

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

125 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12210

T: (518) 463-4478; F: (518) 462-1522

www.albanyinstitute.org

www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute

www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2011

CONTACT:

Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations

(518) 463-4478, ext. 420; kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org

Kid Stuff Opening October 1 at AIHA

Albany, NY— Opening October 1, 2011, the Albany Institute of History & Art is proud to present *Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood*. This innovative exhibition, based on the book by David Hoffman, was created by the Berkshire Museum.

From Slinky®s and Woolly Willy®s to Lionel® Trains and Barbie™ Dolls, *Kid Stuff* takes us back to the age of tailfins and vinyl records with more than 40 toys from decades ago. Visitors of all ages will be able to see vintage toys with original packaging and promotional materials and have the opportunity to play and interact with contemporary versions. Additional displays such as photos of toy factory interiors, images of children at play, video presentations, and interpretive texts depict how toys work and their significance in American culture.

Enhancing the exhibition are ten interactive components that invite visitors to play with many of the classic toys they see on display. The hands-on stations include a LEGO® construction site, Twister®, a magnetic Mr. Potato Head® (and friends) game, and more. The museum will host “Play for All” Saturdays throughout the run of the exhibition, which include additional interactive art stations as well as museum educators in the galleries to guide visitors through the hands-on components of the exhibition.

For the grand opening of *Kid Stuff* on October 1, the Albany Institute will host musical instrument-making in the studio followed by a musical parade through the galleries at 3 PM. Plus, children who stop in may take home a FREE Slinky® style spring toy (while supplies last).

Come be a kid again with *Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood*, on display through March 4, 2012.

* * * * *

Related Programming:

GALLERY TALKS

SATURDAYS | 2 PM

SUNDAYS | 3 PM

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Albany Institute's newest exhibitions. **FREE with museum admission.**

PLAY FOR ALL

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 1-MARCH 4 | 10 AM- 5 PM

EXTRA PLAY FOR ALL on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 | NOON-5 PM

Drop in during regular museum hours on Saturdays to enjoy additional *Kid Stuff* interactive art stations as well as museum educators in the galleries to guide visitors through the interactive components of the exhibition. **FREE with museum admission.**

KID STUFF FAMILY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 10 AM-5PM

To celebrate *Kid Stuff* there will be musical instrument making in our studio and musical parade through the galleries at 3 PM. **FREE with museum admission.**

* * * * *

The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

* * * * *

Media inquiries: Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 420, kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org.

#

Hi- and lo-resolution images may be available. Contact Nycole Kinns, Marketing and Public Relations, at (518) 463-4478, ext. 420, kinnsn@albanyinstitute.org.