



April 10, 2025

Gerald L. Chan, Owner
Harvard Square Theatre

Dear Mr. Chan:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including Harvard alums and many thousands of others across Massachusetts—with a proposal: As you look to redevelop the Harvard Square Theatre, we'd love to help you convert this space into a powerful exhibit called "Harvard's House of Horrors," which would reveal the physical and psychological torture that animals have endured in Harvard's experimentation facilities. Let me elaborate:

Regrettably, Harvard's experimenters are notorious for subjecting other species, including baby monkeys, to extreme suffering and cruelty. In recent experiments, Harvard's Margaret Livingstone permanently removed infant monkeys from their mothers. She forced the maternally deprived infants to wear helmets and goggles that produced disorienting strobe effects for the first 18 months of their lives. In other experiments, she sutured the eyelids of newborn monkeys shut, plunging them into total darkness for their first year of life. These disturbing procedures inflict irreversible physiological and psychological harm—and they're just a glimpse into Harvard's deeply troubling legacy of abuse and neglect.

"Harvard's House of Horrors" would be educational, displaying materials documenting the university's repeated failures to meet even basic animal welfare standards, including a powerful letter signed by Dr. Jane Goodall and more than 380 other scientists condemning Livingstone's cruel experiments. Visitors would learn about the now-shuttered New England Primate Research Center—a facility whose legacy remains a chilling symbol of unchecked animal abuse that persisted for years.

Our exhibit would shed light on the enormous body of evidence showing that animal testing is ineffective and fails to predict human outcomes. Museumgoers would discover modern, human-relevant methods—including organs-on-chips, 3-D bioprinting, and sophisticated computer modeling—that are far cheaper, faster, and more accurate than animal tests. And visitors would learn about the remarkable sociability, playfulness, and intelligence that animals caged in these labs possess—and why treating sensitive beings as living test tubes without regard for their nature is not only scientifically indefensible but also morally unacceptable.

We are confident that hosting "Harvard's House of Horrors" at the Harvard Square Theatre would attract tourists, create jobs, and provide a space for meaningful dialog about ethical scientific practices. We hope you will decide to join us in saving lives by bringing this important exhibit to life. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid Newkirk
President

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