

'Apes' Movie Producer Terms Older Films' Violence 'Fantasy'

By VERNON SCOTT

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HOLLYWOOD (UPI) —Does the sight of blood spurting realistically from a gunshot wound in a violent motion picture set a climate of violence for audiences?

"Definitely," said Arthur P. Jacobs, producer of the "Planet of the Apes" pictures, the third sequel of which is being released this summer.

"I've heard all the arguments pro and con," he said.

"Some people say we were raised on cowboy and Indian pictures and war pictures during the 1930s and '40s. Maybe so. But usually we saw the gun fired and a man fall. There wasn't any detailed close-up of the wound. And blood was a rarity.

"The overall effect was one of illusion. Fantasy. Today it's a different story. Personally, I think there was too much violence in 'The Godfather.' They didn't need it."

Jacobs singled out "A Clockwork Orange" and "Straw Dogs" as excessively violent movies made for the sole purpose of exciting audiences on the basis of the amount of gore spilled.

"An immature mind can be affected by these pictures," he said. "This atmosphere adds to the violence, shootings, crime and upheaval.

"I think producers have a responsibility to audiences to cut down on violence. Of course a man like Stanley Kubrick makes a point of saying 'Clockwork Orange' has such a high degree of violence that it has the opposite effect on people. It turns them away from violence.

"I don't agree. Sometimes violence is a possible substitute for talent with some picture makers."

Jacobs' newest movie, "Conquest of the Planet of the Apes," is being made in three

versions for different markets. market."

"Our main version is for the United States and most other countries," he explained. "The second is for Japan. They can't get enough violence and blood in their pictures and demand more of ours. So the version that goes to Japan is really violent.

"But the one seen in the United Kingdom has almost all the violence removed. If not we'll get an X-rating, which is ridiculous for a fantasy picture in which a band of apes fight off the police.

"But all of our ape pictures have had a tremendous appeal for children. So we've cut seven scenes so far for the British

Jacobs' other films, "Doctor Dolittle," "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" and "Play It Again, Sam" —among others—have been virtually without violence. He blames "Straw Dogs" and "Clockwork Orange" for England's overreaction to violence.

"The papers over there ran front page stories about those pictures and the violence," he concluded. "That makes it more difficult for everyone else.

The producer should have no trouble with his next project — "Tom Sawyer" —unless the Japanese demand the kid pull a knife on Indian Joe.