



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

Christopher Finch , Jim Henson , Justine Strasberg (Designed by) , Candice Bergen (Introduction) , Harry Belafonte (Introduction) , Frank Oz (Introduction)

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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.

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

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From Reader Review Jim Henson: The Works: The Art, the Magic, the Imagination for online ebook

Kermitt says

4.3 stars

Plenty of photographs and information about all of Jim Henson's creations.

Erin Phelps says

That rating is not a reflection of the content of the book. I love Jim Henson. I would seriously consider naming a child after him (Henson, not Jim). Having said that, this book is as frustrating as it is awesome. I think you're just not expected to read it straight out - it's more of a pick up and flip to any given page to find some greatness. Because it jumps around (visually) with narrative, pictures, character sketches, and boxes of text, it's hard to follow. I will probably return it to the library soon and just buy it. Then I will look for a more traditional biography.

Brigid ☆ Cool Ninja Sharpshooter ☆ says

I read this a few months ago, and realized I forgot to add it (which is good news, because I'm still struggling to meet my 50-book yearly goal!).

I was very lucky to find a copy of this book on sale in the used book section of my library. (Apparently it was originally worth like \$50 and I bought it for like \$2 so that's a pretty sweet deal.) I gave it to my dad for his birthday—but also, I really wanted to read it because I'm a huge Jim Henson fan myself.

This book is a really thorough overview of pretty much everything Henson ever did—from his very early commercials, to the lovable Muppets and Sesame Street, to his whackier ventures like *Labyrinth* and *The Dark Crystal*. There's so much detailed info about the effort that went into each of his projects, and how Henson revolutionized puppetry. There are a ton of wonderful photos, concept art, you name it. I can't stress how cool it is.

So if you're a Jim Henson fan, I really recommend this. I loved it so much and I could easily read it over and over again.

Krysta says

I enjoyed this overall. I'd be curious to see a newer version; this one, published in 1993, I believe, is full of detail of the technical advancements and colourful contributions that Henson made to the industry, but it is missing, of course, most of the works since his death, and I'd have liked to see more details about some of

the offshoot projects he had a hand in, as well as his personal life. Still, the book was interesting and very visually appealing. Don't try to read this cover to cover; that was an exercise in frustration thanks to the layout and inserts that split up sections and even paragraphs. Still, overall this was very enjoyable. The images alone are worth owning, and like any good book of this type, I found myself saying, "Huh" and "Did you know...?" throughout the reading of it, to anyone unfortunate enough to be in my immediate vicinity. This would be an excellent gift for any Henson fan.

AnyMousse says

Prolific. It's a term meaning "marked by abundant inventiveness or productivity." It's a word I've been seeing a lot of lately, normally in regards to authors: "so and so is a prolific writer, producing a large volume of work over the course of his or her lifetime."

In my opinion, this word gets a lot of overuse. Yes, some writers are considered prolific, but I can think of someone else who I consider the word prolific to be a perfect fit.

That person is Jim Henson.

Jim Henson was an innovator in the field of puppetry. Constantly imaginative, he was always looking for new ways to improve the media and push its limits.

What started off as just simple hand puppets became much much more with the invention of such projects as The Muppets and Fraggle Rock, which were known the world over; to such things as Emmet Otter's Jug band Christmas and The Dark Crystal, which were revolutionary in their methods.

The huge scope of Jim's work (and achievements) is best exemplified in the book Jim Henson The Works: The Art, the Magic, the Imagination.

If you think you know Jim Henson, you have only begun to scratch the surface of this man's genius, creativity and imagination. The book explores Jim's early years working on Sam and Friends and takes you through the rest of his large body of work.

A highly informative and entertaining read, this coffee table book is an excellent addition to any Henson fan's collection.

Karin Carlson says

well-researched and comprehensive - excellent
791.53092 H 398f

Steve Jones says

Love Jim Henson and the Muppets. Great book. A sad loss when he died.

Carmine says

In my daydreams I am a puppeteer/puppetmaker for Jim Henson in the 1970s and 1980s. What an amazing thrill it would be to be a part of the first episodes of Sesame Street or the Muppets. To be backstage at the filming of Labyrinth or the Dark Crystal. This was a fun peek behind the scenes at the very long career of the magical Jim Henson. It sounded like he ran his company with a lot of humor and love and to delight children and adults around the world.

Jake says

repeats it's self in sidebars, also could use an update, needs more tmnt info. But other than that this over 400 page book is so informative and interesting, really fun read. 8.3/10

Mark Victor Young says

I have to say that I formed an extremely partisan crowd of one for this book. I have always loved the Muppets, and so I was partial to reading the book, but how could anyone not love this book?

"The Works" is a huge undertaking, covering the career of one of the most prolific artists since Walt Disney. It has large, thick, glossy pages full of vibrant colour and even texture, thanks to the many muppet faces peeking out of every page. It is just a pleasure to hold, to flip through, anything. Even Henson and his familiar bearded crew came to look like fuzzy muppets; as we got to know them and see them always surrounded by their creations, they all started to blend together.

The text takes us through Henson's fairytale career. From the early days as a cartoonist and puppeteer, making commercials and short films for TV; through the creation of Sesame Street and The Muppet Show, which has been seen in over 120 countries around the world, making it the most widely seen TV show in history; to the Hollywood days, making movies like "The Great Muppet Caper," "The Dark Crystal," and "Labyrinth," the book gives us a fascinating behind the scenes look at the work of this genius. A picture emerges of the two sides of Jim Henson: the creative man who always surrounded himself with talented people who saw him as the leader or director who could lend his vision to their creations, giving them shape; and the businessman who controlled a corporate empire based on a mega-marketing and merchandising phenomenon.

Peppered throughout the text are excerpts from interviews with Jim's friends and collaborators (generally one and the same) sharing their memories of working with him or knowing him, etc. I found this very effective, breaking up the strings of text, and imitating the collage of images in the pictures on each page, with a collage of narrative styles. It is more than biography, more than a tribute.

I had no idea of the extent of Jim Henson's success or genius until I read this book. I find I am fascinated by

the stories of geniuses--in any field, but especially the arts. I just think these people function on another level, and it is really intriguing to get inside their heads. This book is all-around great and I recommend it equally to the die-hard Muppets fan and the "What the hell are Muppets?" person. If I didn't already have it, I would have loved to get this as a Christmas gift.

Craig says

I'm sure my rating is skewed by a healthy dose of nostalgia. Like a lot of people my age I grew up watching Sesame Street, Fraggle Rock and Muppet Babies. It's been 26 years and I still remember the Alligator King skit, learning the ABCs with Kermit and the theme song to Fraggle Rock. When I was a little older I found episodes of the Muppet show, Dark Crystal, Labyrinth and Dinosaurs. I loved watching the Muppet Show with my parents, waiting for TGIF and Dinosaurs and being both scared and enamored by Dark Crystal and Labyrinth.

Jim Henson: The Works - The Art, the Magic, the Imagination is an amazing book providing a plethora of information about Jim's professional life. There are fewer details about him personally outside the small section at the beginning. The book would look great on a coffee table it has hundreds of brightly colored photos with Muppets jumping around and some interesting behind the scenes shots. The book is loosely chronological, starting with Jim's childhood followed by separate chapters devoted to major parts of his career. It ends with his sudden illness and how the company managed to survive with his son in charge. I'm sure the angelic picture it paints of Jim Henson, even his failures sound like successes, will disappoint some people. Even with that in mind, Jim Henson: The Works - The Art, the Magic, the Imagination is a great account of the man and of his life's work.

If you are interested in any of Jim Henson's productions it is likely covered. I enjoyed how each chapter stood alone so if you're only interested in one aspect of his career you can skip straight to that section. The parts that discuss the people behind the puppets were really interesting. It was great seeing Frank Oz, Caroll Spinney and the rest of the crew throughout the book and reading about how they met Jim and got started in the business. My biggest complaint is the page layout. Sometimes in the middle of a sentence you'll turn the page to find 4-5 pages of pictures with long captions and side notes. It would have been nice if the page break was at the end of a sentence so you could read the captions without having to finish the paragraph and flip back.

Tripleguess says

I like Labyrinth, mostly because it is so different from what one considers a conventional fairy tale, and I liked some of the Storyteller episodes too -- they seemed so well done for something not terribly high budget. So I got this book.

Ugh. BLOAT! The book is written with the expectation that you know all about Jim Henson and every work he did, with the result that I felt like I was reading something backward. "THIS was important because it foreshadowed THAT, and since you know all about THAT, you know what *that* means!"

Um... no I don't. ^^; I just wanted to find out more about where this director was coming from. I saw a few episodes of Sesame Street growing up but was never enamored with it the way the people who wrote the forwards obviously were. I actually like Labyrinth in spite of the puppets, not because of them, and could stand to watch it only on DVD because the special effects were so glaringly obvious on the old VHS copy.

So I guess if you're into puppets and Jim Henson trivia, you'll enjoy this book. I returned my copy to the library without finishing it, after giving the Labyrinth chapter a good skimming.

David Weiss says

Excellent fun book. It gives great background on Henson himself and on the creation of his many astounding works. Given the upbeat nature of the book, it tends to see everything that Henson did very positively. While there are innovative and creative advances to be found in his later works, however, it is really Henson's original Muppets that will be most remembered and probably represent his greatest achievement (an astounding achievement indeed). I wish this book were just a little more honest in looking critically at some of the later works and speculating on why they did not work like Jim's creations for Sesame Street and The Muppet Show. But that is quibbling. It is a fun book that I would recommend to any fan of Henson and The Muppets, an appropriate appreciation of his work.

Lisa says

I've renewed my absolute love and admiration for Jim Henson.

Lily says

Jim Henson is one of my most favorite people, ever. He did so much in his life and created so many memorable characters. I believe Jim wanted to entertain and make a difference in peoples lives. He has definitely inspired me. This book is for any Jim Henson fan. My favorite parts about the book were Jim Henson's artwork/sketches and behind the scenes pictures. I also liked reading about his family and relationship with Frank Oz. Oh, and I need the Jim Henson created Muppet Christmas cards.
