

THE FACE

björk
roots manuva
new order
ewan mcgregor

destiny's child
scooter boys
jt leroy
the strokes

MADE IN THE UK



08>

9 770263 121095

NO 55 AUGUST 2001 £2.80 • LIRE 12100 • BF 238
BRING OUT THE CHIMP: Milo by Frederike Heilig

GO APE!

planet of the apes

special edition

TEXT MURRAY HEALY

Sex and violence!

Flying fur!

Orang-utans watching MTV!

**These and other key
moments from the long
and winding road that
led to Tim Burton's
Planet Of The Apes 2001**

Clockwise from right:
Mark Wahlberg's predecessor Charlton
Heston tries to get a word in in the original
Planet Of The Apes; a preliminary costume
design from the film; Dr Milo's costume
from *Escape From The Planet Of The Apes*



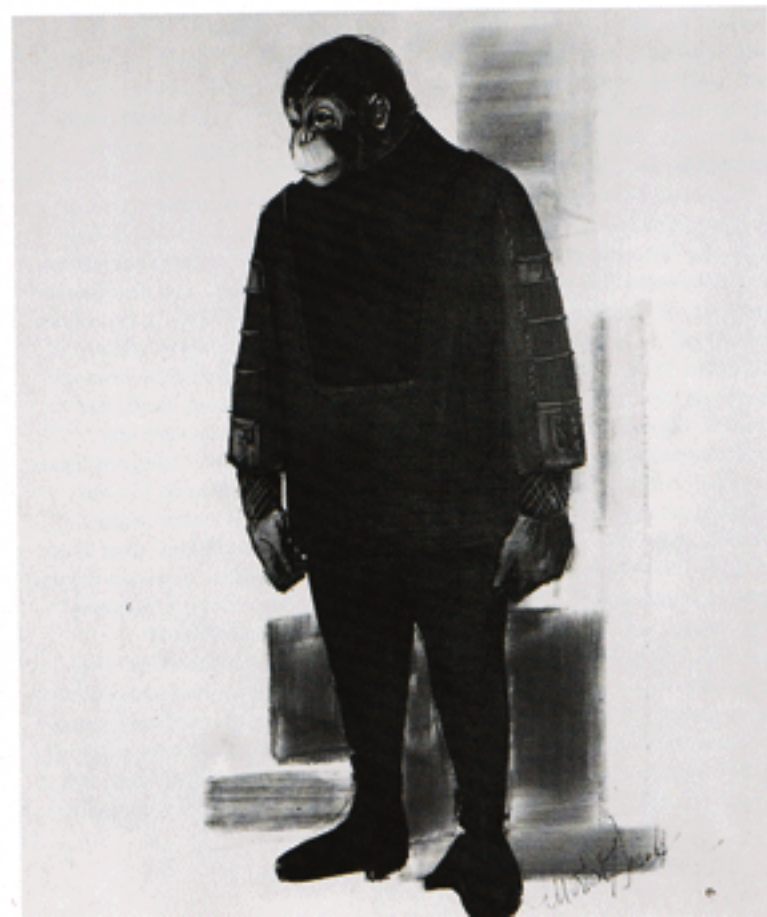
**The only
is**

Clockwise from right:
Mark Wahlberg's predecessor Charlton
Heston tries to get a word in in the original
***Planet Of The Apes*; a preliminary costume**
design from the film; Dr Milo's costume
from *Escape From The Planet Of The Apes*



a good
dead

human...
human!'



1933

King Kong, the world's first horror blockbuster, terrifies audiences the world over with its 60ft gorilla and establishes the cinematic axiom that **apes are cool**

1956

Launch of the world's longest running ad campaign: for PG Tips, starring a bunch of talking chimpanzees

1963

La Planète Des Singes by Pierre Boulle – author of *Bridge On The River Kwai* – is published. A lighthearted Swiftian satire, it tells of astronaut Ulysse Merou's arrival on an Earth-like planet where apes have inherited and maintained a 20th-century-style human civilization; humans, meanwhile, behave like dumb animals. With the aid of two friendly chimpanzees, Zira and Cornelius, Ulysée escapes the murderous intentions of chief orangutan Dr Zaius, for whom the talking astronaut presents a challenge to the divine supremacy of apes.

Publicist-turned-movie producer Arthur P Jacobs has already bought the rights: he sees a **major blockbuster in the making**. Working with associate producer Mort Abrahams and 130 creatives, he puts together what Abrahams calls a 'merchandising book' of images and ideas. Rod Serling, *The Twilight Zone*'s producer, creator and writer, is brought in to work on a script

1964-5

Jacobs spends a year pitching his ideas to Hollywood studios. The response: 'Spaceships and talking monkeys? **That's Saturday-morning picture stuff!**' So Jacobs decides to secure a major name for the lead role of the stranded astronaut: Marlon Brando, Burt Lancaster and Paul Newman are considered. In June he secures Charlton Heston, a crowd-puller since winning an Oscar for *Ben-Hur* in 1959. Warner looks interested and Blake Edwards is ready to direct. But budget estimates come in at \$410m: far too expensive for sci-fi, still considered B-movie trash



1966

Head of 20th Century Fox Richard Zanuck is 'captivated' by the script but is worried about the credibility of the ape make-up. So on March 8, Jacobs conducts a \$5,000, five-minute test shoot at Fox featuring a **safari-suited Heston** as astronaut Thomas (changed to Taylor in later drafts) and Hollywood heavyweight Edward G. Robinson as orang-utan senator Dr. Zaius. The shoot's success, along with high box office takings for FX-packed sci-fi flick *Fantastic Voyage*, convince Zanuck to go ahead: preparations get under way in November.

1967

Shooting starts on May 21, giving sci-fi make-up expert John Chambers – he designed *Spock's ears* – less than four months to create 200 ape make-ups. The film's 80-strong make-up and wardrobe staff causes a **creative drain** on Hollywood that holds up other films. Early in the shoot, Heston suffers a bad cold – hence the hoarseness of his dramatic first words when a mute Taylor finally recovers his voice: '**Get your stinking paws off me, you damned dirty ape!**'

2001: *A Space Odyssey* is released, proving that **challenging, credible, lavish, big-budget sci-fi** is possible.

1968

Planet Of The Apes premieres on February 8; it grosses \$26m. At the Oscars, John Chambers is awarded a



Clockwise from top left: Zaius, Taylor and Nova (*Planet*); *Mad* magazine, March 1973; two views of the half ape, half chimp child from a test shoot for the first sequel; Edward G. Robinson in the original test shoot; Roddy McDowall gets made up as Cornelius



Special Academy Award for make-up by Walter Matthau and a chimpanzee.

That ending: earlier drafts had Taylor and Nova (Linda Harrison) escaping to start human society anew; rewrites had him shot by a gorilla sniper with a pregnant Nova escaping, but Fox executives found the [off-screen] sex 'distasteful'. The eventual ending was inspired by a lunch Jacobs had at the Yugo Kosherama Delicatessen in Burbank with Blake Edwards, who suggested: 'What if he was on Earth the whole time and doesn't know it?' As they went to pay, they noticed a huge Statue of Liberty on the wall.

So the film ends with the new-age Adam and Eve travelling on horseback on the shoreline, where they discover a half-buried Statue of Liberty. Taylor falls to his knees at the revelation: '**You maniacs! You blew it up! Oh damn you! God damn you all to hell!**'

In June, stunned by the money the film is taking, Fox tells Zanuck: 'You gotta do a sequel!' And the **blockbuster movie franchise** is born.

The race is on for a follow-up script. Jacobs rejects Serling's initial drafts – which see Taylor founding a new race of humans with a 20th-century astronaut – and goes back to Boule, who submits *La Planète Des Hommes* in July. Set 12 years after the first film, Taylor and Nova have founded a colony where humans are slowly rediscovering speech and intelligence. But the apes attack and in the ensuing war, Taylor is killed and the apes 'devolve' to their primitive, 20th-century existence. The film ends with Zaius reduced to a **gibbering circus ape**.

But Jacobs wants the visuals to match *Planet's* Statue of Liberty climax. Paul Dehn, Oscar-winning writer of *Goldfinger*, submits *Planet Of The Apes Revisited* in September, where gorilla armies invade the Forbidden Zone to discover an underground

society of mutant humans worshipping a nuclear bomb. The bomb is detonated, wiping out both armies and leaving Taylor, Nova, Zira and Cornelius to found a harmonious civilisation, symbolised by the birth of a **half-human, half-ape child**. But this ending is rejected – its sexual implications would lose the film its G-rating.

1969

Heston refuses to return – he dislikes sequels. Director Ted Post threatens to resign; Heston agrees to come back, initially only for a single scene.

1970

With a January premiere, *Beneath The Planet Of The Apes* sees astronaut Brett – played by Heston clone James Franciscus – looking for Taylor. He finds Nova wandering alone in the Forbidden Zone; together they unearth a race of telepathic mutant humans who live in the underground ruins of New York where they worship a nuclear bomb. Back at the ape city, General Ursus is preparing an ape army to invade the Forbidden Zone, rallying his followers with a cry of '**The only good human... is a dead human!**' He leads his army into the mutant city, where Brett discovers an imprisoned Taylor while the final ape/human war breaks out. The bleak ending has Taylor activating the bomb and destroying the earth. Going one better than *Planet's* conclusion, this was Heston's idea: '**No more sequels!**'

Return grosses \$14m – over three times its production cost. Four months after its release, Jacobs telegrams Dehn: **SEQUEL REQUIRED.**

Due to the narrative point of no return set by *Beneath* and a budget cut back to \$2.5m, the third film is set in the present day, is shot around the Fox studios and requires only three sets of Chambers's expensive ape make-up. ▶



Originally titled *Secret Of The Planet Of The Apes*, Dehn's script sees Cornelius, Zira and fellow chimp Milo arriving in present-day Earth, fleeing the Earth's destruction in Taylor's miraculously overhauled spacecraft. Initially detained for analysis, Milo is killed by a gorilla but Cornelius and Zira become **LA celebs**. However, when government authorities discover that they come from an ape-dominated future, they have to flee for their lives. The film ends with their murder, but not before their newborn son is entrusted to the zoo owner Armando (played by Ricardo Montalban, later the star of superkitsch Seventies US TV series *Fantasy Island*)

1971

With scenes of Zira and Cornelius acting like a **sitcom couple**, Fox gets the family Apes movie it has always wanted. *Escape From The Planet Of The Apes* opens in January and yet another sequel is commissioned.

The brutality of Conquest's first cut sent parents and their children running to the exits

Set in a city of the future – 1991 – the budget is only \$1.7m. Luckily, a futuristic housing and office block next door to Fox studios and provides a **cheap** and local set. J Lee Thompson (*The Guns Of Navarone*, *Cape Fear*) is director. Aware of growing audience appreciation of the films as an **allegory**

of racial intolerance, the 'Watts riots' – a 16-day mass protest against police racism in an LA ghetto in summer 1965 – are central to his plans.

The final script sees Armando bringing Caesar (Roddy McDowall again) to LA to see how apes have been pushed from pets to violently abused slaves. The authorities suspect that Zira's child is at large and set out to kill him. But with the help of a sympathetic government official, he is free to start a **bloody ape revolution**.

The original cut has extended scenes of violence and ends with Caesar calling on the apes to enslave humanity. But when test screenings sent parents and their kids **running to the exits** at the brutality, Thompson – who has already toned down the violence – is forced to cut still more. The ending is clumsily redubbed, with Caesar calling for an end to vengeance

1972

Conquest Of The Planet Of The Apes premieres on January 31 – the most controversial film of the series. Fox wants a family-friendly follow-up: Dehn's bleak first draft is rejected, but his ideas are survive in husband-and-wife team John William and Joyce Hooper Corrington's *Epic Of The Planet Of The Apes*.

The film opens in North America, 2670, where the orang-utan Lawgiver is telling a class of apes and humans stories of the old days. Cut to 2001, when apes and humans share an uneasy coalition in the aftermath of a nuclear war; Caesar is in charge, but General Aldo, leader of the gorilla army, is plotting anti-human mutiny. The factions have to unite to fight off an attack from genetically scarred humans (ancestors of the mutants in *Beneath*). But Caesar kills Aldo, who murdered the chimpanzee's son after he'd overheard the gorilla's plans for



Clockwise from top left: Zira hits the boutiques of LA (*Escape*); first-generation Apes merchandise



domination. Aldo had broken their primary rule: **'Ape shall never kill ape'**

1973

Jacobs dies on June 27, and plans for a sixth film are abandoned. But when the screening of the first three films on US TV sees the highest ratings even for science fiction, Fox revives plans for a TV series

1974

The first episode is transmitted on September 13. Alan Virdon and Pete Burke (Ron Harper and James Naughton), astronauts from 1980, crashland their ship in North America, 3085 when, 900 years before the events of *Planet*, humans are oppressed but still have a culture. They go on the run with friendly chimp Galen (Roddy McDowall), pursued by Zaius and the gorilla general Urko.

Fox goes merchandising mad: 60 companies are **licensed to make over 300 Apes-related products**. But ratings are disappointing and on December 20, *Planet Of The Apes* is **cancelled** after only 14 episodes



1975

DePatie-Freleng's animated series *Return To The Planet Of The Apes* debuts in September. Set in 3979, it follows three astronauts in a world of mute humans and intelligent apes



1976

Star Wars is greenlighted by Fox, thanks to the reassuringly apeish Wookiee among the non-human cast

1981

Fox re-edits and repackages the TV series, with fresh inserts of Roddy McDowall as a greying Galen remembering his younger days

1987

Strung together from episodes of a Japanese rip-off TV series, *Saru No Gudan* (*Time Of The Apes*) is released – a budget *Planet Of The Apes* that becomes an instant kitsch classic

1988

Fox attempts to revive the films. Writer-director Adam Rifkin submits a sequel to *Planet*, where Caesar's and Taylor's sons struggle to secure peaceful ape/human co-existence. But studio execs decide to leave the series well alone

1991

Global *Apeman* takes off with the International *Planet Of The Apes* Club, authoritative fanzine *Apes Chronicles* and in Brazil, publication of Luiz Saulo Adami's book *O Único Humano Bom É Aquele Que Está Morto!* ('The Only Good Human Is A Dead Human!')

1993

Time magazine claims *Oliver Stone* is to direct a new *Apes* film. In December, Terry Hayes is given the go-ahead to script *The Return Of The Apes*.

Drummer, fashion editor and TV stylist Nigo launches urbanwear label *A Bathing Ape* in Tokyo. Later he will oversee artwork on Japanese collectible toy company Medicom's products based on the original films

1994

Planned for a 1995 release produced by Stone, *Return* is to star **Arnold Schwarzenegger** as a scientist who travels back in time to prevent a mutation in early *homo sapiens* that will cause a fatal disease in humanity's future. He finds a race of advanced apes engineering the disease to ensure their domination of humans. Cue violent no-brainer...

Pierre Bouille dies on January 30. *Da Lench Mob* follow up *Gorillaz In The Mist* with *Planet Of Da Apes*, with a screening of the original film at the launch party

1995

Schwarzenegger wants Philip Noyce (*Patriot Games*) to direct, and there's talk of a \$100m budget. But Fox is unhappy with the script. According to one source, Hayes wrote a *Terminator* and Fox wanted *The Flintstones*.

Director Chris Columbus (*Home Alone*) and writer Sam Hamm (*Batman*) have another go at the script. The

theme of genetic disease remains central, this time brought by a crashlanded alien craft piloted by an orang-utan. Astronauts sent to his homeworld discover a planet where apes rule over humans, copying Earth technology by watching our TV shows. Rumoured directors include James Cameron, Peter Jackson, Robert Rodriguez and Michael Bay

1996

Hollywood make-up artist Brian Penikas sets up *Apeman*, recreating original *Apes* make-up for *Apes*-related events

Planned for a 1995 release, *Return Of The Planet Of The Apes* was going to be a violent no-brainer starring Arnold Schwarzenegger

1997

James Cameron says he's going to make an *Apes* film; Stan Winston Studios carries out make-up tests

1998

On August 27, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences holds a 30th

Anniversary screening and reunion for the original *Planet Of The Apes* cast in Beverly Hills. Rumours of an *Apes* revival are rife.

Roddy McDowall – *Apeworld's* biggest star, having played the lead chimpanzee in every film and TV episode except for *Beneath*, where David Watson played Cornelius – dies on October 3

1999

The Chimp Channel, a sitcom featuring dubbed chimpanzees performing spoofs of TV shows, runs from June to December on US TV

2000

In February, *Variety* claims that Tim Burton is close to signing as director. Rick Baker is soon confirmed as make-up designer; rumour has it that Matt Damon and Danny DeVito will star.

And the rest, as they say, is apesstory...

Clockwise from top left: scenes from the cartoon series, *Return To The Planet Of The Apes*; *Apeman*'s restored costumes – a Conquest gorilla, Cornelius and *Planet*'s human-hunter, Marcus; *Star Wars*' simian Chewbacca

