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Look-in

Junior TVTimes No.5 week ending 29 January 1977 Every Thursday 9p

THE GREAT NEW **KING KONG**

**SPECIAL
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Exclusive picture strips!



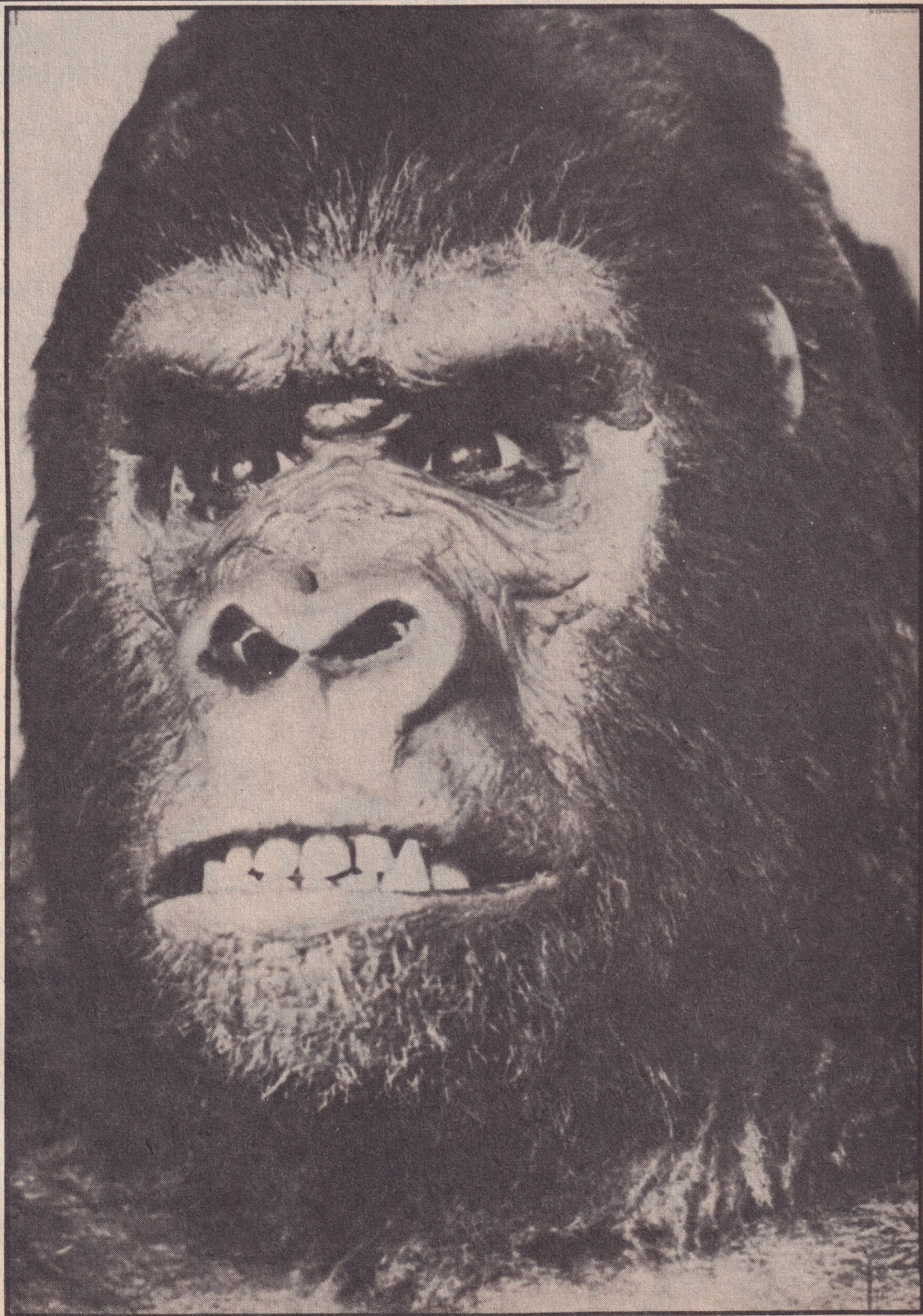
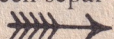
THE KING CALLED KONG!


THEY hugged their seats. Their open mouths were dry with horror. Their eyes stared unbelievably at the screen when the giant ape carried his victim to the summit of the Empire State Building, wrenching from the skies the planes sent against him — crushing their frail fabric to matchwood! They breathed the name in fear — King Kong. The name that was to become one of cinema's greatest ever legends, a name to live on long after those enthralled audiences of 1933 had folded their seats and taken their terror home with them...

Yes, it was forty-four years ago that the great gorilla first made his impact in the field of fabulous fiction, and now, with nearly half a century of film technology to update his monstrous image, he's back, in Dino De Laurentis's multi-million dollar production of the original story.

New York's World Trade Centre has long surpassed the Empire State as man's tallest building, and when production of *King Kong* was announced last year, a poster showing the gorilla straddling its twin towers was put on sale to the American public. The response was overwhelming, and De Laurentis was amazed to find that 65 per cent of those who wrote in for it were young moviegoers — all of them wanting to know whether Kong would be an actor or a giant mechanical model.

In fact, today's Kong is an ingenious forty-foot mechanical monster, weighing six and a half tons. Able to cover fifteen feet in one stride, he's electronically controlled by a complex hydraulic valve system that can roll his eyes and give sixteen separate movements to his





Jessica Lange in the grips of the Mighty Kong!



→ hands, the most famous one being when he lifts actress Jessica Lange with his massive fingers.

A far cry from the original. In the thirties' production, ninety per cent of the shots of Kong on screen used an animated miniature, just eighteen inches high, while his capers after shipment took place in a scaled-down model of New York.

Although the story has been brought into line with the seventies, it basically remains the same as it was in '33. The discovery of the enormous creature in the hinterland of Skull Island, Micronesia, its fondness for the heroine — beauty and the beast all over again — its capture and journey to America to be put on show. And then, of course, all the drama of its break-out. Its savage attempt for freedom. . .

Working with today's King Kong, ensuring that realism came through at all times, was the tough responsibility of one of the finest cinematographers in the film industry, Richard Kline. He describes it as his most challenging movie yet. "The story of Kong," he says, "is told through his eyes and his mouth. His emotions are there in his facial expressions, sometimes regal, sometimes brutal."

In its vastness, not only did the film's eight months of shooting spread over seven sound stages — including the biggest one existing in Hollywood — but also across the Pacific Ocean to Kauai, the loveliest and most remote island in the Hawaiian chain — and, of course, to New York. No other movie company had gone into the remote area of Kauai to shoot a film. Four helicopters daily airlifted the fifty-member company over the mountains and valleys of the Na Pali coast to the locations — so inaccessible that it would have taken them at least two and a half days to get there on foot.

For Kong's death scene, following an invitation in the New York papers, some thirty thousand people showed up in the World Trade Centre's Plaza to witness his farewell with his beloved Dwan — the heroine. Director John Guillermin was able to shoot what is probably the largest crowd scene ever put on film.

Jeff Bridges, Charles Grodin and Jessica Lange are nominally the stars of this De Laurentis production. But make no mistake — the true scene-stealer of the movie has to be, and *is*, the forty-foot mechanical monster with the unforgettable name, King Kong.



