

The Museum of Modern Art

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RAY HARRYHAUSEN: SPECIAL EFFECTS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Filmmaker Ray Harryhausen, creator of many of the cinema's most admired special effects, is the subject of an exhibition in the Auditorium Gallery of The Museum of Modern Art beginning May 14, 1981. Thirty original sketches and seventeen models of Harryhausen's work, dating from Valley of the Mist (1950) to Clash of the Titans (1981) will comprise the Gallery exhibition; a selection of six Harryhausen films will be screened in MoMA's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium from May 28 through June 21.

Ray Harryhausen is one of the world's foremost artists in the field of stop-action three-dimensional animation, the "Dynamation" process which brought to life such spectacular Harryhausen creatures as the Pterodactyl in the 1967 One Million Years B.C., the battling skeleton warriors in Jason And The Argonauts (1963), and the six-armed goddess Kali in The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1974).

Harryhausen was thirteen when he saw King Kong (1932) for the first time, and became fascinated with the world of special effects. He began making his own stop-action home movies at seventeen, and only a few years later went to work as an assistant on Mighty Joe Young (1949) for Willis O'Brien, the master animator and creator of King Kong. Harryhausen accomplished most of the Mighty Joe Young animation, and went on to bring ingenious and inventive solutions to the problem of combining fantasy and realism in seventeen feature films and five animated shorts. He perfected the process of masking animated-model footage and rear-screen projection to create the illusion of the model existing within the live-action, and brought fluid movement and strong personality characterization to his animated figures.

Among the sketches and models to be displayed in the Auditorium Gallery are designs from Earth Vs. Flying Saucers (1956), 20 Million Miles To Earth (1957), the Sinbad series, The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1960), Mysterious Island (1961), Jason And The Argonauts (1963), One Million Years B.C. (1967), and Clash of the Titans (1981). Rare

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examples of work executed for unrealized projects will also be shown, including sketches from Valley of the Mist (1950) and Food of the Gods (1953), two projects begun by Harryhausen's mentor, Willis O'Brien.

Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects was organized and coordinated by Mary Corliss, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Film, with the assistance of Elliott Stein. This exhibition, which was designed by Jerome Neuner, is made possible through the generosity and cooperation of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and United Artists.

The schedule of Harryhausen films to be shown in the Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium is as follows:

RAY HARRYHAUSEN: SPECIAL EFFECTS

Thursday, May 28 - Sunday, June 21, 1981

Thurs., 5/28 at 6:00 - JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963) 104 min.
8:30 - MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (1949) 94 min.
Fri., 5/29 at 6:00 - JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS (1963) 104 min.
Sat., 5/30 at 12:00 - THE SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1958) 87 min.
Sun., 5/31 at 12:00 - THE SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1958) 87 min.
Sat., 6/7 at 12:00 - EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS (1956) 83 min.
Sun., 6/8 at 12:00 - EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS (1956) 83 min.
Sat., 6/13 at 12:00 - MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (1961) 101 min.
Sun., 6/14 at 12:00 - MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (1961) 101 min.
Sat., 6/20 at 12:00 - FIRST MEN IN THE MOON (1964) 103 min.
Sun., 6/21 at 12:00 - FIRST MEN IN THE MOON (1964) 103 min.

All films are shown through the courtesy of Columbia Pictures, with the exception of MIGHTY JOE YOUNG, courtesy of Films, Inc.

The Museum's film program is made possible with grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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