

## FAIRMONT LOVES FILM

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## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FAIRMONT

*Celebrating a history and passion for movie-making*

For more than a century, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts has created memorable experiences for all of its guests, including some of the world's most renowned filmmakers and actors. Fairmont hotels have been the site or setting of countless Hollywood blockbusters and legendary films. When filmmakers and directors want to portray luxury accommodations that truly represent their destinations, they often focus their cameras on Fairmont properties.

Many film buffs will know that *Home Alone 2* (1992); and *North By Northwest* (1959) were filmed at The Plaza, A Fairmont Managed Hotel in New York, but guests may not realize such that Fairmont Hotels & Resorts across the globe have also had starring roles in classic films as *JFK* (1991), *Dr. Zhivago* (1965), and *The Great Gatsby* (2013) to name but a few.

Fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century where Fairmont has shone in the spotlight in popular films such as *New York Minute* (2004) starring Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen; the Angelina Jolie thriller *Taking Lives* (2004); *The Cinderella Man* (2005) featuring Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger; and the blockbuster *RED* (2010), featuring an all-star cast including Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman. Fairmont has also appeared in numerous top-rated television productions such as *The Bachelorette*, *Celebrity Mole* and TLC's *A Dating Story*.

Once the productions have wrapped, Fairmont is equally pleased to roll out the red carpet for international stars when they attend prestigious award shows and film festivals from the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) to the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards to the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards – Bollywood's top night, which has

been hosted by both Toronto's Fairmont Royal York and Fairmont Singapore. Let's take a look behind the scenes at some of Fairmont's most photogenic hotels...

### **Fairmont Royal York, Toronto**

The Fairmont Royal York is not only one of the first impressions visitors to Toronto have upon exiting Union Station, it is one of the most frequented shooting venues in the city, hosting an average of nearly 20 film projects each year. The hotel is the only venue in the city to employ a full time Manager dedicated to Screen-Based Entertainment, Louise Hotrum. In this role, Louise contracts every film inquiry that the hotel receives and is also the main operational contact for all film shoots at the hotel. Over the years, Louise has transformed many of the hotel's public spaces into extensive film sets and worked on over 100 film shoots throughout her career.

The movie *Cinderella Man* (2005), a three-time Oscar-nominee starring Russell Crowe, was filmed on location here, as was *Molly's Game* (2017), starring Kevin Costner, Idris Elba and Jessica Chastain. Directed by Academy Award-winner Aaron Sorkin, the hotel provided numerous locations for the film and crew, including a room modelled in the style of **The Plaza**, where Molly Bloom, the real-life woman who inspired the movie, would set her poker games. A further sampling of Fairmont Royal York's casting sheet includes: *The Killing Fields* (1984); *Serendipity* (2000); *The Tuxedo* (2001); *Where the Truth Lies* (2005); *Hollywood Land* (2006); *Take the Lead* (2006); *Red* (2010) *Chloe* (2009); *RoboCop* (2014); *Miss Sloane* (2016); *Spotlight* (2015).

**Behind the scenes:** Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich worked together for two weeks at Fairmont Royal York during the filming of the action-thriller *RED* (2010). For one particularly intense scene, the hotel's kitchen was used as a set and designed to look as if it had been destroyed in a violent battle, complete with shooting and faux bullets. The hotel staff found the disaster and not realizing it was being used as a film set, they assumed it had been a wild night at the restaurant and began cleaning up the mess!

### **The Savoy, A Fairmont Managed Hotel, London**

It was at The Savoy where Vivien Leigh met future husband Laurence Olivier, where Elizabeth Taylor spent her honeymoon with Nicky Hilton, and where Charlie Chaplin returned to his homeland. It has also been a favorite filming spot for movies such as *The Big Sleep* (1978); *Notting Hill* (1999); *Bright Young Things* (2003); *Gambit* (2012); *Mortdecai* (2015); *Goodbye Christopher Robin* (2018); and *All the Money in the World* (2017). What's more, the hotel is also known to host numerous stars attending the annual British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards.

In *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981), Meryl Streep plays the role of a movie actress, Anna, who stays at The Savoy as a guest. In a scene set in a suite overlooking the Thames, she receives a call from Mike (Jeremy Irons), who declares his love over the telephone. Streep's outstanding performance in the classic film earned her a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination.

**Behind the scenes:** The Savoy marks the spot where Tom Mix and Gene Autry rode horseback in the ballroom in 1925 and 1939, respectively; Caruso sang arias at a party with a baby elephant present; the Beatles ordered porridge and pea sandwiches while visiting Bob Dylan; and Sir Elton John flooded his suite (Savoy baths have such strong water pressure they deliver a gallon every four seconds).

### **Fairmont Peace Hotel, Shanghai**

The famous Jazz Bar at Fairmont Peace Hotel and its legendary Old Jazz Band were captured in a documentary film by German producer Uli Gaulke called 'As Time Goes By' which premiered in the Toronto and Shanghai International Film Festivals in June 2013. When Gaulke visited Shanghai, he was so touched by the performers of "the oldest jazz band in the world" that he returned a year later to create his documentary, telling the story of the group preparing for a trip to Rotterdam to play at the North Sea Jazz Festival, the world's largest indoor jazz festival — and the biggest show of their careers. Other films shot on location in the art deco styled interiors of the hotel include: *Empire of the Sun* (1987); *The Last Aristocrats* (1989); *The White Countess* (2005); *The Silent War* (2012); *Tiny Times 3* (2014); and *Lan Xin Theatre* (2018).

**Behind the scenes:** While onset filming the *Shanghai Triad* (1995) at the hotel by day, by night the famous Chinese actress Gong Li was a VIP guest of the hotel. The actress played a 1930s nightclub singer and gangster's moll in Zhang Yimou's Shanghai Triad. The Oscar-nominated Chinese masterpiece is about a war between two different gangster groups, with a touching performance in which a bright 14-year-old boy (Wang Xiaoxiao) prepares to become a servant to the gorgeous mistress (Gong Li) of the Bund's chief gangster.

### **Fairmont San Francisco**

Ever since Alfred Hitchcock chose to shoot his favorite San Francisco hotel for his classic film *Vertigo* (1958) starring Jimmy Stewart, the Fairmont San Francisco has become a silver screen icon. The classic Hitchcock thriller established the hotel's appeal as a film location and it went on to star in films such as *The Towering Inferno* (1974) and *Sudden Impact* (1983), but one of its most memorable movie close ups was when Sean Connery demanded a luxe suite at the property in *The Rock* (1996). More recently, the hotel had a featuring role in *The Intern* (2015) with Roberto De Niro, Anne Hathaway and Rene Russo.

**Behind the scenes:** The most "in-the-know" location scouts frequently refer productions to Fairmont San Francisco, because they love its variety of views, one-of-a-kind backdrops, and appreciate the hotel's ability to expertly accommodate the special needs of productions over several decades. Even actors who have filmed at the hotel still hold a special place in their heart for Fairmont San Francisco. Actors Heidi Bohay Spound and Michal Spound, who starred on the 1980s Aaron Spelling TV series "Hotel," got engaged at the property, where the pilot episode was shot.

### **The Plaza, A Fairmont Managed Hotel, New York**

Cary Grant and Alfred Hitchcock were onsite at New York's Grand Dame, The Plaza, to film key parts of the 1959 classic *North by Northwest* – the first time a crew, director and cast assembled onsite to make a picture. Before then, movies were shot almost entirely on Hollywood soundstages and rarely on location. The Plaza has provided the location for other motion pictures as well, including *Breakfast At Tiffany's* (1961); *Barefoot In The Park* (1967); *Funny Girl* (1968); *The Great Gatsby* (1971); *Plaza Suite* (1971); *The Way We Were* (1973); *Scent Of A Woman* (1992); *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993); *Almost Famous* (2000); *The Great Gatsby* (2013), and many more.

In *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (1992), the hotel plays a prominent role in the movie's plot. The main character, Kevin McCallister, finds himself lost in the city and checks into the hotel using a stolen credit card. The mischievous boy enjoys room service offerings to the tune of \$967 (in 1992 dollars) —including an over-the-top ice cream sundae that the hotel is happy to recreate for young guests of the "Home Alone 2 VIP" package, an exclusive experience designed in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movie.

**Behind the scenes:** *Midnight Cowboy* (1969) was shot in New York City during the spring and summer of 1968. The one-minute picketing scene at The Plaza took director John Schlesinger about four hours to shoot. As Dustin Hoffman was being filmed crossing the street, a taxi ran a red light, right through the scene. Hoffman wanted to shout "Hey, we're SHOOTING here," instead, being the professional that he is, he stayed in character and shouted "Hey, we're WALKING here!" and the scene made movie history.

Fans of *The Great Gatsby* will love The Fitzgerald Suite, designed in tribute to the writer F. Scott Fitzgerald who often stayed at The Plaza with his wife Zelda in the 1920s. The hotel plays an important role in the plot of *The Great Gatsby*, when Nick, Gatsby, Jordan, Tom and Daisy gather in a suite while visiting the city.

### **Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston**

No hotel is more famous for the Hollywood wedding than Fairmont Copley Plaza. In one year, the location was the shoot for two movie weddings – *My Best Friend's Girl* (2008) and perhaps the most famous - *Bride Wars* (2008) - starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. In *Bride Wars*, the Boston ballroom stood in for The Plaza in New York – the ballrooms are quite similar and were designed by the same architect. Other movies filmed on location here include: *The Firm* (1993); *Next Stop Wonderland* (1998); *The Company Men* (2010); *Zookeeper* (2011); *American Hustle* (2013); *The Forger* (2014); *Live by Night* (2017); and *The Equalizer 2* (2018).

**Behind the scenes:** During the filming of *My Best Friend's Girl* at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, actress Kate Hudson and her son Ryder popped into the OAK Long Bar + Kitchen for some lunch and shared an impromptu piano performance.

### **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**

With Vancouver, Canada known to those in the industry as "Hollywood North", the beautiful Fairmont hotels in the city are often buzzing with celebrities and film shoots. Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, the grande dame of the bunch, has seen the most film and television action, appearing in such productions as *X-Files*; *The Good Wife* (2009); *The Bachelorette* (2009); *V* (2010); *The Age of Adaline* (2015) starring Blake Lively and Harrison Ford; *Twilight: Eclipse* (2019); and the

very provocative *Fifty Shades of Grey* (2015) and its sequel, *Fifty Shades Darker* (2017).

**Behind the scenes:** In *Fifty Shades of Grey*, Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) shares her first kiss with Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) in the elevator of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, turning the site into a famously romantic location. Other scenes in the hotel include Mr. Grey's Suite and the photo shoot scene in the ballroom. Soon after the film's release, the crew returned to the hotel to shoot the sequel: *Fifty Shades Darker*. Fans who want to relive the love story between Anastasia and Christian can book the Lieutenant Governor's Suite and indulge in champagne and chocolate strawberries.

#### **Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Québec City**

Québec City's unique architecture and cobblestone streets provided a dramatic medieval setting for Alfred Hitchcock's psychological thriller, *I Confess* (1953), considered by some as an overlooked masterpiece. From the opening scene onwards, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is an integral part of the film, which starred Montgomery Clift, O.E. Hasse, and Anne Baxter. The photogenic and dramatic advantages of the hotel were used to full effect in *I Confess*, inspiring the director of *Taking Lives* (2004) to bring its crew and cast here, including lead actress Angelina Jolie.

**Behind the scenes:** To commemorate Hitchcock's stay, a suite at the hotel was renamed in his honor, and features mystery books, pictures of the master and a collection of his classic films for viewing pleasure. Every year, film buffs and Hitchcock devotees enjoy the feeling of mystery and romance within this extraordinary suite.

#### **Fairmont Banff Springs**

The picturesque castle in the Rockies and its surrounding forests and fauna have served as the setting for several films over the years, including *River of No Return* (1954) starring Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum. While the hotel itself does not appear in the movie, scenes shot on the golf course and the property's natural springs create the backdrop for a story of family and friendship during the Western gold rush. Other movies filmed at Fairmont Banff Springs include *The Edge* (1997), a dramatic thriller starring Anthony Hopkins, Alec Baldwin and Elle Macpherson; and *Goose on the Loose* (2011) with Chevy Chase, James Purefoy and Max Morrow.

**Behind the scenes:** While filming *River of No Return* in Banff, Marilyn Monroe sprained her ankle. Hotel legend has it that, each morning, the bellmen would draw straws to decide who would be the lucky one to bring Monroe down in a wheelchair to her waiting chauffeured car. Despite her injured ankle, she was able to enjoy the hotel's amenities, including the swimming pool, thanks to the help of the very willing hotel staff.

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#### **About Fairmont**

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is where occasions are celebrated and history is made. Landmark hotels with unrivalled presence, authentic experiences and unforgettable moments have attracted visitors to Fairmont and its destinations since 1907. The Plaza in New York City, The Savoy in London, Fairmont San Francisco, Fairmont Banff Springs and Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai are but a few of these iconic luxury hotels, forever linked to the special places where they reside. Famous for its engaging service, grand public spaces, locally inspired cuisine and celebrated bars and lounges, Fairmont promises a special brand of thoughtful luxury that will be remembered long after any visit. With a worldwide portfolio of more than 75 hotels, Fairmont also takes great pride in its deep community roots and leadership in sustainability. Fairmont is part of AccorHotels, a world-leading travel and lifestyle group which invites travelers to feel welcome at more than 4,500 hotels, resorts and residences, along with some 10,000 of the finest private homes around the globe.

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