INCEL COMICS INTERNATION LTD.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

NO. 242 WEEK ENDING MAY 18, 1977 THE MIGHTY WORLD OF

FEATURING

THE INCREDIBLE

PLANET THE APES

WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME -- NOW RULE THE APES!





Stan Lee PRESENTS: PLANTET OF THE APESS WE'VE GOT TO SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THEM THEY'VE BEEN BUT HOW WE GONNA MAKE 'EM LISTEN? HOODWINKED! THE KILLING OF THEIR LEADER, MAGUAMUS, HAS STIRRED THE ASSIMIANS UP FOR BATTLE! COMMANDER BRUTUS, HIS MUR-DERER, IS USING THEM FOR HIS OWN ENDS, BY BLAMING MAGUAMUS' DEATH ON THE INHABITANTS OF THE FRONTIER STOCKADE--HIS DOUG MOENCH * HERB TRIMPE * ARCHIE GOODWIN ARTIST * EDITOR MOST HATED ENEMIES!





















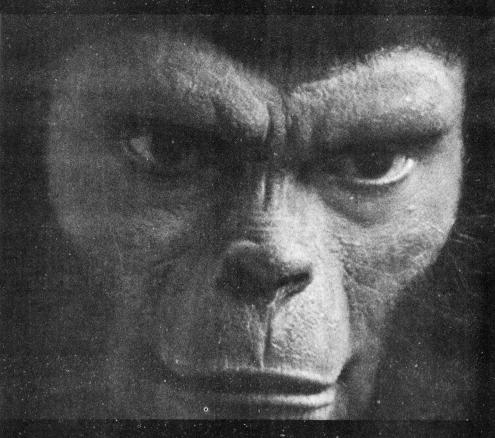






ISAY LOOKS LIKE AN APE, TALKS LIKE AN APE, AND WALKS LIKE AN APE... IT IS AN APEI





a photo primer, written by JIM WHITMORE (suggested and modeled by William Blake and Paula Crist) photos by Freff

n the spring of 1974 I got to see, for the first time, Bill Blake and Paula Crist in performance as Zira and Cornelius. The events of that day were amply recounted in POTA 13 and 14. But one thing struck me then that I felt was worth pursuing. You see, they had the *motions* right. Obviously they'd spent a great deal of time studying not only the films, but also the movements of real chimpanzees, gorillas, etc.

Now, it's an easy thing to hunker over and chifter, if that's the extent of your idea of what apes do ... but to know the postures, the walks, the way the hands and arms are articulated, and to use these to create a wholly convincing illustration, that's impressive!

When asked, Bill and Paula were more than willing to present a few of the basics. These are printed here with notes by yours truly, who is feeling more round-shouldered already.





figure 1

figure 2



figure 3

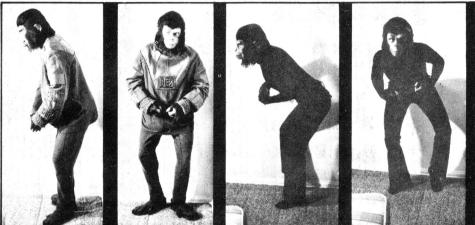
figure 4



figure 9

SECTION ONE: STANCE

Male: Figures 1 and 2 show Bill in human normal stance, as he was in the photo at the bottom of page one. It ruined the effect of the costume, of course, and is what will happen to you if you try and walk through the part of an ape instead of becoming one. In figures 3 and 4 Bill has assumed basic posture: feet angled outwards, knees bent a bit, bottom back and back curved. This curve includes the head and neck. The shoulders are rounded down and forward, and hands become more limply curved while elbows are drawn outward. This stance was that used in the movies, and you can see in Figures 5 and 6 how effectively it adds to the costume design. There was also the stance used in the TV show, when apes were less evolved — Bill shows the posture in Figures 7 and 8. Arms curve more and hands are pulled closer to the stomach. Back is bent even lower to the ground. Your weight should be as much on the balls of your feet as possible, which will be tiring at first. Figure 9 demonstrates how the legs also bend more, to bring the whole body lower.



ure 5

figure 6

figure 7

figure 8

Female: As Paula shows in her human to ape to ape-in-costume photos (Figures 11 through 16) the female transition is much the same as the male. The back need not be bent quite as much as the male, and the legs turn out a touch more. Note, in the costume, the way the dress angles off the back of the hips to increase the illusion of an ape spine.

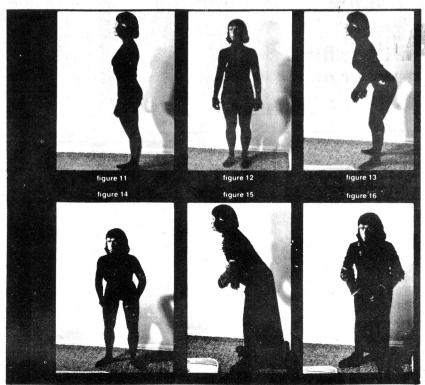


figure 17

THE WALK

Male: The actual walk has to be convincing or everything is ruined. Figures 17-19 show the movie walk as it looks beneath the costume. Figure 17 shows that, while walking, you also have to maintain the basic back form. All of your motions roll around that curved spine. Figure 18 shows the first step. The right leg lifts up on the toe, knee bending outward, the other leg straightening some but not completely. The right arm is lifted up and a little back, the head tilts away from the lifting leg, and the left arm straightens and drops forward slightly. When walking forward your body weight should be pulling you ahead a bit. In Figure 19 we see the next step, which shows just the opposite. Thus, the walk should be a loose-jointed swinging around the spine, as said before. Back and forth, but controlled. Figures 20 and 21 show the effect in costume. The TV walk, as demonstrated in Figures 22-25, is only a more exaggerated version. The steps are wider apart and there is more leaning involved.













figure 23





Female: The female walk is vastly different, as Figures 26-28 demonstrate. The hands themselves do less moving. It is the entire arm, leading with the elbow, that rocks slightly from side to side. Because of the hobbling nature of the skirt, steps are taken from the knee instead of hip — or, at least, mostly from the knee. This causes a sway from side to side that you might want to accentuate by leaning into it a bit, but keeping your head close to level.

figure 22







HAND AND ARM ARTICULATIONS

It's the small details of motion as well as the large patterns that will make your ape imitation a roaring success — or a crashing failure, if they aren't there. The hands and arms become particularly important because apes have very distinct methods of using their hands, and they use them a lot. So will you.

In figures 29 and 30 Bill demonstrates the way the wrist swings, and about how far. Usually it is kept bent inward.

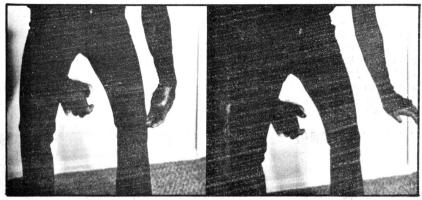
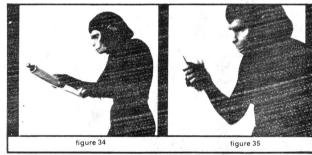


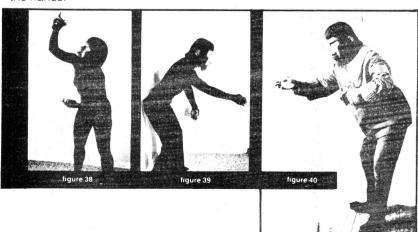
figure 29 figure 30

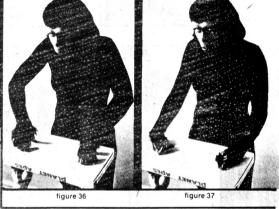
Now Paula demonstrates how real apes will hold their hands and shift their fingers in common situations. The wrist is limp by human standards, because the entire hand is more flexible. Note in Figure 31, especially: the fingers do not completely straighten. Ape hands are designed to *grasp*, and that effects the way you must hold them. Always be ready to grasp.





And when you do grasp, grasp right — overhand. Note that Paula holds both parts of the scroll the same way, as an ape would, in Figure 34. Figure 35 shows the simple act of holding a pen, and the fingers are all wrapped tightly around it, doing most of the holding instead of the thumb. All ape hand movements make more use of the fingers, and less of the opposable thumb, than we do. Figures 36 and 37 show two different ways that an ape would rest his or her hands on a surface — either with the weight on the flat part of the fingers beneath the second knuckle, or more languidly, on the back of the hands.





The relationship of the arm to the body is shown here in three lifting poses. In figure 38 we see that the arm can go fairly high, but it means bending the head and body too, or at least the body. The actual angle at the shoulder is not very high. See how the fingers remain curled? 39 and 40 show Bill in and out of costume, reaching for something. Note limpness of thumb, slight curvature of arms, and that much of the reach is done by pushing the shoulder forward. Arm does not lift much higher at the shoulder than Paula's did in Figure 38.

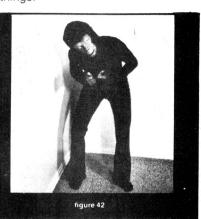


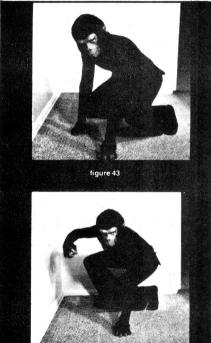
figure 41

The last thing to note in dealing with arms is that the shoulders are extremely rounded, the arms as far down in the socket as possible. Combined with the costume's tailoring, as in Figure 41, the effect is very convincing. Also take a good look at the hands, and how the line of the hand from wrist to second knuckle is straighter than a human's. This is managed by holding the slightly-curved fingers back, all at the same time, to create that line. Keep it in mind when reaching for things.

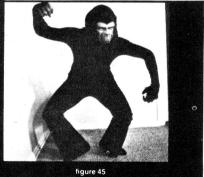
DIFFERENT CHARACTERIZATIONS:

Curiosity is simple enough. Bring the hands together, as Bill does in Figure 42, at the knuckles, bend a bit more forward... but keep one shoulder up and the head tilted even more upwards. Lifted eyebrows helps too, and perhaps a sniffing of the air.





Anger and hostility are harder, and can involve a sequence of events. Figure 43 shows an ape poised to respond. The knees are off the ground; all weight is supported on the balls of the feet and the thumb/second knuckle combination. Arms curve a bit, but less than usual because an angry ape is tensing. Figure 44 extends that; the ape is attacking, or at least making an attack display. That curved arm that mad apes swing with (nails at the end ready to gouge) is lifting, and weight shifting to the leap up. Figure 45 shows the attack display at full peak. Both arms are swinging now, up and down, and if this were a movie Bill would be bouncing up and down on the springy bow his legs form. Head is crouched between the hunched shoulders.



AND, IN CLOSING ...

Some models just aren't capable of lasting out a session. But for those who want to know how an intelligent ape would curl up to sleep ... here it is!

Other models have more stamina. In a pose characteristic of Zira from the movie version of PLANET, Paula gives up on waking Bill, and another Mighty Marvel pictorial comes to a close!

figure 44



