

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL WILLIAMS, LEGENDARY SONGWRITER, SINGER, ACTOR, AND SUBJECT OF DOCUMENTARY 'PAUL WILLIAMS: STILL ALIVE' TO BE HONORED WITH WEEKEND RETROSPECTIVE AT MOVING IMAGE

Williams to appear in person at all screenings, including new restoration of *Ishtar*, *The Muppet Movie*, *Phantom of the Paradise*, and *Paul Williams: Still Alive*

January 25–27, 2013

Songwriter, singer, actor, and *Tonight* show favorite, Paul Williams was a cultural icon throughout the 1970s and 1980s. His remarkable career, including his recent comeback, will be showcased in a weekend retrospective at Museum of the Moving Image, January 25 through 27, 2013. Williams will be present for all screenings, including a new digital restoration of *Ishtar* (which was filmed across the street from the Museum at the Kaufman Astoria Studios), Brian De Palma's *Phantom of the Paradise*, *The Muppet Movie*, and the acclaimed new documentary *Paul Williams: Still Alive*.

The hit songs that Williams wrote dominated the charts and became staples, including Three Dog Night's "An Old Fashioned Love Song"; The Carpenters's "We've Only Just Begun"; "Evergreen," from the Barbra Streisand version of *A Star is Born*, and "Rainbow Connection," performed by Kermit the Frog in *The Muppet Movie*. The diminutive star also appeared on the big and small screens, most notably as the villainous Swan in Brian De Palma's *Phantom of the Paradise* (which he also co-scored), and he wrote memorable scores for *Bugsy Malone* and other movies. He is the subject of an entertaining and illuminating new documentary *Paul Williams: Still Alive*. Williams wrote a new song for the film, "Still Alive," which has received a Broadcast Film Critics Association nomination for Best Original Song.

"*Paul Williams: Still Alive* is a remarkably engaging documentary," said Chief Curator David Schwartz. "Not only does it remind us of Williams's ubiquitous and delightful presence on screen and his songwriting genius, it also captures his compelling and unique personality. We're delighted to have him as a guest at the Museum, and to enjoy some of his best movies, including the perennially underrated *Ishtar*."

SCHEDULE FOR 'PAUL WILLIAMS,' JANUARY 25–27, 2013

Unless otherwise noted, film screenings take place in the main Moving Image Theater and in the Celeste and Armand Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria, and are included with Museum admission.

Paul Williams will be present at all screenings.

Phantom of the Paradise

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

Dir. Brian De Palma. 1974. 92 mins. DCP. With William Finley, Paul Williams, Jessica Harper, Gerrit Graham. Paul Williams starred as the satanic record producer Swan, and also wrote the songs for Brian De Palma's deliriously entertaining rock movie. De Palma merges *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Faust* into the world of glam rock while telling the story of a songwriter who seeks revenge on a malicious music mogul. The movie gleefully spoofs the corporate world of the recording industry.

Tickets for Friday evening screenings are \$12 adults / \$9 senior citizens and students / Free for Museum members.

The Muppet Movie

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

Dir. James Frawley. 1979, 95 mins. 35mm. With Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt. Kermit the Frog makes his way from his humble origins in a swamp to fabled Hollywood, assembling his team as he goes, including Fozzie Bear, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, and others. This enchanting and clever road movie includes one of Paul Williams's most beloved songs, "The Rainbow Connection."

Paul Williams: Still Alive

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

Dir. Stephen Kessler. 2011. 87 mins. With Paul Williams, Robert Blake, Karen Carpenter, Johnny Carson. Stephen Kessler set out to make a documentary about his childhood idol, who he had assumed to be dead. Instead, he found Williams very much alive. Also not according to plan, Williams coaxed Kessler from behind the camera to become a part of the story. *Paul Williams: Still Alive* is both a rollicking pop-culture flashback filled with great performance clips, and the humorous story of an awkward documentarian and his reluctant—and reflective—subject.

Ishtar

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

Dir. Elaine May. 1987. 107 mins. DCP of newly restored edition. With Warren Beatty, Dustin Hoffman, Isabelle Adjani, Charles Grodin. Wildly underrated at the time of its release, Elaine May's deceptively screwball comedy is a cross between a Hope and Crosby road movie and a trenchant satire about the Middle East that feels as relevant

today as it ever was. Beatty and Hoffman are brilliant as a hapless duo of failed songwriter-performers. Paul Williams managed an amazing feat—writing songs that were intentionally awful yet totally endearing. “Honest and popular don’t go hand in hand. If you admit that you play the accordion, no one will hire you in a rock and roll band...”

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 January 2011, the Museum reopened after a major expansion and renovation that nearly doubled its size. Accessible, innovative, and forward-looking, the Museum presents exhibitions, education programs, significant moving-image works, and interpretive programs, and maintains a collection of moving-image related artifacts.

Hours: Tuesday-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. Closed Monday except for holiday openings. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open Monday, December 31, and on New Year’s Day (January 1) from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Museum will be closed on Christmas (December 25).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults (18+); \$9.00 for senior citizens and for students (13+) 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: 718 777 6877, members@movingimage.us

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and 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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