

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM PRESENTS BIG-SCREEN REVIVAL OF *THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD* WITH ANDREW DOMINIK IN PERSON

Inspired by a Museum member and presented as part of the series *See It Big!*, the screening kicks off “No Eulogies” effort to revive *Jesse James*

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Astoria, NY, October 18, 2013—Museum of the Moving Image, working with a longtime Museum member, will present a rare big-screen showing of the 2007 Western *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, starring Brad Pitt, Casey Affleck, Sam Rockwell, and Sam Shepard, with director Andrew Dominik in person. Arguably a cult favorite since its release, this masterful and magisterial film was described by *Star-Ledger* critic Stephen Whitty as an “epic film that’s part literary treatise, part mournful ballad, and completely a portrait of our world, as seen in a distant mirror.” The screening on Saturday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m. will take place in the Museum’s Sumner Redstone Theater, with the post-film conversation moderated by Chief Curator David Schwartz.

“*Jesse James* is the thing that I’ve done in my life that I’m most proud of,” Dominik said. “I think it’s a movie that really benefits from being on the big screen, and I love the idea of it having some further life on the big screen.”

Thanks to the persistent urging of devoted longtime member Jamieson McGonigle, the Museum agreed to screen the film as part of its ongoing series *See It Big!* and director Andrew Dominik agreed to travel from Los Angeles to present the film.

“This is the first time that the Museum is presenting a film with the director in person, as the result of a request by a member,” said Schwartz. “It’s unique that an individual fan would try to organize something like this, to go out and track down the director; I admired all of that. This is a movie that quickly developed a following. It seemed to be a cult movie almost from the beginning and it clearly struck a chord. We think we’ll have a full house with many of the film’s most ardent fans in attendance.”

“The first time I walked out of *Jesse James* on opening night here in New York at the Angelika Theater, I felt really strongly that it was something classic and timeless,” said

McGonigle. “The Museum is a special place to me, a place that is personal; I'm getting married right there on the theater stage in January and I've been a member there for ten years. I love that it's full of historical film artifacts, and the idea of doing this screening at a place with that sort of history in its galleries while we watch the movie in an intimate setting seemed like the perfect way to kick off a revival.”

“Rooms seemed hotter when he was in them, rain fell straighter, clocks slowed,” is how the legendary bank robber is described in *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Casey Affleck is the awkward young acolyte whose life becomes dramatically intertwined with the charismatic criminal, who is played by Brad Pitt. The film, based on the novel by Ron Hansen, was released by Warner Bros. in 2007 (160 mins.). It will be shown in DCP format, as preferred by Dominik as this version most closely matches his intentions from his original digital intermediate of the film.

This screening of *Jesse James* is part of the November–December season of the Museum's ongoing series *See It Big!*, a special edition devoted to “Masters of Cinematography.” Stunningly photographed by the great Roger Deakins (*No Country for Old Men*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *Skyfall*), *Jesse James* is conceived as a reflection on the past, filmed in a series of beautifully realized tableaux.

Tickets are \$20 public / \$12 Museum members and free for Silver Screen members and above. Museum members have an exclusive window to purchase advance tickets. Tickets will go on sale to the public on October 20. For information about Museum membership and to join, visit <http://www.movingimage.us/support/membership>.

The “No Eulogies” Jesse James Revival is dedicated to cementing *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* as a classic and a staple of repertory cinema. Join the Revival online on Twitter ([@JesseJamesRev](https://twitter.com/JesseJamesRev)), Facebook (facebook.com/jessejamesrevival), and at www.JesseJamesRevival.com.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its expanded and renovated facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Tickets for regular film screenings are included with paid Museum admission and free for members.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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