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WHERE: National Museum of American Jewish History, 101 S. Independence Mall East, Philadelphia PA 19106
RE: Mel Brooks' 11th finger now on view
WHEN: Friday, April 20

**Mel Brooks Gives His 11th Finger to
the National Museum of American Jewish History For One Year**

The National Museum of American Jewish History will be displaying the famed Mel Brooks' 11th finger. He used this finger when pressing his hands into the cement at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The finger will be on view beginning May 20 in time for his 90th birthday and visit to Philadelphia for his show at the Kimmel Center for the Performing arts on May 21.

Since Brooks can never miss an opportunity for a joke, he added the prosthetic pinky stating, "The more fingers the better!"



Mel Brooks at handprint ceremony, 2014
Photo by Dan Steinberg/Invision for
Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment/AP Images

Brooks' one-year loan will help the Museum tell the more recent history of this American Jewish comedic icon. Along with the finger, there will be footage from the hand-printing ceremony that solidified in history the false fact that he had 11 fingers, and not ten. The case will be in the Museum's second floor gallery that features notable American Jewish actors, producers, lyricist, composers, and comedians.

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The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays. Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. **From Memorial through Labor Days, the Museum stays open until 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings. Admission after 5:00 is pay-what-you-wish.** For information on the Museum, the public may call 215.923.3811 or visit the website at <http://www.nmajh.org>.