

MAN OF ACTION — THE HISTORY AND IMPACT OF JAMES BOND



THE ULTIMATE **INSIDER** MAGAZINE

AGENT *DVD*

JULY 2008 | AGENTDVD.COM

**BATMAN BACK
AND FORTH**
ADAM WEST AND
MICHAEL CAINE

**40 YEARS
OF ZOMBIES**
GEORGE A. ROMERO
LOOKS BACK

RON MOORE
REFLECTIONS ON
A BATTLESTAR

**THE GREATEST
FRANCHISE EVER!**
DVD FANS MAKE THEIR PICKS

GOING APE FOR BLU-RAY

'PLANET OF THE APES' IN HIGH-DEF!

PLUS:

CHRIS CARTER, JON FAVREAU, ROBERT PICARDO, EDGAR WRIGHT,
MICHAEL BAY, M. NIGHT SHYAMALAN, DAVID X. COHEN, DARIO ARGENTO, AND MORE ...

'Blu' Planet

THE CLASSIC 'PLANET OF THE APES' FILMS
HEAD TO BLU-RAY THIS FALL

BY CHRIS TRIBBEY

If you're a Blu-ray Disc fan, get ready to go ape.

In time for Christmas, 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment releases the original five "Planet of the Apes" films in one deluxe Blu-ray set. Tentatively set for early November, the collection will take advantage of everything Blu-ray has to offer: bonuses galore, interactive features, Internet connectivity and pristine 1080p picture.

"We're making a Blu-ray statement with this collection," says Richard Ashton, director of classics for Fox. "For the past 40 years, ['Planet of the Apes' has] lived in the television environment, [on] VHS, Laserdisc and DVD. ... Now it will be breathtaking. It's like getting Lasik eye surgery."

From the iconic 1968 original film starring the late

Charlton Heston and co-written by "Twilight Zone" creator Rod Serling, to 1973's *Battle for the Planet of the Apes*, every angle of the film series will be updated and explored, Ashton says.

"We have a lot that we're throwing into this," he adds. "We've gone back and done all new high-def features."

Ashton says the bonus materials will explore the evolution of the "Planet of the Apes" film series, delve into the original 1963 book, *La planète des singes* (*Monkey Planet*) by French novelist Pierre Boulle, and offer an in-depth look at the work of producer Arthur P. Jacobs and co-writer Michael Wilson. Ashton assures "this is a relevant upgrade from the DVD" versions. Every special feature from the original DVDs will be included in this Blu-ray release.



"It's the first time [these movies] are being taken seriously," Ashton says. "It's one of the seminal sci-fi films of all time. ... It'll look great in high-def."

Ashton also shared that one of the films will be restored completely to its original, unrated version.

"This is going to kick ass," he says. "If you like 'Apes,' you'll love this set."

