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Dinos Parade across the Silver Screen at the San Diego Natural History Museum
New Exhibition Highlights Retro Films,
Hollywood Memorabilia and Robotic Dinos

San Diego, CA: April 18, 2006—From May 27, 2006, through January 1, 2007, visitors at the San Diego Natural History Museum will see how Hollywood's biggest stars have come to life and changed in the movies over the years through artistic portrayal and advances in scientific information and technology. The exhibition, called *Dinosaurs: Reel & Robotic*, boasts the world's largest collection of original movie posters, models and memorabilia, a dino dig box and, of course, giant robotic dinosaurs.

Movie memorabilia and related materials—the largest collection of original dinosaur poster art in the world—are from the traveling exhibition *CINE-SAURUS The History of Dinosaurs in the Movies*, which is organized and circulated by Czerkas Studios. This portion of the exhibition is guaranteed to thrill any movie buff. The original posters (some very rare), panels and memorabilia trace the history of dinosaurs in the movies. Visitors will learn about early dinosaur illustration, stop-motion and contemporary computer-generated animation technology, and Hollywood's changing perspective on prehistoric life.

The life-like, three-quarter-size robotic dinosaurs were created by Kokoro Dinosaurs, the leading mechanized dinosaur innovator. New servo-digital technology and a patented body sculpting process make the dinosaurs astonishingly life-like. Each creature is individually computer-programmed and handcrafted, and the "skin" is as pliable as living tissue. Kokoro models boast cutting-edge science as well as technology: distinguished paleontologists are consulted every step of the way on all aspects of the creatures' attributes and functioning.

The exhibition also includes original models by the quintessential museum artist Charles Knight, with faithfully copied movie dinosaurs side by side. Contemporary artist William Stout's work is also featured. Stout is the modern-day equivalent of Knight, and his murals will also populate the forthcoming permanent exhibition, *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*, which will open July 2006. Visit www.sdnhm.org/exhibits for more information about *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*.

In the less scientific films, fantastical creatures—amalgams of lizards, dragons and dinosaurs—also paraded across the silver screen. Sometimes, live lizards, alligators and even armadillos, were festooned with extra rubber fins and frills, making caricatures of real dinosaurs.

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Visitors will watch a recording of Disney animators at work and *Gertie*, the 1914 cartoon that first depicted dinosaurs. Winsor McCay, *Gertie*'s illustrator, based his cartoon on the then-called *Brontosaurus* (now known as the *Apatosaurus*) on the scientific information available at the time and on the American Natural History Museum's *Brontosaurus*. McCay did take some artistic liberty: *Gertie* eats an entire tree, drinks an entire lake, and dances to vaudeville music.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is celebrating its 131st anniversary this year. Founded by citizen naturalists, it is the second oldest scientific institution in California and the third oldest west of the Mississippi. An active research institute, the Museum specializes in the study of biodiversity; the results of the research are passed on to the community through the Museum's numerous education programs and exhibitions. Until June 30, admission is \$9 for adults; \$6 for students, seniors and military; \$5 for children 3–17. Beginning July 1, admission is \$11 for adults; \$9 for seniors; \$7 for military, youth 13–17, and students with ID; and \$6 for children 3–12. Admission is always free for members. The Museum is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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