Jim Henson was born on September 24, 1936, in Greenville, Mississippi. He was the younger of two boys in the Henson family. His passion for puppetry began at an early age, and he created his first puppet show at the age of 12, performing for a local audience. Henson attended the University of Maryland, College Park, where he studied theater arts. During his time at the university, he created a five-minute puppet show called Sam and Friends, which aired on a local television station. This show marked the beginning of his career in television and puppetry. In 1958, Henson created the character of Kermit the Frog, who would become one of his most iconic and beloved creations. Kermit made his first appearance on Sam and Friends and later became a central figure in The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and various other Henson productions. Henson's innovative approach to puppetry and television production revolutionized the entertainment industry. He developed new techniques for puppetry, such as the use of radio-controlled mechanisms to control the movements of his puppets, and he pioneered the concept of using puppets to convey complex emotions and personalities. In addition to his work with the Muppets, Henson created a wide range of other projects, including the fantasy film The Dark Crystal, the cult classic Labyrinth, and the television series Fraggle Rock. These projects showcased his creativity and his ability to appeal to audiences of all ages. Henson was also a talented filmmaker and director. He directed several feature films, including The Muppet Movie, The Great Muppet Caper, and The Muppets Take Manhattan. These films were praised for their humor, heart, and innovative use of puppetry. Henson's impact on popular culture was profound, and his work continues to influence and inspire artists and entertainers around the world. His characters and creations have become timeless icons, and his legacy lives on through the ongoing success of the Muppets and other Henson productions. In addition to his creative talents, Henson was also known for his philanthropy and his commitment to promoting education and the arts. He was a strong advocate for children's literacy and a supporter of numerous charitable causes, using his influence to make a positive impact on the world. Tragically, Jim Henson passed away on May 16, 1990, at the age of 53, due to complications from a bacterial infection. His untimely death was a great loss to the entertainment industry, but his legacy lives on through the enduring popularity of his characters and the continued success of the Henson Company. Jim Henson's contributions to the world of entertainment are immeasurable. His creativity, innovation, and passion for storytelling have left an indelible mark on the world, and his influence will continue to be felt for generations to come. He will always be remembered as a visionary and a pioneer in the art of puppetry and television production.