



MEDIA ALERT

ADG SPOTLIGHTS HISTORIC BACKDROPS AT J.C. BACKINGS EXHIBITION, THE OLDEST MOTION PICTURE SCENIC STUDIO IN THE INDUSTRY



Ben-Hur | Backdrop Painted by MGM Scenic Artists

WHAT:

The [Art Directors Guild](#) and [JC Backings](#) present a private reception and showcase of 26 gigantic backdrops from famous feature films and television shows including *North by Northwest* (1959), *The Sound of Music* (1965) and *Singing in the Rain* (1952) in the historic scenic studio on the Sony Pictures Studios lot (formerly MGM). The JC Backings Studio was designed specifically to create photo-realistic artworks on a large scale for Hollywood motion pictures and is the oldest scenic studio in Hollywood's history. They have more than 5,000 backings available including historic stock from MGM, 20th Century Fox, Universal Studios and Walt Disney Studios. These exceptional backdrops, many over 100 feet long and 40 feet high, represent a wide cross-section of genres and techniques used by artisans creating backings for feature films, television, commercials, theme parks, music videos and more.

The reception also spotlights the publication of [The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop](#), a collaboration between the book's authors Karen L. Maness and Richard M. Isackes and the Art Directors Guild. The [Art Directors Guild Archives](#) joined forces with the book's authors to compile a definitive behind-the-scenes history of the iconic but now endangered art form of the Hollywood backdrop.

WHEN:

Friday, June 9, 2017, 6PM – 9PM

WHERE:

Sony Picture Studios · The JC Backings / Scenic Painting Building
10202 West Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232

www.jcbackings.com

WHO:

Members of Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) including Production Designers, Art Directors, Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; Set Designers and Model Makers; and Previs Artists.

**PRESS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES.
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR STUDIO SECURITY CLEARANCE***

Cheri@publicity4all.com 818-760-8995

About the Art Directors Guild:

The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) represents 2,500 members who work throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world in film, television and theater as Production Designers, Art Directors, Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; Set Designers and Model Makers; and Previs Artists. Established in 1937, the ADG's ongoing activities include a Film Society, an annual Awards Banquet, a creative/technology community (5D: The Future of Immersive Design), a bimonthly craft magazine ([Perspective](#)); and extensive technology-training programs, figure drawing and other creative workshops and year-round Gallery 800 art exhibitions. The Guild's Online Directory/Website Resource is at www.adg.org. Connect with the Art Directors Guild and #Gallery800 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE ART OF THE HOLLYWOOD BACKDROP:

The definitive behind-the-scenes history of one of Hollywood's most closely guarded cinematic secrets finally revealed—painted backdrops and the scenic artists who brought them to the big screen. In almost every feature film of Hollywood's golden age, from *The Wizard of Oz* to *North by Northwest* to *Cleopatra* to *The Sound of Music*, painted backings have convinced moviegoers that what they are seeing—whether the fantastic roads of Oz, the presidents of Mount Rushmore, or ancient Egyptian kingdoms—is real. These backings are at once intended to transport the audience and yet remain unseen for what they really are. *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop* reveals the hidden world and creators of these masterpieces, long-guarded as a special effects secret by the major studios such as MGM, Warner Brothers, Universal, Columbia, 20th Century Fox, and Paramount. To preserve the irreplaceable knowledge of scenic masters, Karen Maness and Richard Isackes, in collaboration with the Art Directors Guild, have compiled a definitive history of the craft, complete with interviews of the surviving artists. contact Gregory Henry, Gregory@reganarts.com 646.448.6629

PRESS CONTACTS

Cheri Warner | Erick Yamagata | Weissman/Markovitz Communications
818.760.8995 | cheri@publicity4all.com | erick@publicity4all.com