

# Zeiss Lenses Were In On It, Too

More than 100 cine lenses from Carl Zeiss were among the tools of the movie makers who filmed the trilogy "Lord of the Rings", the first part of which was awarded four Oscars by the Academy of Motion Pictures in Hollywood in March 2002. One Oscar was presented for the best camera which resulted in the fantastic pictures shot with Zeiss lenses.

Only superlatives can suffice to describe this movie project that set new standards in quality and quantity of the equipment used: a budget of US \$ 300 million, 1.3 million meters of footage, a film crew of 2,500, 20,000 walkers-on, over 1,200 computer tricks, about 1,600 pairs of artificial feet and ears, 7 film teams working together, 21 movie cameras – and more than 100 cine lenses from Carl Zeiss.

## Special effects

By creating a film version of the successful novel by *J.R.R. Tolkien*, director *Peter Jackson* succeeded in completing a mammoth project in the history of cinematography after 15 months of shooting. The task was to bring to life a world of fantasy which until then had existed only in the minds of the readers of *Tolkien's* novel.

The film was exclusively shot in the undescrivable landscape of New Zealand – the ideal region for re-creating the lush meadows of the "Land of Willows", the "Black Land of Mordor", the steppes, forests, torrential rivers, mountains and the coast of "Middle-earth". The film is absolutely teeming with impressive images and special effects.



Fig. 1: Fifteen Ultra Prime lenses form the most comprehensive set of fixed-focal-length cine lenses in the cine world

Ironsmiths, leather designers, embroidering specialists, tailors, shoemakers, jewelers, sculptors and many other experts were involved in reproducing the fantastic world of hobbits, elves, dwarves, wizards, men, orcs, ents, ringwraiths and Uruk-hais down to the very last detail. Each of the creatures and cultures has its own way of life, its own mannerisms, myths, ways to dress and fight.

These extremely professionally designed creatures can be experienced with all their eccentricities and idiosyncracies on the screen.

## Lenses for professionals

This professionalism is also reflected in the camera and lens equipment used: ARRI Rental provided the cine cameras including a total of 112 cine lenses from Carl Zeiss. Thus, Carl Zeiss lenses clearly accounted for the largest number of the lenses used on location.

They included 8 sets of **Ultra Prime** lenses with 13 lenses each. A set now comprises 15 lenses and currently is the world's most comprehensive set of fixed-focal-length lenses with the high speed of f/1.7,

providing superb definition and image quality.

In addition, three Carl Zeiss **Variable Prime** lenses were used, featuring the combination of a variable focal length, a high speed of f/2 and maximum optical performance. In 1999, Carl Zeiss was awarded a "scientific and engineering Oscar" for these **Variable Prime** lenses by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood.

Five Carl Zeiss high-speed lenses with an initial aperture of f/1.2 (Carl Zeiss also received a "scientific and engineering Oscar" for these some time ago) rounded off the lens equipment which was worth a total of €870,000.

## The result: a breathtaking cinema experience

Immerse yourself in the magic of the "Lord of the Rings" and relish a fantasy epic which is without parallel in the history of the motion picture arts.

Fig. 2: Scene from "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship" Source: Cinetext

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