



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: 'MR. DRESSUP TO DEGRASSI: 42 YEARS OF LEGENDARY TORONTO KIDS TV' RETURNS TO THE MUSEUM OF TORONTO, HARBOURFRONT CENTRE OUT POST ON NOVEMBER 28TH

From The Friendly Giant to Today's Special: Relive the Shows That Raised a Generations

Toronto, ON (November 11, 2025) – Today, [Museum of Toronto](#) announced the re-mount of the latest multidisciplinary exhibition at the Museum of Toronto's outpost location at the Harbourfront Centre titled "Mr Dressup to Degrassi: 42 Years of Legendary Toronto Kids TV". The chronological exhibition is an exploration of the dramatic shifts in the way children's television was created and produced from 1952 to 1994. The exhibition opens on November 28th and runs until March 15th 2026 at 225 Queens Quay West.

Explore the magic of Children's TV from this time period and how it has brought cultural significance in the way it has influenced generations and reflected contemporary values. From 1952-1994, Toronto was a global player in this era of children's television programs. For the past four decades, our city has brought together initiative, thought leaders, creators and unexpected collaborations which lead into forming a powerful television industry and one of the most prominent ones in the world.

By dissecting how television was used as an educational tool and the thematics it presented, we can learn how important the role of early Canadian-produced content is in today's entertainment industry. Throughout the exhibit, in addition to numerous clips from everyone's favourite shows like Mr. Dressup, Today's Special, The Friendly Giant, Polka Dot Door, Degrassi, the exhibit features original costumes, puppets and more.

Co-curated by Ed Conroy, [Retrontario](#), a cultural historian, writer, producer, archivist and vintage video sleuth, and Museum of Toronto, this exhibit will feature stories from key figures of children's television as well as behind-the-scenes videos, notable puppets and more. His new [book](#), *ImagiNation: The Golden Age of Toronto Kids' TV* (2025, Dundurn Press), will be available for sale on site at the exhibition.

The Museum of Toronto CEO Heidi Reitmaier said, "We were so thrilled by the response to the original exhibition, we seized the opportunity to bring back the brilliant story of Toronto's influence on children's television since the invention of TV, so more visitors can reminisce and



share their stories and memories of their favourite children’s programs. It is a story filled with joy, humour and creativity.”

This exhibit timeline of 1952 to 1994 will be broken down into decades to pull out moments to highlight unique themes including:

1950s: Networks

Exploring the role and rise of networks and their relationship to children’s programming beginning in 1952 when CBLT (Ontario’s CBC flagship English service) first signed on the airwaves with a family program, *Let’s See*, featuring the (grotesque) puppet Uncle Chichimus.

1960s: Diversity

Highlighting the role diversity played in children’s programming made in Toronto with the airing of *Uncle Bobby and Friends* in 1968, the first children’s series in North America to feature sign language, via co-host Bev Marsh.

1970s: Education

The creation of TVOntario in 1970, as part of the ministry of education, was a moment to explore the desire to use children’s tv as an educational tool through curriculum based programming.

1980s: Cultural Values

The creation and success of *Degrassi Junior High* in the 1980s as a jumping off point to look at the exportation of culture and cultural values, and ideas about our city itself, through children’s tv. The success of *Dear Aunt Agnes* from 1986 to 1989 in speaking to older children through addressing social issues such as divorce, peer pressure, alcoholism, bulimia and more.

1990s: Personalities

Looking at the ways in which children’s programming created TV personalities through the launch of *The Zone* programming block on YTV in 1991 and the introduction of a rotating group of “Program Jockeys” who would provide an entertaining segue into each new show. The initial group of PJs included PJ Jazzy Jan (Janis Mackey), Gord the PJ Man (Gordon Michael Woolvert), and PJ “Fresh” Phil (Phil Guerrero).

To learn more about “*Mr Dressup to Degrassi: 42 Years of Legendary Toronto Kids TV*”, visit museumoftoronto.com.

Exhibition Information

The exhibition opens to the public on November 26th 2025 and will run until March 15th 2026.



The Museum of Toronto out post space is located at Harbourfront Centre, 225 Queens Quay West, Toronto. Museum of Toronto is always free, with donations encouraged.

Museum Hours:

Friday & Saturday 12-8 PM

Thursday & Sunday 12 – 6 PM

Monday - Wednesday: CLOSED

Media images, please click [HERE](#).

Museum of Toronto can be found across social media platforms @MuseumofToronto [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Tik Tok](#).

Museum of Toronto is made possible with the generous support of Diane Blake and Stephen Smith.

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About Museum of Toronto

Founded in 2015, The Museum of Toronto is Toronto's City Museum. They offer a collection of experiences that tell the histories of Toronto. Their exhibitions and content aim to evoke curiosity and foster deeper connections between its visitors and the city. With a focus on building a living archive of the city, they strive to be a valuable resource for those interested in the cultural heritage of Toronto. Enjoy Museum of Toronto's programming in their downtown exhibition space, throughout the city, and online.

About Ed Conroy, RetrOntario

Ed Conroy is the founder of RetrOntario.com (@RetrOntario on social) and his writing on Canadian pop culture and history has been published in the Toronto Star, Toronto Life, and on blogTO. He is a regular guest and commentator on CTV, TVOntario, CBC TV & Radio, Zoomer TV & Radio, Newstalk 1010, and the IHeartRadioCanada Network.

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