



“Wolf Totem” director Jean-Jacques Annaud and his crew wearing head masks on the set. [Courtesy of Sun Baopeng]

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‘Wolf Totem’ Crew Battles Mosquitoes



Director Jean-Jacques Annaud’s effort to shoot a film about a Chinese man and a wolf has met challenges from mosquitoes

Despite that, other photos posted by the producer conjure up a beautiful image of a filmmaking team working on picturesque grasslands under a blue sky.

“Wolf Totem” tells the story of a young man who tries to raise and befriend a wolf cub. Previous reports say 20 or so wolves have been well-trained as “actors”.

French director Jean-Jacques Annaud’s effort to shoot a film about a Chinese man and a wolf has met challenges from mosquitoes.

Sun Baopeng, who belongs to the filmmaking entourage of Annaud’s upcoming drama “Wolf Totem”, shared an on-set photo on his Weibo showing the director and his crew wearing head masks. “Too many mosquitoes here,” his caption goes. The team is working on location in the grasslands of northern China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Disturbing grassland mosquitoes attacking men and dogs are described vividly in Jiang Rong’s novel “Wolf Totem”, on which the film is based.

Wang Weimin, a producer of the film, said on his Weibo that literally every crew member suffered a swollen face thanks to the mosquitoes.

He shared a photo showing a stunning number of mosquitoes nestled on the back of the fully-clad cinematographer Jean Marie Dreujou.



Mosquitoes on the back of cinematographer Jean Marie Dreujou [Courtesy of Wang Weimin]