



## STAR WARS AT MADAME TUSSAUDS

### KEY FACTS

In Madame Tussauds London's exciting new immersive *Star Wars* experience guests will be able to co-star with their favourite heroes and villains from *Star Wars* Episodes I-IV. They will encounter amazingly life-like wax figures in 11 separate sets, bringing to life some of the most famous film moments in history.

- It will take 12 months to create the experience and bring to life 11 authentic sets with dramatic special effects and dynamic theming, featuring 16 famous *Star Wars* characters
- A team of 180 talented Madame Tussauds sculptors, hair artists and colourists are working hard to create the wax figures featured in the attraction
- Every hair on each wax figure will be inserted by hand – from Yoda's fine grey wisps to Chewbacca's mass of brown Wookiee hair – with an average of 10,000 hairs per head
- Amazingly accurate skin colour for each character will be achieved using over 100ml per figure of oil paint applied by hand
- The total cost of producing the wax figures alone will cost £2.5 million
- The smallest wax figures in the experience will be Master Yoda and Salacious B. Crumb
  - Yoda stands at just 66cm tall and his figure was created using detailed measurements from one of the original Yoda models
  - Jabba the Hutt's court jester, Salacious B. Crumb, will be marginally smaller at a diminutive 41.2cm tall and his distinctive ears will be 14cm long
- The largest figure will be of Jabba the Hutt. 1.5 tonnes of clay is being used to create the figure, which will measure 2.9m long, 1.5m high and weigh in at a whopping 35 stone
- The hairiest figure will be 2m tall Chewbacca. It will take nearly 1000 hours for a team of 10 expert hair inserters to create his head to toe Wookiee hair in painstakingly accurate detail
- The lightsabers featured in the experience are being specially created for Madame Tussauds by the team behind the weapons used in the original films
- The largest scale set will be the Duel of the Fates scene featuring Obi-Wan Kenobi and Qui-Gon Jinn in their epic lightsaber battle with Darth Maul. The space will span two floors and the figures will be

portrayed in front of a gigantic light cylinder featuring 1,600 fibre optic tails to realistically recreate the lightening effect of flickering energy bursts

- The biggest set will be Jabba's Throne Room featuring the massive gangster with Princess Leia and Salacious B. Crumb. The grill of the rancor pit in the floor of the room is being recreated using original reference materials from Skywalker Ranch
- Yoda's harsh swampy home on Dagobah will be one of the most atmospheric sets in the experience featuring astonishingly realistic fake trees, swamp foliage and fog effects
- The 'I am your father' scene featuring Darth Vader is being brought to life using a delicate and extremely detailed scale model of the 1980 scene from the Skywalker Ranch archives

## Ends

For further information please contact Amy Sadler or Tansy Ratcliffe—James at freerange communications – [amys@freerange.eu](mailto:amys@freerange.eu), 0207 402 9966

### Notes to Editors

#### Madame Tussauds London and Merlin Entertainments plc

- Prices to Madame Tussauds London start from £22 (May 2015 onwards) when you pre-book at [www.madametussauds.com/london](http://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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 105 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 60 million visitors worldwide, through its iconic global and local brands, and the commitment and passion of its managers and c25,000 employees.
- 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](http://www.merlinentertainments.biz) for more information.