



RELEASE YEAR: 1987

RUNTIME: 98 mins

DIRECTOR: Rob Reiner

SCREENPLAY: William Goldman

PRODUCERS:

Rob Reiner, Andrew Scheinman

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS:

Steve Nicolaides, Jeffrey Stott

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:

Norman Lear

Welcome to the second of our BAFTA Family Heritage Screenings and the first of 2014. We'll be delving into our rich archive of family films and television to bring an exciting programme of screenings to our young audiences throughout the year. We'll be revealing behind-the-scenes stories from cast and crew members, screenings from some of our greatest past award winners, plus fun facts to dazzle your friends and family!

The Princess Bride is directed by Rob Reiner, the son of Carl Reiner, a legendary American comic actor and writer. Carl Reiner co-wrote classics such as *The Man With Two Brains* (1983) and *Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid* (1982). Screenwriter William Goldman wrote *The Princess Bride* as a novel in 1974 and showed it to Carl Reiner who passed it

on to his son. Years later, Rob was able to secure the rights to make the film.

The Princess Bride is a comic postmodern fairy tale, knowingly poking fun at traditional children's stories. This is a big part of the film's universal charm and originality. The film boasts an enviable cast of superb comic actors, including Peter Cook, Christopher Guest, Mel Smith and Billy Crystal. Their hilarious scene-stealing lines have been immortalised by generations of teens quoting from the movie and, at its peak, even appearing on t-shirts!

The film was made at Lee International Studios and Shepperton Studios in the UK with external scenes shot on location in England and Ireland. Historic sites include Haddon Hall (serving as Florin Castle), Robin Hood's Stride in Derbyshire and the Cliffs of Insanity filmed in County Clare, Ireland.



For die hard fans or newcomers to this postmodern classic, here are **10 Things You Might Not Know** about *The Princess Bride*...

- 1** Director Rob Reiner can be seen in director Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street* playing Max Belfort.
- 2** The Writer's Guild of America ranked *The Princess Bride* 84th in its list of best screenplays of all time.
- 3** *The Princess Bride* is a firm favourite of film critic Mark Kermode.
- 4** In 1984 Rob Reiner directed the spoof rockumentary *This Is Spinal Tap* (1984), written by and starring Christopher Guest.
- 5** *The Princess Bride* appeared in the BFI's Top 50 Films to see before you reach 14 years old.
- 6** Billy Crystal spent almost ten hours in make up when appearing on set playing Miracle Max.
- 7** Actors Cary Elwes (Westley) and Mandy Patinkin (Inigo Montoya) did all their own sword fight scenes – except for some of the flips and gymnastics! They practised fencing continuously for many months it took ten days to shoot the entire fight sequence.
- 8** Rumour has it that Rob Reiner based legendary British funny man Peter Cook's The Impressive Clergyman character on a priest he once met at a wedding. He too was unable to pronounce his r's!
- 9** Mel Smith, who plays The Albino, was better known as one half of British comedy duo Smith and Jones. He also wrote the classic comedy series *Not The Nine O'Clock News* as well as many other comic creations, and directed family film favourite, *Bean* (1997).
- 10** Peter Falk, who plays the grandfather reading *The Princess Bride* to his sick grandson, is best known as the eponymous detective in *Columbo*, with his grandson (Fred Savage) later starring in long running drama series *The Wonder Years*.



BAFTA HERITAGE SCREENINGS

BAFTA Heritage Screenings are a series of quarterly film screenings and on-stage interviews which celebrate British film and TV classics and the great film and TV professionals who made them.



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