



JABBA THE HUTT AND PRINCESS LEIA UNITED IN WAX FOR MADAME TUSSAUDS MAJOR NEW *STAR WARS* EXPERIENCE

Monday April 13, 2015. With just over a month to go before a major new *Star Wars* experience opens at Madame Tussauds London, the attraction today revealed two of the stunning wax figures that will star in one of the 11 atmospheric walk-in sets inspired by some of the most iconic moments in film history. United in wax for their final checks were the gargantuan Jabba the Hutt and the delicate Princess Leia, depicted as they appear in the famous scene in Jabba's Throne Room in ***Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi***.

The figures, which fans will be able to get up close to in an authentic recreation of Jabba's Throne Room when the new attraction opens on Saturday May 16, 2015, have taken a team of more than 20 artists over four months to create.

"These two figures are actually two of the most challenging of the cast of 16 characters we are creating," commented Principal Sculptor on the project, Stephen Mansfield. He continued: "With Jabba we have sheer scale – he is 2.9m long, 1.5m high and weighs a whopping 35 stone. We used fibreglass moulding techniques to create the body mass, which has then been hand coloured in precise detail over a six week period. His massive eyes are made from glass and are each the size of a melon. Leia, of course, is portrayed in one of the character's most iconic looks, in her gold bikini. We are acutely aware of the responsibility we have to get this right for fans, and we have been very lucky to work with the jeweler that made the original hair pieces worn by Princess Leia to recreate this level of detail."

The figures will be joined by the smallest character to be featured, Jabba's sadistic court jester, Salacious B. Crumb, to complete the scene. The Kowakian monkey-lizard will stand at just 41.2cm tall complete with 14cm long ears. He will be tucked into his gross crime lord boss's tail as Princess Leia sits shackled before him. Fans will be able to sit beside Leia, marvel at Jabba's grotesqueness and listen out for sounds of torment from beneath the floor when they step across the Hutt's concealed rancor pit.

Work is now nearing completion as the first sets are installed in the Baker Street venue ready for Jabba, Leia and all 16 characters to take centre stage in atmospheric recreations of some of the most famous *Star Wars* moments.

Advance booking is strongly recommended. Tickets are on sale now at www.madametussauds.com/london, where you can also find all the latest news and updates.

Ends

For further information please contact Amy Sadler, Tansy Ratcliffe-James or Claudia Parker at freerange communications – amys@freerange.eu, 0207 402 9966

Notes to Editors

Madame Tussauds London and Merlin Entertainments plc

- Prices to Madame Tussauds London start from £24.75 for adults and £21.60 for children (May 16, 2015 onwards) when you pre-book at www.madametussauds.com/london
- Madame Tussauds London is located next to Baker Street tube station and open seven days a week – opening times vary, check the website for details before visiting, www.madametussauds.com/london
- Madame Tussauds Studios London has been making wax figures for over 150 years. Each masterpiece takes four months, and a team of 20 dedicated sculptors, to create. Over 500 precise body measurements are referenced, real head hairs are inserted one by one, and countless layers of paints and tints are applied to build up skin tones - all to achieve the kind of astonishing realism that has kept Madame Tussauds world renowned for over two centuries.
- Madame Tussauds has attractions in London, Hollywood, Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin, Vienna, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Shanghai, Singapore, Wuhan, Blackpool UK and Sydney, with interactive figures and experiences built around fame and celebrity. In London, guests can get up close and personal with incredibly lifelike replicas of 21st century stars like Johnny Depp and Amy Winehouse, brave the scariest Chamber Of Horrors yet, complete with actors as bloodthirsty serial killers and take a time-travelling taxi ride through 400 years of amazing London history.
- MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS plc is the leading name in location-based, family entertainment. Europe's Number 1 and the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin now operates 106 attractions, 11 hotels/3 holiday villages in 23 countries and across 4 continents. The company aims to deliver memorable and rewarding experiences to its almost 63 million visitors worldwide, through its iconic global and local brands, and the commitment and passion of its managers and c26,000 employees (peak season).
- Among Merlin's attractions are - SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND, The London Eye, Dungeons, Gardaland, LEGOLAND Discovery Centres, Alton Towers Resort, Warwick Castle, THORPE PARK Resort, Blackpool Tower, Heide Park Resort, WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo, Sydney Tower Eye and SKYWALK. All brands which are distinctive, challenging and innovative – and which have great potential for growth in the future. Visit www.merlinentertainments.biz for more information.

Star Wars

- *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the latest instalment of the *Star Wars* saga, will be in cinemas worldwide from December 18, 2015