

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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### **The Lost Worlds of Ray Harryhausen: Creatures, Martians and Myths**

**Lauriston Gallery, Waterside, Sale**

**Sat 26 October 2024 - Sat 4 Jan 2025**

**Free Entry**

A free exhibition on the work of **Ray Harryhausen** - the mastermind behind some of Hollywood's most iconic cinematic special effects – is to open in the North West for the very first time at **Waterside's Lauriston Gallery in Sale, Greater Manchester** from **26 October 2024**. Inspired by John Walsh's book *Harryhausen: The Lost Movies*, this exclusive exhibition promises a rare opportunity for film buffs and fans to experience the worlds and work of this visionary animation pioneer who influenced some of the biggest Hollywood directors of our time.

Developed in partnership with The Ray and Diana Harryhausen Foundation, **The Lost Worlds of Ray Harryhausen** exhibition will feature rare and previously un-exhibited preproduction artwork for some of his classic and much-loved films *including **Clash of the Titans, Jason and the Argonauts and The 7th Voyage of Sinbad***. Artwork ranging from early sketches through to detailed key drawings will show the creative process behind his groundbreaking special effects, containing some of his most iconic creatures and sequences.

Additionally, sketches, key drawings and prototype models for un-realised Harryhausen projects such as ***The War of the Worlds, Baron Munchausen, People of the Mist and Force of the Trojans*** will also be displayed, many of which for the first time. For every project that Ray was able to produce for the cinema going audience, there were several which remained uncompleted and which live on through the incredible collection cared for by the Harryhausen Foundation.

As **Connor Heaney Collections Manager from the Ray Harryhausen Foundation** explains:

'This exhibition presents a unique insight into Ray Harryhausen's lifetime of imagination and creativity. Featuring artwork which spans his earliest experiments in the 1930s through to the unrealised *Story of Odysseus* in the late 1990s, this display will demonstrate the true extent of his genius. Fans of cinema will be fascinated to see alternate artwork for some of Ray Harryhausen's most iconic creations, alongside previously unseen prototype models from the Foundation's archive. Given the special historic connection between Ray Harryhausen and Cosgrove Hall Productions, Waterside Arts represents the perfect venue to showcase these unique and unseen treasures'.

This exhibition will also feature some of Ray's work from unseen projects and untold stories that connect his artistry to the North West – a largely unknown connection. In 1996 Manchester based and internationally acclaimed animation studio, Cosgrove Hall Productions approached Ray for a project inspired by his own work. This became the un-realised *The Story of Odysseus* (1996-1998) - an ambitious project aimed to create a 75 - minute film, followed by 26 episodes, combining traditional stop motion and new technology at the time. This will be the first time audiences will be able to see objects and clips from this unfinished work together, reuniting the Cyclops housed by the Cosgrove Hall Film Archive with other work from the lost production.

**Rosy Whittemore, Project Curator, Cosgrove Hall Films Archive** comments: "This is a very special exhibition for all of us at Waterside, working collaboratively with The Ray and Diana Harryhausen Foundation to bring John Walsh's Lost Movies book to life. I think people will really respond to seeing Harryhausen's creative process in a new way, how he shaped and built his characters and creatures. Using his untold stories as a springboard, visitors will see rare and more experimental work from the animation legend for the first time in the North West and we are thrilled that we are the current custodians and guardians of such cinematic greatness."



**Trafford Council's Executive Member for Leisure, Arts, Culture and Heritage, Cllr Catherine**

**Hynes** adds; "We are honoured to be hosting this wonderful and unique exhibition at Waterside.

This reinforces the importance Trafford Council places on culture for all residents and reflects on our commitment to fostering rich, real and accessible cultural experiences for everyone."

**The Lost Worlds of Ray Harryhausen: Creatures, Martians and Myths runs at The Lauriston Gallery, Waterside, Sale from 26 October 2024 - 4 January 2025**

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PR:

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **THE LOST WORLDS OF RAY HARRYHAUSEN: CREATURES, MARTIANS & MYTHS**

**Sat 26 Oct '24 – Sat 04 Jan '25**

Free entry

***In the Lauriston Gallery & Gallery '74***

**In partnership with The Ray & Diana Harryhausen Foundation** (charity no. SC001419)

Ray Harryhausen is known as the mastermind behind some of Hollywood's most iconic cinematic special effects. Inspired by John Walsh's book *Ray Harryhausen: The Lost Movies*, the exhibition explores the origins of Ray's creative career, with a detailed look at Ray's experimental phases and groundbreaking techniques in work such as *The Jupiterian*.

The exhibition will feature some of Ray's defining moments, with unseen drawings from his iconic films, *Jason and the Argonauts* and *7th Voyage of Sinbad*, accompanied by unseen projects and untold stories that connect his artistry to audiences in the North West. This is an exclusive opportunity to immerse yourself in the worlds of a visionary animation pioneer, who influenced some of the biggest Hollywood directors of our time.



<https://youtu.be/bXfnU6yGP1Y?si=aBCvAEGwuEVa6A11>

<https://www.johnwalshfilmmaker.com/>

Instagram: @ray.harryhausen

Instagram: @cosgrovehallfilmsarchive

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## **WATERSIDE**

Waterside is an award-winning, vibrant destination for performance, culture and events in the heart of Sale in Trafford, Greater Manchester.

Waterside opened in 2004 and has built a strong reputation for delivering high quality and engaging work, ranging from family theatre, interactive arts activity, performance, live music and regular comedy as well as high profile visual arts exhibitions.

With an important role to play in the local community, the venue welcomes over 100,000 visitors per year, stages the annual ten-day Refract Festival and the cultural LGBTQ+ celebration Pride in Trafford; and engages with over 7000 residents through the established participation programme.

The space houses a main auditorium (the Robert Bolt Theatre), a versatile conference and studio performance space (the Chambers), three exhibition spaces and a number of studios, meeting and workshop spaces, all used by a variety of different groups.

The Lauriston Gallery is open to the public six days a week and is free to visit. The venue is funded by Trafford Council and supported by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

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## **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES TRAFFORD**

Artist development at Waterside is delivered through Creative Industries Trafford (CIT).

CIT is committed to providing innovative support, training, mentoring and opportunities for artists and creatives in Greater Manchester and beyond. Featuring a year-round professional development programme, CIT covers a number of fields including literature, visual arts, contemporary design, theatre-making and animation.



The objectives are to increase artistic quality and to help artists build sustainable creative careers.

Activities include the Cosgrove Hall Film Archive, celebrating the legacy of the renowned animation studio, and curating the gallery spaces at Waterside which focus on photography, contemporary design, animation and the moving image.

CIT runs the Northern Lights Writers Conference, the Puppet Masters Animation Conference; plus, a very successful theatre development programme that has supported a number of theatre-makers and helped to create touring work.

Also acting as creative producers, CIT created theatre and audio commissions for the National Trust on the Live at Lyme Project.