FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND

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THIS ISSUE:
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
LON CHANEY JR.
ALSO:
BLACULA
PLANET OF THE APES
BEYOND THE PLANET OF THE APES

Arthur P. Jacobs in the last year of his life on the set of BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES.

farewell to arthur p. jacobs
"Family Portrait": Ape Leader Caesar (Roddy McDowall), his wife Lisa (Natalie Trundy) & son Cornelius (Bobby Porter) in BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES (#5).
The unmasking of the bald & hideous mutants in BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES (#2). Jacobs' wife Natalie Trundy is seen as the female figure, second on the left, known as Albina.

the last sleep

Arthur "Planet" Jacobs, the foresighted producer who purchased in manuscript form the novel in French which was to become a popular American hardcover & paperback book and the basis for no less than 5 highly successful movies, died unexpectedly in his sleep on 27 June 1973 at the early age of 51. He had been born in Los Angeles in 1922, moving during his school years to San Francisco where, to earn pocket money, he delivered the city's newspaper, the Chronicle. It is conceivable that he delivered copies of the 1931 Sunday edition which carried a feature "Boy Is Interested in Odd Fiction," the boy referred to & shown in a foto at age 14 or 15 being Your Editor.

"fanatical film fan"

Remembering Jacobs, a friend said: "He was first & foremost a fanatical film fan. The great
payoff for him was always the thrill of discovering stories with a strong potential for transmutation to celluloid, the challenge of working with creative people to whip the material into cinematic shape, casting it imaginatively & packaging the product handsomely."

It was he who brought the fantasy of the man who loved to talk to animals, DOCTOR DOLITTLE, to the screen, and was rewarded by his peers who picked it for 9 Academy Award nominations. It won 2 Oscars.

His greatest commercial successes were 5 films the experts warned could never succeed at the boxoffice. "No audience," they predicted, "could refrain from laughter at the antics of a society of intelligent, personable, talking apes"—but his "planet" pictures proved the Doubting Thomases wrong 5 times over to the tune of a figure nearing a $100 million dollar total.

a simian odyssey

There were 2 simultaneous sci-fi film sensations in 1968: 2001—A SPACE ODYSSEY and THE PLANET OF THE APES. The latter was a great personal triumph for its producer and proved to be the second most profitable non-roadshow release in the history of 20th-Fox films to that date.

In San Francisco, scene of some years of his youth, history was made when one theater ran all 5 of the "Ape" films nonstop and stopped traffic! The Chronicle that he had once delivered as a newsboy delivered him headlines for the record-shattering showing of his Ape Saga.

He filmed a TV pilot for Topper Returns last year and at the time of his untimely demise was working on a TV series involving more adventures on The Planet of the Apes and a full-length sci-fi film feature VOYAGE OF THE OCEANAUTS.

He married Natalie Trundy in 1968, the year of his first "Ape" success, and she has appeared in several of the sequels.

As Cooper & Schoedsack were to KONG, Jacobs was to the APES series, and his contribution to the realm of fantastic films will long be appreciated.