

# News Release

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# Young V&A

## **Young V&A exhibition to explore behind-the-scenes of Aardman's 'cracking creations', from Wallace & Gromit to Morph, Chicken Run, Shaun the Sheep and beyond**

- *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends* goes behind the scenes of stop-motion animation to explore how Aardman's iconic characters and worlds are brought to life.
- Interactive activities for children include storyboarding, designing characters, experimenting with lighting a set, creating Live Action Videos, and 'touch' objects, that showcase the techniques, skills, and materials used by Aardman animators and filmmakers.
- Over 150 objects on display, including never-before-seen models, sets, and storyboards from Aardman's archives.

### ***Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends***

**12 February – 15 November 2026**

**Tickets on sale today at [vam.ac.uk/young](http://vam.ac.uk/young)**

Today, Young V&A announces its third exhibition, *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends*. Created primarily for children and families, the exhibition invites visitors to explore the world of Aardman – creators of Wallace & Gromit, Chicken Run, Shaun the Sheep, Morph, and more – and unpacks the making of some of the most well known and loved characters of all time.

Opening on 12 February to coincide with the studio's 50th anniversary year, *Inside Aardman* explores the storytelling and craft that brings their familiar and fantastical worlds from the sketchbook to the screen. The exhibition takes visitors behind the scenes of the animation process, from idea development and storyboarding to model making, filming and production, and post-production.

Over 150 items will be on show, including Aardman's early character sketches, concept art, puppets, character 'bibles', props, scripts, set models, as well as several optical illusion toys and early examples of stop-motion animation from the V&A's collection. Highlights include development sketches for Morph, early character ideas for Wallace & Gromit, a hand-drawn storyboard from *The Wrong Trousers* (1993) train chase, as well as never before displayed objects such as the duo's motorbike and sidecar from



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*Vengeance Most Fowl* (2024) and Aardman's final physical scheduling board. The exhibition features set pieces from Aardman's incredible body of work, including *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* (2024), *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget* (2023), *Robin Robin* (2019), *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!* (2012) and *Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out* (1989).

*Inside Aardman* will give young visitors the opportunity to try their hand at different parts of stop-motion animation, guiding them on how to make their own at home using everyday materials and inspiration. Whether their characters are sailing on the high seas, adventuring to the moon, or escaping the chicken coop, Aardman have always drawn from the world around them when building new ones. While journeying through the exhibition, visitors will be able to explore storyboarding, design characters, light sets, create Live Action Videos, touch samples of different puppet materials, and watch a selection of animations made by children.

**Alex Newson, Chief Curator, Young V&A, said:** "Aardman quite literally began on the kitchen table, when two young school friends started experimenting with animations at home. Even though Aardman is now one of the most successful animation studios in the world, its films still have the same handcrafted feel. It is this 'thumbiness', as they refer to it, that makes the films so charming and well loved. This is also what make the story so great for children. While Aardman's films are now made by large and highly skilled teams it's also possible for anyone to have a go at making their own stop motion films at home with minimal equipment and experience."

**Dr Helen Charman, Director of Learning, National Programmes and Young V&A, said:** "We are delighted to be announcing *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends*, our third exhibition at Young V&A, designed and curated specifically for children and young people. By unpacking the techniques and imagination that goes into creating these beloved characters, we hope young people and their families leave the exhibition feeling excited and inspired to try animation at home."

**Ngaio Harding-Hill, Head of Live Attractions and Live Experiences at Aardman, said:** "As Aardman celebrates its 50th anniversary, *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends* offers a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on the creativity and craftsmanship behind the animation process – from initial sketch through to post-production. We hope that through this exhibition, the joy and wonder of our craft will inspire the next generation of storytellers, directors, model-makers and animators."



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2026 sees Aardman celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a roaster of events and celebrations highlighting the craft and legacy of the studio, including the launch of a new movie, *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom* in the autumn.

***Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends* is supported by The Godwin Family.**

**-ENDS-**

## Notes to Editors

**For further PRESS information about *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends* at Young V&A, please contact: Grace Morgan on [g.morgan@vam.ac.uk](mailto:g.morgan@vam.ac.uk) / +44 20 7942 2153 or Jules Barretto on [jules@riotcommunications.com](mailto:jules@riotcommunications.com) / 07888671581 (not for publication).**

- *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends* opens at Young V&A on 12 February 2026 and runs until 15 November 2026.
- V&A Members go free.
- Tickets go on sale from 25 November 2025 at [vam.ac.uk/young](http://vam.ac.uk/young).
- An exhibition pass costs £11 per person, giving a chance for repeat visits to the exhibition throughout its run.
- Under 5s go free, with further concessions available.
- The exhibition is open to all ages. There's content and activities to engage the whole family, with emphasis on children aged 8-14 years.

## About Young V&A

Young V&A is a museum sparking creativity now and for the future. Created with 0-14-year-olds, it is a place for young people to imagine, play and design, and get inspired by a collection of nearly 2000 toys, characters, objects and artworks from around the world and throughout history. Rooted in its local community with a 150-year heritage as east London's first museum, Young V&A works to energise young creators everywhere, as well as empower everyone to promote creativity for the next generation and support the teaching of art and design education for all.

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## About Aardman

Aardman is an employee-owned company, based in Bristol (UK) and co-founded in 1976 by Peter Lord and David Sproxton. An independent, multi-Academy Award® and BAFTA® award winning studio, it produces feature films, series, advertising and interactive entertainment.



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Its global productions are renowned for their uniquely entertaining and brilliantly characterised characters. The studio's work – which includes the creation of much-loved characters including [Wallace & Gromit](#), [Shaun the Sheep](#), [Timmy Time](#) and [Morph](#) – is often imitated, and yet the company continues to lead the animation field producing a rare brand of visually stunning, comedic content for cinema, broadcasters, digital platforms and live experiences around the world.

2026 sees the studio celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a roaster of events and celebrations highlighting the craft and legacy of Aardman and the launch of a new movie, *Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom* in the autumn.

