



WARWICK CASTLE AT THE MOVIES

A NEW FREE TOUR REVEALS A CENTURY OF HOLLYWOOD HISTORY

- EARL'S HOLLYWOOD CAREER DOCUMENTED
- A-LIST CASTLE GUESTS INCLUDED GRACE KELLY, CARY GRANT, VIVIEN LEIGH, NOEL COWARD & ORSON WELLES
- LOCATION FOR KING RALPH & NATIVITY 2
- INSPIRED JRR TOLKEIN
- WEATHER-PROOF INDOOR TOUR - INCLUDED IN ENTRY FEE
- TOURS RUN 11 JANUARY-14 FEBRUARY 2014

13 January, 2014: Until Friday 14 February, visitors to Warwick Castle (www.warwick-castle.com) will enjoy some movie magic at Britain's Ultimate Castle: a free tour led by expert members of the History Team to explore the attraction's Hollywood past – and present - including movie clips from across the decades.

The fifth Countess of Warwick was at the vanguard of cultural change in the early twentieth century and championed cinema-going by hosting a Warwick Pageant to mark the Castle's 1000th anniversary. In 1936, the seventh Earl signed with movie studio MGM and became an overnight star, known to the press and paparazzi of the day as the 'Duke of Hollywood'. Once his short-lived career waned, the Earl invited his heavyweight Hollywood friends to visit him at the Castle: during the 1940s and 1950s stars including Grace Kelly, Vivien Leigh, Cary Grant, Noel Coward and Orson Welles came to Warwick.

Geoff Spooner, General Manager at Warwick Castle, said: "Warwick Castle is a Hollywood hot spot, not least because so many movies have been filmed here over the past seven decades. Our new tour reveals that the Castle was a favourite haunt of several screen legends as well as the Launchpad for one of the more unlikely Hollywood heroes of the twentieth century, the seventh Earl himself."

More recently, King Ralph (1991 starring John Goodman) and Nativity 2 (2011 starring David Tennant) took advantage of the Castle's breath taking and unrivalled setting.



Spooner added: "We even have links with one of the greatest movie series of all time, The Lord of The Rings, as its author, the legendary J.R.R.Tolkein, moved to Warwick in 1916 and reputedly found inspiration at the Castle for his Middle Earth kingdom of Gondor."

Book online (www.warwick-castle.com) seven days in advance for the best value entrance prices from £13.44 for adults; £10.96 for children (4-11 years); £9.60 for overs 60s; under 4s go free.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

Warwick Castle is easily accessible from junction 15 off the M40, just 40 minutes from Birmingham and 1 hour 40minutes from London. Warwick Castle is easy to reach by train from London Marylebone in 86 minutes.

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