



Nottingham, England, 11 July 2011

'Secret' location of Batman filming finally revealed!

It's been the most exciting open secret in Nottingham for weeks – but Nottingham City Council can now officially confirm that Wollaton Hall will feature as a location in *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Local movie fans will have to wait just over a year to see the local landmark in the eagerly awaited *The Dark Knight Rises*, the third film in director Christopher Nolan's acclaimed Batman trilogy, which is due for release next summer.

Oscar-winning actors, Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne, aka Batman, Sir Michael Caine as Alfred Pennyworth, and Anne Hathaway, as Selina Kyle, have now finished filming on site, under the direction of Oscar-nominated British filmmaker Christopher Nolan. The film will also feature Tom Hardy in the role of Bane, one of Batman's most dangerous enemies. Tom Hardy first came to prominence in 2008's award-winning *Bronson*, which was backed by Screen Agency EM Media and filmed in Nottingham.

This incredible opportunity came about when Nottingham City Council was approached by Warner Bros., who agreed that the magnificent Tudor mansion of Wollaton Hall would be ideal as a location for the film.

Experience shows that locations which feature in films are given a huge boost in publicity and visitor numbers – and the City Council is sure that many more visitors to Nottingham from around the world will want to pay a visit to Wollaton Hall, having seen it on the big screen. The brief inconvenience of closing the Hall and Gardens during filming will be far outweighed by the benefits. For example, Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, featured as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films, saw a 230% increase in visitors.

The filming has also brought some unexpected benefits for Wollaton Hall, with a number of improvements being made to the Hall in preparation for the filming at the production company's expense. The Great Hall and Entrance Hall were both redecorated and re-gilded. A number of windows at the back of the property were specially wood-grained, and a new carpet is currently being woven for the Salon, to replace the old 1980s carpet, which was removed for filming.

Councillor Cat Arnold, Executive Assistant for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, said: "This is an amazing opportunity for Nottingham. It's not every day we get the chance to welcome Oscar winning Hollywood actors and their director to Nottingham and we were delighted when Warner Bros. agreed that Wollaton Hall would feature in this movie.

"There are Batman fans the world over and Christopher Nolan's first two films have been widely acclaimed, so there's every reason to believe that Wollaton Hall's



involvement will generate national and international interest, and attract many more visitors over the coming months and years.

“This will bolster the council’s investment in this important historical site, and the increased tourism will also bring many benefits for the local economy.”

Ron Inglis, Service Manager for Museums and Galleries at Nottingham City Council, said: “The staff at Wollaton worked incredibly hard both to secure this opportunity and to meet all the needs of the cast, crew, producers and director during shooting. The filming went really well and the production team was very sensitive to the historic nature of the setting in which they were filming. We are all looking forward to seeing how the Hall finally appears when the film is released next year.”

Screen Agency EM Media had assisted the film’s UK locations team with their searches for a variety of locations as part of its remit to support and attract film productions to the East Midlands.

Emily Lappin, Head of EM Media’s Communications and Inward Investment, said: “This is a real coup for Wollaton Hall and the city. Nottingham is well known for producing home grown British independent films and Christopher Nolan is an exciting and visionary filmmaker who has reinvented the Batman film franchise. Wollaton Hall is a fantastic film location and its profile is set to soar”.

Emma Thomas, producer of this Batman trilogy added, “We’ve had a great experience shooting at Wollaton Hall. We’re enormously grateful to the staff there and the people of Nottingham who were very accommodating. We hope everybody will be excited to see their local landmark on screen next summer.”

Wollaton Park and Hall are now fully open to the public once again.

For more information:

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Notes to Editors

Wollaton Hall

Wollaton Hall and Deer Park is a spectacular Elizabethan mansion in the heart of Nottingham. It is a prominent Grade One Listed building and visitors of all ages are welcome to visit the hall and park.

Standing on a natural hill three miles west of Nottingham City Centre, Wollaton Hall is set in five hundred acres of spectacular gardens and parkland.

On site, in addition to the historic hall and its sumptuous grounds, visitors will find Nottingham's Natural History Museum, Nottingham's Industrial Museum (open the last Sunday of each month for Sunday Steamings) and the Yard Gallery (open for special events - enquire for more details).

Contact Wollaton Hall on 0115 915 3900.
www.mynottingham.gov.uk/wollatonhall

EM Media

EM Media is the Screen Agency for the East Midlands region of England.

In less than a decade the profile, the reputation and impact of East Midlands' filmmaking has transformed through EM Media's interventions, which have driven creative excellence and economic growth:

- **£179m** economic benefit has been generated for the region's economy
- **42 feature films** have been co-financed by EM Media, including *Oranges and Sunshine*, *Control*, *This Is England* and the forthcoming *Tyrannosaur* and *Weekend*, many achieving international acclaim winning 8 film, television and Scottish BAFTAs, 10 BIFAs and 3 Michael Powell awards
- **9 video games** have been co-financed and released to the global market
- **45 film projects** in development
- **100 high quality short films** have been completed launching the careers of the region's brightest new filmmaking talent

Visit www.em-media.org.uk



Nottingham in Film

Oranges and Sunshine, 2011

Jim Loach's true story of Nottinghamshire social worker Margaret Humphreys

The Unloved, 2009 Samantha Morton's BAFTA-winning drama

Bunny and the Bull, 2009 –The creators and stars of The Mighty Boosh filmed the road movie in Nottingham.

Bronson, 2008 Tom Hardy came to Nottingham to star in the story of notorious prisoner Charles Bronson.

Control, 2007 – Anton Corbijn's acclaimed biopic of Joy Division front man Ian Curtis filmed across Nottingham in 2006.

Magicians, 2007– Mitchell and Webb

This Is England, 2006 – Shane Meadows's BAFTA-winning film that spawned the TV series filmed in Nottingham in 2006.

Experience Nottinghamshire

Experience Nottinghamshire is the Destination Marketing Organisation responsible for driving leisure and business visitors to the county. It also manages the city's gold award-winning tourism centre.

Tourism in Nottinghamshire is estimated to be worth around £1.4 billion to the local economy and supports 21,500 jobs.

Experience Nottinghamshire is led and funded by the private sector with support from Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. It also works in partnership with Visit England and Visit Britain.

Nottinghamshire is a leading tourism destination with a world-class record for sport, science, heritage, creativity and culture. To find out more about Experience Nottinghamshire or to find out about what's on and where to go throughout the county visit: www.experiencenottinghamshire.com.