



## **PRESS RELEASE**

March 2016

### **“Lights, camera, action!” On location in Potsdam Go “Behind the Scenes“ and discover 100 years of movie history**

*Potsdam, March 2016* – Potsdam is the cradle of German cinema. The pictures first started moving in Potsdam Babelsberg in 1911. Only one year later, the silent movie “Der Totentanz” (The Dance to Death) was produced here. Since then, more than 3000 pictures have been made in Babelsberg. Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo and Heinz Rühmann stood in front of the camera here and began their journey to fame and fortune. Fritz Lang made movie history with “Metropolis”, now a part of UNESCO’s audiovisual world heritage. On June 5 2016, this silent movie classic will be screened in the courtyard of Brandenburg’s regional parliament building, the Landtag, accompanied live by the German Film Orchestra Babelsberg. Stars and starlets once lived close to Babelsberg’s film studios in opulent villas by the shores of the Griebnitzsee. The city tour “Babelsberg – Filmstars, villas and a glimpse of world history” gossips about those UFA legends and tells stories of the famous villa quarter of Neu-Babelsberg.

#### **Film and media are daily life in Babelsberg**

Steeped in movie history, Babelsberg’s film studios have now become a modern media and high tech centre. In 20 studios and workshops, as well as on 156,000 square metres of exterior sets, cinema and television are produced every day. German and international films, award-winning in Berlin, Cannes and Hollywood, have all been filmed here. These include blockbusters such as “The Reader” with Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes and “Valkyrie” with Tom Cruise. Some of the world’s best known movie directors have worked here, among these Volker Schlöndorff, Roman Polanski, Tom Tykwer and Roland Emmerich, as well as Quentin Tarantino with “Inglourious Basterds“.

Visitors can take studio tours to see parts of Babelsberg’s media city not normally accessible to the public. The media city’s most imposing symbol of cinema’s future vision is the Konrad Wolf Film University, Babelsberg. Each year, its futuristic building plays host to the big International Student Film Festival “Sehnsüchte”, a highlight for all young film makers, which awards the best new talent in the industry and attracts cinema enthusiasts of all generations. On May 21st, the Film University also hosts Potsdam’s Day of Science 2016.

#### **Stuntshows and action cinema at the Filmpark Babelsberg**

Today’s media city, once Europe’s largest film location, is also the home of Filmpark Babelsberg’s multimedia experience, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Here, in an arena in the shape of an extinct volcano, Babelsberg’s stunt crew presents high octane shows, featuring car crashes, high speed car chases or vertigo-inducing falls.



A further attraction is “Dreamworkers”, where visitors can take a tour of the studio’s workshops and meet the people behind the scenes who create true movie magic. Visitors can experience the cutting edge of movie technology in the park’s 4D cinema. The original movie set of “Boomer – the Submarine” offers a simulated trip on a Russian submarine. All those who have ever wanted to be a news reporter or weather man can indulge their dream in the interactive experience of TV studio 1. The tricks of the trade are revealed in the Western Street and the Medieval town, both used many times as the backdrop for cinema productions. In June, children and those young at heart will be enchanted, when Grimm’s fairy tales are brought to life at the children’s party special event. In October, Horror Nights will send a shiver down the spines of Halloween fans and horror aficionados. Just next door to the Film Park, the Metropolis Hall offers 3000 square metres of floor space for shows and TV events.

### **Experience Potsdam’s film history by bus, on foot or from the seat of a bicycle**

In 2016, the film location Potsdam and its Babelsberg dream factory invite visitors to take a special behind the scenes look at the city and its 100-year movie history. Visitors are granted access to parts of cultural and scientific institutions, as well as historical and newly designed buildings, not normally accessible to the public, many of which are themselves original film locations. With a wealth of events, exhibitions and guided tours, Potsdam gives its visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the world of the moving image, both past and present. A special series of events called “Vom Drehort zum Sehort“ (viewing films where they were shot), screens selected films at their original locations.

A touch of cinematic flair can also be felt in Potsdam’s city centre, as movies were made not just in the city’s film studios but also in Potsdam itself. As the “Alte Fritz”, Otto Gebühr strolls through the gardens of Sanssouci, Matt Damon is chased through the city in “The Bourne Supremacy”, and Tom Cruise portrays Claus von Stauffenberg, chief actor of the Hitler assassination plot, in Potsdam’s Löwenvilla, while Tom Hanks trades Cold War agents across the “Bridge of Spies” in the 2015 Oscar-winning Spielberg movie of the same name. For an overview of movie locations old and new, visitors can join the 2-hour guided tour “Lights, Camera, Action! On location in Potsdam”. A visit to the Film Museum’s exhibition “Dream factory – 100 years of movie history in Babelsberg” promises an intimate experience of cinematic history with a true treasure trove of original exhibits. Apart from its permanent exhibition on the origin of film, this season the museum tempts with the special exhibition “All just backdrop?” while its own cinema offers a programme of themed films and retrospectives.

There are many ways of experiencing Potsdam’s film history: on foot, on a cycle tour or by video bus. Between the end of April and the end of October, the 4-hour cycle tour “From the Blue Angel to the Bridge of Spies” takes visitors on an exciting journey of discovery of the city’s movie history. Or why not take a multi-media tour in a rolling cinema? A video bus can take you to original film locations, where historic films, pictures and sound recordings bring the place to life. It is of little surprise that in the home of cinema, there are as many as three movie theatres per 167,000 inhabitants.



Find further information at: [www.filmpark-babelsberg.de](http://www.filmpark-babelsberg.de), [www.metropolis-halle.de](http://www.metropolis-halle.de),  
[www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de](http://www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de). For details on guided tours, walks and sightseeing tours, visit  
us at [www.potsdamtourismus.de](http://www.potsdamtourismus.de).

#### **Tourist Information at Potsdam's Central Station**

Bahnhofspassagen  
14471 Potsdam

Opening hours:

Mondays to Saturdays: 09:30 – 18:00

Sundays and public holidays: 10:00 – 16:00 (until April 2016)

Sundays and public holidays: closed (from May 2016)

#### **Tourist Information at the Luisenplatz**

Luisenplatz 3, on the corner of the Allee nach Sanssouci  
14471 Potsdam

Opening hours:

Mondays to Saturdays: 09:30 – 18:00

Sundays and public holidays: closed

#### **Tourist Information at the Alter Markt** (expected date of opening: April 2016)

Humboldtstraße 1-2  
14467 Potsdam

Öffnungszeiten:

Mondays to Saturdays: 09:30 – 19:00

Sundays and public holidays: 10:00 – 16:00

All tourist information centres are closed on the 25.12., 26.12. and 01.01.

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