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SCI-FI'S NOVELTY ACT

*Turning Science Fiction's Favorite Novels
into Movie Magic*

BY DAN PEREZ



ABOVE LEFT: *Before donning Miami Vice's three day beard, Don Johnson starred in Harlan Ellison's A Boy and His Dog. ABOVE:* Pierre Boulle, author of the famed novel A Bridge on the River Kwai, also wrote the novel that began the Planet of the Apes film franchise.

1968's *Planet of the Apes*

based on Pierre Boulle's novel *Monkey Planet*, pitted Charlton Heston against a society of intelligent apes. The film features Oscar-winning makeup and one of the best endings of any science fiction film. Intriguingly, the book and the film each have *different* twist endings. In the book, the humans escape

from the ape planet and return to Earth, only to discover that apes have assumed supremacy on Earth as well. The movie version had Charlton Heston discover that the ape world *was* Earth, only in the future, and set the stage for a number of time travel-oriented sequels. SF writers Jerry Pournelle and George Alec Effinger wrote novelizations of the movies.

1969 brought us *2001: A Space Odyssey*, one of the finest science fiction films ever made. Adapted from Arthur C. Clarke's novella "The Sentinel," Stanley Kubrick's *2001* redefined the look of science fiction films and produced a challenging narrative that spans thousands of years.