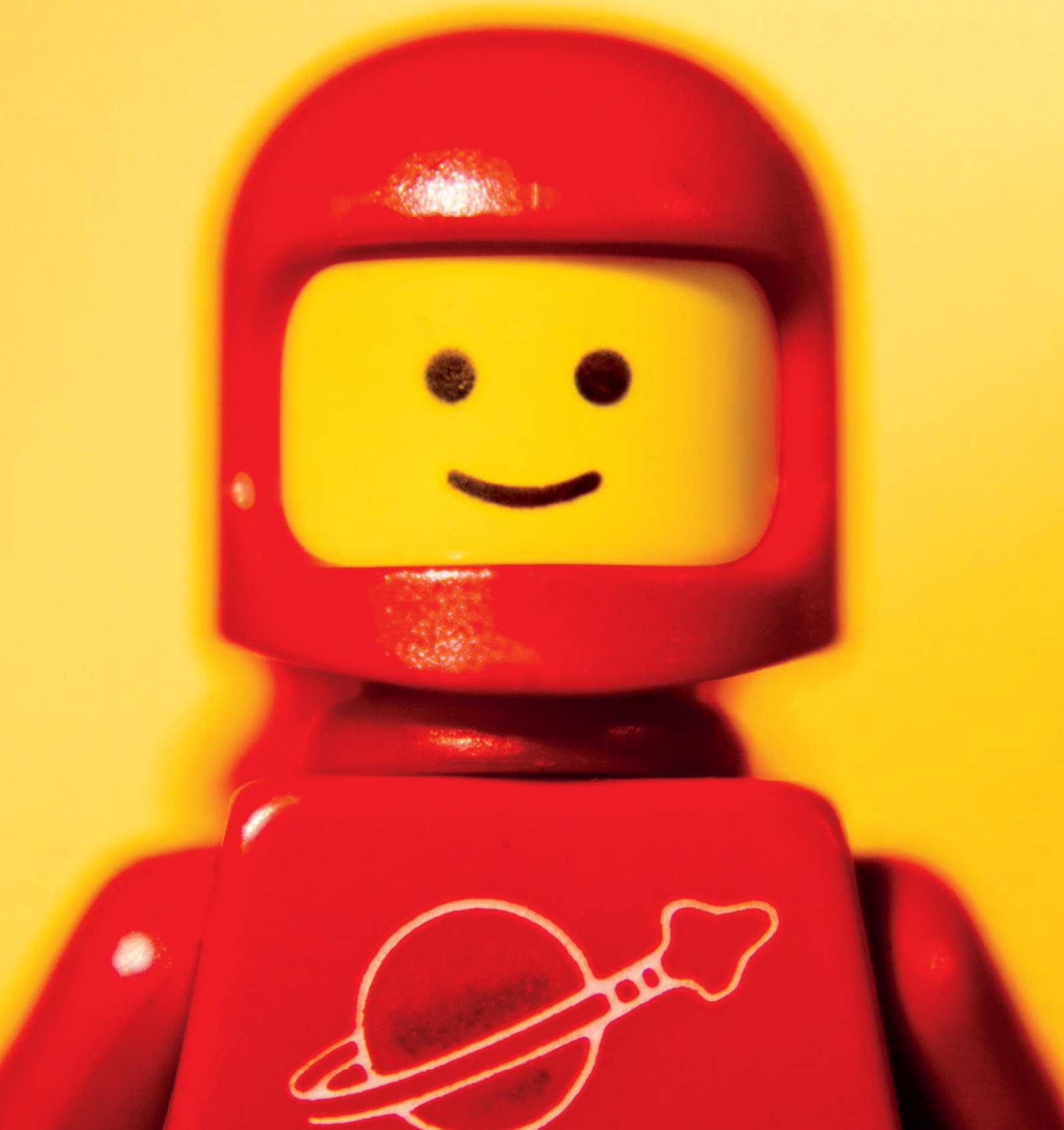


# The Cult of LEGO®



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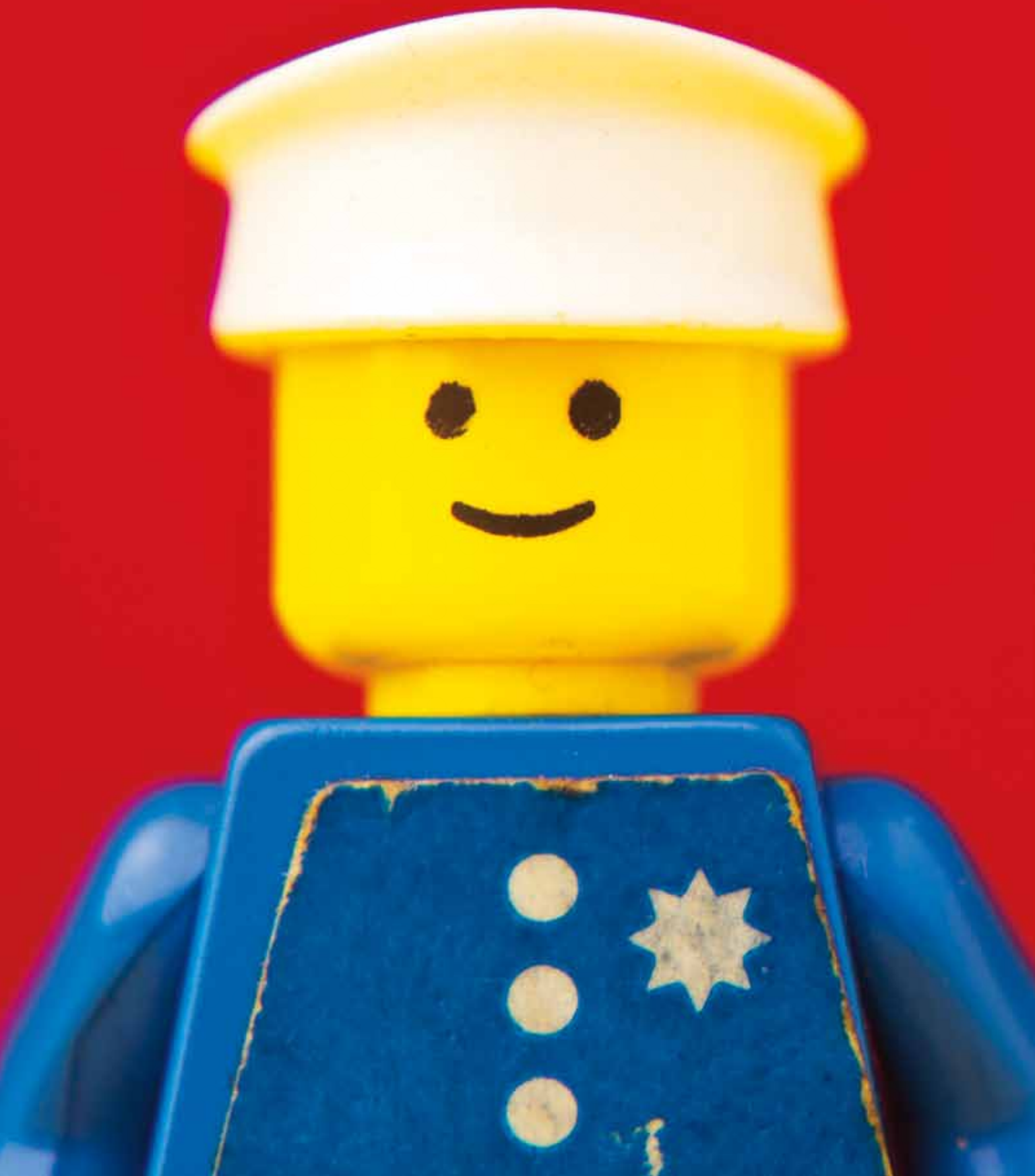
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A sampling of the LEGO Group's vast minifig selection decorates a LEGO store in Florida.

# The Minifig Turns 30



In 2008, the LEGO Group celebrated the minifig's 30th anniversary. Though the minifig's year of origin is debatable since a version with fixed limbs came out a few years before the movable minifig we know today, this anniversary marked a special milestone that transcended a mere marketing event. "The minifig is as iconic as the basic brick and as much a critical component of the LEGO System of Play as its studded cousin," said Andrew Becraft, co-editor of the fan blog The Brothers Brick (<http://www.brothers-brick.com/>). The minifig has been used to add humanity to LEGO models, to lend scale, and even as an art form in itself. LEGO wouldn't be the same without it.



# Minifig Facts

With such an impressive history, it's only natural that the LEGO Group would come up with a myriad of facts and statistics that tell the story of this remarkable little creature:<sup>1</sup>

---

More than 4 billion minifigs have been manufactured, with nearly 4 figures sold every second, for an average of 122 million per year.

---

The first minifig was a police officer. To date, 41 different cop minifigs have been enclosed in 104 sets.

---

More than 4,000 different minifigs have been released since 1978, including those with subtle differences in color, with 450 head designs alone. Mathematicians tell us that this means more than 8 quadrillion different combinations are possible.

---

The first minifigs with noses drawn on their heads were Native American figures in LEGO Wild West.

---

The first female minifig was a nurse. The ratio of male-to-female minifigs is 18:1.

---

The minifigs' trademark vacuous smile did not change until 1989, when the Pirates line introduced other facial expressions as well as such lovable deformities as eye patches and hook hands.

---

The year 2003 marked the first year the minifig's yellow coloration changed to a more realistic flesh coloration.

---

The only way to make a completely nude minifig is to use the torso and legs from a classic LEGO Space astronaut.

<sup>1</sup> **Source:** <http://parents.lego.com/en-gb/news/minifigure%2030th%20birthday.aspx/>

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Angus McLane's loveable 'Dudes instantly spawned a trend.







# CubeDudes: Cartoony Geometric Figures

One day Angus McLane, an animator for Pixar, watched an episode of the G.I. Joe TV show and decided that he wanted to build a miniland figure of one of the characters, Snake Eyes. He wanted to build small (due to a lack of space) and ended up building at a size only slightly larger than a minifig. As he played around with the bricks, he came up with the more “deformed” appearance that is the CubeDude’s signature look: a cubical head presented in such a way that one angle serves as the face. He built about a half-dozen characters before he began sharing them online, and they were an immediate hit. Since the debut of McLane’s models, dozens of LEGO fans have tried their hands at creating CubeDudes, but McLane is still considered the grandmaster. To date he has built over 100 CubeDudes, most of them recognizable figures from TV and cinema.





The LEGO builders featured in Chapter 4 take pride in accurately re-creating real-world phenomena. Ultimately, their accomplishments are measured in terms of their technical skill and faithfulness to the original item. But what about building beautiful models of things that exist only in one's imagination?

When building from the imagination, anything is possible. Builders don't need to limit a project to what can be found in the real world or limit it to depicting technology that could actually function. Some builders draw inspiration from movies, dreams, or simply conversations. Others crank up the music, grab a pile of bricks, and just create. Still others take a more methodical approach, sketching out entire fleets of vehicles before placing a single brick.

---

**Guy Himber's "Cabinet of Curiosities" evokes the Renaissance tradition of collecting natural marvels and odd discoveries in a cabinet, except that this cabinet is also a robot!**

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