



BRUCE MUSEUM
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Robotics™

January 26, 2008 - April 20, 2008

Bruce Museum
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT



Robby the Robot debuted in the classic film *Forbidden Planet*, 1956.
This full-scale, talking replica from Fred Barton Productions, Inc.,
welcomes visitors to the **Robotics** exhibition.

With the rapid advance of technology in the past 50 years, robots have moved from the world of science fiction to the reality of becoming an integral part of our daily lives. The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, examines this burgeoning phenomenon in its major winter exhibition of 2008, **Robotics**. On view from Saturday, January 26, 2008, through Sunday, April 20, 2008, the show explores the science behind the operation of robots in an environment designed for fun and presents the fictional robots that inspire the imagination.

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Robotics features an extensive interactive area developed by the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, PA, that gives visitors the opportunity to compare the skills of humans and machines. Through 13 interactive displays, visitors learn about the essential elements of any robot – sensing, thinking, and acting—and discover how robots detect the world around them and then process that information to perform a task. The Bruce Museum show also includes robots such as iRobot's floor-cleaning Roomba, an industrial robot from the leading supplier Fanuc Robotics, Inc., research robots from the MIT Museum, and a third-scale replica of the successful Mars rover from Cornell University's Center for Radio Physics and Space Research. Favorite robots of science fiction, including a ten-foot tall Optimus Prime from the recent *Transformers* movie and an eight-foot Robby the Robot from *Forbidden Planet*, greet visitors to the exhibition.

In addition, images from Photo Researchers, Inc., and others illustrate the variety of robots in use today –In industry, medicine, security, military, science, and exploration. Initially designed to perform the three “D’s” - dull, dangerous or dirty work - robots have evolved to also become increasingly involved in education, entertainment and everyday. Video clips show robots in action, including Honda's service robot ASIMO and the latest robotic vehicles that competed in the November 2007 DARPA Urban Challenge, which required autonomous ground vehicles to maneuver in a mock city environment.

Robots of the imaginary world preceded their real life counterparts. The word “robot” comes from the Czech language meaning forced labor and was first introduced by the playwright Karel Čapek in the 1920 play *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots)*, which was published in English translation in 1923. By the 1950s and '60s, toy robots had their golden age as the space race came to a zenith and imagination met technology.

More than 35 robot toys on loan from collectors highlight how popular culture has embraced robots of fantasy and entertainment. Classics like Mr. Mercury, Zoomer, and Attacking Martian are on view along with more recent additions such as Hasbro's Mio Pup, Pepsi Japan's NEX BOY, Sony's AIBO, and Transformer's Bumblebee.

A stripped-down version of a robotic toy from Hasbro allows visitors to view its inner-workings and demonstrates the sophisticated technology behind some of the latest playthings. A small theater shows video clips of favorite robots from over eighty years of film and television, including Maria from *Metropolis*, Gort from *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, Robby from *Forbidden Planet*, R2D2 from *Star Wars*, Sonny from *I, Robot*, Autobots from *Transformers*, and Bender from *Futurama*.

Several interactive stations are designed specifically with younger visitors in mind, including the Logic Tree provided by the Carnegie Science Center, where visitors answer simple yes-no questions to sort an object according to its appearance. A mobot, or mobile robot, is available for docent-led programs. This autonomous robot follows a line on the floor and also reacts and moves toward visitors and noise.

Can humans do the job better? Robots in industrial applications are required to perform a task repeatedly and quickly to precise specifications. In the Trace/Retrace station of the exhibition, also provided by the Carnegie Science Center, visitors test their ability to draw a pattern and reproduce it precisely. At another station, visitors compete against a robot and each other to determine who can sort through a set of keys fastest to unlock three locks. The robot doesn't always win.

But compared with humans, robots have limited sensory perception, making some simple human tasks, such as tying a shoe, quite challenging for a machine. Visitors are challenged to tie a shoe while deprived of their sight, or their sense of touch, or both.

Family-friendly programs and connections to local school clubs and competitions complement and enhance the visitor experience. Leaders in the field of robotics, such as Carnegie Mellon's Red Whittaker, leader of the winning DARPA Urban Challenge team, and MIT's James McLurkin will be appearing at the Bruce Museum. Public programs include lectures, family days, and workshops with a robot theme, and a joint program with the Greenwich Library featuring the classic robot film *Forbidden Planet*.

The exhibition at the Bruce Museum is supported by the Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund, *The Advocate and Greenwich Time*, and a Committee of Honor. The *Robotics* interactive exhibit owned by Carnegie Science Center was made possible by the generous contributions of the following sponsors: ABB Daimler-Benz Transportation (North America), Inc., ABB Flexible Automation, Inc., Allegheny Ludlum Foundation, Bozzone Family Foundation, Cycle Time Corporation, Ford Motor Company, Francois Bitz, Kennametal Foundation, Learning Curve Toys, PPG Industries Foundation, R.P. Simmons Family Foundation, Sentient Systems Technology, Inc., Spitz, Inc., The Buhl Foundation, Universal Technology, Inc., Westinghouse Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon University's National Robotics Engineering Consortium, SIMLAB, and Robotics Institute.

The Bruce Museum is located at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. General admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, and free for children under five and Bruce Museum members. Free admission to all on Tuesdays. The Museum is located near Interstate-95, Exit 3, and a short walk from the Greenwich, CT, train station. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Mondays and major holidays. Groups of eight or more require advance reservations. Museum exhibition tours are held Fridays at 12:30 p.m. Free, on-site parking is available. The Bruce Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For information, call the Bruce Museum at (203) 869-0376, or visit the Bruce Museum website at www.brucemuseum.org.

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