

THE HUNGER GAMES: SUNRISE ON THE REAPING

Berlin's modernist masterpieces and Spain's sumptuous scenery provide the settings for the latest instalment in the epic *Hunger Games* saga

Words: ALLY WYBREW

Panem's dystopian antics hit the screens again this November with the backstory of mentor Haymitch Abernathy. But bringing the franchise to life required meticulous planning. Location manager Klaus Darrelmann explains how the odds were in his favour when it came to finding the perfect locations.



great job from production design and set dressing as well; it's a fantastic looking interior.'

OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN

Klaus shot the Tribute Parade, one of the film's biggest set pieces, at the 74,500-seater Olympiastadion Berlin. It was 'very high pressure,' Klaus explains. As well as being careful not to damage the pitch (which would cost at least €250,000 to repair), they had to protect the rubber of the running track. 'We wanted to bring chariots, we wanted to bring horses and we had to make sure that it was super safe. Nothing can happen just like that. It was quite a task in the limited time we had, but it worked out beautifully.'

BERLIN CONGRESS CENTRE, GERMANY

When it came to finding a home for the franchise's favourite villain, President Snow (Ralph Fiennes), Klaus turned to the Berlin Congress Centre in the heart of the German capital. 'The theme of the movie is kind of the 1970s and its vibrant colours,' he explains, 'and although the BCC isn't period-correct – it was built in the 1960s – the whole room was so fitting.' The team convinced management to let them shoot there, becoming the first production company to film inside in almost 12 years. 'I think it's worth it when you see it in the movie,' Klaus says. 'It's a

From above:
The spectacular
'battlefield' in
Valle de Lago;
Joseph Zada as a
young Haymitch
Abernathy

VALLE DE LAGO, SPAIN

For this episode, the 'arena' – the battlefield where District tributes fight to the death – was shot in Spain's northwestern Asturias region in Valle de Lago, a stunning valley in Somiedo National Park. 'It looks like something out of a medieval painting – just the ideal world that you would wish for the arena.' Filming there had its challenges as vehicle access was limited and 'the logistical difficulties were immense', but Klaus says the team made it 'work against all odds'.

The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping is in cinemas 20 November

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