Mummy: The Inside Story

This award-winning exhibition uses state of the art scanning and projection technology to take visitors on a 3D immersive experience into the coffin of Nesperennub, a priest who lived and died in Egypt nearly 3,000 years ago.

Overview

Nesperennub’s story, narrated by Sir Ian McKellen, is told through his ‘virtual unwrapping’ combined with dramatic reconstructions of his life and mummification in ancient Egypt. The 3D film is followed by an exhibition of objects from the British Museum’s world-famous Egyptian collection.

This exhibition was first shown at the British Museum and has subsequently visited venues in the USA, Spain and Japan. It has already captivated over 1.7 million visitors worldwide.

The British Museum holds one of the world’s finest collections of objects from ancient Egypt and is at the forefront of research in the field of Egyptology. Mummies are perennially popular with museum visitors, and this groundbreaking exhibition will bring visitors face to face with a man who was alive over 3,000 years ago. Visitors are able to find out the process of his mummification, what was hidden beneath his bandages, and discover the secret hidden by his embalmers many years ago. Nesperennub was recently rescanned and the virtual unwrapping redeveloped to highlight new discoveries revealed by the latest technology.

Content

To accompany the 3D experience, the British Museum has crafted an exhibition which includes the mummy of Nesperennub, along with unique examples of funerary and mummification pieces from ancient Egypt, including:

- The inner and outer coffin of Nesperennub
- Three additional mummies
- Book of the Dead papyri
- Limestone stelae
- Limestone canopic jars

1. Mummy of the priest Nesperennub. From Luxor, Egypt, c. 800 BC. Original and CT scan. © The Trustees of the British Museum.
2–4. 3D show in immersive theatre © The Trustees of the British Museum.
The exhibition is structured in three sections:

–  Pre-show: a five-minute film giving the context to the historical and social background of Nesperennub’s life
–  The 3D film: the images from the 3D scanning are used to show visitors how mummification was achieved, the various layers of wrappings and amulets placed within, and the new physiological discoveries revealed
–  The exhibition: designed to showcase both the mummy and life of Nesperennub, providing an introduction to Egyptian funerary beliefs

Further information

Curator
John Taylor is a world expert on ancient Egyptian history, on funerary beliefs and practices, and on the history of Egyptology. He has arranged the CT scanning of a number of mummies, revealing a wealth of new data about health, disease, life expectancy and mummification techniques.

Size

–  The exhibition is made up of 3 sections: pre-show area; immersive theatre; and object exhibition
–  Total number of objects: up to 80 depending on available space
–  Space requirements: 500–1000m² (theatre size is very flexible)

Further details of this exhibition
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www.britishmuseum.org/internationaltours

Note: A confirmed exhibition object list will be provided at a later date.
‘A unique exhibition’
Kobe Walker, Japan

‘World class’
The Asahi Shimbun, Japan

‘Innovative’
Kobe Shimbun, Japan

‘...thrilled at the discovery of technology making the past so alive’
Ohmy Times, Asia

‘A hit’
Arts & Leisure, Mobile, USA

‘Educational and fun… a rousing thumbs up’
Mobile Register, USA

‘Surpassed all expectations’
Hola, Spain