

THE MUMMY FILMS

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) is the third Mummy film in the series. Where did the ideas for this film come from?

MUMMY, MUMMY, MUMMY!

The first film, *The Mummy*, came out in 1999, and the second, *The Mummy Returns*, in 2001. In all three films, an evil mummy 'wakes up'. Rick and Evy O'Connell work together to stop it ... and save the world!

FROM EGYPT TO CHINA

The first two films happened in Egypt. The idea for this film came from the real terracotta soldiers in China. The director, Rob Cohen, has always been interested in China and wanted to make a film there. He also liked the idea of a story in two very different times in the past – 200 BC and 1946.

FILMING IN CHINA

More than two thousand people helped in the filming of *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. Film workers from Malaysia, Croatia, Slovenia, Taiwan, the USA and Canada joined 1,800 workers from China. People were speaking a lot of different languages on the set!



REAL OR COMPUTER-GENERATED?

The film-makers did a lot of filming on special sets in China and North America. They filmed the Chinese New Year on a 1940s film set in Shanghai. They also found some wonderful real places to film in. They filmed the sword fight between Zi Yuan and the Emperor in the desert of Tian Mo. But they had to use CGI (computer-generated images) for some things like the fight at the end of the film. There are over 7,000 soldiers in the fight!

THE ACTORS



Brendan Fraser has played Rick O'Connell in all three films. He does all his stunts himself.



Maria Bello plays Evy O'Connell in this film. She loved the idea of being an adventurer.



Jet Li plays the Emperor. Jet made many films in China and Hong Kong before he made his first US film in 1998.

 A vintage movie poster for 'The Mummy' (1932) featuring Boris Karloff as the mummy and Zita Johann as the heroine. The poster includes the text 'It comes to life!', 'CARL LAEMMLE presents', 'KARLOFF THE UNCANNY IN THE MUMMY', and 'ZITA JOHANN DAVID MANNERS EDWARD VAN SLOAN ARTHUR BYRON'. It is labeled as 'A UNIVERSAL PICTURE'.

Universal Studios made a very popular film called *The Mummy* in 1932. It was in the very early days of talking cinema.

Have you seen any of the Mummy films? What did you think of it / them?



Michelle Yeoh plays Zi Yuan. Michelle first became internationally famous for her sword fights in the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

series evil director (film) set computer-generated images desert stunts