



*“Alright Mr. DeMille,
I’m ready for my close-up.”*

Gloria Swanson said these very lines back in 1950 in a Hollywood motion picture, *Sunset Boulevard*. There’s something truly special about cinema, as it leaves a lasting impression from when we were kids to present day, shaping our memories and planting inspirations deep in the subconscious—the draw to the movies is palpable.

When the location for Luftgekühlt 6 was revealed, I was brimming with excitement that the venue would be none other than the Universal Studios Back Lot movie sets! Some of my childhood favorites featured distinguished Porsches. In *Top Gun* it was the Speedster, *Scarface* the 928, in *Flasbdance* and *Caddyshack* a 911 was featured. The venue alone promised to be nostalgic, and a chance to go behind the curtains. This Luft was building up to top all previous years.

It’s the one event we look forward to every year, the family camping trip if you will, the pilgrimage for all Porsche lovers. Whether you own a Porsche, or you’ve always admired one from afar, this event allows you the chance to get up close and personal with a gamut of pristine factory models, avant-garde outlaws, historic rides, as well as the beaters and roughnecks (my personal favorites).



By Linda Hubbard Photos by John Hearn and Kobus Reyneke



Days before the arrival into Los Angeles, my significant other, Gregoire Vandenbussche, and I planned our route from San Francisco and loaded the car with spare parts, road trip snacks, and sunscreen. On the day of, we left under the dark veil before dawn to avoid any weekend traffic. While zipping along the infamous twisty back roads of Highway 33 to the Los Padres Forest, in my mind I ran through the familiar faces and cars (our Porsche family) that would be attending Luft. With the wind blowing a cool breeze, I was tickled to imagine which Porsche die-hards would be on hand to add to the increasing celebrity presence. Leno? Seinfeld? Dempsey?

We had strict instructions to arrive at 8 a.m. on the day of Luft, but with all the enthusiasm in the air, it was no surprise that most folks exhibiting their cars had shown up too early. We were all turned away, forced to wait nearby, forming a little sideshow of cars until the gates opened. As we waited, people walked by, took pictures, and asked questions about each other’s cars, always with the utmost admiration and respect. In no time at all, we were all back in our cars, single-file, waiting to be ushered into the different movie sets, such as downtown New York and the *Back to the Future* City Hall/Clock Tower, accented by a 1950’s gas station set up as a Porsche repair garage.

After a genuine greeting and handshake from Patrick Long, we were motioned to the Old Western movie set, complete with a saloon, bank, and livery. It was clear, based on the look and feel of our brown car with

its look-alike sheriff’s door badge, the vibe of a dusty western movie was most fitting, at the same time juxtaposed with a 906 and the rally 911s up the road.

It felt instantaneous—once we parked the car, the movie set streets quickly lined with drivers and spectators alike. No one could get a picture of a car without someone walking into the shot. The energy was magical, with people introducing themselves and creating new communities, others reminiscing of stories about the Porsche they had ages ago and regretted selling off. One woman even regaled me with the story of how she managed to track down the exact 356 her mother had once owned!

Most of us were enamored with the orange-bodied Porsche tractor Coffee Train P-312 from 1954 driven by Jeff Zwart, the 917K from 1969 parked at the movie theater, or the dusty 1955 Pre-A left untouched since 1979. Many of us were distracted by the eye candy and did not happen to notice the likes of Hollywood celebs Jason Statham, James Marsden, and Jerry Seinfeld mingling in the crowds.

There was a Porsche for every personality type in an array of incredible candy colors, and the crew behind Luftgekühlt 6 achieved the most successful event to date. How will they top this, and where in L.A. could they host the massive following of Luft fans? I’m not sure how this event will unfold in 2020, but I can definitely say that every Porsche lover is looking forward to Luftgekühlt 7. ³⁵⁶



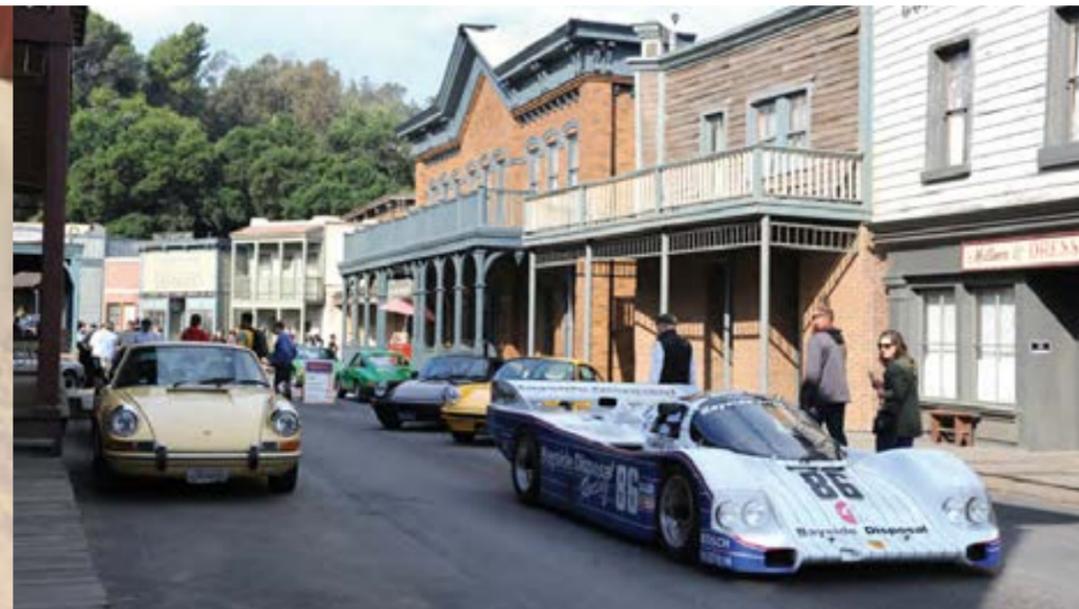
The Old West part of the studio back lot welcomed Outlaws and Gregoire Vandenbussche’s “sheriff’s patrol car,” a 1961 Super.



Emory Motorsports' twin-turbo 356 RSR.



Gary Plummer's 1955 Pre-A coupe, untouched after collecting dust since 1979.



Jeff Zwart makes his early morning rounds.





RUF CTR Yellowbird



1952 Glöckler aluminum-bodied racer.





A 917/30, looking appropriately dramatic.



1954 P-312 Coffee Train tractor.



Hurley Haywood makes himself at home.