BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

FAMOUS MONSTERS

#149

GALACTICA IS — COLOSSAL! GIGANTIC! COSMIC! TITANIC! AND — IT'S HERE!
BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

lies a world of hideous mutants!

the great 1968

There were two simultaneous fantasy film sensations in 1968—
2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, still breaking records
two years later in many parts of the country.
And—
THE PLANET OF THE APES, which might, with
justice, have been subtitled A SIMIAN ODYSSEY.

Both films featured apemen but PLANET more so
than SPACE ODYSSEY.

PLANET was a great triumph for its producer, Ar-
thur P. Jacobs, and its studio, 20th-Fox, and was ac-
claimed by critics & fans alike.

It proved to be the second most profitable non-
roadshow release in the history of 20th-Fox and so
far has racked up box-office sales of a fantastic $25
million!
Monkey see, monkey do. How about you? Do you want to play Follow the Leader? Then follow General Ursus (James Gregory), leader of the gorilla, BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES!
sequel equal of original

There have been few great sequels. BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN comes to mind as one. BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES is certainly another. Your reviewer caught the preview with FM's editor and was very enthusiastic about it.

the exciting story

BENEATH takes up where PLANET left off; in fact, like an old-fashioned BUCK ROGERS or FLASH GORDON serial, reprises the final couple minutes of the preceding picture.

Once again astronaut TAYLOR (Charlton Heston) learns with shocked surprise that he is not on some strange planet outside the solar system but has gone thru a time-warp and returned to an earth of the future.

An earth scarred by the nuclear fission of Atomigeddon.

An earth where radiation has caused apes to mutate into talking counterparts of men.

An earth where its mighty metropolis, New York, has been obliterated by Hell Bomb fires and only a mutilated portion of the Statue of Liberty remains as mute evidence of a once mighty civilization.

"Damn you! Oh, damn you!" shrieks Taylor hoarsely as he pounds his fists in despair in the sand. "You did it! You fools finally really did it!"

Yes, mankind didn't grow up in time; it blew up instead.

into the unknown

Now spaceman Taylor and his beautiful but mute companion, the human girl NOVA (Linda Harrison), leave the land of the intelligent apes and set out to explore the grave new world.

Meanwhile, astronauts BREN'T (James Franciscus) and SKIPPER (Tod Andrews) have been sent on a similar space pattern to locate the missing Taylor.

During the crash-landing on the earth of the future, Skipper is mortally injured and in a short time dies.

Brent is left alone to fulfill his mission on the Planet of the Apes.

the world below

When Taylor accidentally discovers a human civilization remaining in remnants beneath the
surface of what once was New York, he is taken prisoner. But Nova is able to escape, with instructions to find friendly ape-girl ZIRA (Kim Hunter) and CORNELIUS (David Watson) and get help from the apes.

On her return trip, Nova discovers Brent, who accompanies her to the city of the apes.

**uptight in ape city**

There is trouble in the streets of the apes. From a hidden vantage spot, Brent & Nova observe an angry meeting of simian citizens who are being worked up to a fever pitch of action by a warmongering gorilla, GEN. URSUS (JAS. GREGORY).

The militant gorilla leader is shouting:
“Death to all humans!
“We must track down and destroy each & every one of these menacing men who pose a constant threat to our great civilization!
“They are barbarians who cannot be permitted to live on the same planet with us!”

The planned attack would include extermination even in the subterranean civilization where Taylor is being held prisoner.

**“all men are evil”**

DR. ZAIUS (Maurice Evans) is a dove by nature but is persuaded of the argument that mankind is an evil race and must be eliminated if the apes are ever to have any peace.

“I am not in favor of your war,” he tells Gen. Ursus, “but man is indeed an evil beast and, as such, must be conquered.”

Zira & Cornelius, however, do not accept the theory that man is base by nature and, when they come in contact with Brent & Nova, urge them to flee before they are discovered and put to death by minions of the militant general.

Brent & Nova take the kindly apes’ advice but have not gone far from the city where they are seen by gorilla guards and captured.

Brought back to the ape city as prisoners, they are spotted by Zira, who aids in their escape.

But again they are tracked down and, once more, almost captured when, on the verge of becoming captives of the manapes the second time, they discover a cave.

They hide.

Later, exploring the cave, Brent & Nova find it to be an entrance to the underground “world” earlier found by Taylor.
When Mutant Menance (Victor Buono) exerts his Mind Power, the unpleasant result is seen on the right: Brent (James Franciscus) feels compelled to strangle Nova (Linda Harrison)!

death world

As Brent & Nova descend, it is like a trip into Dante's inferno.
Only this is what remains of a man-made inferno:
Melted masses of steel fused with concrete—
Glass, that once flowed like water under superheat, now frozen lava—
Twisted architectural shapes that once had meaning, tortured beyond recognition by bursting atoms unleashing their destructive forces—
The aftermath of man gone mad.
Devastation incredible! Devastation everywhere. Roaring subways now silent catacombs, the great Radio City Music Hall now a shell.
But life can live within a shell and in the skeletal remains of once mighty Manhattan now dwell—

amazing mutants

The descendants of 20th century man.
Super intelligent, they can:
Project their thoughts thru space, communicating with soundless speech heard only in each other's brains—
Conjure up, like alchemical wizards of the Dark Ages, fiery visions of flaming death or terrifying scarecrows with corpses of manaples replacing stuffed straw men—

Manipulate unwilling minds to perform acts of violence, one friend against another . . .
Masters, are they, of super-psychological warfare.
And—

the faces beneath the masks

They are scarfaces!
Beneath the smooth human masks that each wears are faces from the nightmares of atomic physicists, raw red-&-purple veined visages with the outer layer of skin stripped away.
Imagine, if you can, scores of Vincent Price on the screen as he appeared in HOUSE OF WAX,
Or dozens of the dreadfully mutilated Claude Rains as the unfortunate man with the acid-eaten face of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA,
Or James Whitmore, the veiled horror of the FACE OF FIRE.
Not since the revolt of the manims in THE ISLAND OF LOST SOULS have so many faces of horror been seen simultaneously on the screen!
A faceful of spaghetti may seem amusing—but what if that spaghetti, pulsing with blood pockmarked with confetti, is the face?
Only the strong will be able to face it, the others hide their face in their hands.
captives of the cruel ones

Brent & Nova are overpowered by the human mutants and, in a cruel demonstration of their great Mind Power, one of them forces Brent to choke Nova almost to death.

Brent’s mind, to the mutants, is like a magazine open to the Table of Contents, and they read there all he knows about Ape City and the plans of the simian population to attack the mutants.

By a happy coincidence, Brent is placed in a cell with the very man he has been searching for—Taylor.

But the pleasure they take in each other’s human company is of short duration for almost immediately the two hapless humans are exposed to a diabolical demonstration of the mighty mind control of the mutations as they are forced to pit the brawn of their bodies against one another in mortal combat.

Brent & Taylor nearly kill each other but at the last moment the anticipated gorilla attack takes place and they are forgotten as all pandemonium breaks loose.

the end of earth

You’ve seen A CRACK IN THE WORLD. What happens WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE. Now, in the climax of BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES, we see the apparent destruction of not merely what’s left of Man-

hattan but the entire world.

I say “apparently” for already there are rumors of a return to THE PLANET OF THE APES.

THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON series was good for two sequels—maybe PLANET OF THE APES will be too.

In any event—Nova manages to rejoin her fellow humans but for a short time only as a live superbomb, capable of destroying the entire earth, is activated shortly thereafter.

We see the Hell Bomb smoke with the brimstone fumes of Hades—

Hiss like all the devils in hell had their tails twisted—

And then explode in a gigantic white-out that brings the film to its conclusion.

after the planet of the apes

FM readers, I have learned, are quite interested in behind-the-scenes information and I am happy to be able to supply you with quite a bit.

Like PLANET, most of the sequel was filmed at the Studio itself and on location at the Fox movie ranch in Malibu and desert spots in Utah and Arizona.

But the real star in this film is, once again, John Chambers, who received the Oscar for his make-up genius in the first PLANET.

While Dr. Zalas (Maurice Evans), center, confers with the Minister (Thos. Gomez), right, Gen. Ursus (Jas. Gregory) keeps his eye on YOU!
When apes ape men, the signs of the time demonstrate things haven’t changed very much!

New appliances had to be created for the several hundred gorilla guards and army members of the cast. Original molds created for Maurice Evans and Kim Hunter were hauled out of storage at Chamber’s lab to be used again, and fresh appliances were made from these horrible scars of The Bomb, actual foam rubber appliance-masks were created to fit over the already made-up actors’ faces. Complicated beyond comprehension, it is easy to understand why Chambers was once again given a $1 million make-up budget!

As he explains, “We had to first cast the actual faces and full heads of the actors playing the mutations, then create full head appliances of the mutations over those heads, then duplicate the actors’ true faces as masks to fit OVER the mutation make-ups.”

Chambers recalls, “We had to determine what the appearance might be of a human being 2000 years hence, centuries after the nuclear destruction of their ancestors’ civilization, along with the effects of radiation fallout on intervening generations”.

Unmasked Mutant Albina Confronts Human-Masked Mutation
As Chambers remarks, "We thought it would be easier the second time around but there were new problems & situations no one anticipated."

He was referring to such things as outdoor location shooting in 120° heat with constant repair of the gorilla appliances necessary, and several of the gorilla actors having to be completely relieved of make-up to be allowed to recover from fainting spells!

As John describes, "That desert heat is deadly to someone NOT wearing make-up! Imagine how you'd feel with another face ON TOP of your own!"

But whatever the problems, John Chambers has once again succeeded in sheer perfection; his work is, indeed, art!

And Arthur P. Jacobs has succeeded at a task no one really believed possible: He has "topped" himself with the sequel they said couldn't be filmed.

BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES is more fun than a barrel of menkeys!