

Press Release

Prague, Feb. 28, 2012 – The film - A ROYAL AFFAIR, which has recently won two “Silver Bear” awards at the Berlin International Film Festival, is proof of how beneficial the incentives from the Film Industry Support Programme can be.

The film *A Royal Affair* was filmed in the Czech Republic in 2011. Its successful premiere took place within the prestigious 62<sup>nd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival, where it was awarded two “Silver Bear Statues” - Mikkel Boe Folsgaard for best actor and Nicolaj Arcel (film director) with Rasmus Heisterberg for best script.

*“A film winning awards at such a prestigious event as the Berlinale is extremely important for the entire project of film industry support. It sends a clear message to other interested film producers: the Czech Republic boasts a filmmaking tradition, as well as beautiful locations and professional people well versed in filmmaking who it can offer and who will devote their talent, expertise and experience to such pictures that can hold their own in the global competition of significant international festivals,”* said Ludmila Claussová of the Czech Film Commission.

*A Royal Affair* was co-produced by Zentropa Entertainments (Denmark), Sirena Film (CR), Trollhättan Film (Sweden) and Zentropa Entertainments (Germany). The co-production share of the CR was 10% of the total film budget.

*“The main film producer - the Danish company Zentropa chose the Czech Republic for filming thanks mainly to the previous good filming experience with the Sirena Film Company and for economic reasons,”* said Ludmila Claussová of the Czech Film Commission. *“Due to the fact that less than a year before the beginning of the shoot, the CR had introduced the incentive system, the producers were able not only to make the film more grandiose within the given budget in Bohemia but also to have more days for shooting it,”* she added.

Last but not least, as mentioned by the film producer Peter Aalback, the experience and high professionalism of Czech filmmakers played an important role. *“In Denmark we do not have a tradition of making historical epic films. We came to the Czech Republic to make use of among other things the experience, knowledge and skills, which we lack in Scandinavia.”*

The Danish crew in the Czech Republic consisted of less than ten people, who in all other positions were supported by a hundred local film professionals and dozens of suppliers of connected services. The Danish production spent approx. CZK 70 million in the Czech Republic, which represents 39% of the total budget of the film.

A Royal Affair had 40 filming days in the CR. *“Only one quarter of these took place in the studios, filming was mostly carried out in real locations,”* said Pavel Müller producer of the Sirena Film Company. *“We worked in more than 20 various locations in the whole of the Czech Republic, such as castles in Kroměříž, Ploskovice, Český Krumlov, Kačina, Doksany, Ledec nad Sázavou. In Prague for example we were in Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, Foerster Hall, and some of the exterior scenes were shot in Liliová Street. We paid more than three million crowns just in the rental and hire fees for state or municipal locations and historical props from state castles,”* added Pavel Müller.

The plot of the film is based on real events, which took place in Denmark in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is centred around Johann Friedrich Struensee (Mads Mikkelsen), a German physician, who becomes a confidant of King Christian VII of Denmark (Mikkel Boe Folsgaard). The physician’s love affair with Queen Caroline Matilda (Alicia Vikander) is in the end the cause of his tragic fate. The Czech distribution premiere is planned for April 12, 2012.

The film *A Royal Affair* gained in the Czech Republic both the twenty percent rebate from the Film Industry Support Programme and a grant from the Czech State Fund for Support and Development of Czech Cinematography, which newly supports also Czech minority co-productions.

Based on their good experience from filming *A Royal Affair*, the producers from the Zentropa Company have shown their interest in implementing some of their new projects in the Czech Republic.

*“We have met at the Berlinale to discuss other projects which they are preparing and for which after their previous experience the Czech Republic is again destination number 1. Unfortunately, I had to inform them that the incentive programme has reached its full capacity this year. Thus sadly we will probably lose other projects which were interesting from the point of view of film art and viable from the economic aspect,”* said Ludmila Claussová with remorse.

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