



New Attraction commemorating Universal Studios Japan™'s
7th Anniversary
“Fantastic World”

March 18 (Tuesday) decided as date of Grand Opening

-- The world's first, outdoor musical-type attraction using mobile stages with images is a steady work in progress leading up to the grand opening --

-- Four of the most talented international composers have created original music masterpieces to be expressed through giant stages and performances --

February 5 (Tue), 2008

Universal Studios Japan has decided to hold the grand opening of “Fantastic World,” a new attraction presented in commemoration of the Park celebrating its seventh anniversary this spring, on March 18 (Tuesday) (however, the date is subject to change due to bad weather and other unforeseen circumstances). “Fantastic World” is the world's first outdoor musical-type attraction using mobile stages with images.

In preparation for the opening, Universal Studios Japan is in the final stages of costume and stage production, and rehearsals.

“Fantastic World” created by giant mobile stages is unlike anything you’ve ever seen before

“Fantastic World” will feature two 25-ton dewdrop-shaped mobile stages that will reach heights of 13 meters high and 20 meters wide, along with a bridging stage connecting the two dewdrop stages together to form an impressive performance area. The giant mobile stages appear within Hollywood area in the Park at the time of the performance and will make their way to in front of the popular “E.T. Adventure” attraction and “Stage 22”. When the stages



have moved into position and are connected, the length will span a massive 47 meters. Combined, the dewdrop-shaped stages will have a total of twenty-four movable parts in the shape of petals – six inner and six outer per stage. The twenty-four petals can move freely and, depending on these movements, the shape of the stages can be controlled so at times they look like giant blooming flowers. Furthermore, some 270,000 LEDs per stage add color to the petals. The high-intensity “3-in-1” LEDs are clearly visible during the day time, projecting images of the earth, sky and sea.

The giant mobile stages are the ingenious creation of world-renowned Production Designer Ray Winkler, of the Stufish Company based in London, England, who has designed for the famous artists’ rock concert tours, NFL Superbowl and the others. The design and production phase of each stage took place in Los Angeles in the United States of America, and once complete the stages were transported piece by piece to Osaka, Japan. The stages are currently being assembled within the Park, and gradually taking on their characteristic shape.

The original music of “Fantastic World” is a combination of work by Japanese composers Tamiya Terashima and Takatsugu Muramatsu, whose work ranges from film, TV, theater and games with world renowned composers Tim Williams and Alan Lee Silva, who have worked on some of Hollywood’s biggest films. It will embrace all who experience it with Love!

“Fantastic World” is a spectacular show in the form of a musical and performance spectacular under the theme of “the bond and value of all life on Earth”. Two white tiger cubs called “Honua” and “Lani” embark on an adventurous journey in search of the answer to “What is the meaning of the cradle of life?” They are guided by mother “earth”, father “sky”, friend “sea” and the animals around them, but when they fail to catch the words and advises because they are too young and too rush for the answer, they end up alone. Soon after they recognize the kindness and love surrounding them and only then do they realize that this world is fantastic and begin to understand the meaning of the cradle of life. This story is told with 6 original pieces of music.

The music, which is a key component to the overall musical fantasy, is a blend of African, American, Celtic to Pop genres written by international composers. American composer, Alan Lee Silva (works include the films “Enough” (2003) and Lethal Weapon IV (1998)) and British composer, Tim Williams (works include the film “300” (2006)) collaborated with Japanese composers Tamiya Terashima and Takatsugu Muramatsu. Tamiya Terashima is a composer working in a broad range of fields from Film, Television, Theater to Games. His film works include “Gedo Senki” (Tales from Earthsea) and “Han-ochi” (Half a Confession) to Takarazuka Revue Company’s “El Halcón – The Falcon”. Takatsugu Muramatsu is a pianist and also one of the highest profile composers among emerging musicians today. His latest works include films “Orionza Kara no Shoutaijyo” (An invitation from Cinema Orion), “Yuunagi no Machi, Sakura no Kuni” (Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms) and “Mouryou no Hako” (Box of Evil Spirits).

Terashima, who composed the theme song, commented, “How the theme of “the bond of life” could

be expressed through the dynamic show of giant stages in a shape never seen before and performances really fueled the spark of imagination.” In addition, Muramatsu commented, “I heard that Japanese composers were employed in the belief that doing so would enable the Japanese lyrics to be clearly conveyed. Working with a theme that requires this ‘Fantastic World’ to be looked at on a global scale beyond time under a universal view of the world is the very reason why I composed the music in a manner that conveys the meaning of the lyrics without leaving anything out. Also, I hope that the music arranged and recorded by top sound technicians in Los Angeles will draw guests viewing this spectacular show into a feeling of being embraced by nature and love.”

Starring charming performers from all over the world

Another key component that comprises ‘Fantastic World’ are the choreographed performances by a range of international performers. Around sixty performers have come together in Japan after being individually selected from countries around the world including Japan, China, Ukraine, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia to be a part of ‘Fantastic World’. There are more than 30 different hand-made artistic and charming costumes, including animals such as leopards, monkeys, giraffes and deer. The dressed performers will display a dynamic yet sensitive performance centering on the giant stages that also serve as “another Earth.” A variety of dynamic techniques using sway poles, trapeze, ribbons and ropes are all part of the choreographed routine to embody this massive world view.

Creating a “Message Book” in which one can write their own story to an original picture book “Fantastic World.” To be presented to Guests celebrating their birthday!

In commemoration of the opening of “Fantastic World,” popular illustrator and picture book author Masamichi Ito will create “Message Book,” an original picture book that he will illustrate. The right side of this picture book will be left blank for those who pick up this picture book to write in fantastic stories that they themselves have experienced, comments and illustrations as they wish. This “Message Book” will be presented to all members of the online fan club and Club Universal (registration is free) as a birthday gift. It is necessary to enter the Park by using “Birthday Studio Pass” which can be get through the birthday special plan for Club Universal members when this book is given. This “Message Book” has a scheduled distribution date beginning March 2008 until the end of February 2009.

A special birthday plan has been offered as a birthday celebration to all Club Universal members, including providing discount ticket prices. In commemoration of the Park’s seventh anniversary and opening of the new attraction, Universal Studios Japan decided to present this picture book full of “wonder” and “imagination” as a token of our appreciation for the loyal patronage of members.

Seeking CM Video for “Fantastic World”

Through the “filmo” organization, Universal Studios Japan has placed an order for the commercial (CM) video for “Fantastic World” to be produced by “filmo” members as a means to boost the

opening of “Fantastic World.” The announcement of the gold, silver and bronze prizes and other winning works to total 9 best works from among the submitted works is scheduled for late February on the Universal Studios Japan official website (www.usj.co.jp). The underlying idea is to share the theme of “Fantastic World” with more and more people by having creators create another “fantastic world” by letting their imagination run on the theme of “This Earth is a world of kindness and love = Fantastic World” based on limited information.

“filmo” (<http://filmo.tv/>) is a promotional service that seeks works for commercial (CM) video production ordered by firms, and pays for the production costs and offers bonuses to the selected works. The service is utilized by many firms as one form of new marketing communication and has produced countless works. This is the first time for Universal Studios Japan to seek works for a video CM.

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At Universal Studios Japan, “Hollywood Dream – The Ride,” a roller coaster offering new sensations that opened in March 2007, and “Magical Oz-Go-Round,” a large merry-go-round that opened in July 2007, are experiencing great popularity. Universal Studios Japan is currently welcoming guests with the holding of “Universal Valentine” <until March 2 (Sunday)> as a seasonal event. “Universal Valentine” is packed with love-filled programs, including “Bar Valentine,” in which love songs sung romantically by entertainers can be enjoyed.

Moreover, “Peter Pan’s Neverland,” Universal Studios Japan’s nighttime lagoon show that opened in April 2006, was recently awarded in the Event Spectacular category of the Thea Awards, which is recognized as the equivalent of the Oscars in the entertainment industry, by the TEA (U.S.).