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Dhody Research Institute and Mercer Museum Team Up for Season 2 of YouTube Series *What's That For?*

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Mercer Museum and The Dhody Research Institute (DRI) are excited to announce the return of *What's That For?*, a YouTube series that blends history, science, and humor into a fast-paced guessing game.

"Each episode begins with an artifact from the museum collection, and the audience is challenged to guess its purpose before the big reveal," said Anna Dhody, Executive Director of the Dhody Research Institute and creator of the series. "It's a mix of mystery, history, and playfulness that makes learning irresistible."

History Meets Humor

Season 2 takes viewers inside the Mercer Museum's medical and scientific collections, which provided the mystery objects as well as the striking backdrop for filming. Each episode presents intriguing artifacts and forgotten innovations that leave audiences asking: *What's that for?*

This season features eight all-new episodes, each with its own quirky title—from *The Forbidden Pickle Grabber* to *Pokey McHotpants*. With expert commentary, engaging storytelling, high-quality production, and a generous dose of questionable puns, *What's That For?* transforms puzzling artifacts into accessible adventures.

The artifacts highlighted in each YouTube episode will be on display inside the Mercer Museum's historic Central Court and will change on a bi-weekly basis, as new episodes are released.

"This season pairs some unusual artifacts from our museum collection with rarely seen documents from our research library," says Annie Halliday, Director of Library and Archives for the Mercer Museum Research Library. "Combining these resources has led to some fun, new interpretations of the history of these objects."

Expanding Curiosity

Building on the success of Season 1, which reached tens of thousands of viewers across platforms, the new season is designed for audiences of all ages—from middle school students to lifelong learners. With its short, engaging episodes, the series is ideal for classrooms, museums, and anyone with a curious streak.

Dhody explained that *What's That For?* was inspired by the popular *Guess What's on the Curator's Desk?* video series she created while serving as Curator at the Mütter Museum. "That project showed me how much people enjoy the challenge of solving a mystery object," she said. "But we also listened to feedback from teachers and fans who wanted the reveal in the same episode and multiple-choice options to make it easier to use in classrooms. *What's That For?* takes those lessons to heart, making the series both fun and educational."

Watch Season 2

"We are excited to participate in this second season of *What's That For?*" says Cory Amsler, Senior Director of Collections, Exhibits and Historical Properties for the Mercer Museum. "This series offers another opportunity to reach new audiences, in a fun way, and to showcase the incredible depth and enduring educational value of our collections."

What's That For? Season 2 premieres January 20, 2026 on the Dhody Research Institute's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/@TheDhodyResearchInstitute> and will also be featured on the Mercer Museum's social media platforms.

For more information, visit www.dhodyresearchinstitute.org and www.mercermuseum.org.

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About the Mercer Museum

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 17,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901 and is open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit www.mercermuseum.org.

For additional information, please contact:

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