

# PLANET OF THE APES

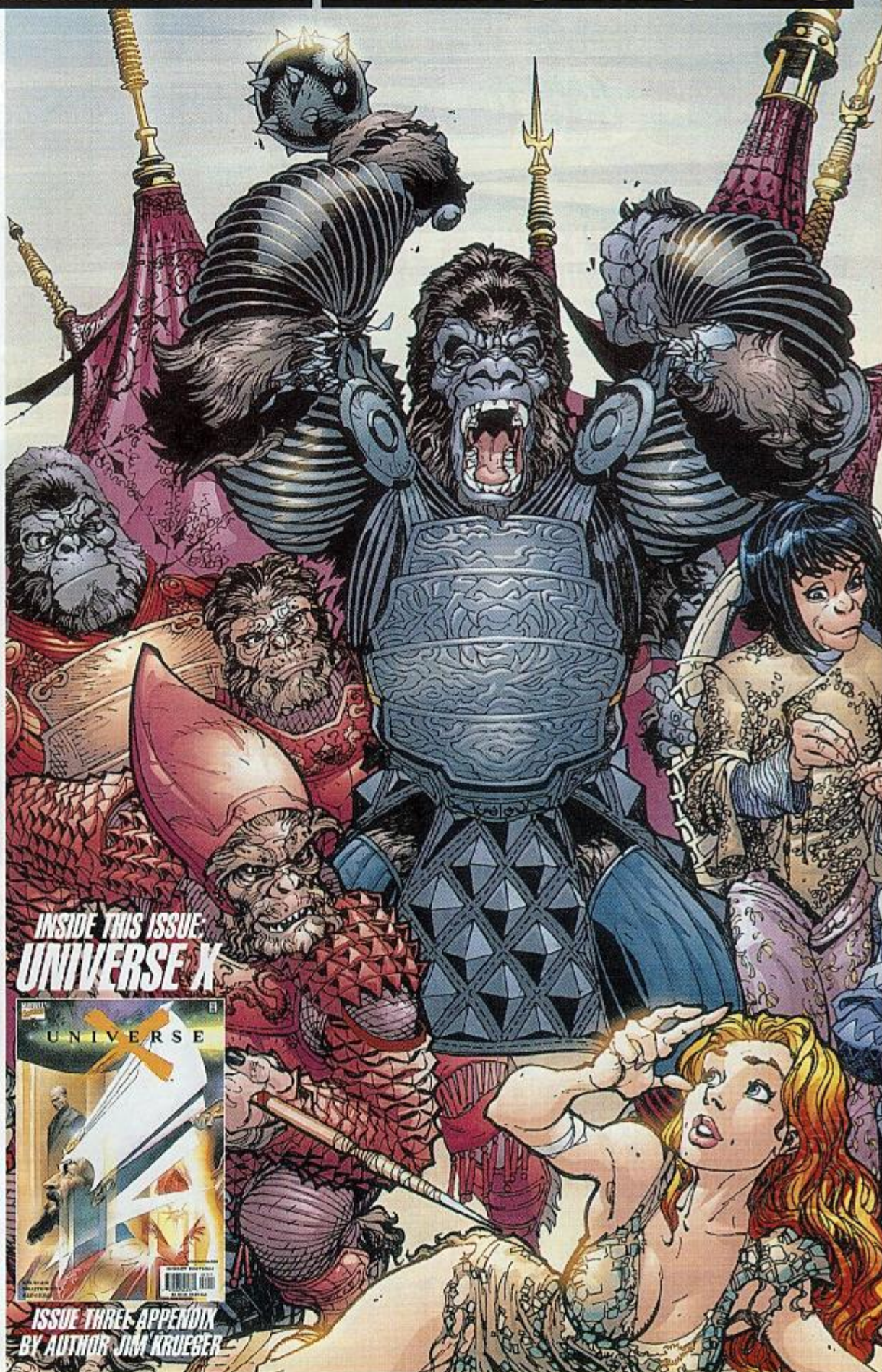
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# X-MEN SERIES TWO

# COMICS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:  
**UNIVERSE X**



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BY AUTHOR JIM KRUEGER

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## In Brief

CITING "the creation process", Marvel Knights has pushed back the launch of Daredevil: Yellow. The \$3.50 Jeph Loeb/Tim Sale six-part will now be available on March 21. The second issue is set to follow on April 25 with #3 scheduled for June.

ADAM Hughes is writing and pencilling a two-issue Tomb Raider series.

While Top Cow is not planning any specific tie-ins with the *Tomb Raider* movie, Hughes is hoping to have his project completed in time for the film's July premiere.

DC's former manager of editorial scheduling, Bob Greenberger, is returning to comics. He is to be Marvel's new managing editor.

Asked about Greenberger's appointment, Editor-in-Chief Joe Quesada told CI: "We had a managing editor - Andy Ball - who just left to go into the real book publishing world."

"We had big plans for expanding the managing editor position as we go into our plans to create a digital work flow program for Marvel," he added. "When Andy handed in his resignation we knew that we had to find a stud for the job. Bob came to mind and the funny thing was that Andy had called me with the exact same suggestion."

The system that Bob created at DC is by far the envy of the industry so I was so pleased when he decided to take up our offer," continued Quesada. "I believe that he really feels strongly about the direction in which Bill Jemas is taking the company."

THE CRACKED Guide to the Movies is a 96-page collection of film satires from *Cracked* Magazine, the MAD clone launched in 1958. Published by NBM, the black and white 8½ x 11" volume ships in April, priced \$8.95.

IF CURRENT negotiations with Barry Windsor-Smith prove fruitful, Fantagraphics will be publishing a series of volumes collecting material from the former Conan the Barbarian artist's BWS. Storyteller, as well as the unpublished issues of the aborted Dark Horse series.

SCARY Godmother creator Jill Thompson is drawing a Dazzler story for X-Men Unlimited. Written by newcomer Will Pfeiffer, *Behind the Music* is scheduled for the July shipping #32.

LEGENDS of the DC Universe bows out on April 18. The final issue - the \$2.50 #41 - concludes *Lessons in Time*, the two-part Atom story written by Rich Faber and Todd DeZago and drawn by Drew Johnson and Faber.

VANGUARD Productions has signed an agreement for Watson-Guptill to distribute the trade paperback editions of its various titles to the US book trade.

The arrangement encompasses such works as Wally Wood Sketchbook, *Amazing World of Carmine Infantino* and *Crawling Monsters & Heres for Film and Comics*.

## UK writer goes ape at Dark Horse

DARK Horse's acquisition of the licence to produce comics based on director Tim Burton's update of the *Planet of the Apes* movie has resulted in a dream coming true for one British author.

Ian Edginton told CI he was one of six writers chosen to submit proposals for the film spin-offs. However, as he explained, the project was shrouded by secrecy and all Dark Horse was able to tell the writers was that the movie was not going to be a remake or sequel in any way, shape or form.

He did say that they were told there would be some overlaps in concept - with a human astronaut arriving on an ape-world - but that how he gets there, why he is there and what happens is totally different from events in the earlier *Apes* films.

### Sad monkey boy

"This is the point where I admit that I'm a sad monkey boy," the writer added. "I know some people cite *Star*

*Wars* as being their key influence and while for me it did play a part... the apes got there first!

"To be given the chance of writing *Planet of the Apes*, albeit 20 or so years later is a boyhood dream come true," the writer stated. "I guess some things are worth waiting for!"

### Kurasowa's Ran

"Eventually," said Edginton, "Dark Horse relented and let slip tantalising nuggets of information including saying that the soldier Apes wear armour and chainmail, they have no automatic weapons, but swords, bows and spears instead, while humans do talk but are considered savages."

"Then imagine all of the above and more but with a Tim Burton sensibility," he added. "After they told me all of this, the idea for the series popped into my head within about five minutes..."

"Imagine Akira Kurasowa's film *Ran* on the *Planet of the Apes*," Edginton said.



Above: Paco Medina's rough for a *Planet of the Apes* cover. Along with other comic and merchandising tie-ins, this art is to be offered as a prize in CI #134's *Planet of the Apes* competition.



Above: J. Scott Campbell's pencilled cover art to this issue's cover, the second of Dark Horse's *Planet of the Apes* four-parter.

"Picture hordes of Gorilla cavalry and Chimp infantry in ornate, oriental-style armour, brandishing curved swords, pike staffs and long bows with battle flags fixed to their backs. Picture ape musketeers using early musket technology, their guns lit by fuses and mounted on stands. Picture cannon and mortars, their muzzles shaped like the roaring mouths of Gorillas and so on. I got the job."

Continuing, Edginton - who had previously written Dark Horse's *Xena Warrior Princess* comic - remarked, "There was some debate with Fox about whether to make the comic a prequel, sequel or something else entirely. Eventually, we agreed on a sequel set several decades after the events of the film, with the Apeworld reeling at the repercussions of what happened in the movie."

"Although Ari [Helena Bonham-Carter], Leo [Mark Wahlberg] and baddie Thade [Tim Roth] won't appear in the series, they will cast a long shadow over it," he explained. "Attar, the Gorilla soldier [Michael Clarke Duncan], has an especially poignant role to play."

### Ape politics

"In a nutshell, the series focuses on the growing conflict between human insurrectionists, their ape allies and the ape establishment. In these troubled times, we see the rise to power of the charismatic,

Machiavellian politician Shiva - who has some kind of connection to Thade - and her determination to save her species at any cost."

"On the opposing side is former senator turned rebel Seneca and his human counterpart Esau," continued the writer. "However even here things aren't cut and dried as the poor, disenfranchised humans have an agenda of their own. Talk about biting the hand that feeds you."

### Fun romp

"What neither side realises is that the one with the power to change things is the Gorilla commander Kharim, Attar's son," explained Edginton. "This isn't deep, this isn't *War and Peace*, it's fun. A romp. Hopefully it'll convey some of the awe, excitement and enthusiasm that the original movies instilled in me."

The first of Edginton's three issues ships on June 6. The monthly series - drawn by relative newcomer Paco Medina and *Cable*'s Juan Vasco - is to be issued as a trade paperback on July 18, nine days prior to the US premiere of Burton's movie.

Dark Horse has scheduled a second *Planet of the Apes* trade paperback for release on July 18. An adaptation of the Burton movie, it is by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* editor Scott Allie and *Star Wars: Jedi Council* penciller Davide Fabbri.

# Merchandising Crumb

**Toy News by Jim Hannah**  
*Hot lines in fantasy merchandise*

ONE of the coolest figures to come out in recent months also happens to be one of the most exclusive and, accordingly, one of the most expensive. But all you who are happy to spend a hundred smackers or more on Green Lantern power ring props ought to take a long look at this Bowen Designs sculptural masterpiece.

The first figure in a new series entitled *The Girls of R. Crumb*, this fully painted 11" Catholic schoolgirl statue is a celebration of the female form, as Crumb sees it.

The artist has previously been unforthcoming with his endorsements for figures and merchandise for his creations, but this time seems happy with Ken Melton's work – to the extent of designing brand new artwork for the packaging.

The figures will retail for \$125, and are set to be available from April this year.



# Planet of the Apes gets a makeover

WELL done, Tim Burton, for being the merchandise department's special little guy. *Sleepy Hollow*, *Mars Attacks!*, *Batman*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Beetlejuice* – his films blast off into movie history, showering us with soft toys and action figures to this day.

So it comes as no surprise that this time around Twentieth Century Fox is gleefully rubbing its hands together in the expectation that Burton's new *Planet of the Apes* film will generate a simian merchandising flurry.

Together with toy manufacturer Hasbro and speciality marketer Applause, the studio has unveiled a major marketing push for the only movie (*Police Academy* excepted) that plain well ran out of sequels.

Hasbro will unveil a line of action figures and collectable toys this month, and will ship them to



ABOVE: the teaser poster for Fox's summer blockbuster

retailers just before the film's release in July – at the height of the do-or-die cinematic season. Meanwhile, Dark Horse Comics will publish a series of *Planet of the Apes* comics and graphic novels, by artistic big names, and the Buster Brown shoe company will produce *Planet of the Apes* footwear.

Besides traditional products such as lunch boxes, posters, knit caps, baseball caps, trading cards, T-shirts and backpacks, the *Apes* line will also include plastic dioramas, funky inflatable furniture, the currently in-vogue mini scooters and scooter heads, underwear, clocks and shower caps. Everything kitsch and Burton, in fact.

The success of this movie will dictate whether we will get the first-ever remake of a sequel. Meantime, get your umbrellas up, the next burstin' Burton is on the launchpad.

# Get a Lon, little doggy

SIDESHOW Toys has announced an addition to its 12" doll line in the form of the Wolf Man, as portrayed by Lon Chaney Jr. in the 1930s Universal flicks.

Chaney lent a memorable tragic quality to his character – an aspect which sculptor Oluf W. Hartvigson has taken pains to recreate.

The likeness has been developed with photograph and film archives, and with the support of the Chaney estate.

The end result is a 12" figure, with over 20 points of articulation, packaged in a full colour display box that features a reproduction of the original Wolf Man movie poster. The doll is dressed in highly detailed and fitted clothing, and features 14 points of articulation.

Accessories include a



Above: Wolf Man in his 1930s Lon Chaney incarnation.

vicious wolf trap and log base.

Also arriving shortly from Sideshow's B-movie horror circuit is an 8" translucent plastic Creature from the Black Lagoon. The action figure, which again draws on a movie design classic, will retail for \$14.99.

## In Brief

PALISADES Marketing has unveiled a statue of William G2 from the hit PlayStation game *Resident Evil 2*. The menacing monster that was once Dr Birkin is 11½" tall and stands on a sewer base. Yumplious.

GIANT Man is the strange choice as the latest Marvel action figure to be given the Bowen Designs treatment in its line of fantasy mini-busts. This model, based on the 1960s b-hero, is over twice the size of the normal Bowen bust and features an extra character, The Winsome Wasp, perched on his shoulder. Set aside \$55 for this big little beauty.

MOORE Action Collectibles has announced another *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* figure for a May release. The new addition is lovable werewolf Oz, who arrives on his own cemetery base, retailing at \$14.95.

WONDER Woman and her teenage counterpart, Wonder Girl, are figures of fun from DC Direct this month. Wonder Woman stands 6.25" tall and comes with a detachable lasso and (detachable?) white cloth toga. Her sidekick is 5.75" tall, and both stand on a Greco-Roman inspired base. Also from DC this month is a Wonder Woman prop set, featuring the famous tiara, bracelets and earrings. The limited edition resin set will sell for \$149.95.

KUBERICK has developed its familiar square figures to feature a sculpted head. Bruce Lee is the first star to be immortalised in this way, with three figures of him to be released in June. These are drawn from *Enter the Dragon*, *The Chinese Connection* and the cringeworthy *Game of Death*. Secure your set for \$12.99.

NEON Genesis Evangelion is the latest Japanese comic to catch the toymakers' eye. Kaiyodo has released details of an 18" vinyl figure of Rei Ayanami from the series, available in her pilot costume or after her defeat against the Angels. Each figure is \$79.99.

THE POSSESSOR of dark power, Jackie Estacado, has been sculpted by Moore Creations into the form of a bust. The character, from Top Cow's *The Darkness*, stands at 5½" tall on top of a marble-effect base, and retails for \$39.95.

THE NEXT wave of talking Simpsons characters has just come to light. This time, figures include a casual (hepanted) Homer, Itchy and Scratchy, Lenny, Ralph Wiggum, Patty and Groundskeeper Willie. As with previous waves, this bunch talk if connected to the World of Springfield diorama sets. Retail price is \$6.50. Also available are two more of the interactive dioramas, the Bowl-A-Rama (with Pin Pal Apu) and the comic shop (with Comic Book Guy), at \$23.99 each.

# Flavour of the moth

EVER heard the one about the human-shaped being with bright red eyes, capable of flying at 100 mph? Well, that's enough about the aftermath of CI staff parties.

Nevermore Creations has announced a line of toys based on urban myth, alien sightings and folklore.

The series, entitled *Legendary Monsters*, will be based on victim accounts of bizarre occurrences and worrying encounters. Each pack will contain the weird

subject and the victim – the former with glowing eyes – and both with multiple points of articulation. A diorama base will also be provided together with the story from whence it came.

The initial line will contain Chupacabra, Mothman, Missouri Monster (Momo), and The Jersey Devil. A follow up series will present Dover Demon, The Yeti, Flatwoods Monsters, and the Loveland Frogmen.

Look out for these figures this coming autumn.



ABOVE: A CI staff writer searches for a late-night bar without a dress code on Finchley High Street.



# Three decades of Ape comics

An overview of Planet of the Apes movie adaptations and comics spin-offs as Dark Horse begins over, thanks to Tim Burton's update of 1968 classic

THE CULT phenomenon that became *Planet of the Apes* began not in 1968 with the Charlton Heston movie, but five years earlier with the 1963 publication of *La Planète des Singes* (or *Monkey Planet*).

The best-known science fiction novel by French author Pierre Boulle – who also wrote *Bridge Over the River Kwai* – it was set on another world where apes had evolved above humans rather than the post-apocalyptic future Earth depicted in the first film.

## Beneath adaptation

However, despite the huge success of *Planet of the Apes* – which spawned four sequels and a one-season TV series [1974] – it was not until 1970 that the franchise moved into comics.

That was the year when Gold Key published an adaptation of the first sequel, *Beneath the Planet of the Apes*. Even then, the one-shot, drawn by famed Italian artist Alberto (Star Trek) Giolitti, followed almost a full year after its source material which had been released in 1969.

## Marvel magazine

Another five years elapsed before the Apes returned to comics.

In 1973, Stan Lee had



decided that Marvel should publish a line of black and white magazines. Although it kicked off with horror titles – *Dracula Lives*, *Tales of the Zombie* and *Vampire Tales* – the line expanded in 1974, adding more variety. These included a leap on the Bruce Lee-fuelled martial arts band wagon with *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* and tying-in with the premiere of the TV *Planet of the Apes* series.

Marvel launched the series with an adaptation of the original movie. Drawn by George Tuska, this ran across the first six issues with the four sequels following: *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* (#7-11), *Escape from the Planet of the Apes* (#12-16), *Conquest of the Planet*

*of the Apes* (#17-21) and *Battle for the Planet of the Apes* (#22-26).

Various artists handled the first sequel, while Rico Rival drew the third film and Alfredo Alcalá the final two.

The adaptations of the first two movies were also published in colour across the 11 issues of *Adventures on the Planet of the Apes*, a reprint title launched by Marvel in 1975.

## Ape Chronicles

All five movies were adapted by Doug Moench who also created two new strips for the title.

The first of these, *Terror on the Planet of the Apes*, began by adhering closely to the milieu established by the

original movie and its sequel, also the setting of the TV show. The series ran in #1-4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 19 – all drawn by Mike Ploog – as well as in #20, 23 and 26-28.

Working with artist Tom Sutton, Moench also created *The Chronicles of the Planet of the Apes* which featured in #12, 15, 17, 24 and 29.

## Incognito Apes

Shortly after the monthly magazine launched, Marvel UK began its own *Planet of the Apes* title.

Eating through monthlies, the black and white 36 page weekly backed up the US-originated material with unrelated SF strips, including *Ka-Zar*, *Gulliver Jones* and *Warlock*.

But the Apes material still ran out rapidly, resulting in the unique idea of running such non-simian strips as *Killraven* – *War of the Worlds* with character heads redrawn to become apes!

Despite this, the 1974-launched weekly lasted until 1977 – an impressive total of 123 issues – before its content was merged into *Mighty World of Marvel*.

UK Ape fans were also able to look forward to celebrating Christmas 1975 with an all-original *Planet of the Apes Annual*.

Published by Warner Bros' Brown Watson division, the hardcover contained text and photo features based around the TV series as well as early art by John Bolton.

## Adventure's Apes

After Marvel's titles folded, *Planet of the Apes* comics disappeared from the racks until 1990 when Adventure – a Malibu Comics imprint – acquired the license.

Launching with a comic that lasted 24 issues – until 1992 – the black and white line also encompassed a one-shot prequel to the first film as well as three miniseries. One of these collected the Moench/Ploog *Terror on the Planet of the Apes* from the Marvel monthly.

Adventure also issued three trade paperbacks which reprinted Marvel's adaptation of *Planet of the Apes* and its first two sequels.

## Planet of the Apes comics checklist



*Beneath the Planet of the Apes* [Gold Key, 1970] the scarce US one-shot movie adaptation



*Planet of the Apes* [Marvel US, 1974-77] #1-29; black and white monthly magazine  
*Planet of the Apes* [Marvel UK, 1974-77] #1-123; weekly black and white which merges with...  
*Mighty World of Marvel* [Marvel UK, 1977-78] Apes in #231-257.  
*Adventures on the Planet of the Apes* [Marvel, 1975-78] #1-11; colour reprints from monthly b&w.  
*Planet of the Apes Annual* [Brown-Watson, 1975] new content



*Planet of the Apes* [Adventure, 1990-92] #1-24 + 64pg annual  
*Planet of the Apes* [Adventure, 1990] Trade paperback reprinting Marvel movie adaptation  
*Planet of the Apes: Urchak's Folly* [Adventure, 1991] #1-4  
*Beneath the Planet of the Apes* [Adventure, 1991] Trade paperback reprinting Marvel movie adaptation  
*Escape from the Planet of the Apes* [Adventure, 1991] Trade paperback reprinting Marvel movie adaptation  
*Terror on the Planet of the Apes* [Adventure, 1991] #1-4; Reprints from Marvel b&w magazine  
*Planet of the Apes: Sins of the Fathers* [Adventure, 1992] one-shot prequel to first movie  
*Planet of the Apes: Forbidden Zone* [Adventure, 1993] #1-4



Pictured above are scenes from director Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes* which premieres in the US on July 27 and in the UK on August 17. The movie begins in the year 2029, aboard USAF Space Station Oberon, in deep space. The film stars Mark Wahlberg as American astronaut Major Leo Davidson; Helena Bonham-Carter as Ari – a female chimpanzee and a human rights advocate – and Tim Roth as Thade, the ultimate warrior, general of the Ape Army.