



## MOVIES

# Mummy Moviegoing

**T**ake ancient Egypt, place it under a larger-than-life magnifying glass, project it on an enormous, domed screen, and you'll get the IMAX movie, *Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs*. Featuring scenes that zoom up to within centimeters of the rotting eye sockets and desiccated fingertips of millennia-old Egyptian corpses, the film promises to "unravel an ancient mystery on a grand scale." Instead, it focuses on three well-known topics: how ancient bodies were embalmed, what scientists have learned through research on a recently mummified body ("A Thoroughly Modern Mummy," January/February 2001), and the late-nineteenth-century discovery of 40 royal mummies in a tomb near the Valley of the Kings.

*Mummies* provides some interesting tidbits—frankincense and myrrh were key ingredients in mummification—

but it appeals more to younger audience members like the little boy sitting next to me, who switched seats with his brother to hold his mom's hand during a gigantic close-up of the head of Ramesses II, whose remaining strands of colorless hair were popping straight up. "Weird, very weird," he whispered. Reactions, however, were mixed. Five teenage girls a few rows up enjoyed it; they left the theater giggling and dancing to the Middle Eastern techno music that gushed over the final scene.

*Mummies* features the eye-candy shots that only IMAX can deliver—such as swooping, bird's-eye views of the thirteenth-century B.C. temples at Abu Simbel—but it might be equally informative to turn on your average Egypt documentary, dim the lights, and sit really close to your TV.

See [www.mummiesfilm.com](http://www.mummiesfilm.com) for theaters. —ETI BONN-MULLER

## Explore the Ends of the Earth

### EASTER ISLAND

January 7–19, 2008

Join **Dr. John Loret** (sailed with Thor Heyerdahl), explore and map local caves. Reintroduce indigenous plant life and visit all major archaeological sites.

### PATAGONIA

March 9–23, 2008

Travel from Buenos Aires to **Ushuaia** (the world's southernmost city)! Investigate ancient dinosaurs and giant petrified forests. Study the early civilizations of the Cape Horn region and learn about climate change.

### EXPLORE INNER SPACE

June 27–July 3, 2008

Dive into the future undersea world! Study the ecology of coral reefs. Explore sunken shipwrecks; spend the night in an undersea hotel; and visit **Aquarius**, the underwater habitat used to train astronauts. \*Participants must be dive certified.

### BADLANDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

July 24–31, 2008

Dig 65 million years into the past to find and study dinosaur fossils. Visit Mammoth Site, Bear Butte, Devil's Tower, the Crazy Horse Memorial. Study Native Americans, excavation techniques. Bunk-house accommodations!

### CANADIAN ARCTIC

August 9–15, 2008

Join **Dr. Kenneth Kamler** in Churchill, the polar bear capital of the world. Observe beluga whales and Northern Lights. Enjoy wildlife and climate seminars, helicopter rides and more.

**SCIENCE**  
MUSEUM OF LONG ISLAND

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