

## Press Release

**The recipient of the Carl Laemmle Producers Award has been selected: Roland Emmerich chosen to receive this important new German award for producers**

Established by the German Producers Alliance – Film & Television in conjunction with the City of Laupheim, this year's award honors the outstanding producer Roland Emmerich for his life's work to date. The ceremony will be held on March 17, 2017.

Berlin / Laupheim, February 10, 2017. Roland Emmerich is the first-ever winner of the new Carl Laemmle Producers Award, as announced by its originators, the Producers Alliance and the City of Laupheim, at a press conference today in Berlin.

The outstanding producer Roland Emmerich is being honored with the Carl Laemmle Award in recognition of his life's work to date. The award, which is named after the film pioneer and Hollywood trailblazer, is endowed with a prize of 40,000 euros. It will be presented on March 17, 2017 at a gala in Laupheim, Carl Laemmle's Swabian birthplace. Hollywood giant Emmerich, who is likewise from Baden-Württemberg, will also receive a Laemmle sculpture in the form of a stylized lamb, created by the famous Staatliche Majolika Manufaktur in Karlsruhe.

The first honoree has been chosen by an expert jury of nine, chaired by Martin Moszkowicz, head of Constantin Film and

board member of the Producers Alliance, who commented on the selection as follows: “What distinguishes a winner of the Carl Laemmle Award? Creativity, innovation, success, and the ability to boldly break new ground. All this can be said without hesitation of Roland Emmerich. He is a passionate filmmaker and cineast who has not just revolutionized an entire genre, but also shaped Hollywood in doing so. I am delighted to be able to honor Roland Emmerich in this way, also on behalf of the entire jury.”

Dr. Christoph Palmer, Chairman of the Management Board of the Producers Alliance: “We are delighted that Roland Emmerich has been chosen. Emmerich is a preeminent producer and a ‘facilitator’ in the best sense of the word. He is the creative force behind the entire complex process of filmmaking, which begins with the initial idea and extends from organization, team creation, and team management to include overall financial responsibility and long-range planning as well as evaluation and marketing. In this regard, he, like his compatriot Carl Laemmle, embodies in the most exemplary way our concept of a producer.”

Rainer Kapellen, Mayor of Laupheim: “Roland Emmerich deserves this award like no other. He is a real inspiration and pioneer who has influenced the entire international film industry to this day. Like Carl Laemmle, he also dared to make the leap from Swabia to Hollywood and is now one of the biggest names in the film industry. We are pleased to have the honor of presenting Roland Emmerich with this first award here, in Carl Laemmle’s birthplace.”

## **About Roland Emmerich**

Roland Emmerich is an international director, producer, and screenwriter whose films, including *Independence Day*, *Stargate*, *Godzilla*, *The Patriot*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *2012*, and *White House Down*, have generated box office returns of over \$4 billion worldwide. His latest film, *Independence Day: Resurgence*, the hotly anticipated sequel to the global hit *Independence Day*, was released by Twentieth Century Fox on June 24, 2016.

Roland's career began in his native Germany with the screening of his first film, a student project titled *The Noah's Ark Principle*, at the 1984 Berlin Film Festival. He subsequently founded Centropolis Film Productions in 1985, with which he has produced and directed over 20 feature films.

Widely recognized as one of Hollywood's most successful directors, Roland continues to create stunning films that are challenging to both the eye and the mind. Although most widely known for his blockbusters, Roland is equally at home directing more controversial films such as *Anonymous*, which explored the explosive theory that Shakespeare's plays were actually written by Edward De Vere, and *Stonewall*, a drama about the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York, which sparked the LGBT civil rights movement. In 2016, he brought *Independence Day: Resurgence* to the cinema, 20 years after the release of the blockbuster *Independence Day*.

Aside from his work as producer and film director, Emmerich is a supporter and member of a great many charitable organizations and projects, such as the Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF), the Gay and Lesbian Education Network (GLSEN), Global Green, the American Red Cross, and the LGBT Center in Los Angeles.

### **About Carl Laemmle**

With his life's work, Carl Laemmle (born January 17, 1867, in Laupheim; died September 24, 1939, in Beverly Hills) embodies the archetypal producer like no other. As the founder of Universal Studios, he created the largest and most important film capital in the world: Hollywood. He was among the most successful and innovative filmmakers of his time. Carl Laemmle wrote film history. And throughout his life, he maintained close links with his hometown of Laupheim.

Laemmle emigrated in 1884, at the age of 17, and opened his first movie theater in Chicago in 1906. In 1915 he moved to the West Coast and built the now-famous movie center Universal City. Until 1936, he produced more than 9,000 films there, including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *All's Quiet on the Western Front*, for which he won the Oscar in 1930. Universal later found public acceptance for the horror-film genre, with films like *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*.

After his departure from the film business in 1936, Laemmle supported Jewish people being forced to leave Germany: he

sponsored more than 300 people and thus enabled their emigration. Carl Laemmle died shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, on September 24, 1939, in his villa in Beverly Hills.

### **About the Producers Alliance**

The Allianz Deutscher Produzenten – Film & Fernsehen (German Producers Alliance – Film & Television) has over 240 members and represents the majority of German production companies working in animated film, documentary, feature film, TV drama, TV entertainment, and advertising film production, making it the most influential German producers' association. On the national and international stage, the Producers Alliance represents the interests of producers vis-à-vis politics, distributors, negotiating partners, and all institutions for the media and cultural industries.

### **About the City of Laupheim**

Laupheim, the birthplace of Carl Laemmle, is a prosperous city that offers a high quality of life and serves as an economic hub for Stuttgart, Ulm, and Lake Constance. Carl Laemmle remained closely connected to the city throughout his life and supported it in many ways. His presence is noticeable throughout Laupheim, in the artfully designed Carl Laemmle fountain, a small lane named Carl-Laemmle-Weg, the Carl Laemmle High School, and an eponymous section in the local museum devoted to the history of Christian and Jewish people. In 2017, to mark the 150th anniversary of Carl Laemmle's

birth, the city will celebrate their most famous son with more than 70 events. The highlight of the celebrations will be on March 17, when the first Carl Laemmle Producers Award will be presented at the magnificent Schloss Grosslaupheim.

### **Jury Members**

Chair:

Martin Moszkowicz, producer, chairman of the board of Constantin Film AG

Prof. Carl Bergengruen, chief executive officer of MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg mbH

Hansjörg Fütting, producer, shareholder of neue deutsche Filmgesellschaft mbH (ndF)

Rainer Kapellen, mayor of the City of Laupheim

Adrian Kutter, director of the Biberach Film Festival

Dr. Christoph Palmer, chairman of the management board of the German Producers Alliance – Film & Television

Prof. Bettina Reitz, president of the University of Television and Film, Munich (HFF)

Dieter Ulrich, chairman of the board of Volksbank Raiffeisenbank Laupheim-Illertal

Günther Wall, chairman of the board of Kreissparkasse Biberach

# CARL LAEMMLE PRODUZENTEN PREIS 2017

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We would be delighted to welcome you, as a media correspondent, at the official award ceremony on March 17, 2017, at Schloss Grosslaupheim. To request accreditation, please send an email with a brief description of your work activities to [che@herzhauser-pr.com](mailto:che@herzhauser-pr.com). The accreditation will be issued after receiving written confirmation.

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