



# SHADOW VOYAGES

VISUAL ENTERTAINMENT BEFORE CINEMA



# SHADOW VOYAGES

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES

## ABOUT

*Shadow Voyages: Visual Entertainment Before Cinema* unveils the magical visual illusions and projected media that led to the creation of cinema.

Early storytelling devices used moving images to amuse, educate, and spark viewers' imaginations. From the timeless delight of shadow puppetry to the advent of projected film, this whimsical exhibition explores the art, history, and science of moving pictures.

An incredible array of inventive artifacts and hands-on interactives invites visitors to experience the mysterious marvels that dazzled early audiences, drove scientific innovations, and eventually led to the spectacular movies of the modern age.





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## KEY EXPERIENCES

### ARTIFACTS & OBJECTS

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures holds one of the world's largest collections of pre-cinematic devices, representing the evolution of moving and projected entertainment as an art and a science.

Highlights include objects spanning centuries and cultures such as:

- Shadow puppets, showcasing the origins of projected entertainment.
- Magic lanterns, which illuminate faraway lands and spook viewers with scenes of ghostly magic.
- Zoetropes and praxinoscopes, which demonstrate the basic concepts that made cinema possible.
- Kinoras and kinetoscopes which lent realism to early moving images with the power of photography.
- Early movie cameras that spread the magic of cinema worldwide.





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## KEY EXPERIENCES

### GRAPHICS & AUDIOVISUAL DISPLAYS

Period advertisements and illustrations from the Margaret Herrick Library's collection add intriguing historical context to the experience. A projected montage of photographic and hand-painted magic lantern slides further entices audiences, while animated demonstrations illustrate the illusions at work in these captivating devices.

### HANDS-ON INTERACTIVES

Enchanting hands-on interactives engage guests' creativity and imagination. Visitors spin large-scale zoetropes and praxinoscopes to set playful moving images in motion, while a shadow screen allows guests to recreate classic shadow puppets or dream up their own scenes. Other recreations of pre-cinema devices engage visitors with charming analog illusions.





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## CURATORIAL CONTENT

*Shadow Voyages: Visual Entertainment Before Cinema* is a wonderful addition to any museum specializing in art, history, science, or technology. The Academy Museum's curatorial staff are available for consultation and to ensure the exhibition fits the mission of each participating venue.





# SHADOW VOYAGES TOUR INFO

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES

**Availability:** Venue 1 – Fall 2026  
Venue 2 – Winter/Spring 2027  
Venue 3 – Summer 2027  
Each tour slot is approximately 4 months.

**Gallery Space:** Approximately 2,500 sq ft

**Contact:** Molly Sjöberg  
Director, Exhibition Planning  
[molly.sjoberg@oscars.org](mailto:molly.sjoberg@oscars.org)



THANK YOU



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