

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

CALENDAR ADVISORY

March at MoMI: 14th annual First Look festival, 4th Marvels of Media Festival, Martin Scorsese in person, and more special guests

Women's History Month highlights include book events celebrating Joan Didion and Merle Oberon; more than 20 films directed by women, many in First Look 2025; and films starring Kim Novak, Rita Hayworth, Catherine O'Hara, and more

Astoria, New York, February 26, 2025 — This March, Museum of the Moving Image will present its First Look film festival, an annual showcase for adventurous and innovative new cinema; co-host an iftar dinner marking the end of Ramadan, with MoMI community partner Malikah; offer special screenings with guest speakers, including *Gangs of New York* with director Martin Scorsese and screenwriter Jay Cocks in person, *Slide* with legendary animator Bill Plympton in person, *Wuthering Heights* with a conversation about Merle Oberon with critic and author Mayukh Sen, *A Star Is Born* with an introduction by critic and author Alissa Wilkinson; and more. From March 27–29, the Marvels of Media Festival, celebrating autistic media-makers, returns for a fourth year with screenings, discussions, workshops, and an exhibition.

A highlight of the Museum's annual film programs, the 14th edition of First Look returns March 12–16 with a diverse lineup—38 films including 4 world premieres and 23 U.S. or North American premieres, representing 21 countries—beginning with the New York premiere of Durga Chew-Bose's *Bonjour Tristesse* with the director and star Lily McNerny in person. Half of all films in the festival this year, including opening night, are directed by women. The full schedule and advance tickets are available [here](#).

Coinciding with the Academy Awards, catch the final films of the Museum's Snubbed Forever screening series, which this year celebrates great actors snubbed by the Academy for their entire careers. They include Catherine O'Hara in *For Your Consideration*, Rita Hayworth in *The Lady from Shanghai*, Kim Novak in *Vertigo*, John Heard in *Cutter's Way*, Donald Sutherland in *Don't Look Now*, and more, through March 9.

Among other special events, the Museum presents its Art & Craft screening series with two exciting events, both featuring screenings and conversations with special guests: on March 9, legendary animator Bill Plympton screens his new mythical feature *Slide*; and on March 22, we present *Gangs of New York* with director Martin Scorsese and screenwriter Jay Cocks in person.

Starting March 6 on the Schlosser Media Wall, the new installation series *Compositions in Code: The Art of Processing and p5.js* opens with work by Marius Watz and Aleksandra

Jovanić, presented as a diptych. The series is the latest and final project in the Museum's partnership with the Tezos Foundation. Each artist's work will be available for visitors to collect for free both online and onsite via Tezos.

The Museum is pleased to announce an extension of the [Friday Date Night](#) special offer, now available through June! A \$50 pass includes admission for two guests, plus a complimentary coffee or drink (for two) at Mon Amour cafe in the Museum lobby, a discount on the popular Museum flipbook, and the option of attending the evening screening—available every Friday.

Every Saturday through April 19, the Museum continues with its [free Access Mornings](#) for families with autistic children. This program allows visitors to explore the Museum before public hours and participate in educator-led activities. Light breakfast is included. This program is funded by the J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation.

Highlighted programs are listed below. For a complete schedule, visit movingimage.org (click here for a [month view](#)). Schedule is subject to change. **Additional programs may be added as they are confirmed.**

SCREENING SERIES

Snubbed Forever: Great Actors, No Nominations

Through March 9

MoMI's annual anti-tribute to the Oscars highlights those films and figures who have never won the little golden guy. This year, we focus on those iconic performers who somehow never had (or have, so far) received a single Academy Award nomination for acting, from major stars to unforgettable character actors. We offer our recurring Snubbed series for the chance to celebrate these enduring screen presences in some of their greatest roles. In March, films include: *The Body Snatcher* (35mm), *Scarlet Street* (35mm), *Cutter's Way* (35mm), *Saint Jack*, *For Your Consideration* (35mm), *Don't Look Now*, *The Lady from Shanghai*, and *Vertigo*.

[Press release for Snubbed Forever](#) | [Series info](#)

First Look 2025

March 12–16

MoMI's annual festival showcasing adventurous new cinema returns for its 14th edition, offering a diverse slate of major New York premieres, work-in-progress screenings and sessions, and fresh perspectives on the art and process of filmmaking. This year's festival introduces New York audiences to works from around the world, encompassing feature and short films; fiction and nonfiction; performances and experiments. The guiding ethos of First Look is openness, curiosity, and discovery, aiming to expose audiences to new art, artists to new audiences, and everyone to different methods, perspectives, interrogations, and encounters. For five consecutive days the festival takes over MoMI's two theaters—with in-person appearances and dialogue integral to the experience. Each night concludes with one of

five selected Showcase Screenings in MoMI's Sumner Redstone Theater. [Press release for First Look 2025](#) | [Festival info](#)

Marvels of Media Festival 2025

March 27–29

The Museum's annual celebration of the outstanding work created by autistic media-makers returns for a fourth edition with screenings, panel discussions, workshops, and an exhibition that includes virtual reality experiences and video games. The festival kicks off with an opening night reception on March 27 and continues through Saturday. Admission to all Marvels of Media screenings and events is free with RSVP. The lineup will be announced soon. [Learn more](#)

SCREENING AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY EVENT

Astoria Ramadan Iftar

Friday, March 7, 5:30–8:00 p.m.

Join MoMI for a special Astoria Ramadan Iftar night, hosted by the Museum's community partner Malikah. This beautiful evening of celebration during the sacred month of Ramadan brings together community members, elected officials, and talented artists. From Quran recitations to poetry, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Come and break your fast with a delicious hot halal meal and connect with others as we embrace the spirit and values of Ramadan in a space built to bring people together.

Free with RSVP. [Event info](#)

Quick Change

Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 9, 3:30 p.m.

Dir. Bill Murray, Howard Franklin. 1990, 89 mins. U.S. 35mm. With Bill Murray, Geena Davis, Randy Quaid, Jason Robards. Bill Murray's first and to-date only directorial credit—shot all over the city, including locations in Queens—tells the tale of down-on-his-luck hustler Grimm (Murray) who pulls off a complex million-dollar bank heist, abetted by his girlfriend (Davis) and dim best friend (Quaid). A sleeper selection for the New York film pantheon. Part of Queens on Screen. [Event info](#)

Animal

Sunday, March 9, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Sofia Exarchou. 2023, 116 mins. Greece. DCP. In Greek with English subtitles. With Dimitra Vlagopoulou, Flomaria Papadaki, Ahilleas Hariskos, Chronis Barbarian. At the start of the summer, entertainers gather for seasonal work at a second-rate resort on a Greek island. For the leader of the group, her ninth year on the job will be life changing as she comes to realize that aging will soon bring an end to her career. Winner of seven Hellenic Film Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actress (Vlagopoulou), and Best Supporting

Actress (Papadaki). Recommended for mature audiences only (nudity, adult situations). Part of Always on Sunday: Greek Film Series. [Series info](#)

***Slide* with Bill Plympton in person**

Sunday, March 9, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Bill Plympton. 2023, 80 mins. U.S. DCP. Songs written and sung by Maureen McElheron. Drawing and coloring every frame of his inventive animated films for the past 38 years, Bill Plympton is a legend in the independent film world. Plympton returns to MoMI for the first public New York City screening of his new feature. His most visually stunning work to date, *Slide* is the tale of a mythical cowboy showdown with eco-villains intent on paving over idyllic Sourdough Creek, just as a caravan of Hollywood moviemakers are arriving in town to make their newest blockbuster, *Escape from Ecstasy*. In a post-film conversation moderated by series curator David Schwartz, Plympton will discuss his unique approach to hand-drawn animation and after that, make an individual drawing for every audience member to take home. Part of Art & Craft. [Event info](#)

The Fishbowl (La Pecera)

Friday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Glorimar Marrero Sánchez. 2022, 92 min. Puerto Rico/Spain. DCP. In Spanish with English subtitles. With Isel Rodriguez, Modesto Lacén. In the grips of cancer, visual artist Noelia (Rodriguez) stops treatment and returns to her native Vieques, Puerto Rico. Noelia's struggle to survive quickly intertwines with that of the island. As her health worsens and complications ensue, including an approaching hurricane and rekindled romance, Noelia faces the decision to leave and seek treatment or stay with her community. Part of Las Premieres, co-presented with Cinema Tropical. [Event info](#)

Joan Didion and *A Star Is Born*

With Alissa Wilkinson in person and book signing

Saturday, March 22, 1:00 p.m.

On March 22, the Museum presents a special screening of the megahit *A Star Is Born* (Dir. Frank Pierson. 1976, 139 mins. 35mm. With Barbra Streisand, Kris Kristofferson), co-written by writer Joan Didion, the subject of *We Tell Ourselves Stories: Joan Didion and the American Dream Machine*, a new cultural biography by Alissa Wilkinson. Wilkinson will be joined by author Lauren Sandler (*This Is All I Got: A New Mother's Search for Home*) for a conversation, with a book signing to follow. Part of MoMI Moviehouse and Special Screenings. [Event info](#)

***Gangs of New York* with Martin Scorsese and Jay Cocks in person [sold out]**

Saturday, March 22, 4:30 p.m.

Dir. Martin Scorsese. 2002, 170 mins. U.S. 35mm. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz. *Gangs of New York* (based on the 1928 Herbert Asbury book) is the most operatic, spectacular, and brutal of all of Scorsese's films, a 19th-century epic that spills over from bloody gang wars between immigrant groups to the Civil War draft riots. Scorsese and screenwriter Jay Cocks, who also worked together on *The Age of Innocence*, *The Last*

Temptation of Christ, and *The Silence*, will discuss their collaboration on *Gangs of New York* in a post-film conversation moderated by series curator David Schwartz. Part of Art & Craft. [Event info](#)

Celebrating Merle Oberon: *Wuthering Heights* and book signing with Mayukh Sen

Sunday, March 23, 3:30 p.m.

Actress Merle Oberon, a huge movie star in the '40s and '50s, achieved mainstream acclaim in *The Private Life of Henry VIII* and *The Dark Angel*, the latter of which granted her an Oscar nomination for Best Actress. Yet for all her hard-won success, Oberon hid her true identity in order to avoid scrutiny during a contentious time in U.S. history, passing as a white woman from Tanzania despite being an Anglo-Indian born and raised in Calcutta. In his revealing and beautifully written new biography, *Love, Queenie: Merle Oberon, Hollywood's First South Asian Star*, author Mayukh Sen delves into this long untold history. Following a screening of *Wuthering Heights* (Dir. William Wyler. 1939, 104 mins. 35mm. With Merle Oberon, Laurence Olivier), Sen will sign copies of his book, available to purchase in the Museum shop. Part of Special Screenings. [Event info](#)

INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Compositions in Code: The Art of Processing and j5.ps

March 6–August 25 with opening reception on March 6

The latest and final installation series presented in partnership with the Tezos Foundation will feature diptychs by renowned artists working with code on the Museum's Herbert S. Schlosser Media Wall. The featured artists all used the accessible, open-source programming environment Processing or the p5.js library as tools in the creation of their work. Each artist will make a fragment of the exhibited work available for the public to collect for free onsite and online via the Tezos blockchain.

Marius Watz & Aleksandra Jovanić: March 6–May 4, 2025

LLA & Sarah Ridgley: May 8–June 29, 2025

Robert Hodgkin & Melissa Wiederrecht: July 3–August 24, 2025

[Press release](#) | [Exhibit info](#)

Recording the Ride: The Rise of Street-Style Skate Videos

Through March 16

This exhibition features videos and artifacts from skate culture's formative years in the late 1980s and 1990s, with a focus on releases by H-Street, Plan B, World Industries, Girl, Zoo York, 411, Birdhouse, and others that manifest the structure and style that defined the modern skate video genre. Their influence continues to be seen today in pop culture, fashion, and filmmaking. Exhibition sponsor: NB Numeric. [Press release](#) | [Exhibition info](#)

The Jim Henson Exhibition

Ongoing

This exhibition offers a dynamic exploration of Jim Henson’s groundbreaking work for film and television and his transformative impact on culture. It features a broad range of objects from throughout his remarkable career and reveals how Henson and his team of builders, performers, and writers brought to life the enduringly popular worlds of *The Muppet Show*, the Muppet movies, *Sesame Street*, *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Labyrinth*. [Exhibition info](#)

Behind the Screen

Ongoing

The Museum’s core exhibition explores how moving images are made, marketed, and shown and features more than 1,400 objects from the MoMI collection, integrated with audiovisual material and computer-based interactive experiences. The latest addition, ***Clayography in Motion***, which highlights the film *Memoir of a Snail* by Adam Elliot—recently nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature—features original puppets from the film and interactive stations where visitors can create their own short animations using 2D cutouts of characters. [Exhibition info](#)

Waxwing

Through April 10

Visitors can play the unique arcade game *Waxwing*, developed by Common Opera, in the Museum lobby. The game subverts the traditional light gun by reimagining it as a literal source of light, shifting the focus from violence to an exploration of aspirations and the human condition. [Exhibit info](#)

Find all current MoMI exhibitions [here](#).

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.

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[Press images are available here.](#)

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).