



The tinsel-town of plush sets fascinates one and all

By Suchita Malik

HOLLYWOOD, the tinsel-town of glamour, shimmer, opulence, glitter, plush sets and of unconvention, fascinates one no end. Hollywood, the film capital, is the world's largest working film and television

cross. You find nothing unusual about it and are busy enjoying the view outside when suddenly you feel a jolt! Ah, what's this? You get the feeling of going down as if the bridge is breaking. You look out and to your horror, see the bridge

Photos by the writer

on you a minute later. You think of possibly all the movies in which you have witnessed such similar scenes a number of times.

Next, you are coming across an insignificant looking house

Glamour of Hollywood

actually broken down to a point. you are non-plussed for a minute but the tram pulls through after a few push-ups and then you find the bridge actually coming up to its original position and your tram makes a happy exit from the scene. The fact that it was an actual demonstration of a bridge collapse scene, dawns

with a woman peeping through the first-storey window right into your eyes with a fixed smile on her face. You try to smile back and lo! in a minute it vanishes and peeps at you from the corner of the ground-storey window — with the same blank look and a fixed smile. The whole scenario is ghastly and you see a small sign board which says 'Psycho House'. Even by the broad daylight, it sends a shiver up your spine. It served as a setting for many of the movies of the great Alfred Hitchcock.

Some of the main attractions of the Entertainment Centre are Beetlejuice's Rockin' Graveyard Revue, Animal Actors Stage, Rocky and Bullwinkle Show, Carnival internationale and Fievel's playland. The Flintstones Show

is a live 'Rockstravaganza of mammoth proportions and dino-mite special effects. The *Waterworld* show is a spectacular live sea-war where a tidal wave of action brings the blockbuster movie surging back to life. *Back to the Future* ride in the Entertainment Centre is one of its major

T *Travel*

attractions where you have to stand in the queue for almost an hour-and-a half. When your turn comes, you are made to sit in a jet-set jeep which seems to

rise in thick clouds of smoke and then flies through time like a roller coaster.

In the world of Cinemagic, we discover, what's behind the special effects in our *Back to the Future Show*, *The Magic of Alfred Hitchcock* and *The Harry and the Hendersons Show*. They enact live before us a scene in which a man is clinging to the Statue

ood

of Liberty wall desperately trying to save his life whereas a villain is attempting to throw him down, but the hero as usual successfully climbs on to the wall and to safety.

So much action and all confined within the four walls of a studio. It was equally amazing to see the model of the car in

which the famous scene of Jurassic Park was filmed where the car carrying two children is caught in the rain and is surrounded by dinosaurs.

The most exciting and thrilling ride which has recent-



The Jurassic Park ride takes you to the world of dinosaurs

ly been introduced in the Universal Studio is the wonderful Jurassic Park ride — the most spine-tingling adventure in 65 million years. There is a very long queue and you have to wait for your turn. You are made to sit into small rafts and

gradually ushered into the world of dinosaurs where everything is familiar to those who have seen the movie.

And thus ends the marvellous and magnificent tour of the inimitable but glamorous Universal Studios, Hollywood.

We can become older
and wiser than the last time".
My friend is dead now. I am
waiting.

We can
earn something from every ex-
perience.

studio where dreams, images,
adventure and action are
translated into fine movies. To
be on the sets is a way of life
here and entertainment, its
motto. Fiction gets factualised
and the facts get fictionalised
here and great legends and
classics produced leave their
indelible impressions for pos-
terity.

Universal Studios, better
known as Hollywood, became
the centre of the film industry
way back in 1920s against a
backdrop of vast variety of
natural scenery. The huge
"Hollywood" sign, visible to
the viewers from a consider-
able distance, was a landmark
built in the hills above the dis-
trict in 1922. Each letter of the
sign is 14 metres tall.

The production of sound
films began in Hollywood in
the late 1920s, as a result of
which huge sound stages were
built which are now used for
making television films also.

The Count of Monte Cristo, one
of the first story-telling
movies, was completed in
Hollywood in 1908. In 1913,
Cecil B. de Mille, Jesse Lasky
and Samuel Goldwyn pro-
duced *The Squaw Man* in a
small barn which is only one
block away from present-day
Hollywood Boulevard and
Vine Street.

For over three decades,
prominent personalities like
D.W. Griffith, Goldwyn, Adolf
Zukor, William Fox, Louis B.
Mayer, Darryl F. Zanuck and
Harry Cohn have manned and
guided the great film studios —
namely the 20th Century Fox,
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer,
Paramount Pictures, Columbia,
Warner Brothers and others.
Even great writers and novel-

... Pictures, Columbia, Warner Brothers and others. Even great writers and novelists from time to time have been fascinated by the glitter and dazzle of the glamorous Hollywood in its "golden age". Prominent among them have been F. Scott Fitzgerald, Aldous Huxley, Evelyn Waugh and Nathanael West.

Hollywood came to terms with the advent of television in the late 1940s and became the source of about 80 per cent of U.S. network television entertainment by the early 1960s. To the people of the world the image of Hollywood as the fabricator of tinselled cinematic dreams has become worldwide.

It was an effort to contain our excitement and enthusiasm that we were actually standing in the premises of the Universal Studios. Our reverie was broken by the rate of entry tickets. The initial shock over it was decided to start our round of the studio by the Backlot Tram Tour which is a unique feature in itself. Tram arrives with a gusto and you get into it thinking that you are in for a routine coach journey which will give you a bird's eyeview of the Universal Studios of Hollywood.

The impression lasts but not for long. You are lost in the world of see-around when suddenly you enter into a dark tunnel and lo! There is a mammoth creature almost ready to pounce upon you. Your heart up on your sleeves, you take a stealthy glance and take a minute to realise that the huge creature is actually King Kong with 13,000 pounds and 30 feet of howling, growling fury. You survive the shock and heave a sigh of relief as you come out in the open again after experiencing the ultimate Kongfrontation.

Hardly have you gone 100 feet when the tram comes to a seemingly hilly patch around and one sees ahead a bridge which the tram is about to