

Collections Management Intern at The Museum of the Moving Image
New York City



The Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is a unique institution dedicated to exploring art, history, and technology of the moving image. MoMI stands apart from other cultural institutions by incorporating inventive interactive displays while exhibiting the museum's vast artifact collection. The museum successfully breaks down the concepts of production and creation, inviting the visitor to participate in every process. My internship allowed me to go *behind the screen* and experience the chronological pathway through the history of the moving image beginning with a Zoetrope and ending with Frogger.

The crux of my summer work consisted of a 6000 plus piece ephemera collection, consisting of mostly of film posters, as well as lobby cards, press books and film stills. The collection was donated to the Museum in 1986 and aside from a rough estimate of what the donation entailed; no one had looked at it since. Each piece of the collection had to be measured, photographed, documented and researched. In some instances translating was also necessary as many of the posters and press materials were for French releases. The posters, which made up the majority of the collection, ranged in sizes from 246 inches by 108 inches (also known as a Billboard or 24-sheet) to 14 inches by 21 inches (Window Card). The space, not to mention the patience, required to unfold the 24-sheets was expansive to say the least, but the sight of these posters was ample payoff. Dating from 1940 to 1989, the vibrant colours remained remarkably intact for sitting unattended for 25 years.

One of the perks of working for MoMI was my museum ID card. I was able to visit every museum and most movie theatres in New York City for free; needless to say I took advantage of this privilege. I visited at least one museum and one film a week, and when I was not roaming around the MET or eating popcorn at Film Forum, I filled any unscheduled hours with as many City events as I could. I took every opportunity to immerse myself in cultural activities and historical tours; there was never a shortage of extra-curricular activities. I also took advantage of the special screenings, events, and lectures at MoMI, having the opportunity to meet some of my favourite directors in person. Most notably I met Todd Haynes, Martin Scorsese, and David Cronenberg – truly a cinophile's dream.

