

**MORE THAN 75 ORIGINAL DRAWINGS BY BONE CREATOR
JEFF SMITH ON VIEW AT WEXNER CENTER THIS SUMMER**
CONCURRENT SHOW AT CARTOON RESEARCH LIBRARY
FEATURES WORK CREATED BY SMITH AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, OH—**Jeff Smith: Bone and Beyond**, the first museum exhibition of work by the influential, Columbus-based comic book artist and writer—best known for his epic graphic novel *Bone*—will be on view **May 10–August 3, 2008 at the Wexner Center for the Arts.**

The exhibition—a partnership between the Wexner Center and The Ohio State University's Cartoon Research Library, collaborating for the first time on an exhibition—will include more than 75 original drawings: primarily original black-and-white pages from *Bone*, with a smaller selection of full-color *Bone* covers and post-*Bone* work, including original drawings from Smith's recent *Shazam* series for DC Comics and from *Rasl*, a story about a time-travelling art thief. Smith will also be creating an installation on the wall of the lower lobby of the Wexner Center.

The exhibition includes a selection of original comics whose artists Smith cites as direct influences, among them examples from Walt Kelly's *Pogo*, Will Eisner's *The Spirit*, George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, Charles Schulz's *Peanuts*, Garry Trudeau's *Doonesbury*, and E. C. Segar's *Thimble Theatre*.

A related show called **Jeff Smith: Before Bone**—which features a selection of Smith's pre-*Bone* work, including pieces he created for The Ohio State University's campus newspaper *The Lantern*—will be on view nearby in Ohio State's [Cartoon Research Library](#).

Bone and Beyond is organized by David Filipi, the Wexner Center's curator of film and video, and Lucy Shelton Caswell, professor and curator of Ohio State's Cartoon Research Library.

"Graphic storytelling is enjoying a level of critical and cultural currency as never before," Filipi says. "This truly is a golden age for the medium, and we are excited to be presenting the first solo gallery exhibition of one of the great artists of his time. As both a writer and artist, Jeff has created an unparalleled body of work and, with *Bone*, a work that transcends age and will be read for generations. We're also thrilled to be collaborating in a significant way with the Cartoon Research Library."

Notes Caswell, "*Bone and Beyond* is a celebration of the work of this important artist and writer. Jeff's achievement with *Bone* is monumental, and this exhibition offers a look at this artist at the height of his creative power."

The exhibition will be **accompanied by a catalogue** featuring an introduction by Caswell, and essays by Filipi, *Sandman* creator **Neil Gaiman**, and cartoonist and scholar **Scott McCloud**. It will also include an interview with Smith conducted by Filipi and Caswell.

Admission to both exhibitions is free. Click [here](#) for more information on visiting the Wexner Center, and [here](#) for information on visiting the Cartoon Research Library (which is just steps away from the Wexner Center).



Panel from *Bone*
Image © Jeff Smith
From Jeff Smith Deposit Collection, The
Ohio State University Cartoon Research
Library

PUBLIC TALKS

A series of talks and events has been scheduled during the run of this exhibition. Smith will take part in a conversation with **Scott McCloud** on **May 10** in Mershon Auditorium. Eisner Award-winning comic book artist **Terry Moore** will speak on **May 15**, followed by a talk by comic book artist **Paul Pope** on **May 20**. And on **June 5**, Smith will introduce a ***Looney Tunes Evening***, a selection of his favorite Warner Brothers cartoons in the Wexner Center's Film/Video Theater. Additional events will be announced in the coming months.

ABOUT JEFF SMITH

Born in Pennsylvania and currently based in Columbus, Jeff Smith conceived of the *Bone* characters as a child, producing primitive comic books featuring the now-famous characters. He worked as a cartoonist for The Ohio State University's campus newspaper *The Lantern* as an undergraduate, and while there wrote a strip called *Thorn*, which featured characters that would later go on to populate the panels of *Bone*. In 1991, Smith launched the company Cartoon Books in order to publish and distribute his work.

The black-and-white *Bone* was recently issued by Scholastic Books as full-color editions, going on to sell more than 2 million copies midway through its nine-volume run. *Bone* has won 10 Eisner awards during its publication and has been translated into fifteen languages and has been used as a literacy tool for teachers, parents, and children on the Scholastic Books website. Dark Horse Comics recently published *The Art of Bone*, a handsomely mounted collection of behind-the-scenes *Bone* artwork.

Smith has also received nine Harvey Awards, one of the most prestigious awards a comic artist can receive. For the Harvey Awards he was named "Best Cartoonist" in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2003, and received a "Special Award for Humor" in 1994, and Best Graphic Album of Previously Published Works (for *The Complete Bone Adventures*) in 1994. *Time* magazine selected *Bone* as one of the 10 greatest graphic novels of all time.

In 2007, DC Comics issued *Shazam! Monster Society of Evil*, a four-part mini-series recreating a classic serial from comic's Golden Age. More information on Smith and his work is available at www.boneville.com.

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Jeff Smith: Bone and Beyond is organized by the **Wexner Center for the Arts**.

The exhibition received major support from **Scholastic**.

All Wexner Center exhibitions receive support from the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation** and **Wexner Center members**.

The preferred airline for this exhibition is **American Airlines/American Eagle**.

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