

MOODY GARDENS VIDEO SCRIPT

*Sh-h-h-h. Quiet. Listen with **all** your senses.*

Feel the tingling excitement. What's that? The pulsing heartbeat of a new adventure. Breathe deeply in anticipation. Drink in the richness of the moment of discovery. Immerse yourself in the wonder as it unfolds.

Something fresh is in the air. A new experience is on the wing.

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Welcome to the Pyramids of Moody Gardens.

(MOODY FOUNDATION; HOPE THERAPY)

An amazing odyssey was undertaken by the Moody Foundation just over a decade ago. Through their philanthropic organization, W. L. Moody, Jr., and his wife, Libbie Shearn Moody, spawned the miracle that is now Moody Gardens.

In 1986, deeply and personally inspired by the tragic head injury of a family member, the Moodys established Hope Therapy – the cornerstone of Moody Gardens.

With 142 acres of land and a budding knowledge of the miraculous healing powers of animal-assisted therapy, the foundation started what today is a nationally-acclaimed program. They began by offering rehabilitative horseback-riding – or hippotherapy – to disabled or injured clients, from infants to geriatrics. In Europe, they had discovered that the rhythmic gait of a horse stimulates coordination, balance, body tone and self-confidence.

A metamorphosis began to take place. Over the past decade, Hope Therapy blossomed to include an array of animal and horticultural therapies, plus unique education and employment opportunities for physically and emotionally challenged persons.

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(CONVENTION CENTER, PALM BEACH, PRODUCTION AREA)

1986 saw Hope unfurl its wings to reveal a new miracle. What originally opened as Hope Arena has evolved into a massive 60,000 square-foot convention and conference center whose architectural design and furnishings draw the outdoors inside. With 10,000 square feet of meeting space and a 37,500 square-foot exhibit hall, the center provides a lush setting for events large and small.

The vision continued to crystallize. Nearby, in 1988, acres of pristine white Florida sands and cool blue lagoons were added to create Palm Beach – an exotic, safe playground

featuring waterfalls, volleyball courts and concessions. Children are mesmerized as they joyously work the periscope, dive horn, control panels and water gun of the whimsical Yellow Submarine. They squeal delightedly as they speed down the Octopus Slide, and whole families are enthralled by the 800-person, Nineteenth Century-inspired Colonel Paddlewheeler boat that cruises daily on Offatt's Bayou.

Moody Gardens continued to grow. Two years later, in 1990, twin greenhouses were added to create a production area where most of the plants seen on the grounds are propagated. An ecologically responsible community partner, the Gardens developed a revolutionary water treatment plant that takes effluent water from Galveston's municipal treatment plant, refining it for use on the Gardens' exterior landscape.

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*Surge of excitement. Budding, blossoming, flowering, bearing fruit.
Primitive. Pounding. Creepy-crawly. Mysterious. Unknown.*

(RAINFOREST PYRAMID, VISITORS CENTER, IMAX THEATER, DANCING WATERS)

Moody Gardens' most spectacular achievement thus far is its Rainforest Pyramid, a one-acre living rainforest residing within a 10-story glass obelisk. This unparalleled man-made habitat showcases the exotic flora and fauna of Asia, Africa and the Americas. Since opening in 1993, the Rainforest Pyramid has become a thriving, lush environment of jungle vines and verdant foliage, cloaked in vibrant jungle flowers and fruits.

The pyramid involves all the senses, with its gentle waterfalls, deep caverns and Mayan colonnade. Be still and watchful, and you may be rewarded by an explosion of color, as a multitude of delicate butterflies take resplendent wing. A kaleidoscope of tropical birds soars effortlessly through the dense, tropical air, and reptiles from the far reaches of the earth covertly skitter from one foliage cover to the next.

There's almost more to absorb than the mind can conceive. In the 250-square-foot Bat Cave, a group of 60 Old and New World bats hang ominously from their perches, tucked behind a reversed-light-cycle window that affords visitors a rare glimpse of the creatures' nocturnal activities.

With the opening of the Rainforest Pyramid, a visitors' center was established to assist the growing crowds converging on Moody Gardens as they experience its fascinating interactive displays. The center features the magnificent Garden Restaurant and a Gift Shop packed with intriguing treasures. Nearby, tourists and school children alike thrill to the pulse-quickenning experience of the IMAX 3D theater, with its 6-story screen and heart-pounding, multi-dimensional films by some of the world's finest filmmakers.

Finally, evening at the visitors' center bursts into psychedelic splendor as the euphoric Dancing Waters come to life with their unique fountain display featuring choreographed lights, music and color.

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*Building and growing with an incredible mix of textures and colors. Sights and sounds that intrigue and beckon. Puzzling. Perplexing. Recognition. Discovery. **Learning.***

(THE LEARNING PLACE, MEDICINAL PLANT PROGRAM, BENEFICIAL INSECT PROGRAM)

The heartbeat of Moody Gardens grew stronger in 1994 with the opening of The Learning Place, an educational center featuring a 15,000-volume environmental library, accredited programs for adults, research partnerships with universities, and the eventual establishment of a research center in South America.

Special tours offer hands-on sessions with rainforest animals and guided tours of the Rainforest Pyramid. The Learning Place reaches more than 70,000 school children annually, is fully accredited by the State of Texas, and its Rainforest Outreach travels to schools across the state.

The Medicinal Plant Program is a cooperative program between Moody Gardens and the University of Houston School of Pharmacology. Moody Gardens' Horticulture Department collects and grows vegetation from rainforests that could lead to control of diseases such as cancer and AIDS. As plants with healing properties are discovered, Moody Gardens will keep the plants alive during the normally-required 10-year research process.

The Beneficial Insect Program is an amazing venture between Moody Gardens and Texas A&M University that allows the entire Rainforest Pyramid to exist without the use of pesticides. Insects and bacteria are matched in such a way as to perfectly balance nature. This state-of-the-art program eventually could be broadened to enhance the entire planet's environment.

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Shower of stars and flash of meteorite. Weightless wonder. Cold, austere, deep space. Galactic colony. Satellite city. The metamorphosis continues as Moody Gardens shoots for the stars.

(DISCOVERY MUSEUM, IMAX RIDEFILM THEATER)

As the dawn of a new millennium draws near, Moody Gardens takes flight with the June 1997 opening of its second great pyramid – the Discovery Museum. Conceived and brought to reality in collaboration with NASA's Johnson Space Center, this lofty second pyramid is totally dedicated to space exploration. Its interactive exhibits transport visitors across space and time to experience life as it will be in the future – in outer space.

Visitors entering this fantasy world see a life-sized moving and talking hologram image appear magically before them. As hundreds of electrified particles swirl in front of an elliptical screen, visitors watch in awe as they converge to form the figure of Leonardo Da Vinci, one of the world's great thinkers. As Da Vinci speaks, visitors quickly realize they are standing on the deck of a star ship...somewhere, sometime in the future.

Engaging, interactive exhibits inspired by NASA concepts tell the story of how we will live, work and use resources in space. These astounding exhibits explore space travel, medical developments, extra-terrestrial life, and more.

The first floor of the Discovery Museum houses the IMAX Ridefilm Theater, featuring an immersive, 180-degree wrap-around screen. Visitors fasten their seatbelts and brace themselves for *Asteroid Adventure*, a moving and shaking film that remarkably simulates space travel.

Futuristic? Seemingly so. Mankind's imminent destiny, nevertheless. Once again, Moody Gardens reaches new heights of discovery.

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(HOTEL, AQUARIUM)

And there's more – much more – to come at Moody Gardens.

1999 will see the opening of a fabulous new teaching hotel that will be operated in conjunction with Galveston College.

Also in '99, still a third spectacular pyramid will become reality – a two-million-gallon Aquarium that will be a sensory immersion into the majesty and resplendent beauty of the oceans of the world.

Here, visitors will be transported into the depths of the frigid, dark Antarctic and Alaskan waters to the warm, aquamarine currents of the Indo-Pacific islands and the Caribbean Sea. Each of the five major exhibit areas in this awe-inspiring environment will provide an illusion of submergence into a diverse, unfamiliar ocean realm. A sensual, otherworldly journey into a dark, watery universe populated by stunningly beauty and form.

Expect the unexpected. From the crystalline beauty of the rock and ice of the Antarctic emerges the comical, awkward figure of a tuxedo-clad penguin. Moray eels, damselfishes and puffers live in harmony among the living coral reefs of the Caribbean. Flatfishes nestle in the sand, while the solitary barracuda floats quietly nearby.

Up close and personal. An introduction to an ancient world, as yet undiscovered by most of us. Inhabited by an astounding spectrum of ocean creatures from playful sea lions to predatory sharks. Bottom dwellers and migratory varieties. Pounding surf and cold, quiet, seldom-seen depths.

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Moody Gardens is a public, non-profit botanical garden utilizing animals and nature in the process of healing, rehabilitation, education, conservation, research and recreation.

A natural setting dedicated to healing and to helping humankind appreciate and benefit from the beauty and wonder of the world in which we live.

Funded through the generosity of The Moody Foundation of Galveston.

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A decade of discovery. Ten years into a twenty-five-year metamorphosis. There's always something new to discover at Moody Gardens.

Ever-changing, perpetually expanding, ceaselessly unexpected. Perfectly imprecise. Confoundingly puzzling. Astonishingly beautiful.

Come Experience the Pyramids of Moody Gardens.