

For immediate release

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HORNIMAN
MUSEUM
& GARDENS



Amazing animatronics bring Permian Monsters back to life at the Horniman

252 million years ago, in a period called the Permian, life on Earth was dominated by extraordinary creatures. It was a time of fearsome sabre-toothed predators, giant insects and bizarre-looking sharks which ended with a mass extinction that destroyed 90% of all life, paving the way for the Earth's next great rulers... the dinosaurs.

Discover this mysterious time period in **Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs**, a fascinating, family-friendly exhibition travelling to the UK for the first time and opening at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, London on Saturday 15 February 2020.

From *Diictodons* to *Dimetrodons*, *Ennatosaurus* to *Eotitanosuchus*, the exhibition vividly brings the inhabitants of the Permian period back to life through fossil skeletons, full-size models and animatronics. Visitors can also sift through interactive dig pits, get creative in an art area, and see a collection of artwork offering a glimpse back in time through the eyes of award-winning palaeoartist Julius Csotonyi.

Dr Emma Nicholls, Deputy Keeper of Natural History, says: 'Permian Monsters is such an incredible exhibition that will get visitors of all ages excited. It provides a fascinating foray into the amazing, enigmatic and down-right weird animals - the ancestors of both reptile and mammal groups that we know today. The scientific content has just been updated and thus represents our current understanding of the biology and evolution of Permian species... ancient animals that ruled the world before the dinosaurs. This exhibition is the dictionary definition of awesome!'

Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs is open from Saturday 15 February until Sunday 1 November 2020. The Horniman will be hosting special activities linked to the exhibition during the school holidays. See www.horniman.ac.uk for details.

Ticket prices: Child £5; Adult £9; Family (4 tickets, up to 2 adults) £20. Prices include 10% voluntary Gift Aid donation. See www.horniman.ac.uk for more information and to book

tickets. Horniman Members and Benefactors enjoy free, unlimited visits to the exhibition. For information on how to become a Member see www.horniman.ac.uk/visit/membership.

Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs is a travelling exhibition produced by Gondwana Studios.

Ends

Picture attached shows:

Titanophoneus Animatronic, Permian Monsters, courtesy Gondwana Studios

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Notes to Editors:

- **Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs** is a travelling exhibition, produced by **Gondwana Studios**. gondwanastudios.com
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at horniman.ac.uk.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).