

Press Release

The British
Museum

MARINA BAY *Sands*[®]
SINGAPORE

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Journey to the Egyptian afterlife at ArtScience Museum with *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb*

3,000 year-old mystery to unwrap at ArtScience Museum

Singapore (March 12, 2013) – For the first time in Singapore and Southeast Asia, the secrets of the mysterious Egyptian burial practices and mummification process will be revealed in technologically-advanced detail with the arrival of *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* at ArtScience Museum™ at Marina Bay Sands.

Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb is an exhibition pairing mummies and artifacts culled from the extensive and famed Egyptian collection of the British Museum with an innovative 3D film experience. It will make its Singapore debut beginning 27 April 2013.

The centrepiece of *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* is Nesperennub, a temple priest who lived 3,000 years ago and died at about the age of 40. The mummy of Nesperennub is an integral part of the exhibition and will be prominently displayed. Additionally, a groundbreaking 3D film capturing the “virtual unwrapping” of the Egyptian mummy will be displayed in concert with Nesperennub. Narrated by acclaimed actor Patrick Stewart, the film unveils the story of the priest’s life and death, complete with a digital reconstruction of his facial structure.

The mummy of Nesperennub remains in its original cartonnage coffin and has never been opened. The “virtual unwrapping” that is captured in stunning 3D is made possible thanks to the most advanced and cutting-edge scanning technology used in modern medicine. As a result, there are more details now known about Nesperennub’s life and death, and images of him as he likely looked 3,000 years ago and in his current mummified state that are vivid and breathtaking. Most amazingly, these brilliant graphics and new data were retrieved without opening the coffin or disturbing the wrappings of Nesperennub.

Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb will showcase more than 100 stunning artifacts and six mummies in total. Included in the artifacts is a statuette of the Egyptian god Amun-Ra in bronze from 664-305 BC. According to ancient Egyptian beliefs, Amun (which means ‘the hidden one’) was merged with the sun-god Ra to acquire the status of supreme creator-deity, the King of the Gods. This bronze statuette shows the god in human form, wearing his characteristic twin-feathered headdress. Also included is a figurine of the god Seth dating back to 1295-1069 BC. Seth represented the forces of chaos and disorder as well as the personification of evil in ancient Egypt. This rare figurine of Seth depicts him with a distinctive curving snout.

Among the other mummies on display in the exhibition is the mummy of Tjayasetimu. A singer in the temple of Amun, Tjayasetimu died when she was still a child, around 800 BC. Her carefully embalmed body has been enclosed in a cartonnage case representing her with the golden face of a divine being, and with her hands, feet and arms partly freed from the traditional mummy wrappings. Also present in the exhibition are mummies of animals, such as that of a kitten and an Ibis bird from the Roman Period (after 30 BC).

In keeping with ArtScience Museum’s commitment to providing interactive programming, *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* will deliver a host of engaging and hands-on opportunities for visitors of all ages to enhance their exhibition experience. This includes an interactive Embalming Workshop which complements the exhibition’s detailed look at ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices related to the afterlife. The workshop will shed light on the various steps and rituals that comprised the embalming, mummification, and cartonnage procedures of the time.

Family visitors will also be able to take part in a specially-designed exhibition quest through age-appropriate activity bags containing a host of engaging activities and tools directly related to the artifacts on display. Among these are jigsaw puzzles, creative games, and magnifying glasses to help young Egyptologists complete various challenges. The activity bags are made available to visitors during their stay within *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* and are complimentary for ticket-holders.

Together with the detailed look at the mummification process and wide array of rare artifacts and mummies, the exhibition will explore the mysterious rituals of life, death and the afterlife in ancient Egypt. In total, *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* will allow visitors a rare, detailed, interactive and technologically-advanced glimpse into the ancient Egyptian civilisation unlike anything presented in Singapore and Southeast Asia previously.

Tickets for *Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb* will go on sale from 1 April 2013. For more information about ArtScience Museum and current exhibitions, please visit our website at www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is known as the museum that celebrates creativity, the processes at the heart of art and science, and their role in shaping society. The Museum seeks to understand what drives creative people, how they acquire and use their skills, and how the world around us is changed because of it. ArtScience Museum presents exhibitions and programmes to deliver these stories using a combination of beautiful design, intriguing content and intellectual discussion, in order to inspire the creativity in all of us.

Featuring 21 gallery spaces totaling 50,000 square feet, the boldly iconic lotus-inspired ArtScience Museum is also the premier venue for major international touring exhibitions from the most renowned collections in the world. Since it opened in 2011, ArtScience Museum has been home to some of the best-attended exhibitions in Singapore, including “Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition”, “Harry Potter: The Exhibition”, “Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal”; “Dali: Mind of a Genius” and “The Art of the Brick”. “Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb” will be the thirteenth exhibition to be staged at ArtScience Museum.

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands was awarded TripAdvisor’s Certificate of Excellence in 2012, earning a top rating of 4.0 out of 5. This recognition places the museum amid a select group of attractions that have been recognized by worldwide travelers for providing outstanding tourist experiences.

About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About the British Museum

The British Museum was founded in 1753, the first national public museum in the world. From the outset its mission was to be a “museum of the world for the world”. This ambition still lies at the heart of the Museum today. The collection tells the story of cultural achievement throughout the world, from the dawn of human history over two million years ago, until the present day. For more information, please visit www.britishmuseum.org.

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