

DEAD OF NIGHT

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Number One

Editorial

I bid you welcome to DEAD OF NIGHT.

This is a new fanzine, which will cover all aspects of the Fantasy Film Genre, ranging from the early Universal classics to SUPERMAN - THE MOVIE and beyond; as well as keeping you informed of future fandom events around the country. In this, the first issue, we offer articles on the two KING KONG film versions; an in-depth review of THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE; an APES feature; a preview of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA; a report on last year's FANTASY FILM CONVENTION; plus reviews, art and news on Horror/Sci-Fi/Fantasy movies.

DEAD OF NIGHT can go far, if you, the reader, take an active part in its production. For future issues we need articles and art-work - all contributions welcome, in return for a free issue. Write in with your comments on this issue, help us to make DEAD OF NIGHT grow.

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FRONT COVER:

Bela Lugosi as Dracula.
Drawn by Roger P. Birchall.

BACK COVER:

Drawn by Bob Walker.

Contributions:

All art-work should be drawn in
black ink.

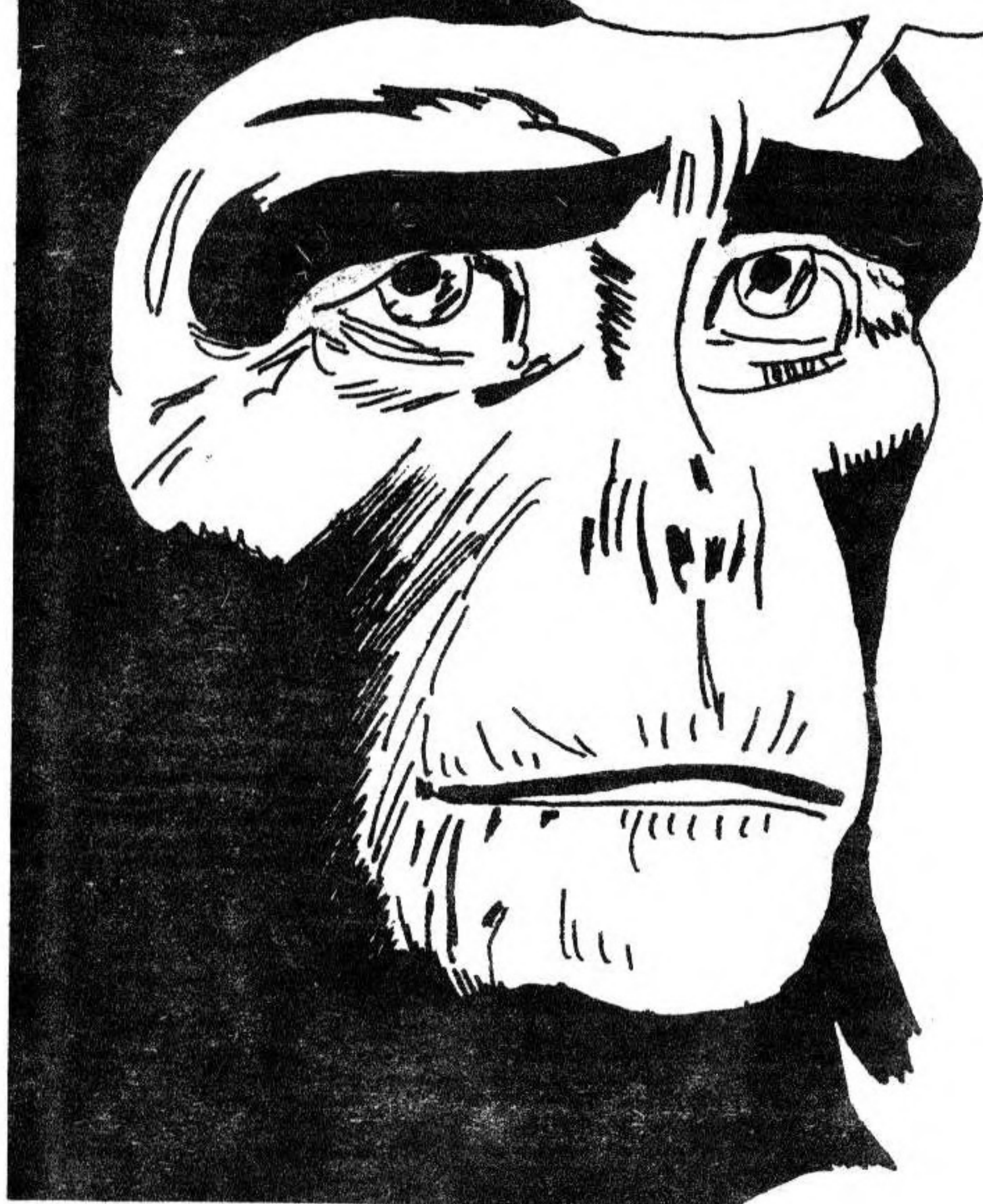
All written contributions should
be discussed with the editor in advance
in order to settle on length, focus etc.

PLANET ^{OF} THE APES

PART ONE

BY -

MARK
TALBOT - BUTLER.



IN THE BEGINNING

A planet ruled by apes, who think, talk and act in many ways like humans, was the concept for a superior science-fiction movie in 1968. But how did it all start?

A French novelist by the name of Pierre Boulle wrote a book entitled 'MONKEY PLANET' in 1963, and movie producers would probably want to film any of his novels after the success of the 1957 movie BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI. Warner Brothers rejected the idea, and then it was the turn of 20th-Century Fox. The producer for the first movie, and the four sequels, was Arthur P. Jacobs, and he chose Michael Wilson and Rod Serling for his screen-writers.

When Fox announced that they were going to film MONKEY PLANET, everybody wondered how they would solve the tremendous make-up problems, but eventually the talented make-up man named John Chambers solved the problem. Similiar problems arose in buliding the sets. At first the city was going to be very much like our own, with futuristic skyscrapers, sports centres, dance halls, and so on, but this was dropped in favour of the primitive look. Even so, alot of work still had to be done. The city, which looked the most complex of all the sets on the screen, was one of the easiest to construct, being built out of polyurethane foam, which when

shot from a foam gun, sets hard within ten minutes. And the seven-foot vegetation that the astronauts had to wander through was actually grown in time for shooting. It was a special, fast-growing species of maize, which was raised in only six months.

The producer had to get special permission to film the lake scene in Lake Powell, in Page, Arizona, because that area of desert was a special government installation. Then there was casting. Originally, Edward G. Robinson was to portray Dr. Zaius, Julie Andrews was to play Zira, and Rock Hudson Cornelius. But all three actors bowed-out because they could not stand wearing the make-up.

Even so, when the movie started shooting, a major cast had been assembled. Charlton Heston, from such epics as BEN HUR and EL CID, was selected to play Taylor. Kim Hunter, a well-known actress, was to play Zira, and Roddy McDowall made his first ape appearance as Cornelius, the young chimpanzee archaeologist. Shakesperian actor Maurice Evans played the part of Zaius. Other well-known actors were to appear in the movie, like James Whitmore, in his role as the President of the Assembly.

Film studios, on occasion, lavish gifts on their stars, such as cars and TV sets. 20th-Century Fox, however, piled supplies of chopsticks, and plastic straws on actors McDowall, Evans and Co, without which, due to the heavy make-up, they would have starved!

The total budget of the movie was around \$9,000,000, but the producers definately got their money back. The movie was an instant smash-hit! As soon as its release in 1968 was taken care of, Fox decided to produce a sequel, entitled BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES, and it was released in 1970. Success was hit upon again! ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES was released in 1971, and CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES was adorning the cinema screens in '72. The fifth and final chapter was released in 1973, and was entitled BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES. The eight hours of film earned more than \$200,000,000 at the global box office. Fox realised Apes was no where near dead....!

PLANET OF THE APES (1968)

SYNOPSIS

Four American astronauts crashland in the wilderness of an unidentified planet after travelling some 2,000 years through time and space. The female astronaut dies and the three males trek across countless miles of arid desert until they discover life-supporting vegetation and a sub-human populace living like animals in the woods. Without warning they are attacked and captured by a band of uniformed gorillas on horseback. Dodge, a negro, is mortally wounded and ends up as a specimen in the Simian Museum of Natural History. Landon is taken to a laboratory where Ape doctors remove his frontal lobes. Taylor (Charlton Heston) is wounded severely in the throat and rendered temporarily mute. He is taken to an animal hospital where he is given primitive medical attention, and then jailed. Recovering consciousness, he is amazed to find that he is a prisoner of a society dominated by intelligent simians, an autocratic social order in which humans are feared as beasts of prey and treated as such.

At last he manages to convince two chimps - Dr. Zira (Kim Hunter) and a young Archaeologist named Cornelius (Roddy McDowall) - that he can speak and write. Dr. Zira in turn tries to persuade Dr. Zaius (Maurice Evans) - an orangutan, who is one of the Chiefs of State, that Taylor should be used for a series of Behavioural Tests instead of experimental vivisection. Zaius argues, however, that to suggest that any insight into Simian nature can be learned from studying man is nonsense. Humans, he says, breed too quickly, denude the forests and farmlands, ravage Simian crops and are entirely a menace. Therefore, their numbers must be restricted.

After Zaius learns that Taylor can speak, he orders a frontal lobotomy on him and Zira and Cornelius assist him to escape with Nova (Linda Harrison), his female human cell-mate. Together with Zira's nephew, Lucius (Lou Wagner), they set off for The Forbidden Zone - a vast, barren territory to which Ape citizens are forbidden to travel. Cornelius has earlier discovered artifacts suggesting that a highly advanced human society once populated the territory.

The fugitives are pursued by Zaius and his gorilla militiamen, but Taylor seizes Zaius as hostage and the gorillas are now ordered to retreat. Zaius now confesses that he has been aware all along of the prior existence of this highly intelligent human society, but that he fears the rebirth of such a civilisation. He points out that amongst God's primates, the humans kill for sport, lust and greed. Yea, he will murder his brother to possess his brother's land, let him not breed in great numbers, for he will make a desert of his home, and Yours. Shun Him, Drive Him back into His jungle lair, for he is the harbinger of Death. Taylor agrees to release Zaius if he will not press charge of Heresy and Insubordination against Zira and Cornelius. Then Taylor and Nova flee deep into the Forbidden Zone, where they find, a few minutes later, the desiccated remains of the Statue of Liberty!





Cornelius (Roddy McDowall) and Zira (Kim Hunter) confront Taylor (Charlton Heston) in
PLANET OF THE APES (1968).
