

**R**obert Downey Jr and Philip Seymour Hoffman are among those who may be involved in a remake of the 1973 classic film *Papillon*

Branko Lustig, the Hollywood producer who made *Schindler's List* and *Gladiator*, has announced he will begin filming a new version of the film in the Canary Islands, which should be released in 2010. Canary Island authorities hope that, apart from their share of the 90 million dollar production budget, the film will also encourage tourists to visit the Canaries, just as *Gladiator* did for Malta and *Lord of the Rings* for New Zealand.

The first version of the film also had a Spanish connection, according to British Valencia-based writer Bob Yareham, who is compiling a series of articles about over 260 English language films made wholly or partly in Spain. This is what he says about the first *Papillon*:

"Forget France; put your clothes on!" Words that have served us all well over the decades and which are pronounced to a group of French prisoners among whom are Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman, before transportation to French Guiana by an angry commander who is in fact the writer Dalton Trumbo, and has possibly forgotten that he is not in fact speaking at a French prison but at a school in Las Matas near Madrid.

The prisoners are then marched off to be embarked and exiled, but the streets they parade through are not French streets but the cobbled stones and harbour of

CANARIES ON CELLULOID

# Canarywood; now and then

Fuenterrabia, Guipuzcoa, just across the border in the Spanish Basque County, which means the prolific berets among the crowds would not have been a problem. Once at the prison, there is another Spanish touch as a prisoner is guillotined to teach everybody, and especially him, a lesson. As he fights and spits his way to oblivion he can be clearly heard cursing in Spanish.

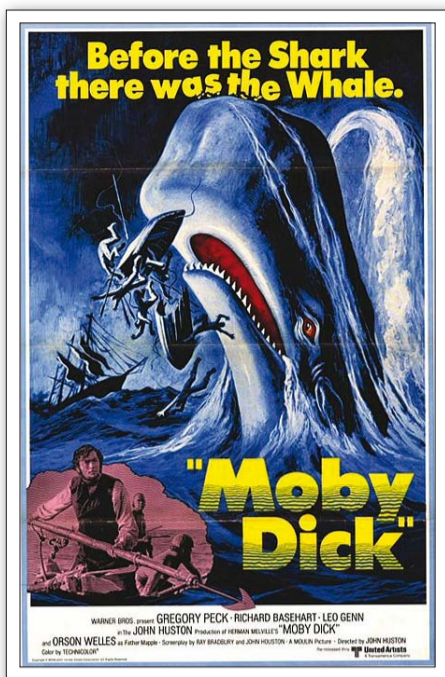
There's plenty of good advice for the prisoners while they are rehabilitated. Another

warden assures them that they should "put all hope out of your mind and masturbate as little as possible; it drains the strength". Perhaps it is because he doesn't have a motorbike this time that Steve McQueen finally manages to escape.

Another film that has recently been remade on the Canary Islands is *Clash of the Titans*, and again the original, shot in 1971 was also partly filmed in Spain. Bob Yareham writes, "a strange film to find Sir Laurence Olivier in;

perhaps he believed the title referred to rows amongst the stars, or perhaps he just couldn't resist the opportunity to play Zeus with a hunchback."

It was filmed all over the place, with the Spanish section being shot at El Torcal de Antequera, Málaga, a place once praised by the American traveller and writer Washington Irving, and which was the location for the scenes with the Stygian Witches' cave. La Calahorra and Guadix in Granada province also got a brief



Filmed Here:

- Grand Canary (1934)
- Moby Dick (1956)
- Wonderful Life (1964)
- One Million Years BC (1966)
- When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth (1970)
- The Land that Time Forgot (1975)
- Take a Hard Ride (1975)
- Journey to the Centre of the Earth (1976)
- The People that Time Forgot (1977)
- Monster Island (1981)
- Krull (1983)
- Enemy Mine (1985)
- The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (2005)

Pictures:

- 01. Gregory Peck starred in Moby Dick
- 02. Cliff Richards and Susan Hampshire star in what can only be classed as a highly innocent romp
- 03. Krull starred a very young Liam Neeson, back here with Clash of the Titans (Krull.jpg)
- 04. Raquel Welch revolutionised the notion of cave life forever (One Million Years BC.jpg)

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