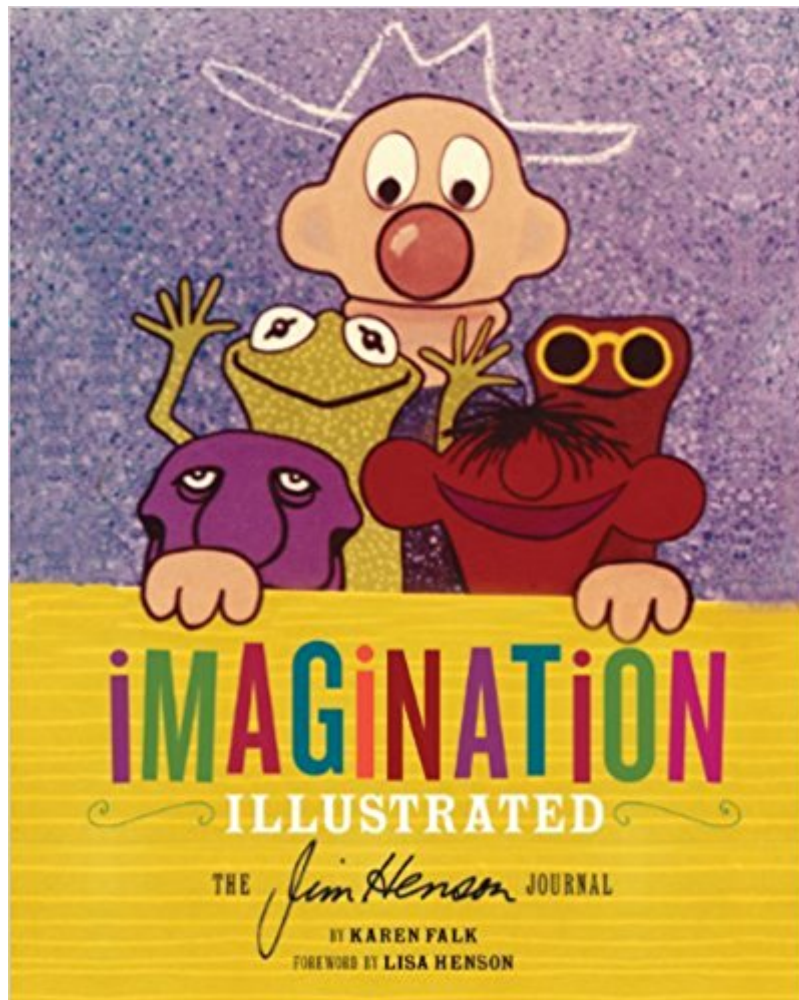




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Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal



Synopsis

Jim Henson's iconic puppet characters, fantastic worlds, and warm humor have delighted millions of people of all ages. His incredibly diverse body of work, from the Muppets to the world of The Dark Crystal, reveals his charm and genius to fans old and new. Compiled directly from The Jim Henson Company archives, *Imagination Illustrated* adapts the diary that Jim faithfully kept throughout his career, supplementing it with a trove of little-seen visual material, including rare sketches, personal and production photographs, storyboards, doodles, and much more. Throughout, archivist Karen Falk delves into the behind-the-scenes details of Henson's life and artistic process. Sure to delight anyone who has enjoyed Henson's creations—seeing early drawings of Kermit and Rowlf is like smiling over childhood photos of dear friends—this lovely book celebrates Jim's life and his magic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"'You know what would be awesome? A print version of Jim's Red Book.' That's what we all said, and that's just about what Karen Falk and the Jim Henson Company gave us. It's a huge book, chock-full of new stories, artwork, photos, and more surrounding Jim's life. It's a gorgeous book, and we hear it's only the tip of the Henson Archives iceberg. So now we're all saying, 'You know what would be awesome? Volume 2.' "--ToughPigs.com"

See if you can crack the spine on *Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal* by Karen Falk without that song rolling through your mind. It seems to emanate from the pages of this raucous-looking book—a tonal match to the color and

controlled chaos Jim Henson's puppets embodied. Anyone who visited last year's "Jim Henson's FantasticWorld" exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry will enjoy this book. It spans Henson's career, from quirky college productions through goofball TV commercials, through the Muppets and Sesame Street and Fraggle Rock to his unexpected death at age 53 in 1990. It features sketches, footnoted scripts and lots of pictures. His playful work made adults and children smile; this book will too." -Chicago Tribune [gift guide pick]"Now this is super cool. Jim Henson kept a diary throughout his career and this book is a collection of Henson's own words, rare sketches, personal photos and much more. Any book that celebrates the genius of Jim Henson is an automatic buy for me. " Ain't It Cool News"

"Meticulously annotated and lovingly compiled, *Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal* is at once an invaluable record of modern creative history and an affectionate celebration of Henson's legacy and magic." Brain Pickings"

"It's a rare gift to peer into the mind of a genius, but that's exactly the gift that *Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal* presents. Using as its base the journal Henson kept for over 20 years, it illustrates his entries with design artwork, photos, and more. A wonderful, wondrous tome." - A Site Called Fred"

"Imagine flipping through Jim Henson's journals filled with doodles, notes and photographs he used to illustrate major life and work events. Writer Karen Falk combined Henson's journal excerpts with unproduced material to show the evolution of Kermit and the wellsprings of Henson's creativity and inspiration" - Cleveland Plain Dealer"

"If you thought the Muppets appeared out of nowhere, fully formed and ready to rock, you are sorely mistaken. They, of course, were the brain child of the late, great visionary, Jim Henson. A new book entitled *Imagination Illustrated* written by Jim Henson Company archives director Karen Falk with a foreword by Henson's daughter Lisa, combines passages from the Muppet maestro's own diary, which he kept through his whole career, with sketches, storyboards, photographs and other visual material to enlighten readers on the early days of the genius' work. Specifically adorable are early drawings of Kermit and which are like seeing photos of your friends from elementary school, if they were frogs." Nerdist News"

"Anyone whose formative childhood years happened during the 1970s and '80s owes a great deal to Mr. Jim Henson, the puppeteering genius behind *The Muppets*, *Fraggle Rock*, and *Labyrinth*, amongst other creative endeavors. Throughout his iconic career, Henson kept a detailed, honest journal, and, finally, it's now available for fans and historians alike in the form of *Imagination Illustrated*, taken directly from The Jim Henson Company archives. As visually driven as it is narratively charged, the gorgeous 192-page book also includes tons of never-before-seen sketches, storyboards, and on-set pictures."--Complex.com"

"This heavily illustrated book, compiled by Karen Falk, is a colorful, creative scrapbook filled with Henson's personal photos, sketches, jotted notes, press clippings and more.

It's the fascinating chronicle of an artist whose imaginative reach was not limited to his most beloved invention, the Muppets."

Karen Falk is archives director at The Jim Henson Company and curator of The Jim Henson Legacy / Smithsonian traveling exhibition "Jim Henson's Fantastic World." She lives in Bronxville, New York. Lisa Henson is the eldest daughter of Jim Henson, chief executive officer of The Jim Henson Company, and executive producer of several hit series for children. She lives in Beverly Hills, California.

As a fan of the blog "Jim's Red Book," I've always wanted to see it turn into an actual book. My prayers have been answered. The book features notes from Jim Henson's journal that he compiled from 1954 to 1988. The real joy is seeing rarely seen photos and material from The Jim Henson Company Archives. Despite the major Muppet brands being owned by three companies (Henson, Disney, Sesame Workshop), it is wonderful that they cooperated to give Muppet fans a detailed and comprehensive look behind-the-scenes at all the Muppet productions, with thoughts from Jim himself. Complete with sketches and exciting photos of Henson characters and staff, *Imagination Illustrated* is a real treat. Any real Muppet/Jim Henson fan will want this book. My only complaint is that the Henson Archives is probably so vast, not everything could fit into this book. I propose a sequel.

The book contains a lot of interesting information about Jim Henson's early career that most people are too young to have seen firsthand. This includes early television shows and his work in commercials. There is also plenty of concept art used to develop characters and sets. I would have liked to see more details on certain subjects, but given how long and varied Jim Henson's career was that would be impractical.

I bought this for a student who loves Jim Henson. He can't put it down! The pages are full of beautiful, full-color photographs. The text gives you a glimpse into the fine minds at the Jim Henson studio. Appropriate for late elementary through high school students.

Amazing book. I bought this book to follow along with while I listened to the amazing biography by Brian Jay Jones. When I found this, I expected to pay \$50+ for it. It's a great price with a wealth of history for any thorough Henson fan.

This is one of the best books on the art and history of Jim Henson I've found yet.

I recommend this book without any reservation to both Muppet fans and archivists. It is a terrific compilation of Jim Henson's career as viewed through his 1965-1988 journal of notable events in his personal and commercial life. Karen Falk must have one of the best jobs in the world :)

Great quality and great pictures to see Jim Hensons works

Very good

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