

Kong News



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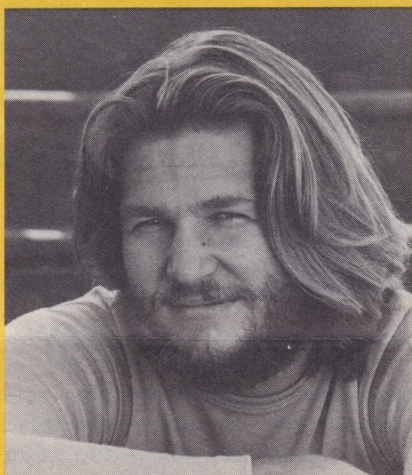
Production proceeds 'full-steam ahead' as King Kong excitement takes hold!

The "King Kong" excitement has begun.

The multi-million dollar epic adventure tale promises to be the most spectacular motion picture of all time. Dino De Laurentiis and Paramount Pictures are forging full-steam ahead on exotic locations throughout the world, creating an epic film on a gigantic scale.

De Laurentiis has recruited 200 craftsmen from every corner of the world to devise the special effects that will bring "King Kong" thundering across the screen. A gigantic monster has been built, towering 50 feet tall, able to cover 15 feet in a single stride and weighing as much as five hundred men. Its mechanical operation has been kept a closely-guarded secret, but it is a stunning technical achievement. When "King Kong" scales the massive World Trade Center twin towers in the film's climactic moments, it will be a supreme screen sequence, breath-taking in its daring.

Filming began on the incredible north coast of Kauai in Hawaii, with its dramatic cliffs and isolated, thickly-foliaged jungle. It was here that the film's first dramatic moment—the blow-up of a yacht—was staged. Over 120 technicians and actors participated on the harrowing seas to capture the scene on film. From there filming continued on the fog-drenched islands, accessible only by boat, where the legendary monster lives. Four helicopters



Jeff Bridges

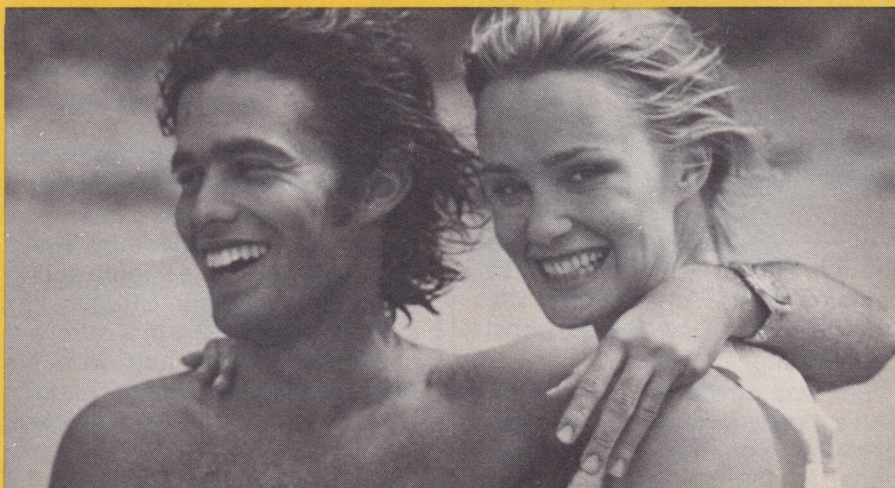
were employed to transport two tons of equipment and the principal cast and crew members to the lush but desolate island. Six fog-making machines were invented to create the mysterious aura of Kong's habitat.

The treacherous Hawaiian surf

added a real-life element of danger to the production. Trade winds pushed waves to heights of 12 feet, lashing at the shores...and the cast and crew. The dense clouds enveloping the valleys added just the perfect feel to these islands. One could almost sense the awesome Kong living here in the fog-entrenched, isolated world.

It is among these islands that the pursuit of "King Kong" begins. Thousands of extras were employed for the stirring sequence where new actress Jessica Lange is offered to Kong during an exotic native ritual. The monster snatches her and brings her further and further into the dense jungles. Despite his massive size and strength, he is gentle with her, protecting her against the other monsters in the tropical forests.

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Executive Producer Federico De Laurentiis and Jessica Lange.

Worldwide talent search undertaken to cast leads for "King Kong!"

A brilliant young cast is bringing "King Kong" to cinematic life. Dino De Laurentiis, one of the world's great producers and showmen, launched an extensive worldwide search for a new leading actress to portray Dwan, the young woman for whom "King Kong" risks his own life. It is for her that Kong battles atop the World Trade Center against Sabre jets.

The exhaustive search among eligible young beauties ended when top New York model Jessica Lange flew to the West Coast on two hours' notice for an interview. After a screen test, the role was hers. De Laurentiis has so much confidence in the young actress that he has signed her for a seven-year contract. Her role in "King Kong" is bound to make her a star, and De Laurentiis has pulled out all the publicity stops in the great tradition of Hollywood's golden age to create an exciting new screen personality in the tradition of Marilyn Monroe and Kim Novak.

A native of Minnesota—"We moved so often I practically lived in every small town in the state"—Jessica attended the University of Minnesota and then went to Paris for two years to study mime. On her return to New York, Jessica studied dance and performed briefly with a small modern dance group. But her lyrical beauty made her a natural for modeling, also, which she saw as one promising route to becoming an actress. She studied acting before returning to Paris as a model.

Her lengthy stays in Paris helped her become fluent in French. However, her home base remains New York, a city she adores for its pace and "madness."

She was introduced to the press at a party launching the production of "King Kong" with a party in the best traditions of Hollywood. The first glimpse the



Jessica Lange on Kong's palm.

press and public had of her was rising from a huge trap door lounging seductively in the palm of Kong himself, the arm stretching 40 feet. It was quite an entrance. You'll be hearing a great deal about this beautiful young actress in the months to come.

Jeff Bridges and Charles Grodin, two of Hollywood's most talented and respected young actors, were chosen for the major male roles in "King Kong." Bridges portrays a Princeton scientist who competes with Kong for Jessica Lange. Grodin is the young and ambitious oil executive in the contemporary version of the monster classic.

Jeff Bridges, only 26, has already won two Academy Award nominations for his superb acting skill. The versatile Bridges has scored impressively in a variety of challenging roles and won his Oscar nominations for "The Last Picture Show" and "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot."

For young Jeff, acting came naturally. His father, Lloyd

Bridges, and his older brother, Beau, are actors of stature in feature films and television.

Jeff made his professional acting debut in his father's celebrated, long-run television hit, "Sea Hunt" when he was 8 years old. His other major film appearances have been in "Fat City," "Lolly Madonna," "Bad Company," "The Last American Hero," "The Iceman Cometh," "Rancho Deluxe" and "Hearts of the West."

An avid guitar player, Bridges has composed more than 50 songs. One of them, "Lost in Space," he sang for the Quincy Jones soundtrack in the Dustin Hoffman-Mia Farrow film, "John and Mary." Jeff is a bachelor and lives in a remote section of Malibu.

Charles Grodin came to the chase of "King Kong" direct from his starring role with Ellen Burstyn in the smash Broadway comedy, "Same Time, Next Year." His stature as a major acting talent was confirmed in his memorable leading role in Neil Simon's film, "The Heartbreak Kid."

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Jessica Lange is rescued from the sea by Jack O'Halloran and Ed Lauter, right.

Merchandising requests flood Paramount as King Kong marketing program begins!

To prepare for "King Kong's" arrival at theaters across America on Christmas, 1976, Paramount Pictures began work on marketing the super spectacle one year before its release.

The first announcement that there would be a contemporary version of the classic monster story was made in an advertisement taken in the New York Times the Sunday after Thanksgiving, 1975. A color poster of Kong atop the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center was offered free to anyone sending in a request.

The response was overwhelming. From every state in America, and as far away as South America and Germany came requests from lawyers, housewives, U.N. diplomats, children and doctors. Secretaries had to be hired at Paramount's corporate headquarters in New York's Gulf + Western Building to handle the 25,000 requests that came in the first three weeks after the ad was run.

This enthusiastic, favorable response to having Kong at the World Trade Center caused the screenplay to be revised and have the monster moved there from the Empire State Building for the film's thrilling finale.



But this also produced a counterreaction in fans of the Empire State Building. On a spring day in April, men dressed as gorillas paraded on the observatory there, protesting Kong's removal to the World Trade Center.

After Christmas, 1975, another ad was run in the New York Times, giving telephone numbers in New York and Los Angeles for anyone interested in licensing King Kong merchandise. The switchboards

were inundated with calls. In the first hours there were 83 requests for marketing Kong t-shirts, and almost as many for putting Kong on everything from toothpaste and detergents to soft drinks and children's cereal.

De Laurentiis' daughter sparks Kong production

Dino De Laurentiis credits his young daughter, Francesca, for giving him the idea for remaking a contemporary version of the classic "King Kong."

When De Laurentiis moved his base of operations from Rome three years ago, Francesca decorated her room in the family's apartment with various movie posters, including one from the 1933 version of "King Kong."

Every morning at 7:30 when Dino would go to her room to awaken her for school, he would see Kong staring at him from the wall.



Dino De Laurentiis

Later, when De Laurentiis was discussing with Paramount executives the possibility of future projects, Dino, with the poster in mind, said he had a story he had always wanted to film: "King Kong."

Worldwide talent search

(Continued from page 2)

Much of Grodin's early professional work was done on the stage across the nation, appearing in more than 50 plays. On Broadway he did "Tchin-Tchin" and "Absence of a Cello." Appearing in many television shows, Grodin broke into feature films as Mia Farrow's young doctor in "Rosemary's Baby." He then portrayed the navigator in Mike Nichols' "Catch-22."

After "The Heartbreak Kid," he filmed "11 Harrow House" with Candice Bergen and James Mason. But his time remained

divided between film and the stage where he co-authored and directed off-Broadway the musical "Hooray, It's a Glorious Day and All That" and directed on Broadway the hit Renee Taylor-Joe Bologna comedy "Lovers and Other Strangers."

He directed the Broadway hit "Thieves" and co-stars in the film version with Marlo Thomas.

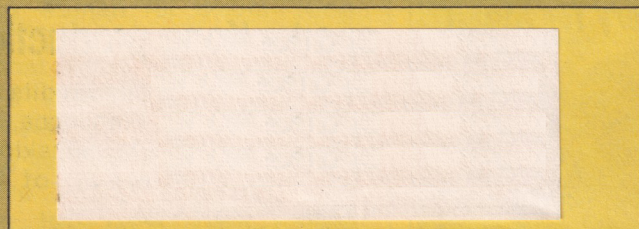
This exciting truimverate of top young talents is being directed in "King Kong" by John Guillermin. The screenplay is by Lorenzo Semple, Jr.



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King Kong

Paramount Pictures
and Dino De Laurentiis will
bring to you the most exciting
original motion picture event of all time



BULK RATE
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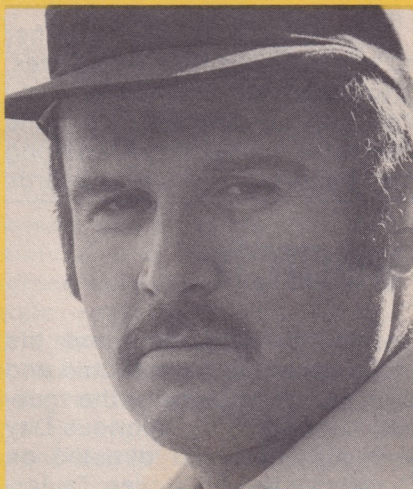


Gigantic team effort bringing Kong to life!

(Continued from page 1)

In the chase to recover the young woman from Kong are Jeff Bridges and Charles Grodin. They face incredible dangers, not only from Kong but from the forbidding elements of the forests. One memorable scene was filmed inside the base of an extinct volcano, a breathtaking vision with waterfalls cascading down the sides covered with lush, stark vegetation.

While the filming continued in Hawaii, skilled craftsmen back in Hollywood were putting finishing touches on the most complex sets ever designed for a film. So vast is the scope of "King Kong" that seven huge soundstages were needed to build the sets, including the biggest soundstage existing in Hollywood. This in addition to the filming on location that has been completed in Hawaii and which will continue in New York. Carpenters built scaffolding from which cameras



Charles Grodin

can record the enormous size and every angle of Kong, seamstresses worked on the costumes for hundreds of extras, plasterers made molds that will become the realistic rocks the humans crawl over to escape from the rampaging Kong, and skilled cameramen experimented for hours with the latest and most

advanced cinema photographic materials to bring "King Kong" brilliantly to the screen.

Everything has been carefully prepared for the massive production of "King Kong." Hundreds of intricate illustrations, called story boards, were drawn in the art department so that every scene was minutely designed and familiar to those working on the production. The enormous technical and logistical support unit consists of professional production managers and three camera units working simultaneously on land and sea; eight cameramen working concurrently in the various locations and full staffs in Hawaii, Hollywood and New York.

Overseeing the entire production is director John Guillermin, no stranger to large-scale productions ("The Towering Inferno"). The screenplay is by Lorenzo Semple, Jr.