



June 2019

**OC Jewish Scene | June 2019**



### **E.T. MAKES ALIYAH**

The Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot has received a four-foot-tall model of the iconic character from Steven Spielberg's 1982 blockbuster film "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial," considered one of the top Jewish movies of all time. The E.T. model will be displayed in the "Jews in the Cinema" installation, which is part of the "Jewish Culture Through the Ages" gallery on the 3rd floor of the Museum's new Core exhibition, which will open to the public in spring 2020.

The new Core exhibition will replace the museum's historical/outdated permanent exhibit, which closed to the public in October 2017 after 40 years on view. The new Core will be the only exhibition in the world to tell the story of the Jewish people from ancient times to the present, emphasizing Jewish identity, pluralism and multiculturalism. The exhibition will span three floors and 66,000 square feet of gallery space. It will touch on issues of religious and cultural diversity in Judaism, and the continuity, faith and creativity of the Jewish people. It will also serve to strengthen the sense of identification and belonging among Jewish visitors and provide relevant experiences of interest to visitors of other faiths.

The museum will celebrate the tremendous contribution of Jews and Judaism to humanity and to all aspects of life, culture and art throughout the 4000-year history of the Jewish people, with an emphasis on the modern period of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The contribution of Jews to world cinema will be most clearly expressed in the "Hollywood Directors" space, where E.T. will be on display in honor one of the most important directors and producers of the 20th century and in Hollywood history: Steven Spielberg.

The museum's curatorial team conducted a strenuous search for months to find an original model of E.T. Last week, E.T. completed his journey and immigrated to Israel, or in other words, "made aliyah." E.T. arrived in a large shipping crate with a bag of Reese's Pieces candy attached to his legs, recalling his sweet obsession in the film. He arrived just in time for the 71st Independence Day celebrations in Israel. The museum staff provided him a hat and an Israeli flag. ✨

## NEWS & JEWS



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"Spielberg's films have shaped the face of Hollywood as we know it today," explains Dr. Orit Shaham Gover, Chief Curator, Museum of the Jewish People. "Beit Hatfutsot will use this space to explain to visitors how deeply rooted Jews are in the global film industry and their significant contribution to all areas of filmmaking, including screenwriting, production and photography. This is one example of how the new permanent exhibition will celebrate flourishing Jewish culture throughout history and particularly in modern times."

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