NIGHTFLYERS
More deadly than ALIENS?

Special Mars issue:
WAR OF THE WORLDS
Earth invasion or incredible hoax?
JOHN CARTER OF MARS
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Surviving rigorous makeup appliances, Lenard enjoyed his stay on TV’s *Planet of the Apes* as General Urko.
“I like to bring some of the joyous qualities of villainy to my roles. To be a straight villain is a downer and I try to, whether I do it consciously or not, take the side of the character I play, see things through his eyes. I discovered that science fiction is Hollywood’s version of the classics. That’s what they wanted.

“When I was called for Planet of the Apes, I was a little hurt that they would think of me as a gorilla—why not the astronaut? I discovered that they were looking for a Shakespearean actor since the makeup appliances made speaking difficult. They needed people who could speak with their eyes, in addition to strong voices. In the movies, Maurice Evans and other Shakespearean actors played the apes. So, my feelings were soothed.

“Planet of the Apes was some of the most fun I ever had. It was very painful, uncomfortable. Up at 5 a.m., we started three-hour makeup. I had the mental serenity to withstand it, but I don’t know if I could do that today.”

Often portraying aliens and villains in his long and fruitful career with his features disguised behind the magic of makeup, Mark Lenard pauses to consider just how much of himself has been revealed in his performances. “The screen captures your persona,” he says. “It’s not my personality, but it captures something in me that is there, something you cannot create or fake. That’s something about acting: the camera catches something or it doesn’t. Those who are successful are those who have been captured, who have presence and screen personality.”