subgenre of films is *Unfriended: Dark Web*, in which a young man makes the very bad mistake of bringing home a discarded laptop from a coffee house. Presented as part of the series Reverse Shot at 20. [Event info](#)

We're All Going to the World's Fair

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2:30 p.m. with director Jane Schoenbrun in person

Saturday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Dir. Jane Schoenbrun. 2021, 86 mins. DCP. With Anna Cobb, Michael J. Rogers. Schoenbrun's feature debut uses the textures and trappings of the horror genre to descend into a striking depiction of a particularly 21st-century loneliness. Presented as part of the series Reverse Shot at 20. [Event info](#)

Pulse

Sunday, Oct. 22, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct 27, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Kiyoshi Kurosawa. 2001, 119 mins. 35mm. In Japanese with English subtitles. Kiyoshi Kurosawa's master class in alienated dread spawned a U.S. remake, but the original remains the best of the internet-horror subgenre and one of the most terrifying movies ever made. Presented as part of the series *Reverse Shot* at 20. [Event info](#)

The Devil's Backbone

Thursday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.

Preceded by a free community celebration of the Day of the Dead (4:00–6:30 p.m.)

Dir. Guillermo del Toro. 2001, 106 mins. 35mm. In Spanish with English subtitles. With Marisa Paredes, Eduardo Noriega, Federico Luppi. Directed by Oscar-winning Mexican filmmaker del Toro, *The Devil's Backbone* is an emotional and beautifully crafted horror film that depicts the intersection between longing for loved ones who have passed away and the hope for their return. Set during the Spanish Civil War, it takes place amid a climate of extreme violence and features unforgettable imagery that is at once frightening and delicate. [Event info](#)

SERIES

Disreputable Cinema: The Spawn of Pazuzu

October 28–29

1974: The Possession of Altair

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2:00 p.m.

Dir. Victor Dryere. 2016, 82 mins. DCP. With Diana Bovio, Rolando Breme, Guillermo Callahan, Blanca Alarcón, Rubén González Garza. Newlyweds Altair and Manuel's idyllic life is interrupted when Manuel gifts Altair a small dog named Carlo. Soon, Altair inexplicably becomes distant and erratic, claiming she is being visited by angels. First-time filmmaker Dryere utilizes analog technology and the gimmick of found-footage horror to create warm, foggy imagery that expertly shocks and scares. [Event info](#)

976-EVIL

Saturday, Oct. 28, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Robert Englund. 1988, 92 min. 35mm. With Stephen Geoffreys, Patrick O'Bryan. An unpopular and bullied teenager discovers a mysterious ad promising to provide daily "horoscopes" to those who call—and finds himself endowed with new demonic powers. This '80s horror cult favorite directed by Freddy Krueger himself, Robert Englund, is a zany, gory snapshot of suburban fears over new technologies and outcast teenagers left alone to their own devices amidst the decade's infamous "Satanic Panic." [Event info](#)

Demons

Saturday, Oct 28, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Lamberto Bava. 1985, 88 min. 35mm. With Natasha Hovey, Michele Soavi. While attending the premiere of a horror movie, two friends find themselves trapped in the cinema from hell. A collaboration by producer Dario Argento and director Bava, *Demons* is a marvel of bloody special effects by two Italian horror maestros that satirizes the idea that the Devil is lurking in every corner of the pop culture young people consume, waiting to corrupt and possess them. [Event info](#)

Devil Fetus

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2:00 p.m.

Dir. Hung-Chuen Lau. 1983, 84 mins. 35mm. With Shirley Lu, Eddie Chan. A woman is seduced and impregnated by a demon that inhabits an ancient relic, the evil growing inside her until it ultimately takes her life. At her funeral, the woman's surviving family is instructed to build a shrine and protect her remains until her spirit is freed. Twelve years later, just before the curse is lifted, the shrine is desecrated, and the demon returns to wreak havoc. Rarely seen stateside since its release, *Devil Fetus* is a zany, sleazy, and ambitious Hong Kong horror movie featuring stop-motion monsters, show-stopping makeup effects, and a scene-stealing, demon-battling, martial artist holy man. [Event info](#)

The Exorcist III

Sunday, Oct. 29, 3:45 p.m.

Dr. William Peter Blatty. 1990, 110 mins. 35mm. With George C. Scott, Ed Flanders, Jason Miller, Scott Wilson, Brad Dourif. Blatty, author of the original novel and screenplay, steps into the director's chair to craft the definitive sequel to *The Exorcist*, set 15 years later. [Event info](#)

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility 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 largest 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 the MoMI, visit movingimage.us.

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Top image: Angelica Huston in *The Witches* (courtesy of Park Circus).

Press contacts:

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 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.

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: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member 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 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). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.