

Action films restricted in Paris following attacks

9th February, 2015



Authorities in Paris have halted the filming of scenes from action movies on its streets in the wake of the recent terror attacks. The city is still on high alert following the attack on the magazine Charlie Hebdo and other attacks, which left 20 people dead. Security has been heightened around

synagogues, newspaper and broadcasting offices and shopping malls. Armed police and soldiers are clearly visible on the streets. Security measures have now been extended to the movie industry. Paris' police commander Sylvie Barnaud said: "There's a problem with these action-type scenes, as the actors in uniform could be targets for terrorists...Also, the actors could pose confusion for the general public."

Ms Barnaud said she did not know how long the ban would last but feels the time is not right for car chases, fake weapons and pyrotechnics. She said: "I was shocked to hear witnesses of the Charlie Hebdo attacks say on television that it seemed like a movie shoot." One French movie insider said the new restrictions could have an impact on big American productions. She said: "It's not the right moment to do it. Even if Steven Spielberg wanted to film a big scene with police and a shoot-out in the streets...I'm sure it would not have got made." Paris is hosting the annual Film Set Fair this week, hoping to attract big productions. Filmmakers are worried the restrictions could reduce the number of movies filmed in Paris.

Sources: BBC / The Independent / The Verge

Writing

Compare and contrast action movies and romantic movies. Which are better? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

filming / action movies / terror attacks / security / armed police / uniforms / confuse / ban / car chases / weapons / pyrotechnics / witnesses / shoot-out / annual / worried

True / False

- The French government has banned action movies being made in Paris. T / F
- Security has been relaxed in buildings such as shopping malls. T / F
- Armed police can easily be seen on the streets. T / F
- The police said people could get confused if they saw movie filming. T / F
- The police leader said the ban would be for three months. T / F
- The ban does not apply to Steven Spielberg movies. T / F
- A yearly fair based on film sets will be in Paris this week. T / F
- Filmmakers are worried that fewer movies will be made in Paris. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. authorities | a. expanded |
| 2. in the wake of | b. observers |
| 3. heightened | c. following |
| 4. extended | d. imitation |
| 5. pose | e. holding |
| 6. fake | f. officials |
| 7. witnesses | g. present |
| 8. impact | h. lessen |
| 9. hosting | i. effect |
| 10. reduce | j. increased |

Discussion – Student A

- What kind of movies do you like?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Are Paris authorities right to ban the filming of action movies?
- Is the ban a victory for the terrorists?
- What kind of security is there in your town?
- Would you be comforted or alarmed at the site of soldiers in the street?
- What could authorities do so the public know it's just a movie?
- Should schools and hospitals also have armed security?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. halted the filming of scenes | a. visible on the streets |
| 2. in the wake of the recent | b. alert |
| 3. The city is still on high | c. weapons |
| 4. Security has been heightened | d. moment to do it |
| 5. soldiers are clearly | e. terror attacks |
| 6. she did not know how long | f. filmed in Paris |
| 7. fake | g. from action movies |
| 8. It's not the right | h. out in the streets |
| 9. a shoot- | i. the ban would last |
| 10. reduce the number of movies | j. around synagogues |

Discussion – Student B

- Was the footage of the Charlie Hebdo attack like a movie?
- Would you have imposed the ban if it were your decision?
- Shouldn't all cities ban filming involving fake weapons and pyrotechnics?
- What needs to happen to make the authorities lift the ban?
- How damaging is the ban for Paris?
- How damaging is the ban for the movie industry?
- Should Paris encourage more romantic movies?
- What questions would you like to ask the authorities in Paris?

Spelling

- dathle the filming
- Security has been ithdheegne
- clearly eisbly on the streets
- Security eersamu
- the actors in fnmriou
- the actors could pose unfnsooic
- fake eanwspo and pyrotechnics
- esswitsen of the Charlie Hebdo attacks
- the new sretcnsoirti
- big American psunoocditr
- a othso-tou in the streets
- hosting the nunala Film Set Fair

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. j	4. a	5. g
6. d	7. b	8. i	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – The actors

You think the actors are the most important things in an action movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the music, the story or the special effects.

Role B – The music

You think the music is the most important thing in an action movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the actors, the story or the special effects.

Role C – The story

You think the story is the most important thing in an action movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the music, the actors or the special effects.

Role D – The special effects

You think the special effects are the most important things in an action movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the music, the story or the actors.

Speaking – Action movies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about action movies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| • actors | • the car chases |
| • the story | • the fights |
| • the locations | • the special effects |
| • the music | • the ending |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.