A T. REX NAMED SUE

Currently on tour in the U.S., Australasia, and the Middle East, *A T. rex Named Sue* combines thrilling science, engaging educational activities, and blockbuster appeal in one of the most successful U.S. traveling exhibitions ever. At 42 feet long (12.8 m.) and 12 feet high at the hips (3.66 m.), Sue is the largest, most complete, and best-preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever discovered, and a dramatic, life-sized skeleton cast is the centerpiece of this exciting exhibition. Natural history museums, science centers, and children’s museums around the world have shared the story of Sue the *T. rex* with their visitors, increasing year-over-year attendance by 15–920% and attracting international attention.
BACKGROUND ON SUE

One of the largest flesh-eaters to have ever inhabited the Earth, Sue was a *Tyrannosaurus rex* that roamed North America about 67 million years ago. This *T. rex* is named for Sue Hendrickson, who discovered the dinosaur near Faith, South Dakota, during the summer of 1990 during a commercial fossil hunting trip.

Shortly after its discovery, the fossil became the center of an intense ownership dispute that resulted in a decision to sell Sue at public auction. To ensure that Sue would be preserved for future generations of scientists and visitors, The Field Museum in Chicago purchased Sue for $8.4 million USD. Field Museum preparators spent more than 30,000 hours preparing the more than 250 bones and teeth in Sue’s skeleton and making exact, fully articulated replicas so that people around the world would have the opportunity to view and study Sue.

As the most complete *T. rex* specimen ever discovered, Sue has tremendous value for scientists and the general public. Previously, only a handful of partial *T. rex* specimens had been found, none more than 60% complete. At 90% complete and exquisitely preserved, Sue is the most celebrated representative of its species, permitting more detailed studies of the biology, growth, and behavior of *T. rex* than had previously been possible.
**EXHIBITION OVERVIEW**

1) Sue’s Skeleton and Skull

The centerpiece of *A. T. rex Named Sue* is a fully articulated cast skeleton of Sue mounted on a stage. Dramatic lighting throws a spectacular shadow of the skeleton against a graphic backdrop. In another element, visitors can get an eye-to-eye look at a separate cast of Sue’s skull that measures 5 feet (1.52 m.) in length, roars, and growls. Both skeleton and skull are surrounded by reading rails that engage visitors with:

- touchable casts of Sue’s arm bone, tail bone, rib, and teeth;
- interactive activities that let visitors interpret anomalies and diagnose pathologies in Sue’s bones;
- interpretive graphics and text that relate the stories of Sue’s history, from discovery to legal battle to display; incorporate actual headlines, news articles, and behind-the-scenes photos; and describe the process of making casts from fossilized bones.

2) Interactives

Visitor-controlled mechanical models and interactive pods encourage visitors to explore in-depth topics related to Sue, *T. rex*, and dinosaur science. Interactives include:

- Sight: Look through the eyes of a *T. rex* and a *Triceratops*. Understand important differences between monocular and binocular vision, and take a peek into the Cretaceous world.
- Smell: Sue probably had a keen sense of smell. Test your nose to find food, water, and shelter.
- Completeness: Assemble spare parts from a “bone bank” in a large-format 3D puzzle of Sue’s skeleton to demonstrate Sue’s completeness.
- Forelimb: Sue’s arms worked much like human arms do. Use an apparatus to feel how scientists think Sue could and shouldn’t move her arms.
- Jaw Muscles: Manipulate a model of Sue’s jaws to demonstrate how Sue’s gigantic jaw muscles slammed shut on prey.
- Feeding Method: Scientists think that Sue didn’t chew. Find out how she probably ate.
- Fact and Theory: Sort out the difference between dino-science and dino-speculation by examining clues about dinosaurs.

**Exhibition Details**

**SIZE:**
- Gallery: 3000 - 3500 ft² (279 – 325 m²)
- Ceiling Height: At least 16 ft. (4.88 m.)
- Floor Capacity: 110 lbs. per ft² (537 kg per m²)
- Stage area for Sue with backdrop: 46’10” x 17’9” (14.27 x 5.41 m.)
- Largest crate size: 13 ft. long x 7.17 ft. tall x 7 ft wide (3.96 x 2.19 x 2.13 m.)

For international venues only, optional dig pit component can increase exhibition size to 4000-4500 ft² (372-418 m²)

**RENTAL FEE:**
Please inquire

**SHIPPING:**
One-way, outbound, paid by host venue (international arrangements vary)

**INSURANCE:**
Host venues must provide coverage for $1,000,000 USD

**LANGUAGE:**
All text in English and Spanish; language may be converted by international host venues

**SUPPORT:**
Experienced Field Museum staff technician assists host venue staff with onsite installation and de-installation of cast skeleton

- Educators’ Guide in English, including program information, curriculum guide, and volunteer training guide
- PR Kit in English, including sample press release, logo, and images
- Wide range of wholesale and licensed products developed for the exhibition

**SPONSORSHIP:**
In the U.S. and as local resources allow, a McDonald’s affiliate works closely with each venue to create and support a local campaign of advertising, marketing, in-store promotions, and media relations to drive museum attendance. Please inquire about international opportunities.

**WEB SITE:**
www.fieldmuseum.org/about/traveling-exhibitions/t-rex-named-sue

*This exhibit was created by The Field Museum, Chicago, and made possible through the generosity of McDonald’s Corporation.*
EXHIBITION OVERVIEW (CONT'D)

3) Videos (encased in free-standing pods with graphics)

- An entertaining video incorporates a variety of pop-culture images and a short animation sequence to show how our perceptions of *T. rex* have changed over time as scientists have made new discoveries.
- A documentary-style video shows how scientists at The Field Museum obtained CT images of Sue’s skull and how these high-tech scans have helped researchers learn more about what was inside Sue’s head.

For more information and to request an exhibition prospectus:

Visit: www.fieldmuseum.org/about/traveling-exhibitions
Email: travelingexh@fieldmuseum.org
Call: (001) 312-665-7325

The Field Museum

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