



Clockwise from above: an 'underwater' Méliès scene in the film; Hugo (Asa Butterfield) with his father (Jude Law); Hugo dangles from a giant clock; Hugo and Isabelle (Chloë Moretz) look out over Paris; a locomotive smashes through a window in a recreation of an actual 1895 train crash; Martin Scorsese



ALL SET FOR CHRISTMAS?

THE BEST SETS IN THE WORLD AREN'T IN HOLLYWOOD OR BOLLYWOOD – BUT SHEPPERTON STUDIOS, HOME OF MARTIN SCORSESE'S STUNNING FESTIVE EPIC, *HUGO*

He's been directing for 50 years, but Martin Scorsese has never made a family film. He's dealt repeatedly with gangsters, vigilantes and corrupt cops, but not once has he turned his hand to a magical, heart-warming fairy tale. Until now.

Released on December 2, *Hugo* is a very British affair. Filmed on enormous, awe-inspiring sets at Shepperton Studios, it stars Ben Kingsley as pioneering French movie director Georges Méliès and Sacha Baron Cohen as an endearingly shambolic station inspector, with brief turns from Jude Law and Ray Winstone.

The film is a fantasy adventure, set in Montparnasse station in Paris at the turn of the 20th century. It's adapted from 2007's highly acclaimed children's book *The Invention Of Hugo Cabret*, a 540-page tome by Brian

Selznick that plays with the real-life story of Méliès, an early cinematic alchemist whose fantastical short films, such as 1902's *A Trip To The Moon*, continue to inspire film-makers today.

Méliès didn't make much money from his film work, and as the big French and American movie studios took off, he went bankrupt. His films were subsequently seized by the French army and melted down into boot heels during World War I. He ended up working in a toy shop at Montparnasse station.

Framing his story in the book is that of the orphan Hugo, who has to unlock a secret left to him by his dead father, which eventually leads him to Méliès. The relationship between a boy and his cinema-loving father was something that resonated with Scorsese.

'My father often took me to the movies when I was a child,' says the director. 'The movie theatre was a ▶