Bizarre, Exotic, Six Feet
VERUSCHKA
The Girl
Everybody
Stares At
Would You Believe Maurice Evans?

MOVIES / Planet Gone Ape
The wily-looking orangutan under the umbrella on the preceding page is none other than Maurice Evans. The eminent Shakespearean plays the simian heavy in the soon-to-be-completed Planet of the Apes, a serious film which expended a gargantuan effort on make-up. In the $6 million production by Arthur P. Jacobs, a cool million was spent turning a cast of hundreds into apes.

Based on a novel by Pierre Boulle, author of Bridge on the River Kwai, the satirical fantasy tells of U.S. astronauts who attempt an interstellar journey into the future by use of suspended animation. They crash on a planet very much like Earth and are attacked by apes. The sole survivor (Charlton Heston) discovers to his horror that evolution has turned topsy-turvy. The apes are the most intelligent species on the planet and the human aborigines are considered wild animals. The apes cage them for research or display them stuffed in their museum of natural history.

As many as 78 make-up artists worked under John Chambers, formerly a surgical technician who repaired the faces of wounded soldiers. Because of their simian muzzles the actors had to eat with chopsticks and use cigarette holders. Of the gawking visitors to the set, Maurice Evans said, "It's like being in a monkey cage looking out. The public seems ill-mannered and silly."

Kim Hunter and Roddy McDowall (above and at right—Miss Hunter is prettier) are doctors sympathetic to the plight of humans like Linda Harrison, an inhabitant of the ape-run planet, and astronaut Charlton Heston. Most apes, such as those below, enjoy hunting humans as recreation,
Actor Evans spent the best part of 13 hours a day in make-up for his role as a wise and respected orangutan. It took almost three hours to put his face on, an hour and a half to peel it off at day's end. Like the rest of the cast, Evans found that he could sweat through the special foam-rubber make-up and manipulate his facial muscles. Indeed, he noted, "after a while you forget you look like an ape."

obliterates some famous faces
If you have paid attention for the last three pages, you already know that, in the movies at least, apes can make real trouble for people if people aren’t careful. Here now is something else, a situation from real life, no make-up involved. Regrettably, however, the outlook is still depressing for our side. The ever-so-cute chimpanzee; take a good look at his eyes. Then say you would let him sell you a used coconut. Do you believe he is really listening to the chirpings of the also-cute little girl? Or does it seem, on reflection, that perhaps the chimp’s thoughts are on something else, say ice cream? Isn’t his phenomenally quick right hand actually poised to put the apes one more up on people by grabbing off that other cone, so humanly, so trustfully held?