



STEP INTO THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON – THE MAKING OF HARRY POTTER OPENS NEW EXPANSION

On 31st March, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter will unveil an exciting, permanent expansion dedicated to the Forbidden Forest.

The Forbidden Forest may be strictly off-limits to *Hogwarts* students, but for the first time this March, visitors to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter are invited to defy *Professor Dumbledore's* orders and follow the footsteps of Harry, Ron and Hermione deep into the grounds of the Forbidden Forest.

Home to an abundance of creatures, the Forbidden Forest offers shelter and protection to Hippogriffs and Acromantula among many others. It is also well known to beloved half-giant *Hagrid* in his role as Care of Magical Creatures professor. One of *Rubeus Hagrid's* original costumes will be on display, lantern in hand, to welcome visitors through the *Hogwarts* gates deep into the forest. Filled with 19 trees each with a diameter of over 12 feet, visitors will walk beneath the giant entwined roots on their journey and will even be able to control the weather using the same techniques created by filmmakers.

Amongst the imposing trees, visitors will encounter a full size model of *Buckbeak*, which is new to the tour, and have the opportunity to bow to the majestic creature. They will see up close the incredible detail and craftsmanship that went into creating the magnificent Hippogriff. Each feather had to be individually inserted and glued by the Creature Effects team who were busy adding feathers right up until the final moment *Buckbeak* was needed on set for *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

As visitors venture deeper into the depths of the forest, they will come face-to-face with *Aragog*, the Acromantula. Emerging from his dark lair, the enormous spider will appear before visitors along with spiderlings from his family. Created by Nick Dudman, Creature and Make-Up Effects Designer, with help from Production Designer Stuart Craig, *Aragog* had a leg span of over 18

feet and was even able to crawl out of a hole and deliver dialogue in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Officially opening on Friday 31st March, the new, must-see expansion has been designed and built by many of the crew members who worked on the hugely successful magical film series including Oscar® and BAFTA winning Production Designer Stuart Craig, Construction Manager Paul Hayes, BAFTA winning Creature and Makeup Effects Designer Nick Dudman and BAFTA winning Special Effects Supervisor John Richardson.

Sarah Roots, Senior Vice President, Worldwide Tours commented: “We are so excited to launch the Forbidden Forest expansion of the Studio Tour, especially on the fifth anniversary of our grand opening. It’s great to be working with so many of the original filmmakers who know so much about the wizarding world. There will be an opportunity to take control of the weather and discover the techniques used to create a realistic forest within a film. We can’t wait to let visitors step into this mysterious set and discover all this amazing detail for themselves.”

Stuart Craig, Production Designer on all eight *Harry Potter* films, added: “Over the course of the eight films, the Forbidden Forest has played a key role and I think it’s an exciting addition to the Studio Tour. The Forbidden Forest is full of mysterious, fascinating and sometimes threatening forces. It represents the great unknown compared to the comfort and safety of *Hogwarts* and the *Gryffindor* Common Room which makes it so interesting and important to the development of the story.”

The Forbidden Forest will open on Friday 31st March and entrance will be included in the ticket price.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter opened its doors on 31st March 2012. The unique attraction offers visitors the ultimate chance to get up close to authentic sets, discover the magic behind spellbinding special effects and explore the behind-the-scenes secrets of the *Harry Potter* film series.

The Studio Tour has been well received with 96% of the 21,000+ reviews on TripAdvisor rating it as ‘Excellent’ or ‘Very Good’.

Highlights include walking through the Great Hall where so many famous scenes were shot, seeing the treasures stored in *Dumbledore’s* office and strolling down *Diagon Alley*. Tickets must be pre-booked at www.wbstudiotour.co.uk or by calling the Studio Tour’s Visitor Services Team on 0345 084 0900 and cannot be bought at the attraction.

WBSTL Press Office
press@wbstudiotour.co.uk
020 3427 7549

Stuart Craig, Production Designer

- Academy Awards for *The English Patient* (1996), *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988) and *Gandhi* (1982)
- BAFTA Awards for *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005) and *The Elephant Man* (1980)

John Richardson, Special Effects Supervisor

- Academy Award for *Aliens* (1986)
- BAFTA Awards for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2* (2011) and *Aliens* (1986)

Nick Dudman, Creature and Make-Up Effects Designer

- BAFTA Award for *The Fifth Element* (1997)