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**The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia celebrates  
*Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak with *Wild Things Days*  
Museum's Sendak collection is the largest in the world  
Fall events include Sendak exhibitions in Philadelphia & San Francisco**

PHILADELPHIA — The **Rosenbach Museum & Library** in Philadelphia is the sole repository of the original artwork of famed author and illustrator **Maurice Sendak** and a foremost authority on all things Sendak. Author of *Where the Wild Things Are* and 108 other books, Maurice Sendak, now 81 years old, chose the Rosenbach to be the permanent home of his work in the early 1970s thanks to shared literary and collecting interests. The Rosenbach's Sendak collection is the largest collection of "Sendakiana" in the world, with over 10,000 preliminary sketches, final drawings, manuscripts, books, and ephemera as well as **exclusive recent interview footage** ([www.youtube.com/RosenbachMuseum](http://www.youtube.com/RosenbachMuseum)) in which Sendak discusses his life, childhood, work, and inspirations.

To coincide with the forthcoming release of the **Warner Bros. live-action film adaptation** of Sendak's acclaimed children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are* (<http://wherethewildthingsare.warnerbros.com>), the Rosenbach will present *Wild Things Days* this **September through October**, offering a number of Sendak-themed events and exhibitions for audiences looking to experience the art and work of Maurice Sendak up-close and in-person. The aforementioned film, directed by **Spike Jonze**, with a screenplay by Jonze and author **Dave Eggers**, is slated for release nationwide on **October 16, 2009**.

Throughout the year, the Rosenbach displays rotating Sendak-specific exhibitions featuring work from the museum's vast Sendak collection and offers special Sendak-themed Hands-On Tours, events and educational programming. The museum also lends from its Sendak collection to other museums around the country, including the forthcoming exhibition at **The Contemporary Jewish Museum** in San Francisco. Fans of Sendak's work will also have the opportunity to view and purchase original Sendak drawings at the **Animazing Gallery**, a private gallery in New York City.

Rosenbach Museum & Library staff members with extensive knowledge of Maurice Sendak will be available to speak with media outlets about *Where the Wild Things Are* and Sendak's life, art and work. Interview subjects include **Derick Dreher**, Director of the Rosenbach Museum & Library, **Patrick Rodgers**, Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator and Curator of *There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*, and **Judith M. Guston**, Curator and Director of Collections. The Rosenbach also has numerous high-resolution images of original Sendak illustrations available for press use, including images from *Where the Wild Things Are*.

**A full description of Fall Sendak events in Philadelphia and beyond and additional information about the Rosenbach's Sendak collection follows below.**

## **SENDAK AT THE ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY (Philadelphia)**

The Rosenbach Museum & Library, home of the Maurice Sendak collection, continues to celebrate Sendak's work this fall with *Wild Things Days*, coinciding with the release of *Where the Wild Things Are*, the film. The Rosenbach is located at 2008-2010 Delancey Place in Philadelphia and is open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students and free for children under 5. For more information, please call (215) 732-1600 or visit [www.rosenbach.org](http://www.rosenbach.org).

- **Wild Things Days**

**September – October, 2009**

The Rosenbach celebrates Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* and the release of the film adaptation with talks, tours and activities for audiences of all ages.

- **Exhibition: Too Many Thoughts to Chew: A Sendak Stew**

**September 16, 2009 – January 17, 2010**

Dig into an exhibition about food, eating, and being eaten in the illustrations of Maurice Sendak. *Too Many Thoughts to Chew: A Sendak Stew* presents 40 original Sendak illustrations that show how food brings families together, helps children forge new friendships, and nourishes us emotionally and intellectually. The exhibition is appropriate for families and kids of all ages.

- **Exhibition: And it's still hot: Where the Wild Things Are**

**September 30 – October 25, 2009**

This fall, as Hollywood transforms a children's classic into a live action film, celebrate Maurice Sendak's Caldecott-winning picture book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, with the exhibition *And it's still hot: Where the Wild Things Are*. Find out how Sendak created Max, the Wild Things, and their exotic land while viewing the original watercolors, sketches, and manuscripts for the book. Visitors can also see posters, drawings, and advertisements that reveal the life of the Wild Things outside the book, and discover why this story is still hot after almost fifty years in print.

- **Hands-On Tour: 'Flaming maniacs:' Sendak and His Literary Inspirations**

**Wednesday, September 9** at 3:00pm

Maurice Sendak chose the Rosenbach as the home for his artwork in part because it was also the home of "people I love, artists I love." Lewis Carroll, Charles Dickens, William Blake, and Herman Melville are just a few of those artists and writers that visitors will see up close in this Hands-On Tour about the literature that Sendak loves. Visitors can safely handle pieces from the Rosenbach's Sendak collection alongside his favorite literature and discuss a variety of diverting questions: what do Sendak and his heroes have in common? Why does Sendak call Blake a "flaming maniac?" And just what is a *Steam Man of the Prairies*? Discover what Sendak is like as a collector, as a reader, and as an artist. This tour is led by Patrick Rodgers, Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator, and consulting curator of *There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*.

- **Hands-On Tour: Wild Things**

**Wednesday, September 23; Wednesday, October 14; Sunday, October 18; Friday, October 23**

All tours will be held at 3:00pm

Get a new perspective on an old favorite with this rumpus through Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. On this tour, audiences will re-discover Sendak's world-famous creations, the Wild Things, and his mischievous hero, Max, by safely handling original artifacts from the Sendak collection. Examine manuscripts of the story from Sendak's old notebooks, pass around original drawings of the beastly Wild Things, listen to the Wild Things sing in an opera from 1979, and follow the life of the Wild Things outside of the book. The tour will also feature an exclusive look at photos of Sendak's family – those aunts and

uncles who inspired the Wild Things – and a hand-written draft of *Where the Wild Horses Are*, Sendak's earliest version of the story. This tour is led by Patrick Rodgers and appropriate for ages 8 and up.

- **Gallery Talk: Maurice, Max and the Wild Things**

**Thursday, October 8** at 6pm

Join Patrick Rodgers, curator of the *A Sendak Stew* exhibition, and follow in the huge footsteps of Maurice Sendak's Wild Things during this gallery talk about their origins, their impact, and their ravenous appetite! Explore original artwork and manuscripts from *Where the Wild Things Are* and listen to interviews with Sendak describing his relationship to these famous beasts.

- **Wild Things Family Day**

**Saturday, October 17** between 12 – 4pm

Spend an afternoon with the family taking part in a variety of "Wild" activities geared towards kids of all ages. Create Wild Things-inspired crafts, take a spin through the Rosenbach's Sendak galleries with a family gallery guide or just settle down with a snack and a copy of your favorite Sendak book!

- **DVD: There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak: A Retrospective in Words and Pictures**

This DVD features exclusive interview footage with Maurice Sendak at his Connecticut home and in his private studio, and explores his extraordinary career through his own words. The DVD offers viewers the rare opportunity to experience Sendak's prolific imagination first-hand as the author discusses his favorite characters and the many influences and settings of his stories. In addition to Sendak's words, the DVD includes interviews with **Toni Markiet**, Senior Executive Editor of HarperCollins Children's Books (Sendak's longtime publisher); **John Vitale**, Vice President of Production at HarperCollins; Scholastic's **Michael di Capua** (Sendak's editor since 1964); and **Derick Dreher**, Director of the Rosenbach Museum & Library. Interviews were conducted by **Patrick Rodgers**, Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator at the Rosenbach and the curator of the exhibition, *There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*. The DVD is available for purchase at the Rosenbach Museum Gift Shop and online at [www.rosenbach.org/shop](http://www.rosenbach.org/shop). **To request a DVD copy**, email Emaleigh Doley at [emaleigh@canarypromo.com](mailto:emaleigh@canarypromo.com). **View, embed and download interview excerpts online:** [www.youtube.com/RosenbachMuseum](http://www.youtube.com/RosenbachMuseum).

## **SENDAK AT THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM (San Francisco)**

*There's a Mystery There: Sendak on Sendak*, the Rosenbach Museum's major retrospective of the work of Maurice Sendak was on exhibit at the Rosenbach in Philadelphia from May 2008 through May 2009. **The Contemporary Jewish Museum** in San Francisco will host the exhibition from **September 8, 2009 – January 19, 2010**, bringing the largest and most ambitious exhibition of Sendak's work to West Coast audiences. Hailed as "a splendidly evocative exhibition" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), *There's a Mystery There* garnered critical acclaim and accolades from visitors during its Philadelphia run. Curated by the Rosenbach's Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator Patrick Rodgers with the support of the Rosenbach's exhibition team, *There's a Mystery There* is the first multi-venue touring exhibition the Rosenbach museum has created.

*There's a Mystery There* features original artwork, rare sketches, never-before-seen working materials and exclusive interviews with Maurice Sendak himself. Visitors will discover the artist's prolific imagination by exploring the characters, influences and settings of his richest stories, as well as his quest to illustrate what he calls "the Other Story," the hidden meanings of a text. For more information about *There's a Mystery There* at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, visit [www.thecjm.org](http://www.thecjm.org).

## **SENDAK AT THE ANIMAZING GALLERY (New York City)**

A sale and exhibition of original drawings by Maurice Sendak, *Sendak in SoHo*, will debut **October 1, 2009** at New York's **Animazing Gallery**. More than 50 original pieces by Sendak will be on display, along with the sale of a commemorative poster, which will benefit the Rosenbach Museum & Library. Visit [www.animazing.com](http://www.animazing.com) or email [rsvp@animazing.com](mailto:rsvp@animazing.com) for further details.

## **ABOUT MAURICE SENDAK**

One of the most famous creators of contemporary children's books, Maurice Sendak has challenged the norms of children's literature over time and continues to entrance both children and adults to this day. His innovative techniques and honest portrayal of childhood emotion are celebrated worldwide and have earned him several prestigious honors, including the Caldecott Book Medal (1964), the international Hans Christian Andersen Medal (1970), the National Medal of Arts (1996), a Library of Congress "Living Legend" medal (2000) and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for Literature (2003).

## **ABOUT THE ROSENBACH**

The Rosenbach Museum & Library seeks to inspire curiosity, inquiry and creativity by engaging broad audiences in exhibitions, programs and research based on its remarkable and expanding collections. The museum was founded by legendary book dealer A.S.W. Rosenbach and his brother and business partner Philip. With an outstanding collection of rare books, manuscripts, furniture and art, the Rosenbach is a museum and world-renowned research library, set within two historic 1865 townhouses, that reflects an age when great collectors lived among their treasures.

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