THE WOLFSMAN BITES AGAIN! P. 3

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GADZOOKS... IT'S GODZILLA! P. 13

ON SALE EVERY 2 WEEKS
WOULD YOU TAKE A FREE COPY OF TMT FROM THIS APE?...

Well, a lot of people did during MT's June 27 Ape-In which you can read all about on Page 14. Our TMT-shirted simian caused quite a furor with many members of the Fun City population... so much so that rumors of a MONSTER TIMES fan club began blowing in the wind. But soft!... we can say no more! Except to whisper, "Stay tuned for further announcements..."

And, after you see what the our MT ape hath wrought, check out what the Wolfman, the Phantom, the Frogs, the Drones, and Peter Cushing have been up to... all of which is contained within.

GADZOOKS... IT'S GODZILLA

One guy who never fails to come and go with a bang... and an atomic one at that... is GODZILLA. And starting this issue, the Big G will be making a regular appearance in these pages, offering his wit, wisdom, and well opinions and establishing himself, as he himself puts it, as "the Ross Barrett of Monsterdom." Inside info, lively lore, and gossip galore will highlight this feature by the Crowned King of the Monsters. In fact, the big guy asked us to call him by his nickname, GGD, but we think that's going too far...
Well, you've got to hand it to us (otherwise we might never find it), we really aced the biggie this time with our very own impromptu appearance at the Central Park Ace-In staged by 20th Century Fox's puzzled Publicity Dept. to herald the arrival of their latest Ape epic, CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES. Unbeknownst to Fox's Publicity crew, a party crasher in the person of our own Jason Roberts, clad in an authentic gorilla get-up that Kong himself would be proud of, and a TMT T-Shirt, showed up to spew their enthusiastic praises upon a super-imaginied show director. The full fascinating story of TMT's CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES—along with an in-depth look at the film itself—is contained inside, with plenty of action fotos from M.T.'s crafty camera crew.

Also on hand, or should "we" (i.e., my imaginary companion & I) say "claw," is a complete filmbook of Universal's 1941 lycanthropic classic, THE WOLFMAN, Dave Andrews recreates this fiendish film with relish (and a little ketchup (or is that real blood?) on the side). An exclusive MT talk with horror star Peter Cushing can also be found within, as Peter tells his fans the strange story behind the making of the E.C.-based flick TALES FROM THE CRYPT.

Word To The Wise-Guy Dept: You probably think we made a mistake, huh? I mean, you noticed that this issue is a week late in coming out, right? Well, you're right about that, but if you attribute the lamentable fact to our laziness or ineptitude, you would be wrong about that. We are lazy and inept, but that isn't the reason we're late with this issue. The reason is we took a little vacation for ourselves, combining business with pleasure by taking a trip to Japan to open negotiations with the Crowned King of Monsters himself: Godzilla. We wanted the Big G to start writing a regular column for us and, after a little begging, cajoling, and money up front, he agreed. You might be mad at us now, but one day, after reading the King's column, you'll thank us for.

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THE WOLFMAN STRIKES! An evil moon plays Wolfman Tag and Larry Talbot's 'it' in this complete MT filmbook devoted to the 1941 Universal classic.

THE PEOPLE VS. THE PHANTOM: The arrogant super-costumed super-hero gets a good dressing-down at the capable hands of an outspoken Women's Lib critic.

TALES FROM BEHIND THE CRYPT: Peter Cushing tells an M.T. reporter about his personal motives for appearing in TALES FROM THE CRYPT. A startling MT exclusive!

GADZOOKS!! GODZILLA: The "Big G" on the staff of the Monster Times...yes! And he'll be ranting, raving, and reporting in his very own column.

CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES! A two-headed look at Fox's latest Ape opus, one pro, one con...plus a full report on our own sensational Central Park Ape stunt.

IT CAME OUT OF THE PAGE! An in-depth review of British sci-fi maven Denis Gifford's latest profusely-pixeled tome, SCIENCE FICTION FILM.

SUPERSTRIPE: Meet Liana, a tough-minded miss of the future, in Bruce Jones' stunning SF depiction of a world without love.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF SILENT RUNNING: A look at Doug Trumbull's ecological film with a special spotlight on the people inside those endearing young drones.

TELETYPE TICKS ON: TMT's-man-in-the-field Bill Feret reveals his latest array of scarilyscopes from the film studios of Monstersondom...and even a HOT FLASH on STAR TREK!

COMIC NEWS, VIEWS, AND PREVIEWS: A new news column making its debut in this issue in which Comicon's cab reporter Paul Levitz gives you the latest lowdown on all the big-time comic activities.

THE MONSTER SCENE: Another brand-new M.T. feature! Its debut is devoted to an audacious aviation first! Pan-Am's Spotlight on Dracula Transylvania Tour.

NIGHT OF THE MEANINGLESS MOVIES: Media critic R. Allen Leider steps on FROGS and seriously doubts that the DEAD ARE ALIVE in this highly derivative burial of 2 Ware but not great flick.

Larry Brit wishes to thank himself for his fine, for-raising rendition of this issue cover of Lon Chaney, Jr. as he appeared in all his glory in Universal's classic, THE WOLF MAN. Thank you.

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Chief Kolp (Severn Darden). Disguised as a servant, Caesar infiltrates the ranks of the enslaved apes by getting assigned as Breck's personal servant. Breck's assistant, MacDonald (Harri Rhodas), a black man, feels compassion for the apes and intercedes on their and Caesar's behalf when Breck sets out to enslave them.

But the crude treatment of his fellow apes gnaws away at Caesar's mind until the day comes... the day of his destiny!

Just what is Caesar's destiny, you ask? Will Armando break down under torture and "fess up, you want to know? Will Caesar be discovered, you wonder? What will happen when and if Caesar and Breck meet in mortal combat, you query? Is this, you ask above all, the end of the Planet of the Apes??

Well, you'll just have to see the movie to get the answer to these and countless other questions birthed by that curious mind of yours. And please, do go and see it. CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES is one of the few quality sci-fi films around these days and follows the fine tradition started by the first "Apes" flick several years back (See MT No. 17). The technical work is extremely good. I mention these details because to a true-blue sci-fi horror buff there is nothing more maddening than out-of-focus, poorly colored, sloppily edited movies. This is especially true when they have a good professional cast that stands up to the high film standards of today's cinema.

APE OPUS EARS APPROVAL

CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES succeeds on almost all counts. Excellent camera work, brilliant color and sharp editing highlight the opus. The plot, unfortunately, is a bit skimpy.

Twenty years ago, two articulate and intelligent apes named Cornelius and Zira came to the earth from the planet of the Apes. They were the first of their kind to be born on Earth, and they quickly began to learn from the humans who surrounded them. The Apes of the past were simple creatures, but the Apes of the future were a different matter. They had the ability to communicate with each other, and they soon began to build more complex societies.

The Apes of the future were also more intelligent than the Apes of the past. They were able to learn from their mistakes and to adapt to their environment. They were also able to build more complex technologies, such as the computer and the internet.

In a way it was really a shame, I mean, here were all these nice, petite, imperiously-behaved lady apes shuffling and scratching their way up 5th Avenue on that balmy June 27th afternoon, surrounded by eager publicity agents, TV camera crews, and a shocked if unsurprised Fox City populace, all playing out their predictable parts in this 20th Century Fox promo stunt for its latest Apes opus, CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES, when all of a sudden, like a bolt out of the blue, a cat out of the bag, or an original flash out of a long disordered brain, comes this gross, staggering apparition of an earthy Stanley Kowalski style ape, rubbing its obscene hairy torso and granting sweet nothings at Fox's tepee of trim female sinians. Before you could say "Mighty Joe Young," all heck broke loose as the TMT-shirted (Yes, they are on the way!) renegade gorilla starts stealing the public's emotions and the camera's eye away from the bemused lady apes. His warm, spirited antics (and free copies of THE MONSTER TIMES) quickly won out as the hearts of small children, grandparents, parents, heart-reaching senior citizens, and cynical media men began melting at an equal pace at the furry feet of the MT ape.

How did this Miracle on 59th Street come about? Well, acting swiftly on a tip from one of our many spies inside the media, we decided to dispatch our own gorilla to join in the frivolity planned by the 20th Century Fox Publicity Dept.

Inside the MT ape was a young actor-cartoonist named Jason Roberts—just back from a performing stint in Gene Kelly's CLOWNAROUND, a touring theater-circus—and Jason's animated portrayal of a friendly ape was realistic enough to cause Kenny himself a sleepless night or two and prompt Kongo to turn in his suit. Accompanied by a number of loyal MT staffers—there to lend moral support—Jason and the CONQUEST apes traded grunts and bewildered stares, although, for expressions of pure bewilderment nothing
There is a great deal of fine action footage but it has to uphold a thin plot thread—a difficult task at best. Perhaps if this film and its sequel (did I say that?) (it wasn’t us — Ed.) were combined, there might have been more movie meat on the bare bones of the plot. The twists and surprises that kept popping up in the previous Ape epics just don’t materialize in this one. Not that it’s a dull film, on the contrary, CONQUEST is an action-thriller guaranteed to hold any horror freak’s interest. It just doesn’t give much information that relates to the entire PLAN OF THE APES film cycle, to the continuing saga of our simian heroes. But taken on its own merit, the film is a highly entertaining one.

"Roddy McDowall is brilliant as Caesar. McDowall played Cornelius in the first and third Ape films and now plays the role of his son in this fourth Ape offering. I do miss Kim Hunter’s coquettish female chimp, though. She provided a good deal of both charm and comic relief for the serious moments in the three previous outings. The female interest in this flick is provided by Natalie Trundy, sans lips, and without much of a schtick at all. In fact, the relationship between Ms. Trundy (as ‘Lisa’) and Caesar is barely developed at all. Ricardo Montalban continues and concludes his ape involvement with his portrayal of Armando, a man who plays a key role in helping Caesar’s destiny reach fruition.

Don Murray as Gov. Breck plays his part in a sort of deadpan Lawrence Luckenbill in a black jersey. The tyrant that is supposed to be dwelling within the Breck character barely surfaces, unfortunately. Police Chief Koip is Severn Darden, a menacing looking actor (and a former comedian) who might have been given more to do—for he would have done it well. A gold star goes to Harry Rhodes who as MacDonald gets across the emotional message of the film. Perhaps if there is a sequel (no more hints) we’ll be lucky enough to see him return.

MURRAY’S MINDLESS MESSAGE

I might mention that Don Murray is given one splendid speech near the end of the film and it might well sum up the movie, "We hate the ape," Breck says, "because he reminds us that we are all apes inside. That we have the same origins as you. When we despise you we are really despising the beast deep within us." (When we want a dumb message like that, we’ll send ourselves a telegram — Ed.) None of the cast members are bad actors. Don’t get me wrong. But the lack of character development in their parts is very evident. Whether it is the fault of director J. Lee Thompson, or just due to some production quirk or the script, that is unknown to me. But the action and camera work make up for it, at least in part.

Certainly, we could use more films like this one. At least one more (do I say it again?) (it still wasn’t us — Ed.). Quality is something that needs to be stressed, particularly in this day and age when films are padded with unnecessary sex scenes to compensate for their lack of ingenuity, talent, or production know-how. Wholesomeness may sound goody-goody, but all the great films were whether you like it or not! — wholesome. The least thing I can remember in any of the classics is KING KONG tearing Fay Wray’s dress (Personally, we were more turned on by the Bride of Frankenstein’s snarli and maybe the way THE THING walked — Ed.). Even that was done tastefully.

So see THE CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES. Who knows—we may live to see it happen.

RA.L.

APE ARGUMENT RAGES ON!

For every Dr. Jekyll-type film reviewer we have around, at TMT also keep a Mr. Hyde-type busy. In question is our own Allen Brandman, who also reported to us about what he’d seen in CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES and the following is from his somewhat opposing view of the film. Allen. . . take it away.)

Despite the perusal satire in the beginning of CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (which especially made ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES so rewarding), there is less warmth in this film than in its predecessors. We have come to care less about these characters somehow. The business of revolution is handled very typically and impersonally after a point, and, wallowing in its own satism, never manages to achieve the same kind of suspense sustained by the previous films. What’s more, by the end, we have almost as little regard for Caesar, his brothers, and their revolution as we do for their callous human masters. Perhaps that’s the way it was supposed to be. . .

Cesar may be in trouble here, but soon the shackles will be on the other neck—the human one, that is.

Further minuses include, incredibly enough, the costumes and special effects for which the series won so much fame. Some of the ape costumes—notably the orangutans (with whom Caesar seeks refuge) really aren’t very convincing. Also, despite a few well-conceived suggestions of futuristici society, the sense of locale is far too vague and uninteresting. We are supposedly in some sort of city. But we never really get a good view of it, and the action is always

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confined to the same general, unclearly defined area.

In addition to lacking the scope of the other films, the quality of the direction is also inferior. Under J. Lee Thompson’s erratic handling, the film’s pace begins to lag somewhere after the midway point, becoming particularly evident in the scenes of revolt which run far too long and unimaginatively. The film tends to strain itself for the sake of melodrama.

In no better place is this reflected than in the hammy, self-conscious acting – particularly that of Don Murray as the evil antagonist. Hari Rhodes as the apparently only worthwhile human left is somewhat more restrained, but I suspect this is due more to the likeableness of his role than to his actual talents.

In the final analysis though, the ultimate problem lies in the increasingly less enthusiastic, more gimmick-oriented approach obviously geared to exploiting our interest just enough so we will shell out for the next sequel (did we say that?—Ed.)

□—Allen Brandman

(There you have it, two highly differing perspectives on the still-raging CONTROVERSY OF THE PLANET OF THE APES. We at TMT think these diverse views prove three things beyond a shadow of a doubt. One, that people like to give their opinions; Two, that ultimately it is all a matter of taste; and Three, that it takes all kinds. And so do we – Ed.)
What's next, you ask? How could we possibly top an issue that gave you the Wolfman, the Phantom, and an exclusive interview with Peter Cushing, you want to know? Well, it won't be easy, but we're gonna do it anyway. To kick off TMT 15, we have a filmbook devoted to THE VALLEY OF GWANGI, in which the cowboys meet the monster and may the best man win. In another vein, Jim Wnoroski is on hand with Part I of his PERVERSE PLANT MONSTERS series, in which he gets at the roots of the myriad vegetable menaces that've been plaguing Grade B actors for all these many years.

Plus—an exciting TMT interview with the Master of Suspense himself, Alfred Hitchcock. Hitch graciously agreed to talk to one of our fawning film fans and he discourses at length on all the strange ideas currently twisting and turning in that brilliantly perverse mind of his. Also for horror film fans is a preview of the first black Dracula film, entitled BLACULA and produced by (who else?) American-International. The MONSTER OF PIEDRAS BLANCAS (who?) will also be putting in a long overdue appearance. If you don't know who he is, well, this and countless other mysteries both secular and cosmic will be cleared up next issue.

Of course, they'll be another superstrip, biting article on VAMPIRES in the comics, and other surprises cooked up by the feverish minds of the gang at TMT. Could you afford not to buy this issue? We humbly entreat you to ponder that question in the privacy of your heart of hearts until such time as you come up with the answer we want. Thank you.

GO APE, YOUNG MAN!

"Say, watcha readin' there, Paw?"
"Why, it's somethin' called by the name of THE MONSTER TIMES, Son. Newsstand feller tells me the whole thing's devoted to the likes of us."
"Gee, I didn't know that, Paw."
"Feller says that this was the last copy on his stand, too! Says they sell in a manner more befittin' hotcakes than newspapers. Says I was lucky I got a-hold of this issue afore he sold 'em all out!"
"Gee, I didn't know that, Paw."
"That's on account of you're just a dumb ape, Son."
"Gee, I didn't know...."
"Forgive us for interrupting, but we think Old Paw's absolutely right. Don't you think it's time you go ape, young man, and make sure you get every single thrilling issue of THE MONSTER TIMES. Just fill out the coupon below and you're in... for every ish of the biggest monster treat ever concocted, in this or any other world.

With every sub of a year or more, the subscriber gets a free 25-word classified ad, to be run on our Fan-Fair page. You can advertise comics or stalls or pulps, etc. or for anything else, provided it's in good taste! 

I think THE MONSTER TIMES is just what I've been looking for! Enclosed is $....... Make check or money order payable to: THE MONSTER TIMES, P.O. Box 595, Old Chelsea Station, New York City, N.Y. 10011

As a new subscriber (for a sub of one year or more), here is my 25-word ad, to appear FREE of charge in Fan-Fair as soon as possible.

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