

MoMA HONORS ROBERT ZEMECKIS WITH MAJOR CAREER RETROSPECTIVE

***What Lies Beneath: The Films of Robert Zemeckis* Opens with a Special Screening of his Latest Film, *The Walk*, and Will Screen All Three *Back to the Future* Films on October 3**

What Lies Beneath: The Films of Robert Zemeckis

September 29–October 18, 2015

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

NEW YORK, July 31, 2015—Robert Zemeckis, creator of some of the most iconic films of the last 40 years, including *Romancing the Stone* (1984), *Back to the Future* (1985), *Forrest Gump* (1994), and *Cast Away* (2000), will be honored with a major career retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art from September 29 through October 18, 2015. Opening on September 29 with a special screening of Zemeckis' latest film, *The Walk* (2015), the retrospective will include all of Zemeckis' feature films as well as a selection of his television work and student films. Zemeckis will participate in a post-screening Q&A on September 29 following the screening of *The Walk*, the PG-rated, all-audience 3D motion picture experience that retells Philippe Petit's high wire walk between the World Trade Center towers. On October 3, MoMA will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of *Back to the Future* by screening all three *Back to the Future* films in succession, just in advance of October 21, 2015, the future date that Marty McFly travels to in *Back to the Future II* (1989). *What Lies Beneath: The Films of Robert Zemeckis* is organized by Dave Kehr, Adjunct Curator, Department of Film, MoMA.

Commenting on the announcement, Zemeckis said, "I am thrilled to be receiving this tremendous honor from MoMA. It's hard to believe that I've been making films for more than 30 years, leading up to now with 'The Walk.' I feel extraordinarily thankful that I have had the opportunity to make these films, and to have the chance to see them all, in a great theater, where audiences can enjoy them, is very gratifying."

A profoundly personal filmmaker, Zemeckis is one of the last of the generation of American studio directors who were instinctively able to combine popular appeal and individual expression, with no sense of compromise or condescension. Beneath the cheerful, lively surfaces of his films lies a consistent focus on the isolation of the individual in modern society, a pervasive loneliness that is sometimes a choice (*Contact*, 1997), sometimes an accident (*Cast Away*, 2000), and sometimes a consequence of character (*Flight*, 2012). His sense of America as a playground full of bright, cheap, ultimately disappointing toys (*Back to the Future*), businessmen indistinguishable from confidence hucksters (*Used Cars*, 1980), and a land ruled not so much by opportunity and ambition, but by blind luck and empty optimism (*Forrest Gump*) offers a darkly satirical vision in the guise of folk wisdom. Within American letters his closest relative is probably Mark Twain—and like Twain, Zemeckis has given us one of the great allegories of race relations in

this country, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988), with its themes of segregation, suppression, and the projection of forbidden desires.

Beginning with *Back to the Future* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, Zemeckis has also been a major force for technological change in American moviemaking. Moving from complex optical effects to a full embrace of digital technology, Zemeckis has literally altered the dimensions of American movies. His 2004 film *The Polar Express* (2004) pioneered motion capture technology and launched the modern, digital 3-D format, and he has continued to work with subtly altered digital images in live action films such as *Flight*.

Full List of Films featured in *What Lies Beneath: The Films of Robert Zemeckis*:

A Christmas Carol (2009)
A Field of Honor (1973)
Back to the Future (1985)
Back to the Future Part II (1989)
Back to the Future Part III (1990)
Beowulf (2007)
Cast Away (2000)
Contact (1997)
Death Becomes Her (1992)
Flight (2012)
Forrest Gump (1994)
I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978)
Robert Zemeckis on Smoking, Drinking and Drugging in the 20th Century (1999)
Romancing the Stone (1984)
The 20th Century: The Pursuit of Happiness (1999)
The Lift (1972)
The Polar Express (2004)
The Walk (2015)
Used Cars (1980)
What Lies Beneath (2000)
Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988)

ABOUT THE WALK:

Twelve people have walked on the moon. Only one has ever, or will ever, walk in the immense void between the World Trade Center towers. Philippe Petit (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), guided by his real-life mentor, Papa Rudy (Ben Kingsley), is aided by an unlikely band of international recruits, who overcome long odds, betrayals, dissension, and countless close calls to conceive and execute their mad plan. Robert Zemeckis, the master director of such marvels as *Forrest Gump*, *Cast Away*, *Back to the Future*, *Polar Express*, and *Flight*, again uses cutting edge technology in the service of an emotional, character-driven story. With innovative photorealistic techniques and IMAX® 3D wizardry, *The Walk* is genuine big-screen cinema, a chance for moviegoers to viscerally experience the feeling of reaching the clouds. Unlike anything audiences have seen before, *The Walk* is a love letter to Paris and New York City in the 1970s, but most of all, to the Towers of the World Trade Center. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. Produced by Steve Starkey, Robert Zemeckis, and Jack Rapke. The Screenplay is by Robert Zemeckis & Christopher Browne, based on the book "To Reach the Clouds" by Philippe Petit.

No. 33

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For downloadable high-resolution images, register at MoMA.org/press.

Public Information:

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, MoMA.org.

Hours: Saturday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$25 adults; \$18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$14 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Free admission during Uniqlo Free Friday Nights: Fridays, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

MoMA.org: No service charge for tickets ordered on MoMA.org. Tickets purchased online may be printed out and presented at the Museum without waiting in line. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs).

Film and After Hours Program Admission: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$8 full-time students with current I.D. The price of an After Hours Program Admission ticket may be applied toward the price of a Museum admission ticket or MoMA Membership within 30 days.

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