

The Keika Chronicle



Jim Henson's Muppets



The
September
2025
Issue

What is in
this issue:

Jim Henson's
Muppets

Sesame
Street USA in
NYC

Sesame
Streets
Around the
World



Jim Henson made many different 'Muppets'. A muppet is a **mix** of 2 words: **Marionette** and **Puppet**. He made The Muppets & Fraggle Rock, and helped make Sesame Street. The Muppets is about **entertainers** who make shows & movies together. Fraggle Rock is about little **creatures** who live in a **cave** learning about the human world. Sesame Street is about friends who live on the same street learning how to be good **neighbors**.



Jim Henson used **felt**, **rubber**, & **foam** to make Muppets look friendly. He used **string**, **metal rods**, **bodysuits**, & **electronics** to control them in various ways. Muppets feel like they are real. When I watch Kermit the Frog, I don't think about who is controlling him- it's just Kermit! When muppets are interviewed on TV, the **host** interviews the muppet, not the **puppeteer**.

The Muppet Company shows their characters in interesting ways while hiding the puppeteers. When Muppets ride bicycles in their movies it seems simple, but it's actually a very impressive **effect**! When Kermit sings Rainbow Connection you can see his **reflection** in the water. Actually, Jim Henson is in a special **underwater** tank controlling him!



Sadly, Jim Henson **passed away** very **suddenly** in 1990. At his **memorial** services, his muppets sang songs like Rainbow Connection & Bein' Green. These services were open to the **public**, so many people came to say goodbye. He left an important **legacy**; The Muppet Company still shares his **values** of creativity, entertainment, and **kindness**.

Erin's Muppet movie recommendations

The Muppet Movie (1979): The **classic** first movie. It took the Muppets from a TV studio to real world locations, with **groundbreaking** effects.

A Muppet Family Christmas: The Muppets, Fraggle Rock, and Sesame Street characters all celebrate Christmas together!

The Muppet Christmas Carol: Muppets act as characters from the famous book by Charles Dickens.

The Muppets (2011) & Muppets Most Wanted: The modern Muppets movie are very funny. They have lovely **callbacks** to Muppet history.

Xoxo, Erin





Sesame Street USA in NYC

Sesame Street is a very popular, **unique** TV show that started in November 1969. It has almost 5000 episodes and is loved by children and adults **alike**! Just like the Muppets, the show uses many **colorful** and unique puppets that are voiced by real people. The face of the show is Elmo, but he has many friends who all learn and **grow** together. They count with the Count, sing the ABC's, eat with Cookie Monster, and learn about their **emotions**. To give you an idea of just how popular it was, in 1996, a **survey** showed that 95% of Americans had seen it by the time they turned 3! The show is **educational** and fun, winning many awards throughout its runtime including 222 Emmy Awards and 11 Grammy Awards. A big deal for a children's show!



In the opening song, they say "Can you tell me how to get (how to get) to Sesame Street?". As you might already know, Sesame Street takes place in **NYC**. You can see the **classic** New York style apartments with **ladders**, fire escapes, and stairs to enter. But did you know that it **recently** became a real street in NYC? In 2019, the **intersection** of West 63rd and Broadway was officially named 'Sesame Street' to **celebrate** the show's 50th **Anniversary**! The real street is very far, but if you want to see what a New York **diner** is like, you can go to Sesame Street Market in Sunshine City! You can eat delicious New York style pizza and take pictures with characters like Elmo and Cookie Monster.

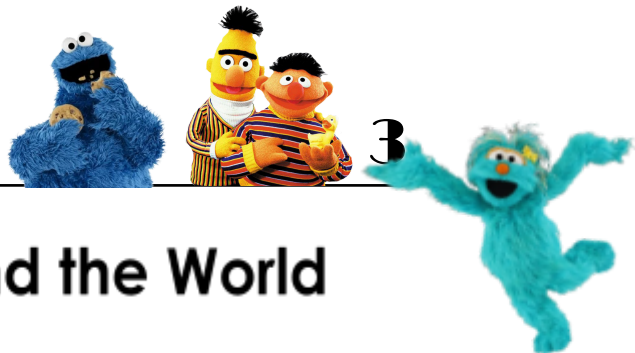


The creators of Sesame Street did lots of **research** about children before making the show. They used over 1,000 studies and **experiments**! They tested how children pay attention, the **benefits** of watching **together** with parents, language skills, & more! Some characters were made to teach **specific** things- like Big Bird. He makes a lot of **mistakes**. This teaches kids what NOT to do. But! They also learn that it's ok to make mistakes. Another **example** is Julia. She is **autistic**, so she acts differently to her friends. She shows children with **autism** that it's OK to be that way. She also teaches children and parents **without** autism how to understand & **make friends** with autistic people.

Of course, they did lots of research for Julia too!



Xoxo, Hrithika



Sesame Streets Around the World

The first *Sesame Street* TV show was from the U.S.A. in 1969. However, so many people loved it that it became a big hit in many places. So now, there are many *Sesame Streets* around the world. **Local** versions of the show are called **co-productions**. Right now, there are 18 local co-productions of *Sesame Street* from many different **countries**. Each one uses its own **language** and **culture** to teach children. Here are some **unique** characters from **various** *Sesame Streets*.



Abelardo from Mexico on *Plaza Sésamo*

Plaza Sésamo was one of the first international co-productions of *Sesame Street*! It started in 1972. It is **broadcast** in 34 countries. Can you guess why? It is because so many countries speak **Spanish**, especially in **Latin America**. The character Abelardo is a giant **parrot**. He is colorful and about the age of a preschooler. He is Big Bird's younger **cousin** from **Mexico**!

Purk from The Netherlands on *Sesamstraat*

Purk is a baby from the **Netherlands** *Sesame Street*. She was created to teach children about having a **younger** brother or sister. It can be hard for children when their parents have a new baby. The parents need to look after the baby and spend a lot of time with it, so the child can get **jealous**. Purk helps kids understand that they shouldn't be jealous. Their parents love all their children **equally**!



Griotte from France on *5 Rue Sésame*

Griotte is a 7-year-old girl who uses a **wheelchair**. She is a happy girl who doesn't think of her wheelchair as a **handicap**. She isn't less than other people, she is just different. Many **disabled** people think the **same** way. She also teaches **sign language** sometimes- just like sign language classes in EHD!





The Keika Chronicle



4



Kami from South Africa on *Takalani Sesame*

When Kami was a baby, she had a bad **blood transfusion** and caught **HIV**. HIV is a **disease** that is **common** in many African countries. Kami's mother also died from the disease. She teaches children how to deal with feeling sad, and losing people you love. In the past people with this disease faced a lot of **discrimination**, and didn't receive much help. Kami was made to try and **improve** this.

Chamki from India on *Galli Galli Sim Sim*

Chamki is a 6-year-old schoolgirl who loves learning about world **culture**. She was made as a **role model** for young girls. In India, boys do better at reading & writing. This is because schools **care** more about boys, and give them more **opportunities**. This makes it **difficult** for girls to learn well. Sesame Street wants to **inspire** young girls, and try to change this.



Tuktuki from Bangladesh on *Sisimpur*

Sisimpur started in 2005. It was Bangladesh's first children's **educational** show. Tuktuki is a girl with a big **imagination**. She wears **traditional** Bangladeshi-style **braids** and **bangles**. She likes to sing with her pet **Bengal tiger**. In the past, many kids in Bangladesh didn't have a TV or **reliable** electricity. People rode **rickshaws** with TVs around **rural** Bangladesh so lots of children could watch Sesame Street!

Teena from Japan on *Sesame Street Japan*

Have you **ever** seen this character? Teena is a Japanese muppet! She loves to be 'kawaii', loves flowers, and loves singing! Characters on Sesame Street Japan speak Japanese, but also learn some English **phrases**! Actually, the **theme song** is in English too. I **hope** Teena knows the English word 'cute'!



Xoxo, Sheila