

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ‘SEE IT BIG!’ HOLIDAY EDITION FEATURES FOURTEEN CLASSIC AND UNCONVENTIONAL MOVIES

Films include *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (in 3-D), *Gremlins*, *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, *Die Hard*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Dead*, and more

November 19–December 24, 2016

Astoria, Queens, NY, (November 16, 2016)—With a wide selection of great movies by directors including Ingmar Bergman, Joe Dante, John Huston, Stanley Kubrick, Vincente Minnelli, and more, Museum of the Moving Image presents a holiday edition of its popular ongoing series *See It Big!*, from November 19 through December 24, 2016. The season opens this Saturday with back-to-back screenings of Tim Burton and Henry Selick’s *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, screening in Dolby Digital 3-D; Barry Levinson’s heartfelt, autobiographical *Avalon*, chronicling generations of a Jewish family in Baltimore; and *Hannah and Her Sisters*, Woody Allen’s funny yet philosophical family dramedy starring Mia Farrow, Barbara Hershey, Dianne Wiest, and Michael Caine—with the last two films centered around Thanksgiving meals.

***See It Big! Holiday Films*** includes fourteen films, with classics such as *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, and *Fanny and Alexander*, alongside more unconventional films such as the Bruce Willis–helmed action movie *Die Hard*, Joe Dante’s *Gremlins*, dysfunctional family gatherings *A Christmas Tale* and *The Ice Storm*, and Stanley Kubrick’s haunting *Eyes Wide Shut*. **Nearly all of the films will be presented in 35mm**, with the Vincente Minnelli–Judy Garland classic *Meet Me in St. Louis* in a restored 35mm print.

The full schedule is included below and online at [movingimage.us/holiday](http://movingimage.us/holiday). Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 (discounts for seniors, students, and youth / free for Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels and above). Advance tickets are available online. Please note: Beginning December 1, tickets will be \$15 (discounts still apply).

*See It Big!* is an ongoing series organized by *Reverse Shot* editors Michael Koresky and Jeff Reichert, Chief Curator David Schwartz, and Associate Film Curator Eric Hynes.

## **SCHEDULE FOR 'SEE IT BIG! HOLIDAY FILMS,' NOVEMBER 19–DECEMBER 24, 2016**

All screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater (with the exception of *Christmas, Again*, which will be in the Bartos Screening Room) at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria, New York. Advance tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us/holiday>. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

### ***The Nightmare Before Christmas in 3-D***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Henry Selick. 1993, 76 mins. Dolby Digital 3-D. With the voices of Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Paul Reubens. Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown, longs for something more in life, and thinks he has found it when he stumbles upon the brilliant twinkling lights of Christmastown, and becomes determined to have it all for himself. Conceived and produced by Tim Burton and directed by stop-motion animation whiz Selick, this meticulously crafted fantasy, featuring Oscar-nominated special effects and a dazzling, tuneful song score by the great composer Danny Elfman, is a new classic, perfect to watch in that sweet spot between Halloween and Christmas.

**Tickets: \$15 (with discounts for seniors and students / free for Museum members at the Film Lover and Kids Premium levels and above).**

### ***Avalon***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 4:00 P.M.

Dir. Barry Levinson. 1990, 128 mins. 35mm. With Armin Mueller-Stahl, Joan Plowright, Aidan Quinn. Levinson's greatest film is this profoundly personal, autobiographical drama about the American immigrant experience, following one Jewish family in Baltimore, overseen by wallpaper-hanger patriarch Sam Krichinsky (a gorgeous performance by German actor Mueller-Stahl), throughout the 1950s and beyond, using Thanksgiving as a recurring anchor—including a particularly, hilariously contentious one. As shot by Allen Daviau and scored by Randy Newman, this is an evocative, exquisitely made work of popular American art, filled with the kind of texture and detail that can only come from lived experience.

### ***Hannah and Her Sisters***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Woody Allen. 1986, 103 mins. 35mm. With Mia Farrow, Michael Caine, Dianne Wiest, Barbara Hershey. Beginning and ending at Thanksgiving, Woody Allen's beguilingly funny yet philosophical family dramedy is one of his very best films, with Mia Farrow, Barbara Hershey, and an Oscar-winning Dianne Wiest as three sisters, each experiencing her own romantic and career travails; Michael Caine (also winning an Oscar here) as Farrow's husband, committing adultery with Hershey; and Woody himself as Farrow's ex, going through a hilarious bout of major hypochondria. Featuring vivid New York locations, including trendy eighties SoHo; an unforgettable Max von Sydow as a dyspeptic painter; and bushels of the writer-director's best one-liners.

### ***The Ice Storm***

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Ang Lee. 1997, 113 mins. 35mm. With Kevin Kline, Joan Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Tobey Maguire. The kids are not all right, but neither are the parents, in this drama of domestic undoing in suburban Connecticut in the early seventies. Following the sexual confusions and exploits of the various members of two families over the course of one Thanksgiving weekend, *The Ice Storm* is a singular mood piece, elegant, chilling, and occasionally very funny as it leads to a piercing conclusion.

### ***Gremlins***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Joe Dante. 1984, 106 mins. 35mm. With Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. This nasty little number, produced by Steven Spielberg, is a cheerfully gory throwback to fifties B-monster-movies in which a Rockwell-ready American town falls under siege at Yuletide to a horde of mischievous, murderous beasts. With its gruesome kitchen set piece (in which a lovable mom slices, dices, and microwaves a handful of the creatures) and unforgettably grim Phoebe Cates monologue about why she hates Christmas, *Gremlins* might not be for young children, but its subversive exuberance can make an adult feel like a kid again.

### ***Die Hard***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. John McTiernan. 1988. 131 mins. 35mm. With Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia, Alan Rickman, Reginald VelJohnson, Paul Gleason, William Atherton. Not satisfied with simply being one of the great action movies of the 1980s, *Die Hard* has steadily become a beloved Christmas movie as well. Easily the best holiday fare to feature heavy artillery, pyrotechnic explosions, and Bruce Willis walking barefoot across shards of glass, *Die Hard* pits retired New York cop John McClane against a vicious cadre of international terrorists, who have interrupted an office Christmas party to take control of L.A.'s new Nakatomi Plaza skyscraper. With McClane's estranged wife (Bedelia) among the hostages, his fight to single-handedly conquer the bad guys and save the day is also a campaign for family restoration—a holiday wish if ever there was.

### ***Miracle on 34th Street***

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. George Seaton. 1947. 96 mins. 35mm. With Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood. This Christmas perennial is so iconic that one might forget what a witty, clever piece of work it is, as pinpoint accurate a satire about post-WWII consumer culture as it is delightful reaffirmation of human goodness and holiday cheer. Winner of much-deserved Oscars for its screenplay and for best supporting actor Edmund Gwenn as "a nice man with whiskers" named Kris Kringle who gets a job at Macy's during the holiday shopping season, *Miracle on 34th Street* is an elegant New York comedy, featuring adorable Natalie Wood in her first major role, as a skeptical Santa nonbeliever.

***Fanny and Alexander***

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Ingmar Bergman. 1982, 188 mins. 35mm. In Swedish, German, and Yiddish with English subtitles. With Bertil Guve, Gun Wallgren, Erland Josephson. Bergman's magnificent family saga encompasses a year in the life of the extended Ekdahl clan, mostly seen through the eyes of the imaginative young Alexander. Part fairy tale, part existential drama, *Fanny and Alexander* is a banquet of a film, featuring gorgeous, Oscar-winning cinematography, art direction, and costume design.

***The Shop Around the Corner***

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Ernst Lubitsch. 1940, 99 mins. 35mm. With Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, Frank Morgan, Joseph Schildkraut, Sara Haden. Ernst Lubitsch's exquisitely wrought tale of two workplace lonelyhearts has the power to put all other romantic comedies to shame. James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan play contentious colleagues at Matuschek and Company, a Budapest store gearing up for Christmas. Each of them is falling in love with an unseen pen pal found via the personals page of the newspaper. Neither suspects that they might be falling for one another. An achingly perceptive sketch of singlehood and modern romance in the big city, a template for generations of workplace comedies, and a warm, deeply felt expression of holiday spirit, *The Shop Around the Corner* simply has it all.

***The Dead***

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 4:30 P.M.

Dir. John Huston. 1987, 83 mins. 35mm. With Anjelica Huston, Donal McCann. One of the most effortlessly accomplished movies of the 1980s, the final film in Huston's illustrious and wildly diverse career is a brilliant adaptation of James Joyce's masterpiece "The Dead," set in 1904 at a Christmas party in Dublin thrown by two elderly sisters. Huston's roving camera captures the general merry-making of food, drink, and dance, though the mood of the annual gathering grows increasingly melancholy, leading to an unforgettable monologue, courtesy of a haunting Anjelica Huston. The director pulls off the unthinkable: doing justice to one of the greatest works in all English literature.

***A Christmas Tale***

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Arnaud Desplechin. 2008, 150 mins. 35mm. With Catherine Deneuve, Mathieu Amalric, Chiara Mastroianni. This big, boisterous, bursting-at-the-seams holiday treat from the brilliant French filmmaker Arnaud Desplechin (*Kings and Queen*) is a dysfunctional family saga like no other, in which a clan's imperious matriarch (Deneuve) finds out she needs a rare marrow transplant before her entire family—including her black-sheep son—comes for a long, contentious Christmas weekend. Desplechin uses all sorts of visual and sonic flourishes in this high-energy, early-millennial masterwork, which turns the swooning, emotional roller coaster of going home for the holidays into cinematic excitement.

***Meet Me in St. Louis***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Vincente Minnelli. 1944, 113 mins. Restored 35mm print. With Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor. In this bittersweet turn-of-the-century musical, Minnelli's first color film, a family contends with life, love, and an impending move from St. Louis to New York City. Minnelli deftly organizes the Technicolor palette around Judy Garland, moving seamlessly between story and song—and what songs they are, including “The Boy Next Door,” “The Trolley Song,” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”—from one season to the next, including memorable extended Halloween and Christmas sequences.

***Christmas, Again***

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Charles Poekel. 2014, 80 mins. Digital projection. With Kentucker Audley, Hannah Gross, Craig Butta, Maria Cantillo, Caitlin Mehner, Andrea Suarez Paz. A heartbroken Christmas-tree salesman (Audley) returns to New York City hoping to put his past behind him. Living in a seasonal trailer and working the night shift, his mood continually darkens until he finds a mysterious woman passed out on a park bench and brings her to safety. Suddenly there is a glimmer of hope, even brightening his sidewalk encounters with the parade of New York strangers. Charles Poekel's debut film is an intimate and delicately moving holiday tale, brought to life by Sean Price Williams's impressionistic photography and Kentucker Audley's subtly powerful performance.

***Eyes Wide Shut***

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Stanley Kubrick. 1999, 159 mins. 35mm. With Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack. Stanley Kubrick spent a record-breaking 400 days shooting his final masterpiece, a beguiling, New York City–set erotic puzzle film, for which he meticulously recreated Greenwich Village on a British soundstage. Then-married power couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman star as a Manhattan doctor and his wife. After she confesses erotic fantasies involving another man, he embarks on a surreal, Christmastime odyssey that takes him into the depths of the city's shadowy sexual underworld. The film's centerpiece is an elaborate masked orgy that has the uncanny feel of a dream.

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**MUSEUM INFORMATION**

**Museum of the Moving Image** ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning 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. **Holiday Hours:** Closed November 24 and December 25. Early closing on December 24 (at 4:00 p.m.) and December 31 (at 5:00 p.m.). Open Monday, December 26; Tuesday, December 27; and Monday, January 2, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$7 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / \$7 youth (ages 3–17) / free for Museum members select levels. **Note: Beginning December 1, tickets will be \$15 adults / \$11 students and seniors / \$7 youth (ages 3–17) / free for Museum members select levels** Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

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](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> 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 Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo 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](http://movingimage.us).