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# KING OF THE MONSTERS

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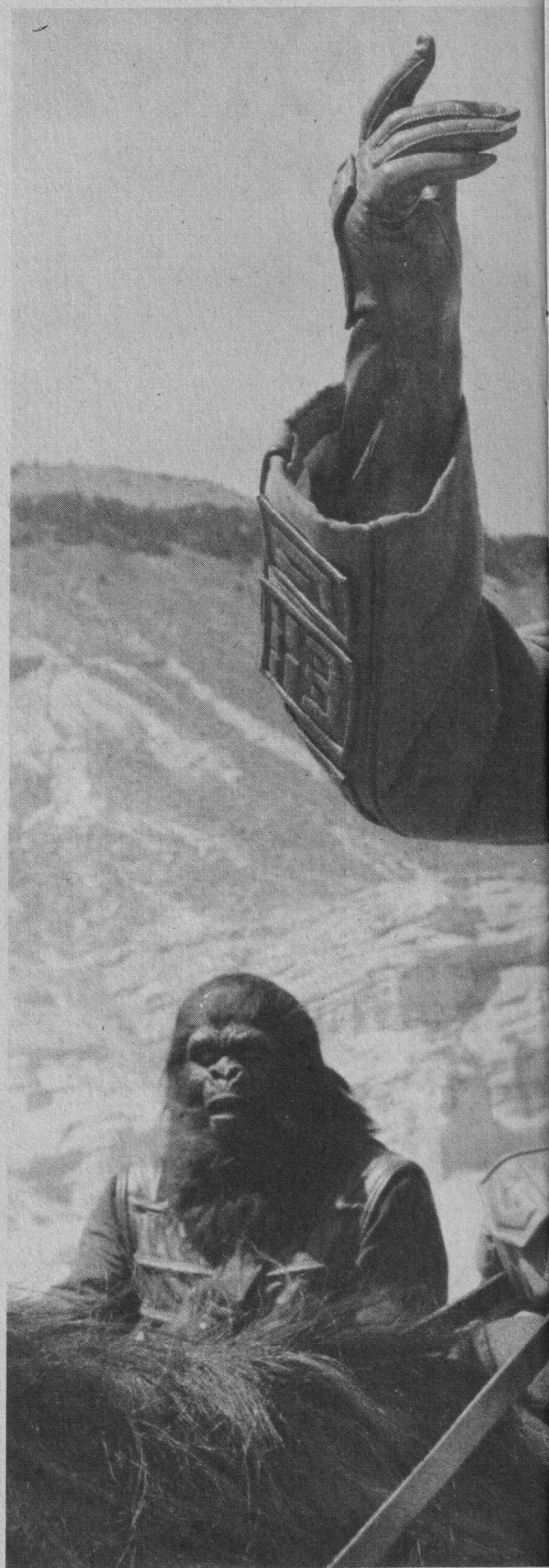
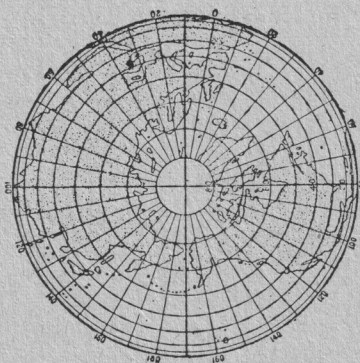
**KONGA & THE  
MONSTER  
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**KOGAR THE APE & LOTS MORE!**



# conquering the planet of the APES

In Which Our Critic Takes a Barbed View  
Of The Otherwise Popular  
"Planet Of The Apes" film series...







By Dallas Judson

Apes are about as tricky, underhanded and dangerous as people. That's the message I get loud and clear from watching *PLANET OF THE APES* and its sequels.

If I ever meet a talking ape, wearing a leather jacket, you can bet I'm going to let him carry my money to the bank for me.

I usually write about Western movies for the magazines edited by Mr. Ron Haydock. And as I told Mr. Ron, I know a whole lot more about cows and horses than talking baboons. I do know that cows and horses are unpredictable — you never know for sure what one is going to do. That makes life interesting — if, sometimes, short. The same might be said of those Apes who have their own Planet.

It all started in a book written by a Frenchman, Pierre Boulle. They didn't get him to do it for the movies. These Hollywood people don't trust a writer to have anything to do with a screenplay. Movies are too important for that.

The ramrod on the Apes outfit was Arthur Jacobs. The producer hired Rod Serling, who used to be a writer before he got into television. Since Mr. Serling had got real famous selling patent medicine on TV, they felt he was important enough to let him do the script. So Mr. Serling wrote the movie — except it wasn't exactly like a movie. More like one of those horror comic books that came out in the fifties. You know, one where in the last picture of the last page of the story, one of the characters screams "Ye Gods! The vampire is not a giant bat, he's an eight-foot-tall MOSQUITO!"

Hollywood people don't hold much with actors, either. So instead, they hired Charlton Heston. (He's a "star". Stars don't have to act. They just have to be themselves. Mr. Heston does this pretty good, except when he forgets who he is. But he gets it right most of the time.)

Now, of course, in a picture about talking apes you find yourself looking at an inflexible, immovable face, totally

**BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES (1970) starred the distinguished British actor Maurice Evans as Dr. Zaius, an elder orangutan statesman ...**





**BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES (1970)** saw James Franciscus and Linda Harrison being herded into imprisonment by their ape world captors ...

devoid of expression, most of the time. That's Mr. Heston. The Apes got all the good parts.

It goes like this: Mr. Heston and some guys you know are going to die real soon because they aren't stars like Mr. Heston are in this spaceship. The spaceship sunfishes over and crashes on this planet.

The astronauts climb out and find themselves on a planet with the same gravity as Earth, the same atmosphere as Earth, the same kind of rocks and plants. The Sun looks like the one on Earth. "Where on Earth can we be?" they plead.

Being the pick of the entire Earth Space Service, they start walking, trying to find the solution.

They run into a mess of trouble, and Mr. Heston finds himself put into a cage by a bunch of apes in human clothes. They speak a kind of English that sounds mid-Twentieth Century. Well,

maybe not like 1968 when the picture was released, but at least like 1935.

The Apes even paraphrase famous Earthmen from around 1935, turning Will Rogers' famous remark to "I never met an ape I didn't like".

Heston begs of the silent Heavens: "Where in Time or Space can I be?"

Mr. Heston met a lot of Apes, including the sympathetic Cornelius (played by Roddy McDowall) and Zira (Kim Hunter) and the somewhat ambivalent Dr. Zaius (Maurice Evans). Now as I figure this thing, they couldn't get "Stars" like Mr. Heston to take these roles, so they had to get actors like McDowall, Miss Kim, and Evans. Of course, they didn't want to embarrass Mr. Heston, so they had these three cover up their faces.

I understand they had a lot of trouble making these human beings look like Apes. They used foam rubber, plastic, artificial hair, and a lot of skill. Still it

didn't work. Despite all that stuff on their faces, the actors came off looking a lot better than Mr. Heston.

In contrast to the highly developed Apes of this planet, Mr. Heston met one of the human beings who had been reduced to the level of a beast. This one was Nova, played by Linda Harrison. She was well-washed, her hair expertly styled, wearing a single garment that covered the legal minimum, and underneath it, an uplift bra. However, she had not plucked her eyebrows, revealing the bass conditions under which these humans lived.

Well, finally Mr. Heston gets away from these Apes who are putting on airs, and escapes on horseback. (He sits a good horse.) Out there, beyond the City of the Apes he finds a *certain relic* that makes him scream "Ye Gods!"

I could tell you what the rest of these Ape pictures were like, but you probably wouldn't believe me. ●





In Fox's **BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES** (1970) a group of super patriotic gorilla militia men applaud their leader's declaration of war upon a mutated human community living in subterranean New York City ...



Heather Johnson and apeman Lars Hensen while filming **CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES** (1972) in Century City, California (Photo By Al Satian) ...