

For immediate release

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## **Monkey Business swings into Forest Hill**

Venture into the heart of the forest and explore the fascinating world of primates in **Monkey Business**, an exciting new exhibition opening at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, London on Friday 12 February 2021.

From the tiny mouse lemur to the mighty gorilla, visitors can come face to face with more than 60 spectacular taxidermy specimens of monkeys, apes, lemurs, lorises and bush-babies, alongside models, stunning photography and film.

From a chimpanzee fishing for termites to a tarsier using ultrasonic communication, this family-friendly exhibition examines the key characteristics of primates and how they have evolved and adapted over time, how they communicate, and the tools they have developed to obtain food. It also reveals their complex social systems and looks at the relationship between humans and other primates – our closest living relatives – today and what we can do to help protect them.

Jo Hatton, Keeper of Natural History says: 'Monkey Business has something for everyone. With more than 60 staggeringly life-like taxidermy specimens at its core, Monkey Business introduces us to the wonderful world of primates, revealing the depth and diversity of life in the primate world, their long evolutionary history and why we are all primates. Over half of the world's primate species are now threatened with extinction. Monkey Business explores how primates face an increasingly uncertain future and explains that it's not too late to act. Many people around the world are working hard to protect primates, from preserving and restoring habitats, to working on primate conservation and reintroduction programmes. The Horniman is doing its bit too. We are committed to reducing our environmental and carbon footprint, increasing biodiversity in our Gardens and local environment, and are inspiring others to do the same. Everyone can do something to ensure that our closest cousins thrive and survive. Find out how, in this fantastic exhibition.'

**Monkey Business is open from Friday 12 February to Sunday 31 October 2021.** The Horniman will be hosting special activities throughout the year linked to the exhibition. See [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk) for details.

**Tickets on sale from 2021. Please see [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk) for details.**

Horniman Members and Benefactors enjoy free, unlimited visits to the exhibition. For information on how to become a Member see [horniman.ac.uk/plan-your-visit/membership/](http://horniman.ac.uk/plan-your-visit/membership/).

**Monkey Business** is a National Museums Scotland exhibition, touring in association with Nomad Exhibitions. All the taxidermy specimens in the exhibition are natural casualties donated to National Museums Scotland. No animals were harmed for this exhibition.

**Ends**

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

Picture shows: Hanuman Langur © National Museums Scotland

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- **National Museums Scotland** is one of the leading museum groups in the UK and Europe and it looks after collections of national and international importance. The organisation provides loans, touring exhibitions, partnerships, research and training in Scotland and internationally. Our individual museums are the National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Flight, the National Museum of Rural Life and the National War Museum. The National Museums Collection Centre in Edinburgh houses conservation and research facilities as well as collections not currently on display.
- 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](http://horniman.ac.uk).
- **Coronavirus restrictions and impact** – the Museum reopened to the public on 3 December 2020, following its second lockdown closure. Social distancing and other safety measures are in place, including a one-way visitor route, and visitors should wear face coverings unless they have good reason not to. **Visitors (including Members) need to pre-book at [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk) for a free, timed entry slot.** The Horniman Gardens have been open throughout the pandemic and the Horniman is asking the public to adhere to [social distancing guidance](#) in the Gardens.
- **Opening times** – the Museum and Café are open from 10am to 5.30pm daily. Visits to the Museum are free but must be booked in advance at [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk). The Gardens are open from 7.15am (Monday to Saturday) or 8am (Sunday and Bank Holidays) until dusk.
- **Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, fish and other animals, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations, are more needed than ever. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us/](http://horniman.ac.uk/support-us/)
- **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](http://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.
- **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/plan-your-visit/access/](http://horniman.ac.uk/plan-your-visit/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).