

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

Joanna Coleman (UK)

Something you should
know about The Hobbit...



Every great story has secrets. And *The Hobbit* isn't any different!

COMPETING WITH A LITTLE MONSTER

Bilbo and Gollum **compete**¹ against each other in **riddles**². But many people don't know that Tolkien changed this part of the story so it fitted better with his *Lord of the Rings* books. In the first version of *The Hobbit*, Gollum was quite happy to give his ring to Bilbo! Only later Tolkien decided the ring was a power ring and poor Gollum couldn't give it away.

MAKING MONEY ON HOBBITS

The Hobbit is only three hundred pages, compared to the 1,200 pages of the *Lord of the Rings*. But the directors have still decided to make – not one film, not two films, but another *three*! Are they doing it for the money? Probably! But they are also working with the appendices (= dodatky) to *The Hobbit*, written by Tolkien just before his death. These **contain**³ new parts of the story that most people have never heard of. Let's just hope Tolkien won't come back from dead to strangle (= uškrtit) the director and his team...

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR BILBO

The villain (= padouch) of the movies, Smaug the dragon, is voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch. You don't know him? Well, watch the BBC series *Sherlock*. You might be **surprised**⁴ when you find out who plays the famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr Watson!

A DISGUSTING ACT!

Stephen Fry, a famous English comedian, was happy with the director but possibly didn't enjoy the filming. Fry plays the cowardly and corrupted (= zbabělý a zkažený) Master of Laketown, so he has to look as disgusting as possible. He even had to eat testicles (= varlata)! Some people would do just about anything to get the role...

PROFESSOR STOLE THE RIGHTS FOR HOBBIT!

On an island in Indonesia, a type of very small 90cm tall early humans have been found. We don't know if they lived in warm holes, ate six meals a day or had **furry**⁶ feet – but we know **we're not allowed to**⁷ call them hobbits! A professor from New Zealand was planning a **lecture**⁸ called 'The Other Hobbit', but the film company told her she couldn't use the word hobbit. Apparently (= podle všeho) they had the **rights** (= právo) to it and nobody else could take it away from them... My preciousssssssssss!*

VOCABULARY

- ¹ **to compete** – to try to be better than someone else
- ² **riddle** – a puzzle to solve (= vyřešit) with words
- ³ **to contain** – to have inside
- ⁴ **to surprise** – to make someone shocked
- ⁵ **disgusting** – extremely unpleasant
- ⁶ **furry** – covered with fur (= soft hair that covers the body of some animals)
- ⁷ **to be allowed to** – to say someone can do something
- ⁸ **lecture** – speaking to a group of people about something, usually at a university

*GLOSSARY

This is a reference to the film and the book. Gollum calls the ring my precious.

