

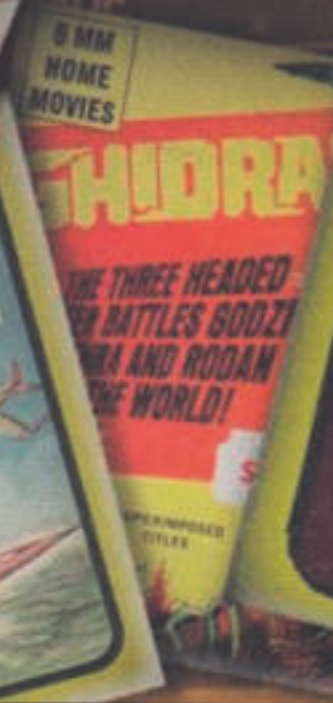
**CELTIC KAIJU
MAGAZINE**



#25

WINTER 2019 #25

XENORAMA



Xenorama #25 presents...

Sprocket Monsters...

Re-covered!

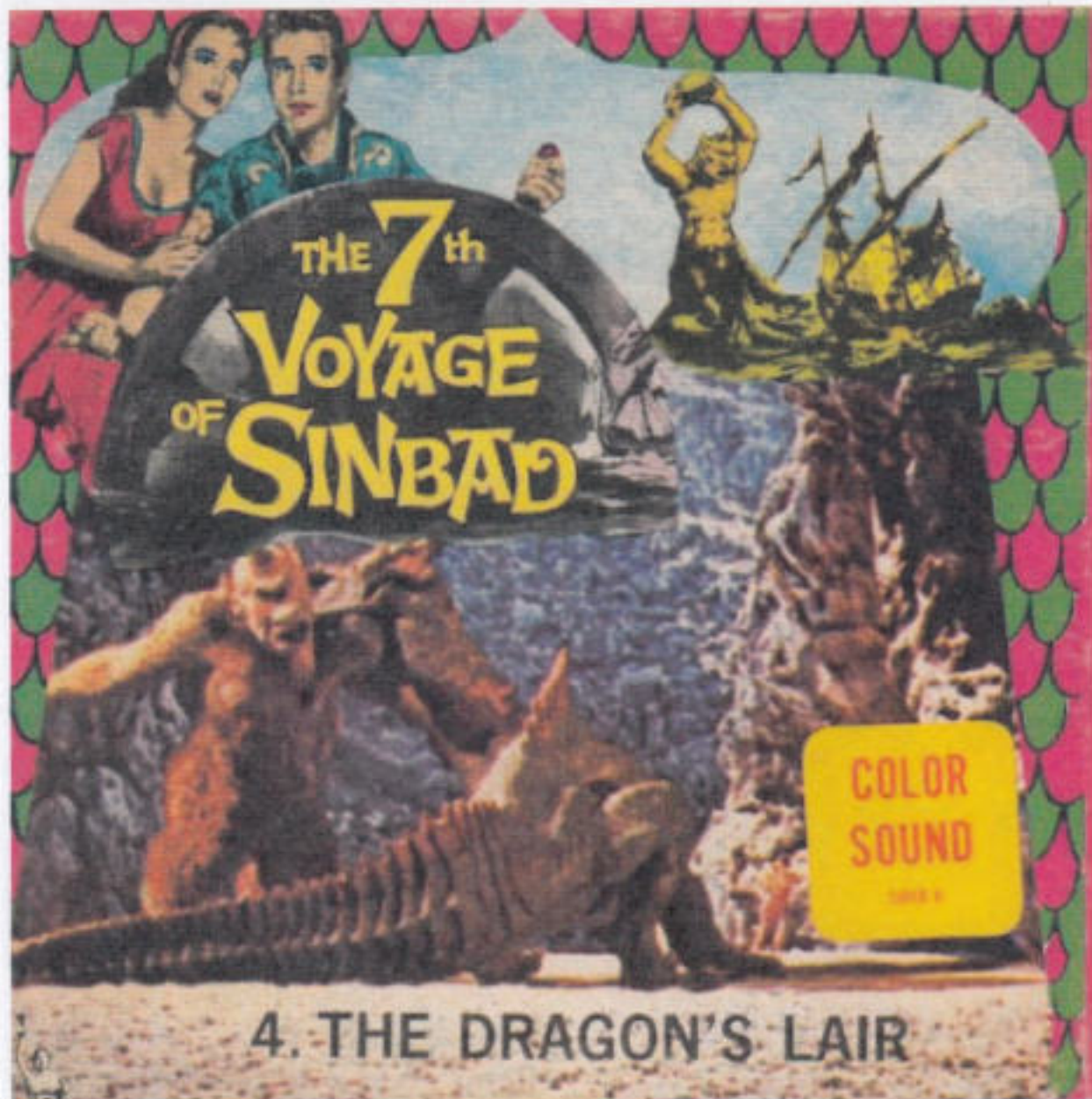
A loving look at Home Movie boxes and
their corresponding theatrical posters

By David McRobie



Boring legal stuff (but read it anyway):

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InTakes:

Once upon a time, it used to be movies could only be watched once. There was no home video, no VHS or DVD, or surround sound. There was a certain thrill though, of seeing a long awaited movie appear in the weekly television schedule.

We did have an alternative to waiting for a movie that might never show up on television: 8mm home movies. These were usually 200' compilations which ran about 10 minutes or so. There were 50' reels which ran three minutes. There were a wide variety of reels to purchase, from cartoons to comedies to dramas to science fiction and horror.



There was something really special about owning your own monster movie, and setting up the projector and screen, having a snack or two ready and then watching some monster movies with your friends. It really was like having your own theater in your house. The ritual was to watch one or two before

FILM MONSTER HOME MOVIES

Send Order To: Seaboard
Monster Group, Dept. M1
712 Fifth Ave., New York,
N.Y. 10022

AVAILABLE IN SUPER 8mm ON 200' REELS!

RODAN

#408 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
Two enormous pterosaurs wake from centuries of sleep to destroy Tokyo. Can the 500' tall flying dinosaurs be stopped? Tanks and planes are useless against their onslaught!

THE GIANT BEHEMOTH

#407 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
Wills O'Brien's classic dinosaur film. London is leveled by a radioactive Brontosaurus from the bottom of the sea. See people turned to a crisp...landmarks blasted underfoot!

GODZILLA VS. THE THING

#409 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
The most popular monster of all-time, the fire-breathing giant GODZILLA, battles the monster-moth MOTHRA. Who wins the battle of the century?

GHIDRAH, THE THREE HEADED MONSTER

#409 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
A flaming fireball from space gives birth to a gargantuan three-headed dragon. The world is at his mercy...nothing can stop him!

BATTLES OF GHIDRAH

#410 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
A sequel to GHIDRAH in which the three-headed reptile battles GODZILLA, MOTHRA, and RODAN for possession of the world! More action than ever before!

RETURN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL

#411 \$7.95 & \$.75 postage
The greatest super-hero of all-time SHAZAMS his way into your home in a thrilling adventure film! Incredible special effects highlight this 1940's screen epic. A must for fantasy and comic fans!



New York State residents please add 7% sales tax.

whatever monster movie was being shown on TV that day, just to help get one in the proper mood.

Once I found out about these movies, I rented a lot from the local library. These were usually hit or miss, but I did get to see a wide variety of films, which was a good thing. I remember being really happy to be able to watch the stop-motion skeleton sequence from *Jason and the Argonauts* several times in a row.

However, usually I wanted to watch giant monster movies and superhero cartoons, and the library was not coming to my rescue. But K-Mart did.

They actually stocked 8mm movies to **BUY**. You could plunk down \$8-\$10 and own your own movie to watch whenever you wanted. And if they didn't have the movie you were actually looking for, there were catalogs for the two main dealers, Castle Films and Ken Films. Ken Films had the AIP catalog, so they were the ones I was most interested in. A fan could order a movie from various comic books and monster magazines as well, but the catalogs were the way I always went. Every so often a new catalog would show up, and it would have some different movies in it.

Of course, the movies were rather expensive back then. Nowadays you can own an entire movie for almost the same amount of money, and this was in 1970s dollars. Naturally as a kid I couldn't

afford to own every movie I wanted (and there were a LOT of them I wanted to own)

YOUR OWN MOVIES & SLIDES!
For all Projectors and Viewers!

8MM-MONSTERS!

Some-bogging shacker! Enticing to all! Images! Canasta Pictures most famous monster, now at your command! 8MM movies, show them at your home, share them with your friends! Just choose at titles listed below.

ALSO! 3 STOOGES!
Comedy Kings! 6 of their greatest too happy hits! 8MM movies, 100% below.
50-FT. "Highlights" - \$1.98 each, 3 for \$4.98
200-FT. "Complete" - \$5.98 each, 3 for \$14.98
Steve McQueen

MONSTER SPECIAL!
MONSTER FILM Plus Argus PROJECTOR
All for only \$4.98
New 8MM Unit!
Compact, personal, portable, will show any 16-foot film used in this set! Fits pocket or handbag, easy to use. Comes with Demonstrator 8MM Monster film, no reel! Order with or without additional film.

Ward Ramsey
Ken Loggins

HOLLYWOOD HOME MOVIES
7551 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, California 90046
ORDER BY MAIL, USE COUPON BELOW

HOLLYWOOD HOME MOVIES Dept. CM-4
7551 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, California 90046
Please check the movies and/or slides I have checked.

	50-FT. "Highlights"	200-FT. "Complete"	8MM MOVIES
MONSTERS!			
THE BLOB! Starring STEVE McQUEEN	☐	☐	☐
40 MAN! Starring ROBERT LANGING	☐	☐	☐
MY SON THE VAMPIRE! BELA LUGOSI	☐	☐	☐
DINOSAURUS! Starring WARD RAMSEY	☐	☐	☐
THE GIANT CLAW! Chills and Thrills	☐	☐	☐
CURSE OF THE DEMON! Frenzy! Fury!	☐	☐	☐
REVENGE OF FRANKENSTEIN! A Classic!	☐	☐	☐
THE WEREWOLF! The Original Monster!	☐	☐	☐
3 STOOGES!			
MAJESTY IN THE PALACE! Royal Riot!	☐	☐	☐
WE WANT OUR MUMMY! Ghoulish Laughs!	☐	☐	☐
SPOOKS! Stooges Meet Skeletons!	☐	☐	☐
ANTS IN THE PANTRY! Cooking Lesson!	☐	☐	☐
GRIPS, GRUNTS & GROANS! Wrestling!	☐	☐	☐
IDLE ROOMERS! The Telephone Routine!	☐	☐	☐

☐ SET OF TEN 35MM MONSTER COLOR SLIDES, \$1.98

☐ SET OF TEN 35 MM MONSTER SLIDES (SAME AS ABOVE) & VIEWER, \$2.98

PRICES:
50-ft. films: \$1.98 each, Any 3 for \$4.98
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☐ Check here to order the **SPECIAL!** Monster film plus Argus Projector. ALL for \$4.98

PAYMENT ENCLOSED ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
Please add 25c to cover postage and handling.

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So the point of this issue? It's to compare and contrast the original movie posters to their 8mm counterparts. The ones chosen are my favorites, mostly. That means there will be a lot of Japanese posters and movies. I threw a few superhero cartoons in there just for fun, since they didn't have any posters.

My first 8mm movie (they came in both 8mm and Super 8mm) was something called "*Battles of Ghidrah*". I believe it was a birthday or Christmas present from my mother, but I am not sure any more at this point. In due time I acquired "*Varan, the Unbelievable*", "*When Dinosaurs Ruled The Earth*" and my personal favorite that I paid for myself- **DESTROY ALL MONSTERS**. These were all the 200' versions as well.



There was no way to find out much about film back then, how to care for it or things like that. One of the now funnier stories about my beliefs was that you couldn't play a sound

movie in a silent projector, so I never even considered buying any sound versions. I am not sure when I learned about splicing film either, but sometimes one of the rentals would break and you had to be able to fix it. So buying these movies, it made me learn more about making my own movies.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

So over the next few pages, enjoy the images of both the more exploitative movies and their accompanying box art. I know I sure will! I've used the term 8mm for both regular and Super 8mm movies, it was just easier. I've also included a few of the other types of movies I had, such as these Gantry-Lawrence adaptations of Marvel Comics, which remain to this day the closest versions to the comic books that exist. There are also plenty of foreign version of these movies, but for this issue it will just be the ones available in the United States.

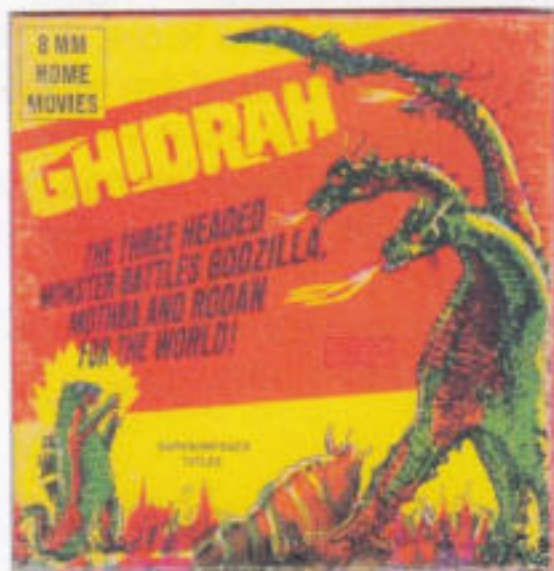
Credit where credit is due department:

I want to give credit for the general idea of this issue to both August Ragone who let me write about the Godzilla home movies in *Famous Monsters of Filmland* #262 and to Brock DeShane for endlessly talking about these versions of the movie (I traded the *When Dinos* comp for the superior *Godzilla vs the Thing* back in the day). So this page is for him, since he has not stopped talking about *Clash of the Titans* (1981) since the day we met. We never knew about this version back then, since the VHS revolution was just around the corner and the whole movie could be rented or recorded from television soon enough.



GHIDRAH, the THREE HEADED MONSTER

(1964)



This was the first movie I ever owned. It's really a well edited compilation, but the cover is ever so misleading, as Ghidrah never shows up at all. Instead, we are treated to the Godzilla and Rodan battle, with it ending as Mothra "talks" to them. I was rather disappointed the first time I watched it since I had not yet seen Ghidrah in action.

A few years later I ordered the 50' version of the second compilation. I sent the \$3.19 cash



in the mail and still received it. That's some excellent USPS service!

This one had a ton of action, even in a three minute version, starting with the excellent "birth" of Ghidrah from a fiery meteor. They also

thoughtfully included the death of Malness by catching a boulder, which is just as funny when played backward as it was forward. It probably wasn't great for the actual film, but we didn't think of such things back then.

The box art for both comps is obviously based on the poster, though you can tell the artist didn't quite know what they were doing, as none of the monsters quite match up with the



poster. An interesting thing about the US poster is that I've never seen a full color version of it. It's always that garish yellow and red one. Which is definitely eye catching, there is no denying that.

The font used is really cool though. Mothra is nowhere to be seen on the second box, which is odd considering she has such a large role in the movie, and is prominent in both comps.

When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth

(1970)

The next movie I received was this fun feature, which oddly enough, was one of the last movies ever released on VHS. The poster itself is incredible, with the inherent sexiness combined with dinosaurs (well, sort of, as there is really only one dinosaur present in the movie, but that's another story). The colors are really cool and everything is eye-catching.

The box art is pretty much the same thing though far less



distinct here and there.

The compilation itself contains pretty much all the cool stuff, except for the chasmosaurus sequence. The mother "dinosaur" and the baby are featured thoroughly in ten minutes, as is Victoria Vetri.

It was a little hard to understand the plot. I don't remember if this one had English subtitles, since the movie itself had no spoken English dialogue. I traded it to a friend of mine for his 200' comp of *GODZILLA VS THE THING* (that will be

discussed later). Upon review on youtube (how about that, the internet is good for something after all!) there are subtitles for the compilation as well.

The ending is especially confusing in 8mm form, but I would say that about the movie when viewed in full as well. I had no concept of what was going on in 1974 though. I had seen both the 50' comp and the 200' comp. The movie actually works pretty well at ten minutes.



**Enter an age of unknown terrors,
pagan worship and virgin sacrifice...**

From the creators of
"One Million Years B.C."
their most gigantic
spectacle...

WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

Warner Bros. presents
A Hammer Film Production

**"WHEN DINOSAURS
RULED THE EARTH"**

Starring
VICTORIA VETRI

ROBIN HAWDON · PATRICK ALLEN · IMOGEN HASSALL

Music Composed by Mario Nascimbene · Special Visual Effects by Ben Danforth · Written for the screen by Val Guest
Produced by Arla Young · Directed by Val Guest · Technicolor

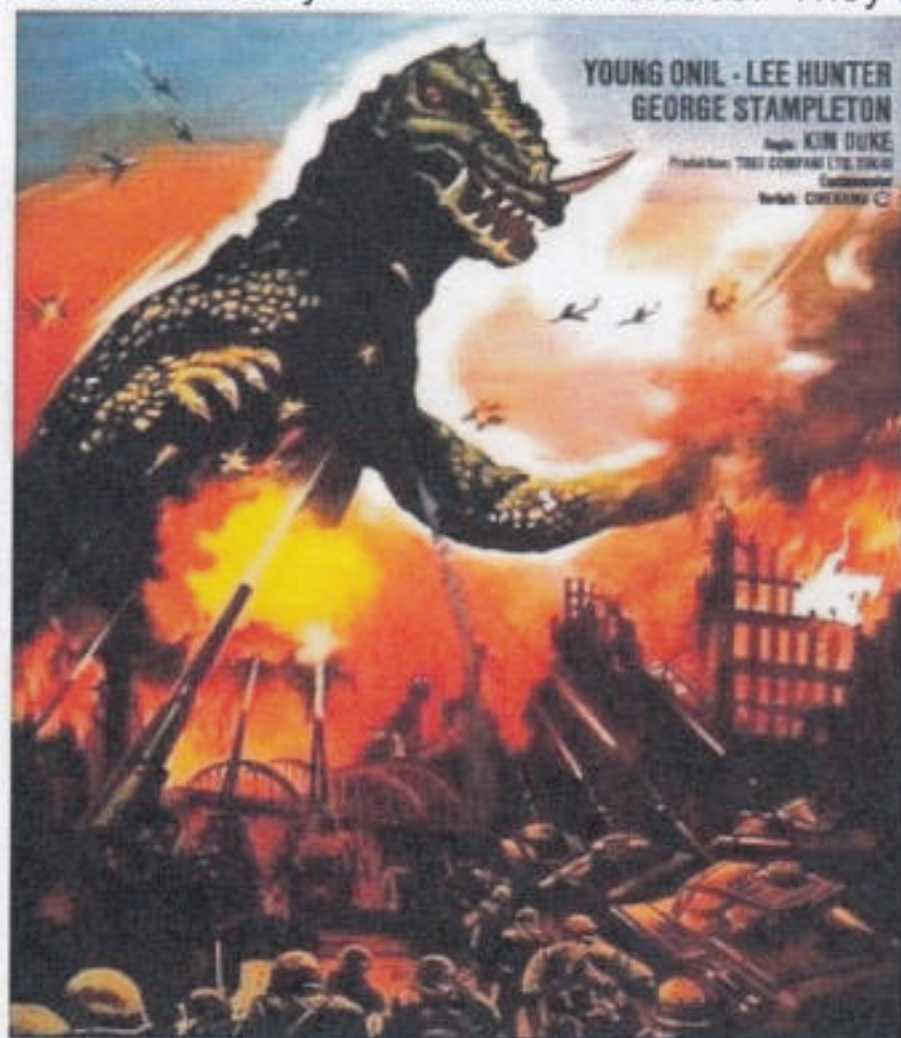
Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

TV-14

Yongary, Monster from Deep

1967

AIP-TV was a goldmine for fantastic Asian movies that were considered unworthy of a theatrical release. They also had



American International TV Presents

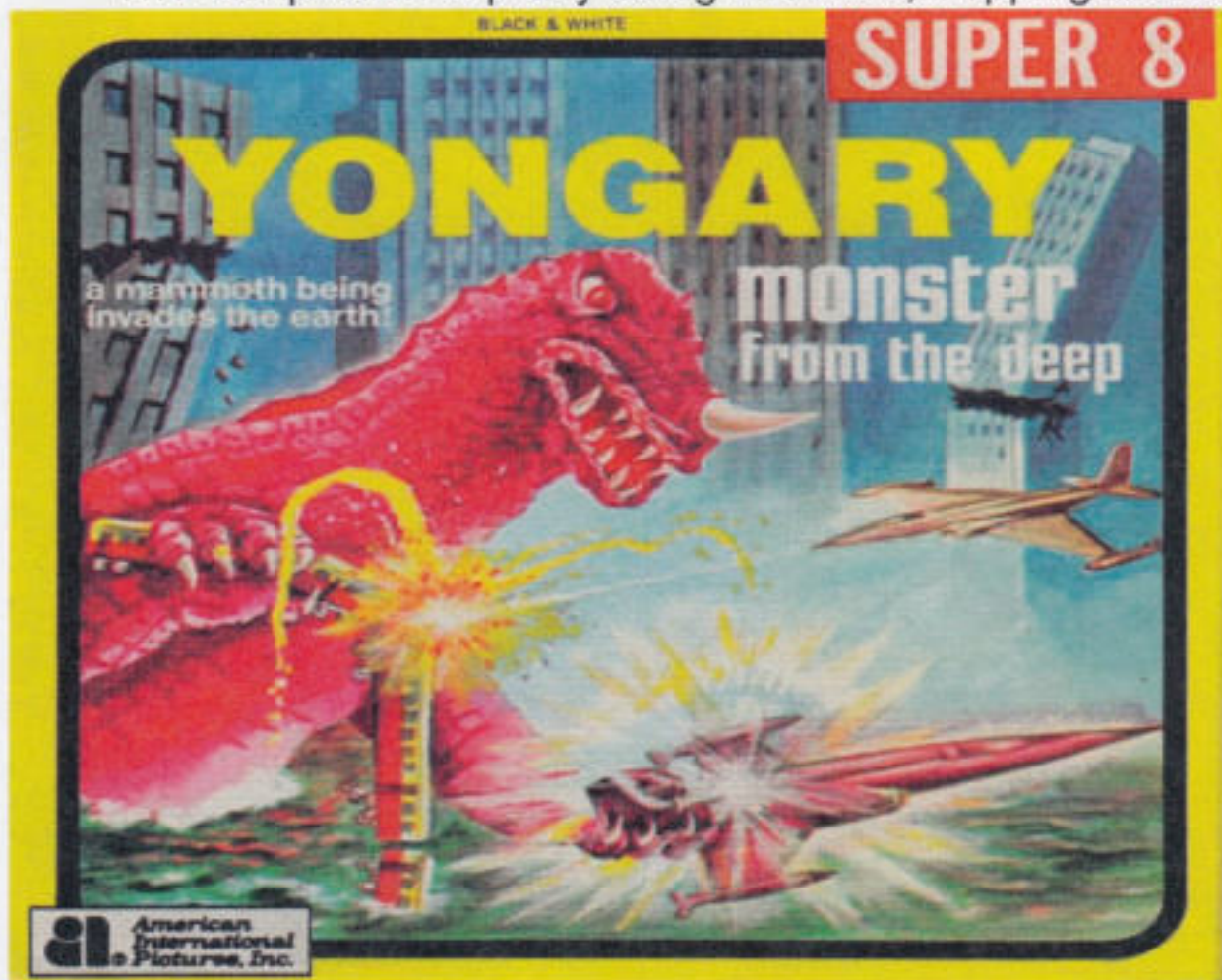
YONGARY **MONSTER** **FROM THE DEEP**

Distributed by American International Television - 365 West 45th Street, New York City - E1401 5-208

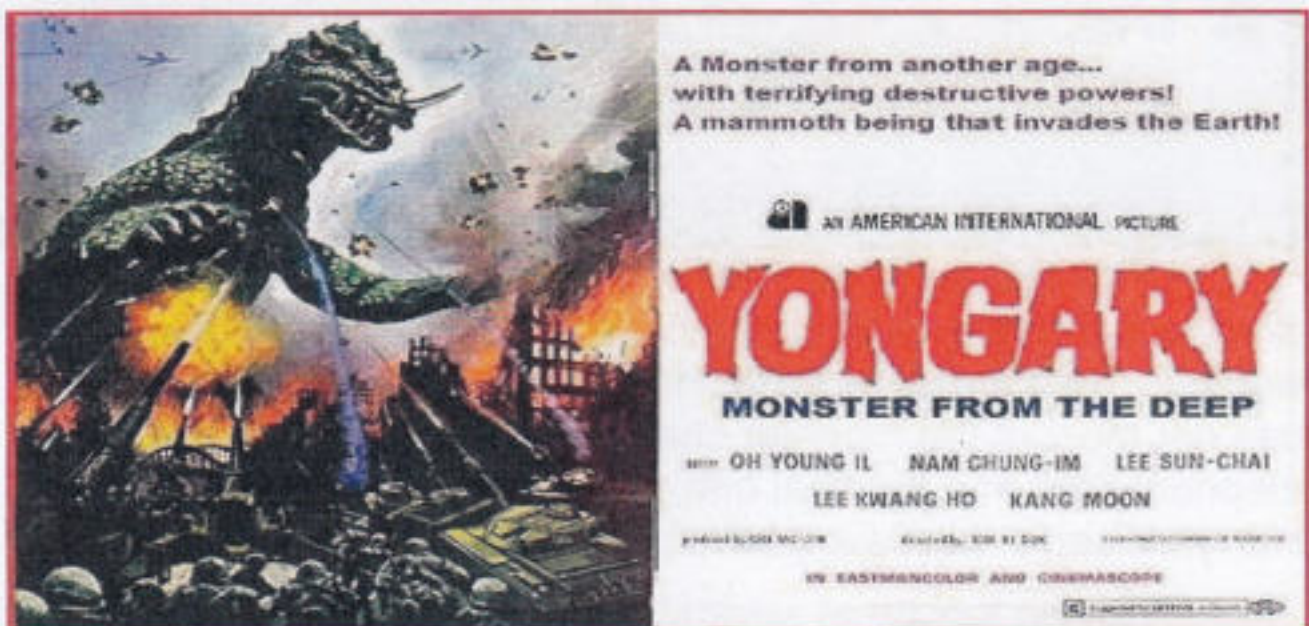
a knack for naming movies. When I saw this movie in Ken Films' catalog, I knew it had to be something cool just by the title alone. However, when I eventually saw it on TV, well, it's not the best giant monster movie from Asia. It's also not the worst that has come from that continent. I would recommend the Blu Ray, as the commentary for the movie is better than the film itself. It's

very informative and fun to listen to and provides a lot of insight about the state of film making in South Korea in the late 60s. The movie itself has an interesting history which is also examined.

The compilation is pretty straightforward, skipping all the



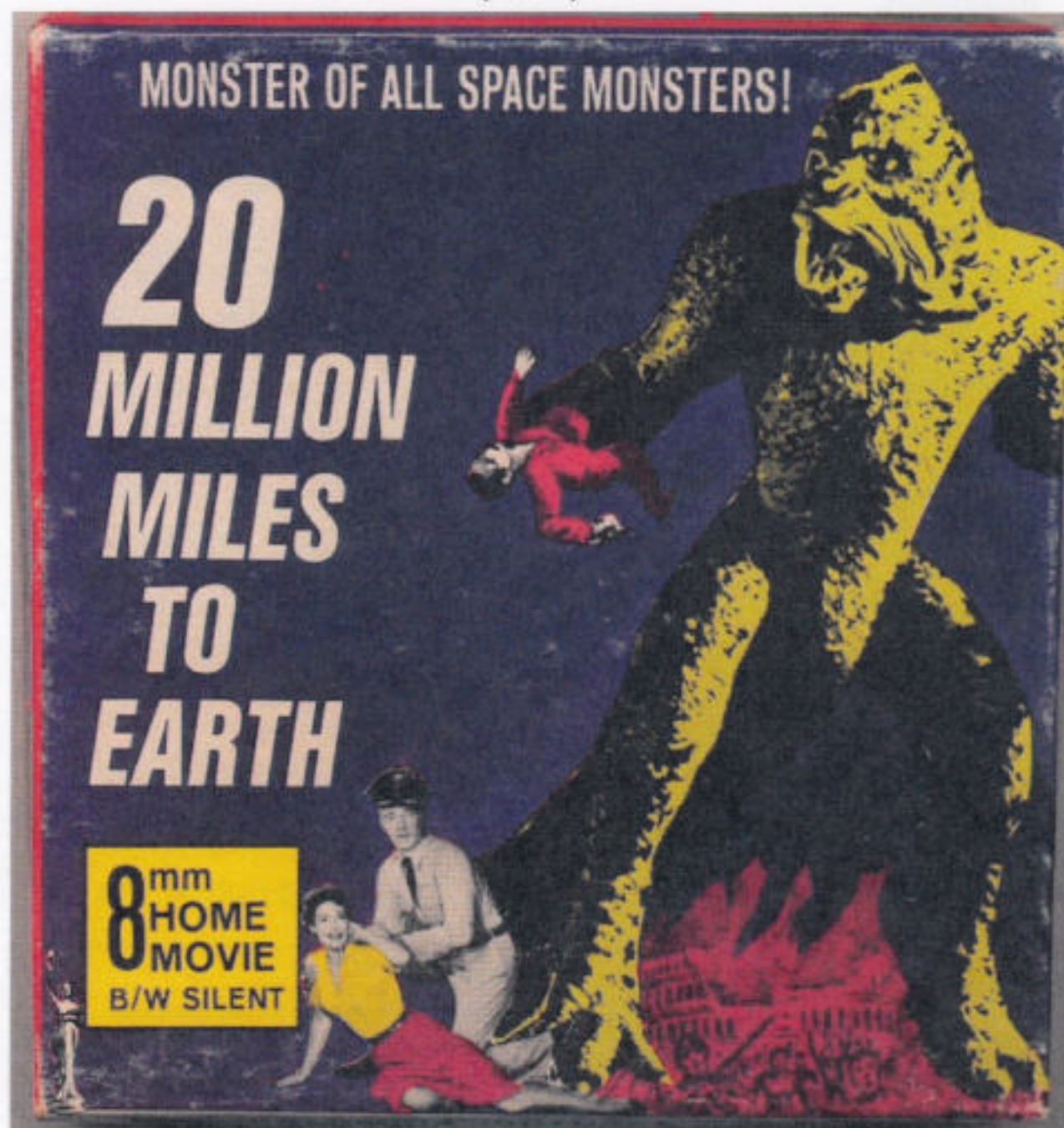
scenes with the kid for the most part and getting right to the stuff



we wanted to see- the monster destroying the cities. AIP really went all out to sell the movie, and despite a pink Yongary, Ken Films box looks pretty great. It made me want to see the movie, that's for sure.

20 Million Miles To Earth

(1957)



This was a movie that never aired except once in my area, and the television was broken that night, so I couldn't watch it. This movie is perfect for a ten minute compilation, you can get most of the monster stuff in there. There was the elephant fight and the final battle in here. One of Ray Harryhausen's most sympathetic characters and a great design.

Having looked at several of the posters for this movie, not a one of them resembles the box art at all. The image used for the box is from a still or a lobby card, though it's definitely eye-catching, for sure.

This was the 8mm movie that proved to my friends and I we could play a sound version on a silent projector, since a sound copy had been mistakenly sent and we *HAD* to watch the movie.



I'd never seen this poster before, and I really like it, especially the use of color, or lack thereof. The Coliseum is present, and the Ymir towers over everything. The name *Ymir* was a holdover from one of Harryhausen's never realized movies and it's face would be refashioned into the Kraken's face in a later movie.

Battle in Outer Space

(1959)

I never even knew this was available on for home movies. And yet here it is! Obviously with that caveat, I've never seen the 8mm film, so I have no idea what it would entail.



My guess would be that it would be the moon battle and the final battle of the spaceships between the Earth and Natal.

This was also a movie that I never saw until the early 1990s, nor had ever even heard of, which is pretty amazing to me now. It's a fun movie, and the last part is a battle in space between the Earth and the Natal forces. Nothing like this had ever been shown before on the screen, with laser beams flying back and forth between the two armies. Add to that the

destruction of cities and the movie is something to see, especially back in 1959.

It is an unofficial sequel to Toho's 1957 sci-fi spectacular *The Mysterians*, which doesn't seem to have been released on

8mm home movies. That is kind of odd, since it was



released by RKO Studios.

Be that as it may, both movies are well worth watching. The space battles are very exciting, especially with the grand Ifukube music playing. Columbia wisely left his contributions alone for the US release. It's been speculated that this movie with its exciting space battles had an influence on a young George Lucas, but there's no documentation proving it.

The Deadly Mantis (1957)

Now here's a movie that probably only should have been eight to eleven minutes long. OK, so it's not that bad, but nothing much happens for most of the movie. It had a fine



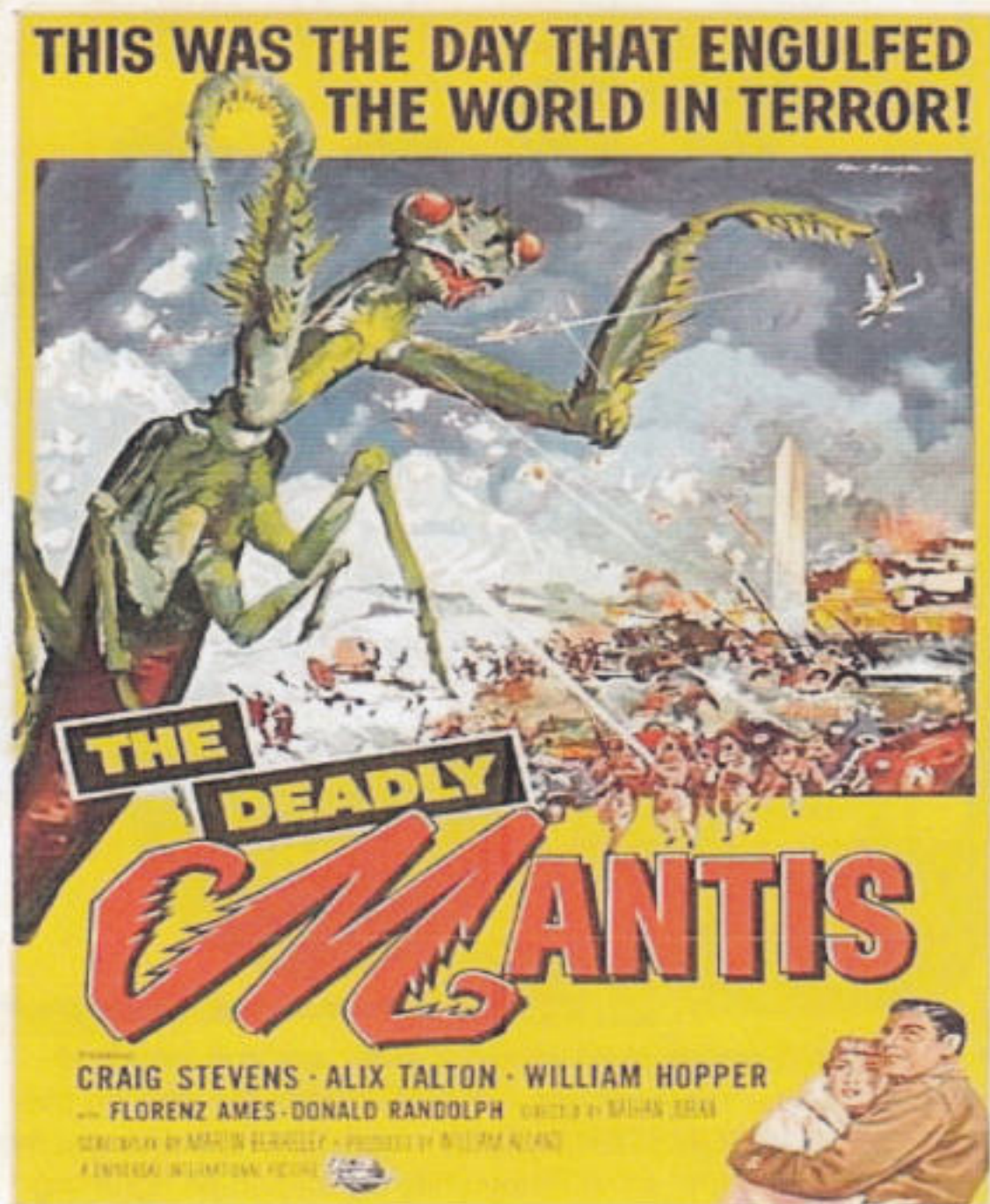
opening, if nothing unusual for a giant monster movie, but then it just apes better movies for the rest of it's rather short running time.

This is certainly an eye-catching box. I never owned any of the Castle Films versions, mostly because they didn't have the Godzilla license, and my area showed a LOT of the Universal monster and science fiction movies.

I think having seen this movie several times on TV and not being that impressed with it made me want it less than other monster movies. It's too bad the movie doesn't feature some city

destruction by the Deadly Mantis. It would have helped make the movie more exciting and memorable.

I have seen this movie several time in the course of my life, and I don't remember if there are any scenes of city destruction at all. One has to admire the blood dripping off the claws of the Deadly Mantis in the box art, implying there would be gruesome deaths in the movie. Of course, there are plenty of gruesome deaths in the movie, they just all happen off screen.



Now this poster is really something, quite nice and well done. It delivers an exciting premise. One can't fault the movie for not being nearly as scary as the poster promises. The did let you know Washington, DC would be under attack, at least.

FRANKENSTEIN CONQUERS THE WORLD

(1966)

This is one of the most interesting boxes, as it is definitely based on the AIP poster, featuring the most muscular (as well as



the most blue) Frankenstein monster ever, and the weirdest version of Baragon ever drawn, which includes the one on the **DESTROY ALL MONSTERS** poster. They did however get the "breath" weapon right, as in many stills it's shown as lightning bolts. It's not even featured on the theatrical poster.

I like how the A.I.P. Logo is featured prominently on the box. Ken Films evidently thought this was a selling point, as they had the logo on quite a few boxes. When that logo showed up

on the TV screen I knew that something fun would be on it's way most of the time, be it from Japan or a Roger Corman style flick, AIP almost never disappointed me.

Nick Adams is the star of the movie. At least AIP didn't



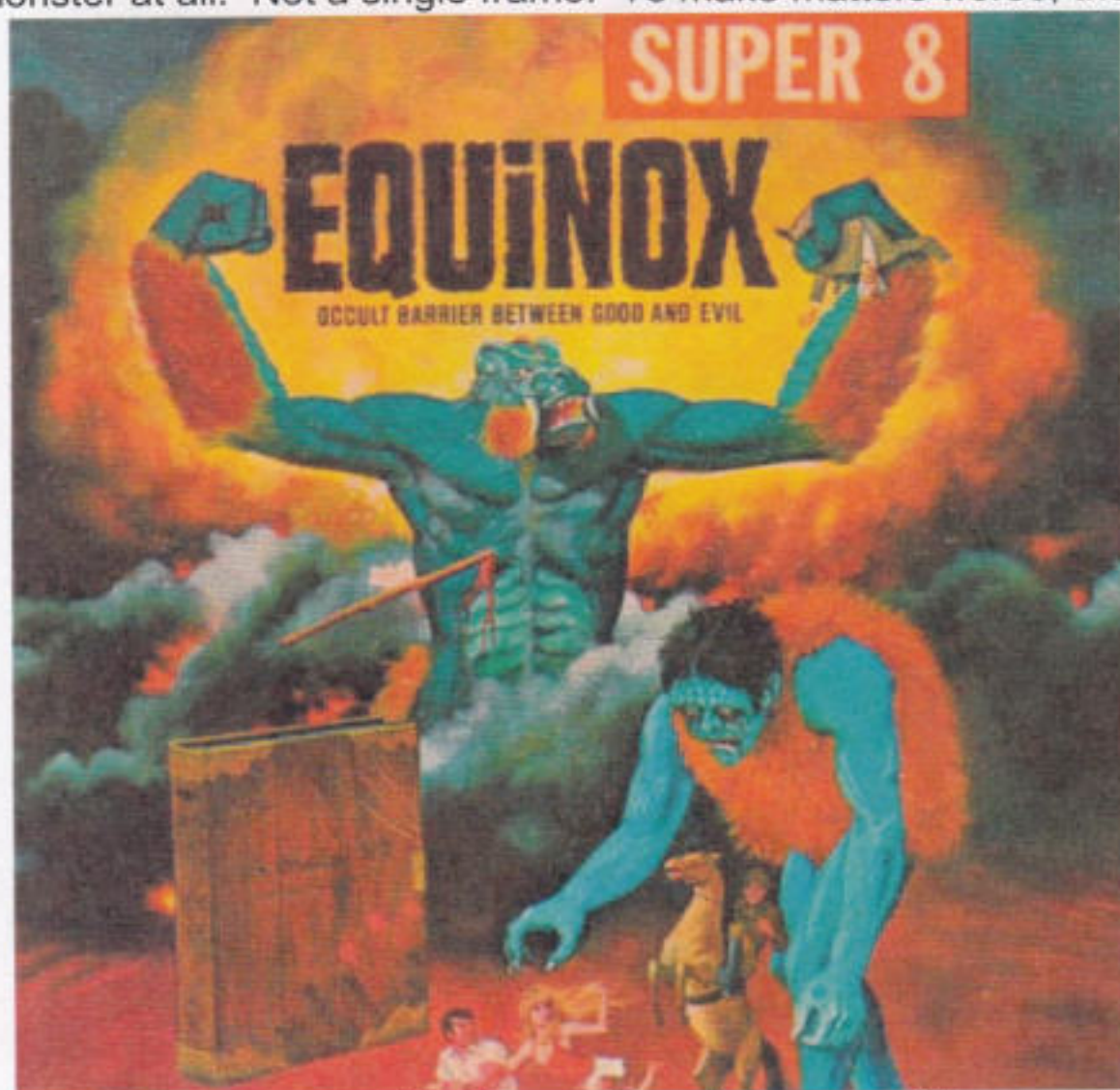
claim it was an "international" cast, but they could have added a few of the other stars' names. AIP didn't even have the cliched "cast of thousands" that *Varan, the Unbelievable* used.

EQUINOX

(1970)

Now here's a movie and box that pretty much match each other up completely.

However, the compilation doesn't feature Taurus, the ape monster at all. Not a single frame. To make matters worse, the



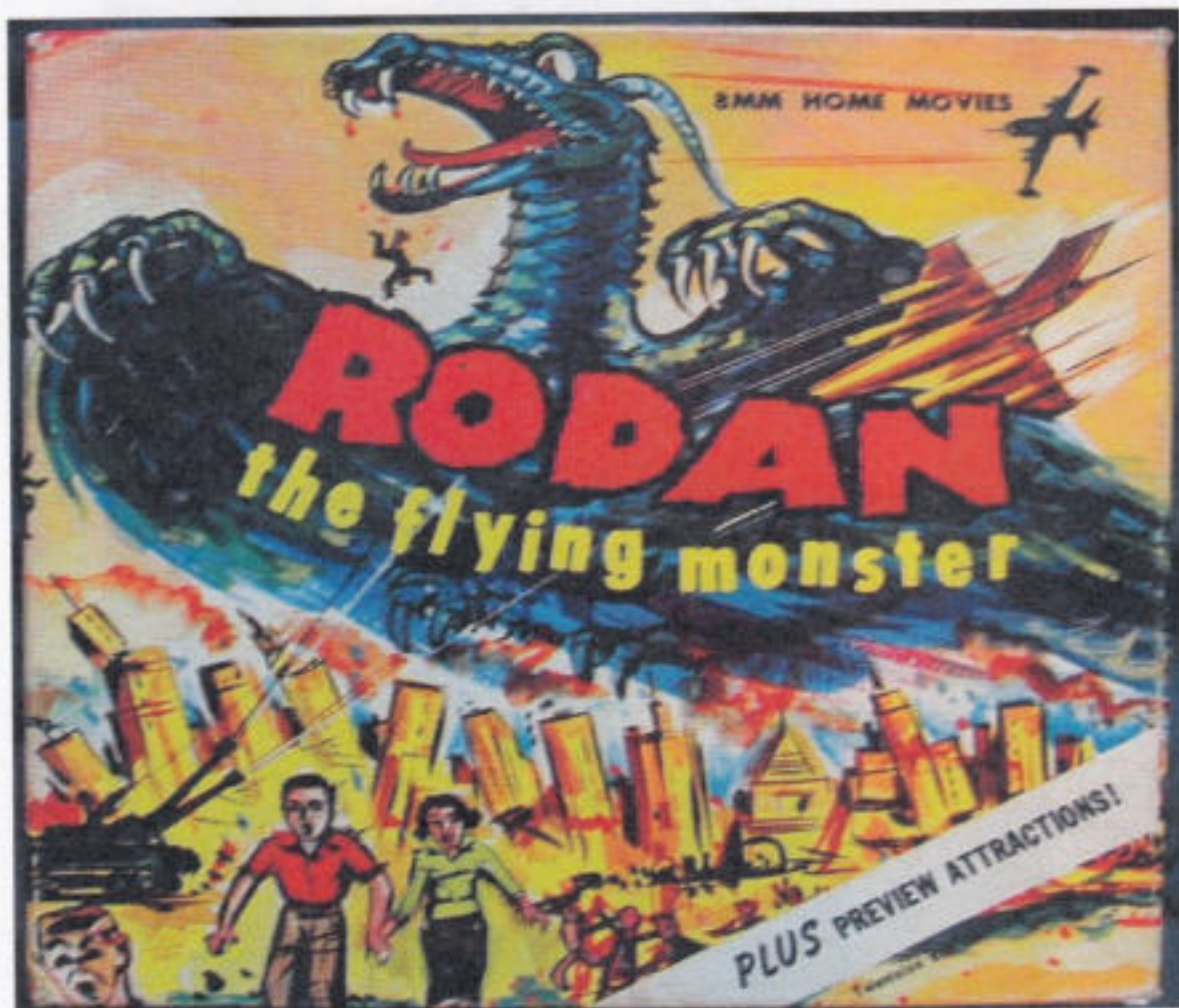
Ken Films catalog specifically mentions to beware of the ape monster in it's blurb. When questioned about this, the company wrote back and told the buyer that they did not even offer "Equinox" for sale. They nicely included another catalog for perusal, and of course, there was "Equinox" offered in four different versions. This is still the most awesome story of customer service I've ever been a part of, to this day. The failure of the company on this movie extended to so many levels I don't think it could ever be topped.



Here we have the original poster. It's very much like a comic book of the time period. However, only the monsters are represented well. The humans depicted look nothing like their actual counterparts in the movie, but that's nothing unusual. The supernatural colors are just wonderful.

Rodan, the Flying Monster (1956)

This is one of Toho's finest monster movies. The effects are second to none, and it is amazing to watch on the big screen. The English dub improves on the movie, especially the



ending sequence narration.

I owned the 3 minute version of this movie, but came to it late. Ebay is still a good source for these movies and I got my film that way. One of the many wonderful things about these versions is that even at three minutes the editors usually made the story make sense.

Rodan was also blessed with a great marketing campaign and many different posters. The movie itself broke science fiction movie box office records when it was originally released in the United States.

I think reproduction at the size of 8mm boxes wasn't good



enough at the time, which is why many posters had to be redrawn slightly.



This is the UK poster, which is similar to the standard US one. Must have been really scary to receive the dreaded Certificate X! Rodan looks closer to his movie appearance on this poster. I wonder what the "Preview Attractions" were on this home movie.

The Creature from the Black Lagoon (1953)

This is an odd way of marketing a very popular movie. Castle gets the name wrong and doesn't even show the titular Creature. Instead it's an odd mishmash of "*This Island Earth*" images. Castle had an odd way of selling some of their movies.

Now, the Metaluna Mutant is a fine creation, though sadly underused in it's movie, but really, it's no Creature. It's a very generic piece of artwork as well, though the colors are nice and



evocative of the time period.

The 16mm versions of their movies are really well done. I am pretty sure those did not come in cool little cardboard boxes. I've seen several of them and they make great featurettes. They were all of the Universal monster movies from the 30s and 40s. They were just the right length of time to make you want to see the entire movie. It didn't hurt that most of these movies were 70-80 minutes long in full, so you could get a lot of the story when they were condensed.

Yeah, there's just no topping this poster, and no



reasonable explanation why this wasn't used to sell the 8mm home version of the movie.

Varan, the Unbelievable (1958)

The movie may not be great entertainment, though I have a sentimental attachment to it, but the poster is phenomenal. Ken Films wisely decided not to change very much of the poster



for the box.

This was the second 8mm film I ever owned, so I have seen it many many times. When the full movie finally was aired I knew exactly what would happen. The 11 minute version had most of the monster scenes so that was really great.

The movie didn't even run the full eleven minutes, since there were "preview attractions" added. In my version, it was a Little Rascals short where the boys- Alfalfa, Buckwheat and Porky- cut school and go to a carnival. The Haunted House ride scares them silly.

Back then, no one had any idea how much of the original Japanese movie had been replaced by the US actors . It's not a

great movie in either version, despite what some fans might tell you. Varan himself is a pretty nifty design.



Boy, I would have loved to see this movie in the theater. Heck, it would be a great looking comic book cover!

The movie is now considered "lost" as it has only ever been released on VHS in a full-screen format. There are some 35mm prints of it still around, as one fan has reported seeing a screening of it. I also find it funny how Toho Studios doesn't like what the US distributors did to their various movies- with good reason- but they tend to use all the US titles for marketing purposes.

ONE MILLION YEARS, BC (1966)

This is my favorite dinosaur movie of all time. I never



saw this for sale in a store, because I'm almost sure I would have purchased it, or at least asked for it as a present. It's also my favorite Harryhausen movie.

It never took precedence when I was looking through the Ken Films catalog though, mostly due to wanting to own more Godzilla movies. The price tag just didn't allow me to purchase all the film I wanted to back then!

Fortunately for me, this movie aired quite a bit in my neck of the woods, at least once a year. I was about six years old the first time I saw this movie, on the "ABC Sunday Movie of the Week" and it had a huge impact on me. For the first time in my life I saw what looked like real dinosaurs on my TV screen, acting the way terrible lizards should act, I.E. trying to eat ever cave person in sight.

I love every part of the movie, even the earthquake at the end, though of course I wanted to see more and more dinosaurs. Now when I watch it I realize how all the elements of the movie worked well together, from the casting to the stop-motion effects to the amazing musical score.

The poster isn't too different from the box. They are obviously selling Raquel's charms, but the dinosaurs are featured as well. I wonder if the 8mm film had subtitles?

TRAVEL BACK THROUGH TIME AND SPACE TO THE EDGE OF MAN'S BEGINNINGS...DISCOVER A SAVAGE WORLD WHOSE ONLY LAW WAS LUST!



STARRING
RAQUEL WELCH - JOHN RICHARDSON

Screenplay by **MICHAEL CARRERAS - MICKELL NOVAK - GEORGE BAKER - JOSEPH FRICKERT** Adapted from an original screenplay by **MICHAEL CARRERAS** Produced by **MICHAEL CARRERAS** Directed by **DON CHAFFEY** Special Visual Effects by **RAY HARRYHAUSEN**
A SEVEN ARTS-HAMMER PRODUCTION

I have to say, there are so many cool posters for this movie from various countries, one could just make an entire chapter about them. I'm also surprised *The Valley of Gwangi* never got a home movie release.

GODZILLA VS THE THING

(1964)

Looking over the boxes, I'm kind of surprised to see there are only three Godzilla movies available from Ken Films (four if



you count the two Ghidrah movies). How odd is that?

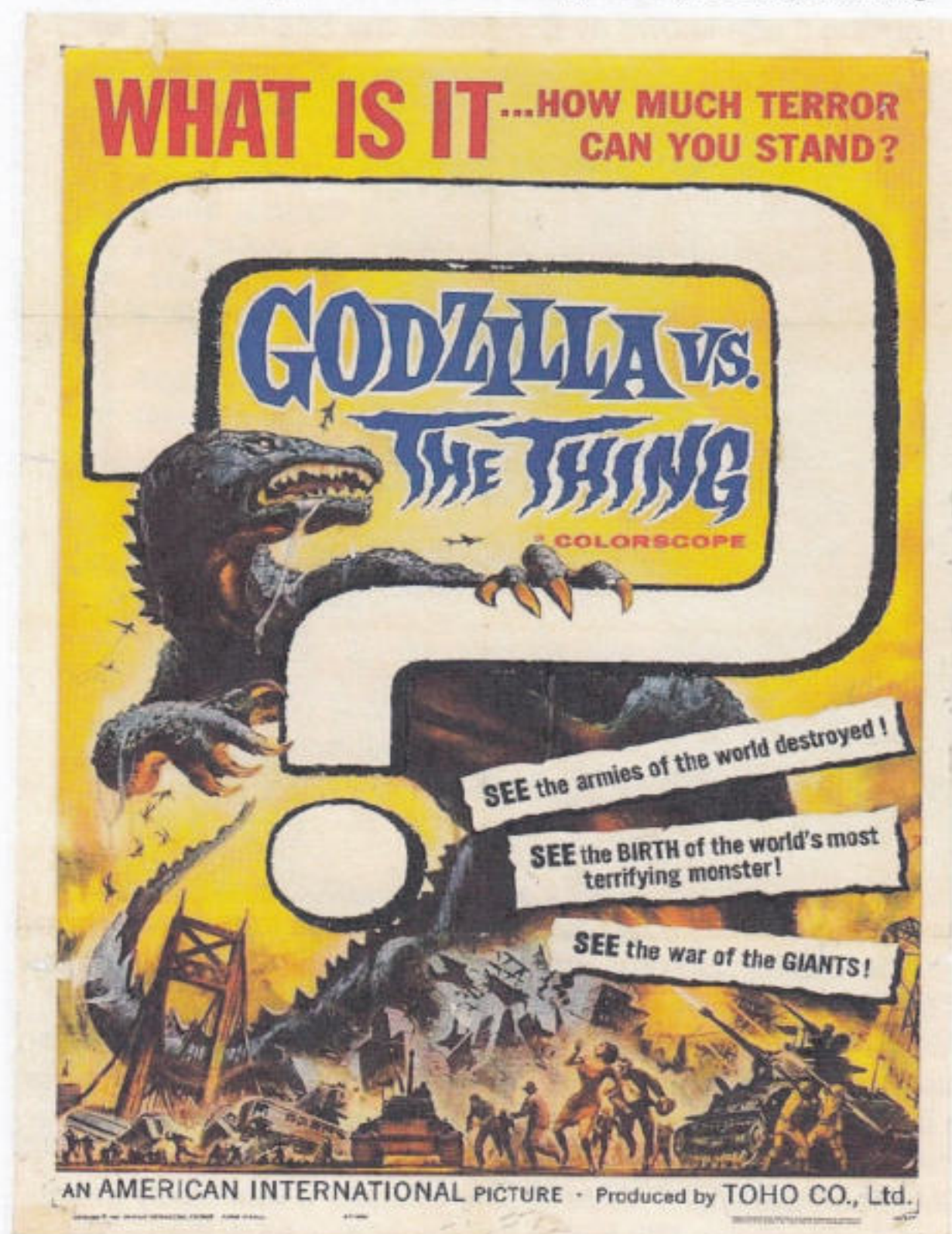
I did own this one at one point. I traded my 200' reel of *WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH* to my friend (the same one mentioned in the *Equinox* bit) for his copy of this movie. I still think I got the better part of that trade. Years later he bought it back from me.

This is one of the most reptilian representations of Godzilla you will ever see. It's interesting to see him portrayed with no eyeballs and blood dripping out of his jaws. AIP sure did had a misleading ad campaign for this movie. Perhaps they didn't or couldn't use the name *Mothra* since Columbia had released that, or perhaps they just wanted people to wonder

what Godzilla would be fighting. It sure worked on me before I saw the movie on television in the mid-70s.

Godzilla is very green on the box as well. It's a bit of a combination of couple different posters, with the legs and a question mark.

Godzilla appears to be drooling here (possibly thinking

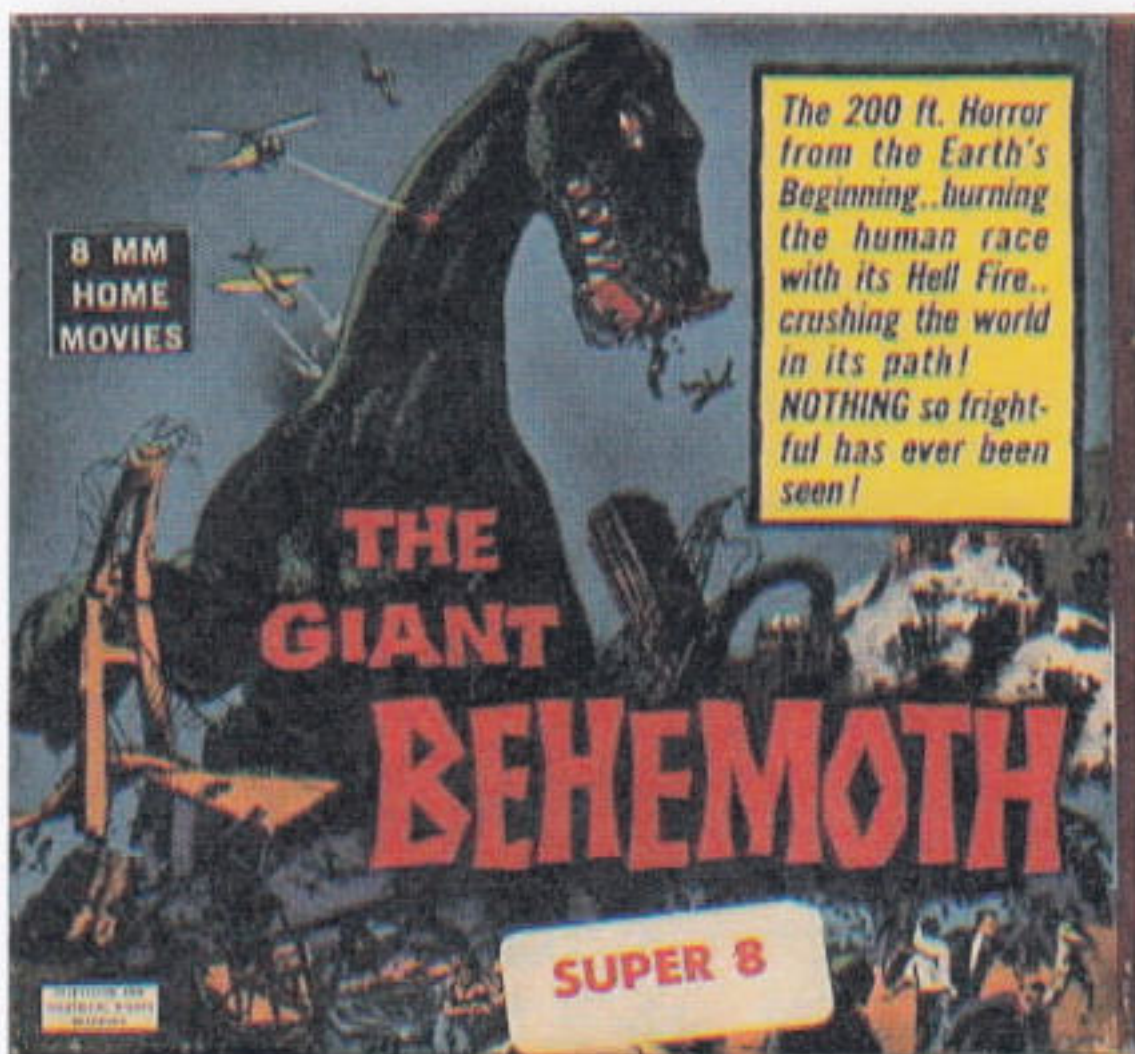


about eating the egg), but this is one pretty awesome poster. He's actually painted as the "right" color, something that some Godzilla fans can be happy about.

The Giant Behemoth

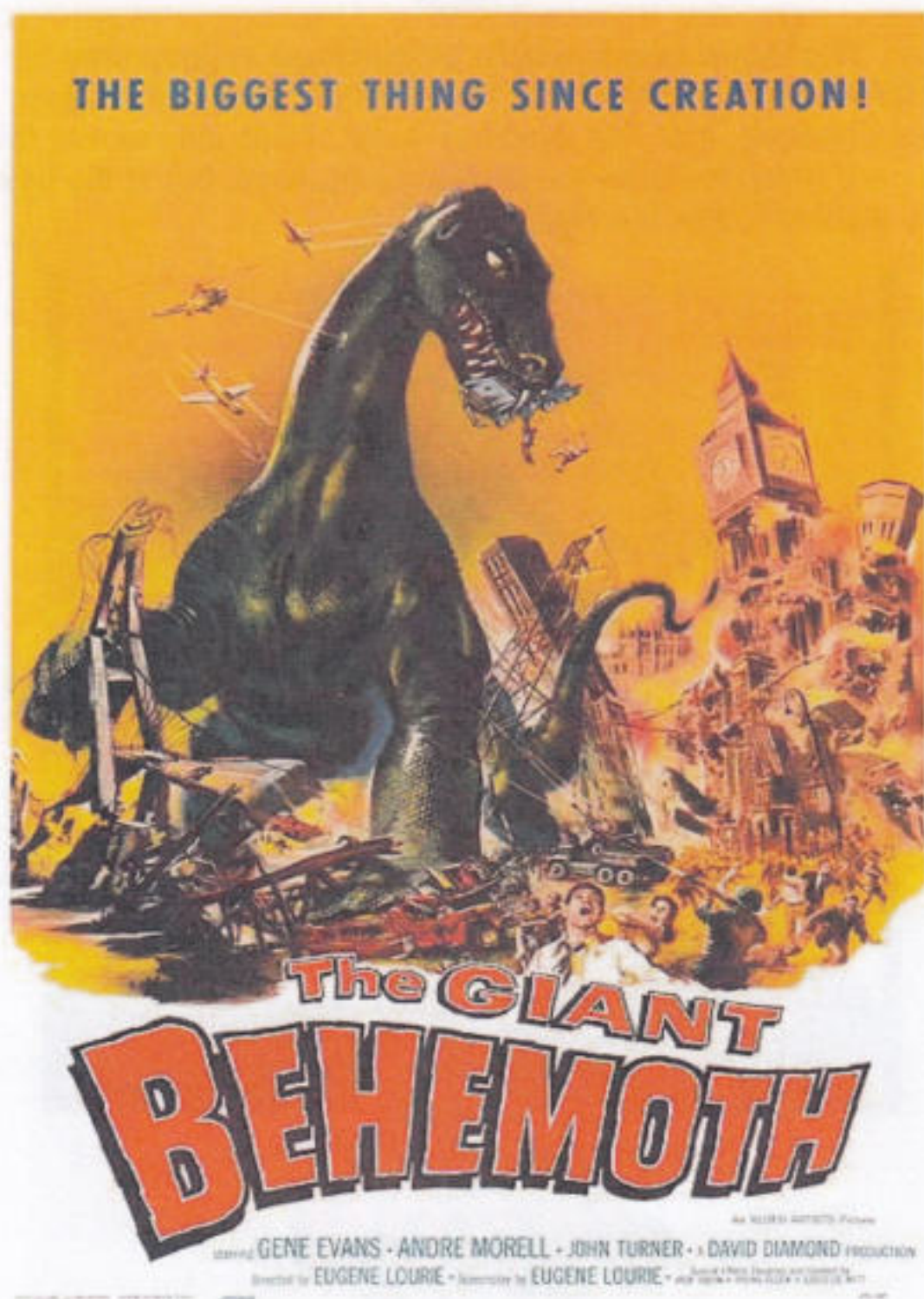
(1959)

The third giant reptile on the loose series of monster movies directed by Eugène Lourié is my favorite of his "trilogy". In England it was known as *Behemoth, the Sea Monster*, which I



think it also a really cool title. The movie adds to the creepiness with the addition of some pretty horrific radiation effects on a few of the extras. I have seen the 50' version of this movie, and it was mostly the ferry destruction sequence. The decision to use this sequence is inexplicable, since there's so many better parts to the movie that would fill three minutes much better than a scene with a poorly moving puppet head. I think there might have been two whole shots of stop-motion. It was easily the most disappointing fifty feet of film I ever saw back then. I've heard even the 200' version is lacking in drama and action as well.

The box is pretty much the US poster, a wise decision there. It's a pretty great poster as well, with an accurate portrayal



of the *paleosaurus*.

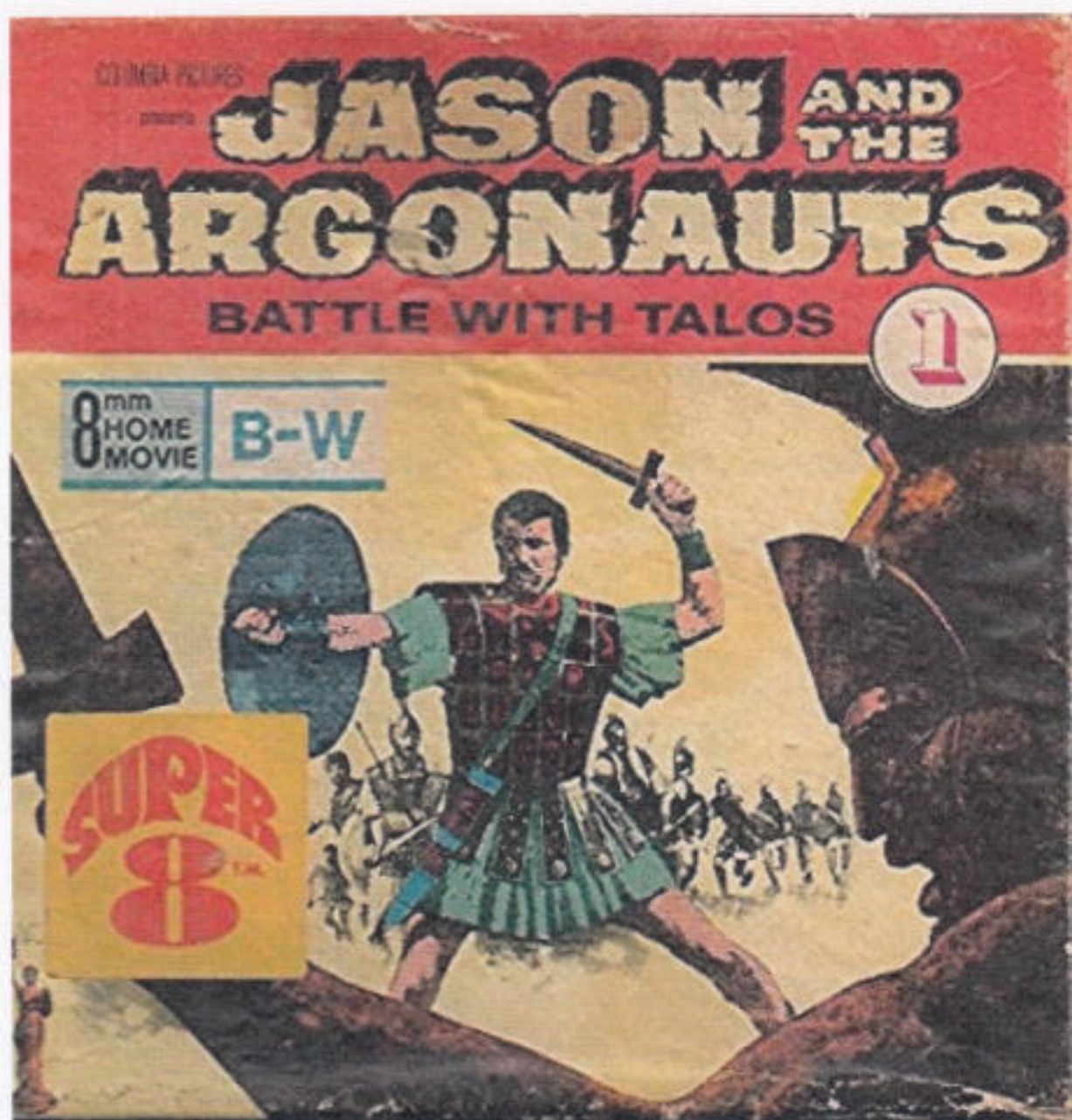
I do think the darker colors on the box work a little better. The orange background seems to kind of blend into everything. The *paleosaurus* looks great though, with the contrast to the other colors, which may have been the point. Ken Films added some blood to their box.

Jason and the Argonauts

(1963)

This movie was available for purchase in 8mm form in four different parts. *Battle with Talos, Triton, Lord of the Deep, Hydra of Hades, and The Golden Fleece*. I was able to rent this final part, which featured the skeleton sequence, but at the time I really wanted to see the Hydra.





The funny thing is the skeleton battle is the standout sequence of the movie. I wanted to see monsters though, especially the Hydra, since it looks amazing. It's sequence isn't that dynamic overall, for a variety of reason.

The boxes all have the same artwork, just different titles to them. It's not the most exciting artwork, even if it is based on the original poster. One can see why people thought it was another Italian peplum movie. This will be discussed in an upcoming issue of *Xenorama*, he said promisingly.

I did watch the skeleton sequence a lot, so much so that I knew what would happen when *Jason* was re-released in 1978. I still wonder why falling into the water would stop the skeletons.

Curse of the Demon

(1958)

I never saw this growing up, but the pictures of the

HORROR!



DANA ANDREWS

CURSE OF THE DEMON



SCEPTICAL? Don't make
up your mind till you see this mas-
terpiece of the macabre!

starring **PEGGY CUMMINS** — **NIAL MacGINNIS**

Screen Play by CHARLES BENNETT and HAL E. CHESTER — Directed by JACKED TOURNEUR

Based on the story "Goring the Bones" by MONTAGUE S. JAMES — Produced by HAL E. CHESTER — A HAL E. CHESTER PRODUCTION — A COLUMBIA PICTURE

demon were always around. I think the movie might have truly

scared me. It's a great movie, though some fans wish the demon wasn't included. I love it, but I can see why it would work without the beast.



had never seen the 8mm comp until this movie was released on Blu Ray (this set is amazing and worth every penny, just go buy it now). The version on the disc is silent and runs about 7 minutes. It's pretty succinct, but even if you hadn't seen the movie you would know what it was about. It's a cool little monster film, but without all the context of the movie that's all it is, rather than the classic it should be.

The box looks a lot like the poster, and if anything the demon being in red makes it look even scarier. It's nice to see both Dana Andrews and Peggy Cummins on the box art as well, even if they are not credited.

It Came From Beneath the Sea

1955

Probably my favorite of Harryhausen's black and white



movies, mostly because I love the octopus. I have been fascinated by the cephalopods from a young age and a movie about a giant octopus was right up my alley.

It's got a great theatrical poster, but this is how Columbia sent it out if you bought it from them. Way to go all out there to



sell this movie, Columbia (it's probably just a rental box).

Of course, it's not as bad as the first DVD cover they released. Sometimes I think they really hate Ray's movies. At least the box looks classy.

This box is for the 400' compilation, which probably comes with sound. I never owned any of those longer films, mostly because I didn't know they existed and if I had, the cost would have been \$20 or so back in the day. I got the Blu Ray for less than six dollars.

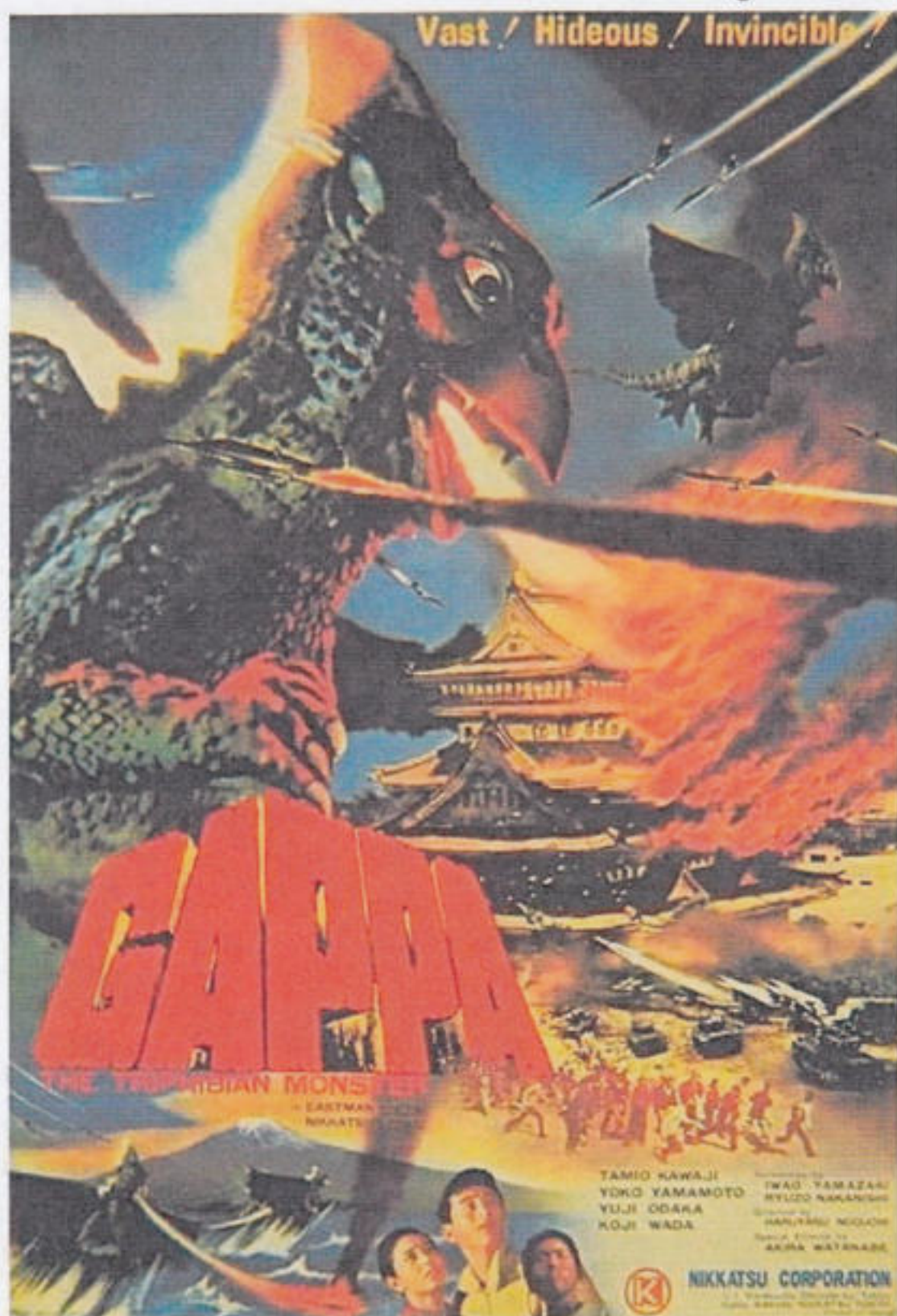
Still, I'm glad I got up at 12:30 AM to watch the movie on a tiny TV set back in 1978.



Monster from a Prehistoric Planet

1967

The blurb for this movie in Ken Films' catalog mentioned



the monsters, but also warned us to watch out for the giant octopus. There is indeed an octopus in the movie, but the mother Gappa has brought it to feed her kidnapped baby. It menaces absolutely no one.

This movie never got a theatrical release in the States, but did in much of the rest of the world, prompting some confusion from seeing posters and stills in various books on monster movies. The movie is exactly the same length and content wise, but AIP-TV gave it a much more exciting name



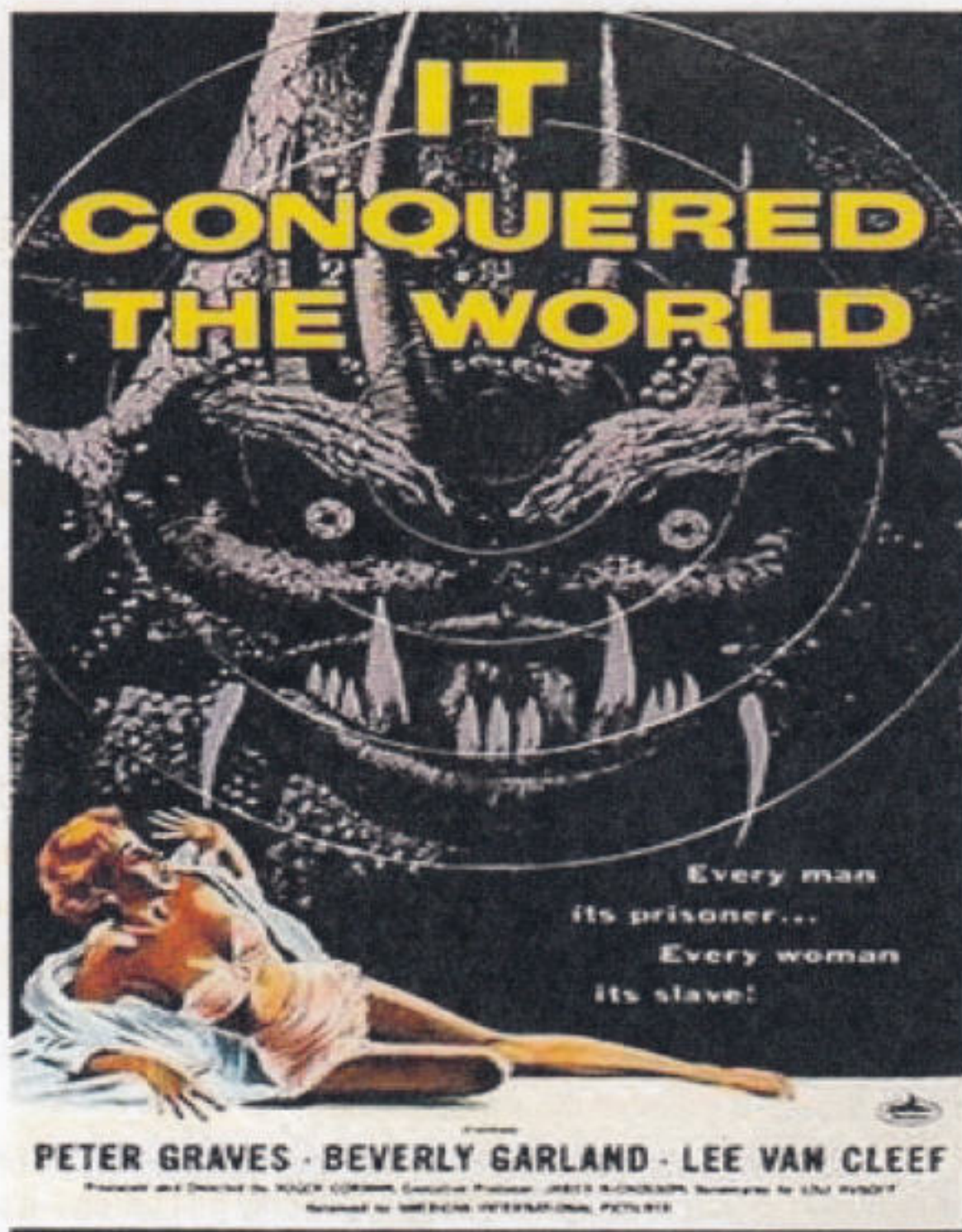
than *Gappa, the Triphibian Monster*. What they left out was that the prehistoric planet was Earth. It is a fun movie, with a touching finale (the filmmakers say they had not seen *Gorgo* (1961), though it's almost the same ending)

Whoever designed the poster had the most basic idea of the monster. It sort of looks like *Gappa*, but only just barely. It's close enough for rock and roll and an 8mm movie box. I love the look of *Gappa*, and the suit makers did a fine job of making the suits subtly different for the parent monsters. The baby really does look like a burnt lizard.

It Conquered the World

(1956)

The most astounding alien from Venus tries to conquer the world with the help of an idealistic scientist. The poster is



pretty great, and makes Beulah (the name the cast gave the alien) look properly terrifying.

It's just when the alien is actually seen in full that the illusion is rather, let's say, destroyed. I love the way the creature

looks, but it just can't move properly in real time. They did the best they could, and it shows. Beulah still looks way better than Zontar ever did.



The movie itself, despite the story line, is well done. The actors are good and the characters all have the proper motivations. There is even the right amount of intentional comedy featured. Had Beulah been a bit better realized it wouldn't be quite the same movie it turned into nowadays.

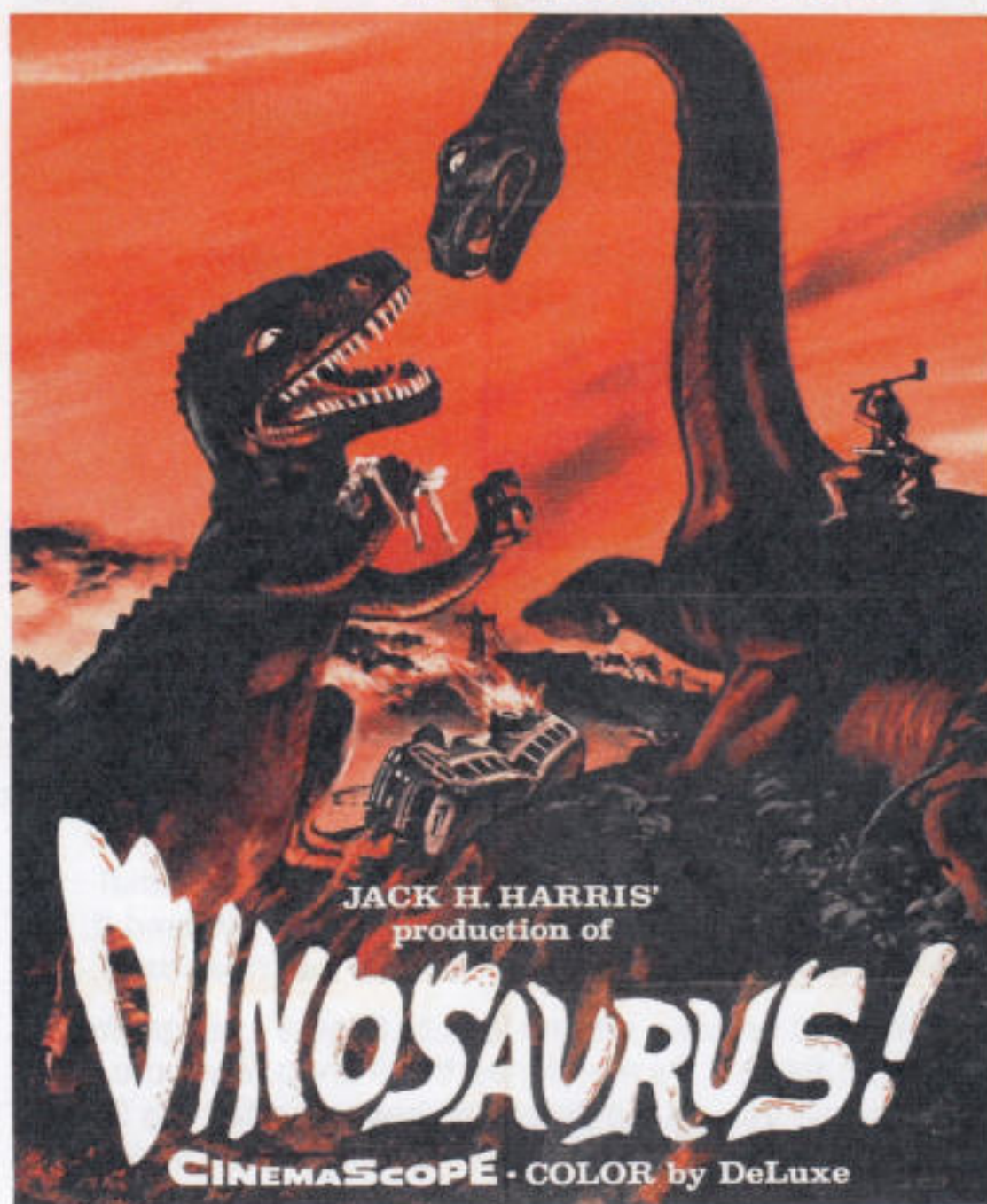
How did an alien with no legs or fingers ever get from Venus to the Earth? It's mentioned there are a few more of these aliens on Venus, but they must have decided the Earth was too dangerous once Lee Van Cleef was not on their side any more. It was a good thing that Lee was bad for that ugly alien invader.

Dinosaurus!

1960

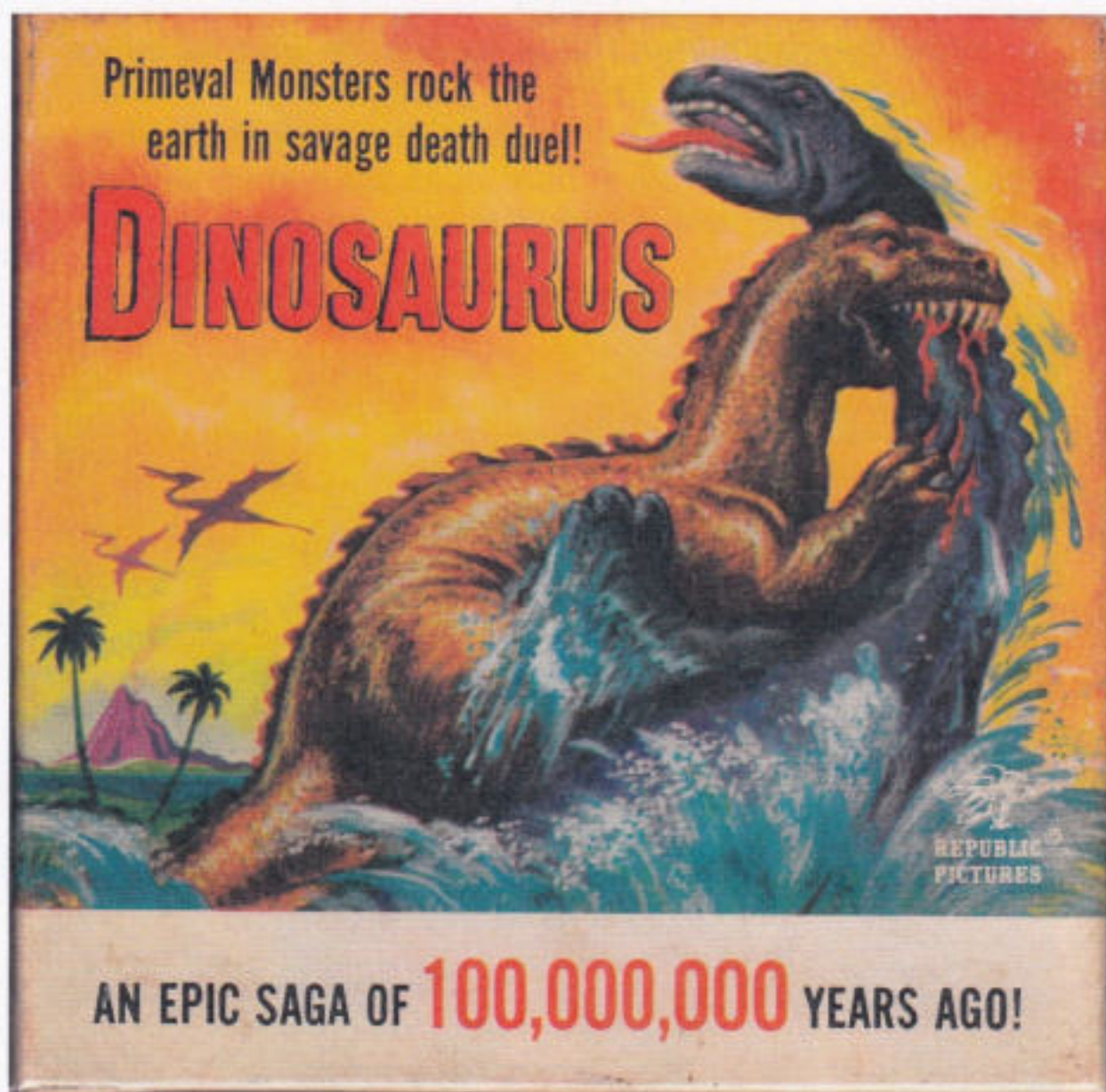
This movie has a phenomenal poster. It's also a lot of fun, especially if you see it as a kid. It wasn't broadcast in my

ALIVE WITH THRILLS THAT STARTED
A MILLION YEARS AGO!



Starring WARD RAMSEY · KRISTINA HANSON · PAUL LUKATHER
Screenplay by JEAN YEAWORTH and DAN E. WEISBURD · Co-produced and Directed by IRVIN S. YEAWORTH, JR.
Produced by JACK H. HARRIS · A Fairview Production · A Universal-International Release

area until I was in my late teens, and it didn't appeal to me much then, but as I've gotten older I really enjoy the movie for what it is, a comedy film with dinosaurs in it.



The movie sure has a lot of great posters, and I could see how someone might be annoyed if they thought the movie was more serious based on any of the posters they would have seen advertising this movie.

The box art is not remotely like any of the posters, but it is pretty great as well. It is based on the soundtrack that was released at the time. Had I seen this compilation for purchase with that rather misleading caption, I probably would have bought it and been rather disappointed in the film, since the box infers that there would be a lot of "primeval monsters" and there would have been stuff with a caveman and a kid interspersed with the dinosaurs.

DESTROY ALL MONSTERS

(1968)

Wow, this one hurts. This is my favorite Godzilla movie of all time, and it has never had many good posters. I am not sure what it **SHOULD** look like, but even the Japanese poster isn't that enthralling. The cover here looks like someone traced parts of the US poster and colored it in with crayons.



The eleven minute version was well done, and got most of the great monster action scenes in it. That made it a very satisfying viewing experience for me back in the day. It will come as no surprise to anyone that I watched this movie the most of all the ones I owned. The box really bears no resemblance to the poster at all, except maybe Angilas and Ghidorah. Poor Rodan doesn't look a thing like his movie counterpart either. Mothra was pretty easy to get correct, though that drawing looks it came from the original '62 movie.

See what I mean? Tell me which monster is Godzilla.



Gorosaurus is sort of recognizable, but Godzilla is actually listed as a "star". In fact, none of the four "stars" are featured *on* the poster very well. You can see Angilas, Ghidorah, possibly Minya and Spiga there. Even the Moonlight SY3 (the greatest spaceship ever) is done well. At least Angilas get some respect. It's not a bad poster, it's just not as great as this movie demands it should be.

The sound version of the movie calls the Kilaak "evil spirits" and that they were defeated at the end of the movie. That was something unusual to hear and was added in for the sound version.

VOYAGE INTO SPACE (1970)

And finally, here's a movie that has no true poster, but the box just awesome. It was for sale at my local K-Mart, but for



some reason, I never figured out it was a giant monster movie



made from parts of the excellent and fun *Johnny Sokko and his Flying Robot* series. I wish I had, because it's full of monsters, explosions and action. What more could a kid want? I does mention the

"gigantic flying robot on the bottom of the box. I believe I thought this was something like the fun Rocketman serials that had been airing in my area and didn't think it was a giant monster.

I've since discovered promotional material for the AIP-TV movie, and there are a few ads for it at least, and one looks like a poster. Neither the movie or the show ever aired in my area while I was growing up. I saw one episode of the series in Kansas which made me want to see more of the show, but alas, that would not happen until 1989 and the home video revolution that was happening then.

Both *Johnny Sokko and his Flying Robot* and *Voyage Into Space* have been airing on the digital broadcast channel Comet TV on a regular basis. It's nice to see these shows get exposed to new audiences. I wish they would also air the other classics, and some cartoons as well, like *Ultraman*, *Speed Racer*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and perhaps *Kimba the White Lion*. An afternoon block would be great to see on television again.



OutTakes:

Looking back at what was offered from Ken Films I'm surprised there were no Gamera movies available. What would make Yongary and Gappa more enticing than a giant turtle? The X From Outer Space wasn't included either, and it is better than those other two movies. It's especially interesting considering AIP is all over Ken Films.

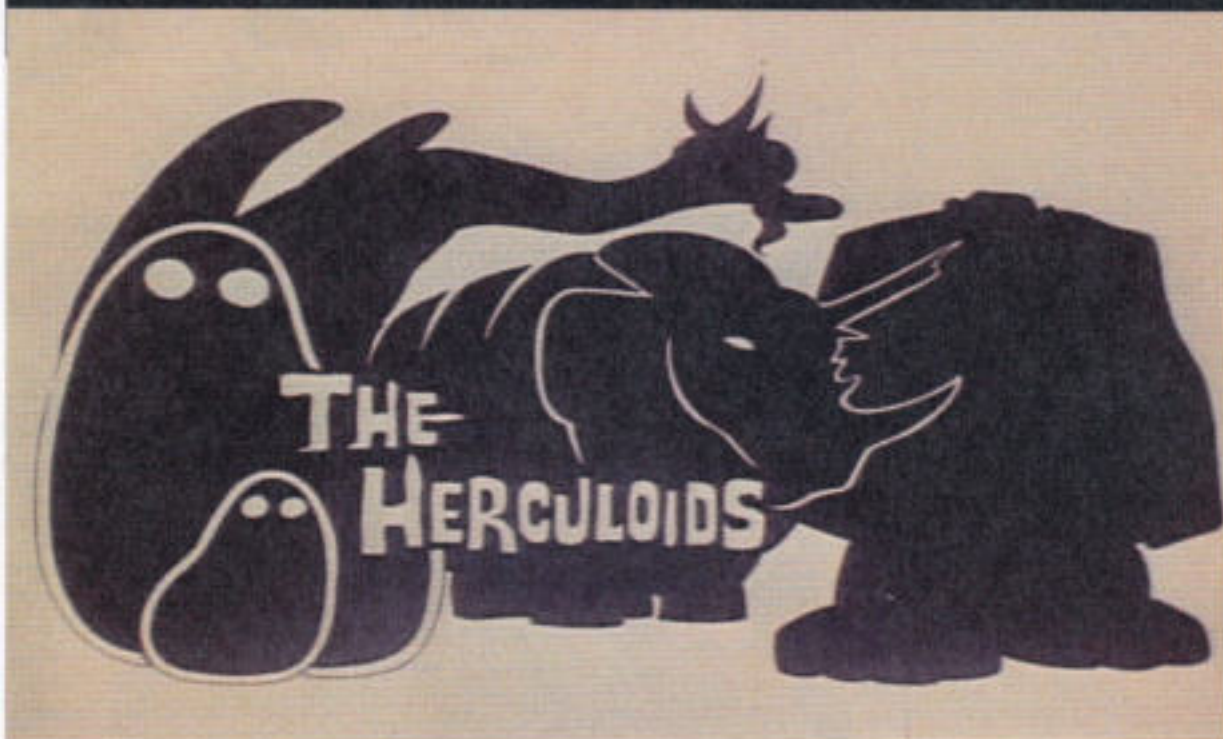
I never got more than seven or eight of these movies, they were ever so expensive back then. One would have to choose very carefully for \$10 back then was a lot of money. That made them all the more special to me and my friends though. While I do appreciate the convenience of watching a movie any time I want to now, there was just something about owning film of your favorite monster films that I wouldn't trade all the DVDs and VHS tapes in the world.

This is indeed the third edition of this book, updated with a few more movies and some re-written prose and now falls under the numbering of Xenorama proper. That does mean the former version of this will go out of print now, and turn into something of a collectible.

It looks like next issue will be a colossal sized one, featuring the superheroes of Hanna-Barbera. It'll be fun!

Stay tuned...

- David





OK, Guilala was never made it to 8mm home movies, but it sure should have.



another awesome issue
of Xenorama is in your
hands! by David
McRobie with cover art
by Dan Ross

Before there was DVD or home
video there were 8mm movies-
short film compilations of your
favorite movies that you could
actually own. This is a look at
the posters that inspired the
box art for many of the
fantastic films that were
offered for sale in those
halcyon days

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