

James Bond returns to Portugal !

OHMSS50 brings original cast members back for international fan event to celebrate 50th anniversary of **ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE**

George Lazenby, who played British super spy James Bond in the 1969 EON Productions film ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE, will return to Estoril this spring, to visit the places where filming took place fifty years ago. Lazenby, who will turn 80 later this year, is joined by fellow actor Terence Mountain, who played the character *Raphael*. Their appearance is part of a nine day international fan event that will take place in Estoril, Portugal (25-26 May) and Mürren, Switzerland (1-2 June). The event is organised by Dutch fan Martin Mulder, author of the book and website *ON THE TRACKS OF 007*.

A nine day international event will bring hundreds of James Bond fans from all over the world to the two countries where their favourite Bond film was made: Portugal and Switzerland. **ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE** was released in 1969 and is nowadays often mentioned as '*the best James Bond film ever*'. From May 25 to June 2 this year, a selection of cast and crew will return to the iconic filming locations to join the celebration. **GEORGE LAZENBY** (79), the Australian ex-model who replaced Sean Connery to play James Bond, is among them and he is looking very much forward to his return to Portugal.

OHMSS50 is a non-profit event, organised by fans for fans. The organisation is in the hands of Martin Mulder (the Netherlands), who published a travel guide to the Bond filming locations in 2008 (*On the tracks of 007*). Mulder also runs the website **ONTHETRACKSOFO07.COM**, the longest running James Bond related website on the internet (online since 1995). The event is sponsored and co-organised by **SCHILTHORNBahn AG** in Mürren, Switzerland and the **PALÁCIO HOTEL & SPA** in Estoril, Portugal, and is supported by the French, Swiss and German James Bond fan clubs.

From May 24 to May 31, Lazenby and Mountain visit Estoril and will, among other things, re-enact their classic fight at Guincho Beach and will be part of an on stage Q&A at the Palácio Hotel on Saturday evening. It is the first time both men will reappear at the iconic filming locations in Portugal.

After Portugal, both actors and fans travel on to Switzerland, for the second leg of the event. There they will be joined by John Glen (2nd unit director, editor, director of 5 Bond films), Sylvana Henriques (Jamaican girl), Jenny Hanley (Irish girl), Catherine Schell (Nancy), Helena Ronee (Australian girl), Zaheera (Indian girl), Vic Armstrong (stuntman, 2nd unit director), Wendy Leech (stunt woman, daughter of George Leech, Lazenby's stunt double), Erich Glavitz (stock car race co-ordinator and driver), Eddie Stacey (stuntman), Peter Lamont (set decorator / Oscar winning production designer), Terry Ackland-Snow (draftsman/art department), Steven Saltzman (son of producer Harry Saltzman).

Unfortunately, Lazenby's co-star **DAME DIANA RIGG** is unable to attend because of work commitments. She deeply regrets not being able to be present.

***** additional information *****

ABOUT THE 1969 FILM 'ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE'

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE got mixed reviews on its initial release, but has become a firm fan favourite over the last two decades. After Sean Connery's departure in 1967, production company EON PRODUCTIONS found a capable successor in Australian model George Lazenby. Peter Hunt, editor and second unit director on the previous Bond films, helmed the film, which featured a marvellous cast: Dame Diana Rigg as Tracy, ex-Kojak Telly Savalas as 007's arch enemy Blofeld and Italian Gabriele Ferzetti as mobster Marc Ange Draco.

The film combines a true love story between 007 (Lazenby) and Tracy (Rigg) with action scenes around Ernst Stavro Blofeld's (Savalas) hideout in the Swiss Alps, where the latter runs an allergy institute as a cover for brainwashing beautiful girls into serving as his *angels of death*. While most of the first part of the film was filmed in Estoril and Lisbon (Portugal), the second half took mostly place around the then-newly built revolving restaurant Piz Gloria, on top of the Schilthorn mountain in Switzerland. ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE shocked audiences by featuring Bond's marriage to Tracy, and the latter's death by the hands of Blofeld in the final minutes of the film.

ABOUT THE FILMING LOCATIONS

All of the film's iconic locations still exist today, in both countries. In Portugal Guincho Beach, the Palácio Hotel in Estoril, a Lisbon jeweller, the garden of the Palacio dos Marqueses de Fronteira, the Arrábida National Park and the private estate Herdade do Zambujal are all frequently visited by 007 fans from around the globe. The same goes for the Swiss locations, Bern, Heiligenschwendi, Lauterbrunnen, Grindelwald and Mürren. High above Mürren, on the top of the Schilthorn, Piz Gloria is the ultimate Bond spot, welcoming fans of the franchise to their Bond World exhibition and Walk of Fame, where cast and crew members left their handprints.

All these locations will be visited by participants during the **OHMSS50** event

ABOUT 'ON THE TRACKS OF 007'

ON THE TRACKS OF 007 originated in 1995 as a hobby project by Martin Mulder (Netherlands) and Dirk Kloosterboer (Germany). The two practically invented SET JETTING, or 'Location Hunting', and since the early days many people have followed their example and started visiting former filming locations all over the world. Mulder (47) frequently organises fan field trips to Bond locations and hosted a 50th anniversary for the Bond film YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE, by touring Japan in 14 days with 40 fans. His location photos featured in many publications, Roger Moore's MY WORD IS MY BOND being the most impressive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS:

For questions regarding the overall **OHMSS50** event and photographs of the filming locations, please contact Martijn Mulder at info@onthetracksof007.com. Journalists / reporters who would like to visit the Palácio during the event to interview George Lazenby can contact his agent Anders Frejdh at anders@frejdh.se