

**KING
KONG
BACK
ON TOP**

SAGA

\$1.00

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JANUARY 1977



-PLUS-

**20 TOP PSYCHICS REVEAL
STARTLING 1977 PREDICTIONS**

**MIRACLE SEEKERS FLOCKING
TO THE "NEW LOURDES"**



NOBODY MONKEYS WITH KING KONG

Not even movie mogul Dino De Laurentiis, whose latest \$24 million epic updates—but doesn't change—one of the great films of all time.

Why *should* they mess with Kong? Way back in 1933 when it first came out, *King Kong* earned over \$100,000 per week in New York City alone, despite the fact that F.D.R. had just closed the banks. Besides, Dino De Laurentiis—producer of *Serpico* and *Death Wish*—was first inspired to remake Kong after seeing a poster of The Big Ape on his teen-age daughter's wall, and insiders say the gentle love a father feels for a child is present in the movie mogul's affection for his little 40-foot monkey.

"Everyone knows the monster is the star of this picture," agrees the film's director of photography, Richard Kline. "And you have to trust him just like the other actors even though you know he's a mechanical creature. For the story of Kong is told through his eyes and his mouth. His true emotions are there in his facial expressions. And he is an enormously proud being who is sometimes royal, sometimes savage."

Filmgoers may or may not like Lorenzo Semple's reverent but silly script and John Guillermin's spirited direction, but most will be impressed by the feat of engineering involved in assembling the aluminum, wires, and horsehair which are the component parts of King Kong. The creature you see on these pages weighs 6½ tons and his insides contain 3,100 feet of hydraulic hose and 4,500 feet of electrical wiring. Kong's chest is 20 feet wide and his arm span is also 20 feet. But what's most extraordinary is that he is fully functional. Kong's arms move in 16 different positions. He walks and turns at the waist. His eyes and mouth move. And all it took to build and operate the little fellow was \$1.7 million and a team of 20 crack technicians simultaneously operating hair-trigger levers.

Oh, and there are some humans in the film, too. The little grapes at the foot of The Big Ape include newcomer Jessica Lange, seasoned young actor Jeff Bridges, and the accomplished Charles Grodin, who did so well in *The Heartbreak Kid*. Jessica Lange's strip scene, by the way, demonstrates that bananas are not the only thing Kong can peel. Bridges and Grodin turn in fine performances as Kong's human rival for the lady's love and a sinister, cynical oil executive, respectively. All are to be commended for the monkey shines, even though it is the big monkey who really shines.



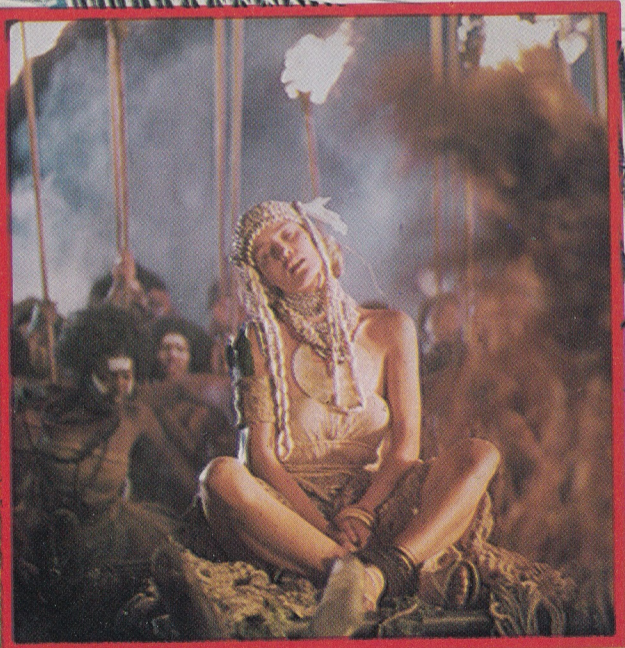






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