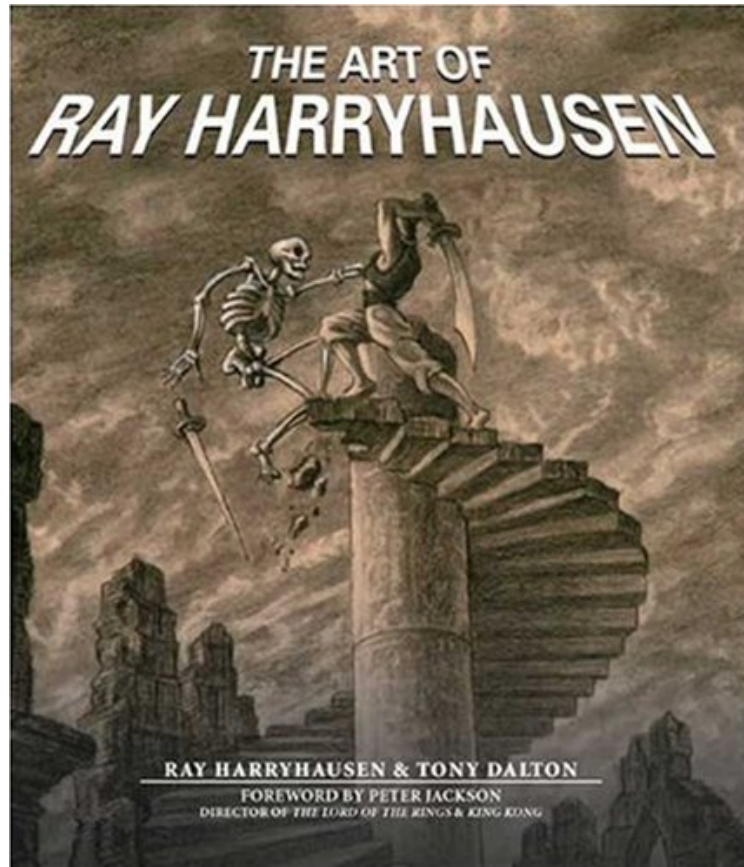


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The Art of Ray Harryhausen

Ray Harryhausen, Tony Dalton
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Ray Harryhausen, Tony Dalton : The Art of Ray Harryhausen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Ray Harryhausen:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An enlargement of Ray's FILM FANTASY SCRAPBOOK!! By Jonhayashi! This book reads like an expanded version of Ray's FILM FANTASY SCRAPBOOK! Ray describes in detail the processes involved in making his movies and the influence of such artists as Charles R. Knight whose depiction of dinosaurs was a big influence on both Harryhausen and Disney when it comes to the Rite Of Spring of FANTASIA. When Ray made EVOLUTION he abanded the project after seeing Disney's dinosaurs! Ray preferred the surreal quality of his stop motion over the realism of today's CGI animation! Chapter 3 Masks, mayhem and Monsters shows his experimenting with puppets and his mask making which he made with latex rubber and molds Chapter 4 The Formative Years shows Ray experimenting with commercials like Kenny Key (his early work can be seen in RAY HARRYHAUSEN THE EARLY YEARS DVD VIDEO) Then he worked with Willis O Brian on MIGHTY JOE YOUNG. The full colour illustrations of Joe Young the gorilla show how expressive Ray was with his drawings! In Chapter 5 Fairy Tales my Teething Rings Ray talks about his charming Fairy Tale shorts that are featured in RAY HARRYHAUSEN THE EARLY YEARS dvd video! Model sheets by Ray show Red Riding Hood and other

characters before they are visualised in 3 dimensions as stop motion puppets. As an animator myself I can only look at his work and realise the patience and persistence in animating these models one frame at a time! I find it enough work to animate hand drawn animation instead of models! The beautiful kodachrome forest for Red Riding Hood to walk through is breathtaking to see! And the glistening gold in KING MIDAS is spectacular! Chapter 7 ZEUS COMPLEX shows his visualisations of JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS and CLASH OF THE TITANS! I just watched JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS, THE 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD and GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD on DVD! The drawings of Medusa the Gorgon show how expressive Ray made her and also reveal a weakness in some of his work in that the monsters are much more alive and expressive than the hero such as Perseus, acted stiffly by Harry Hamlin! Jason fares better with an army of skeletons and the Hydra both animated by Ray! Storyboards of Talos the giant statue towering over the ship, the Argo are powerful and intriguing! There are also storyboard drawings for sequences not used like Hermes taking Jason up to mount Olympus by a horse drawn Chariot and creature sketches for the unrealised FORCE OF THE TROJANS! Chapters 8 and 9 depict THE 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD and THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD with the dragon from 7th VOYAGE with Ray holding it and full size drawing of one eyed cyclops centaur in GOLDEN VOYAGE menacing some men with a boulder! The last chapter, chapter 11 "Its fine stuff but it will rot in time" shows Ray preserving his models in bronze since his models were not made to resist the rigors of time! This book is beautifully illustrated, highly recommended!! R.I.P. Ray Harryhausen! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not just for R.H. fans, but an important book for special effects fans, film historians!!! By Leo Hott Rarely does a man come along that is as influential to a specific field or occupation or art form that has such an impact as Ray Harryhausen!! Many could argue that Willis O'Brien should alone be credited with the advent of stop motion animation, but I believe that Ray Harryhausen's films have influenced a much wider audience. Mr. Harryhausen gives credit where credit is due this book not only showcases Ray's work but offers a generous look at Willis O'Brien's work as well! Ray Harryhausen is a rare example of the student exceeding the master Ray stays true to his teacher in realizing O'Brien's unfulfilled projects like "The Valley of Gwangi." Ray Harryhausen has never let his ego get in the way never missing an opportunity to give credit and admiration to Mr. O'Brien. This book is a must have for Harryhausen fans, students of special effects in motion pictures. It is filled with beautiful artwork images of unrealized films that stir the imagination. Before the advent of C.G.I. stop motion animation was a breakthrough development in film making, making it possible to bring a level of realism to creature films not available prior to its creation. This also allowed Hollywood to revive ancient literature bring it to a new audience of film viewers. Not everyone has a vivid imagination being able to envision the wild weird creatures of Mythology Science Fiction tending to making these genres dull unappealing to many readers. But through the creative imagination talent of Ray Harryhausen many people left the movie theaters with a whole new appreciation for those genres! It is difficult to express in words the full impact this one man had on the film industry and the thousands of moviegoers that were privileged to witness this quantum leap in film making! Our children will never fully appreciate the impact of people seeing a 30 foot tall orange Cyclops rampage across the big screen framed in a stunning blue sky background! If not for pioneers like Willis O'Brien Ray Harryhausen who took stop motion animation to the next level we would have never had inspired hungry young special effects artists to push the envelope to develop C.G.I. and have special effects so realistic you can't tell where reality ends the illusion begins! Whether it's my age that makes the old Ray Harryhausen / Charles Schneer films so endearing to me or if it's the quality of the story telling I will never truly know. But I can tell you this, no matter how good the C.G.I. special effects are today almost every child still finds these old films great fun every parent can allow their child to watch these old classics without having to worry about excessive violence, sexuality, or foul language!!! I am very glad I decided to get this book. Not only because it's filled with exciting beautiful artwork storyboards I am familiar with, but it is filled with great information images of lost unrealized projects that in my opinion are worth the price I paid for this book alone! If you are a fan of Ray Harryhausen I highly recommend this book! 21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. An amazing and incredible testament to a major fantastic filmmaker. By Bob Eggleton To start with, this book reproduces so many unseen and barely-glimpsed-before drawings and concepts, that one can spend hours looking at each one again and again. So it is rare we are afforded this backstage look at the making of those wonderful stop motion films. Harryhausen's legacy is testimony to a time when films were made of this kind, and they not only took a long time of thinking and planning to make, but the result on screen was epic and, worth the wait. Nowadays fantasy film effects are churned out so ad nauseum thanks to CGI, that they simply lose their wonder-it's like we're used to it. I'm a big fan of *real* model work and real matte painting. You could touch it and it had presence, and those little nuances people fault it for now, are what give it its character and style. Because of that, Harryhausen's legacy stands on its own and will be remembered well past his lifetime. Remember, even up to his last film CLASH OF THE TITANS (1981) he worked largely out of a very small studio-one time it was his garage(!) with one or two assistants and that was only on later, larger budgeted pictures. What does that say compared nowadays to \$150M dollar + effects films!!!!?? And though retired, we have Harryhausen now, still working away with his drawings and sculptures into his 80's. A man who loves what he does. I can't recommend this book enough, save to say that the reproduction is excellent on all the art shown-pencil sketches, storyboards, charcoal drawings. It's so nice to see drawings as opposed to over-rendered

computer artwork of nowadays. Of note is the "Inspirations" part of the book where we see some of the artwork by others that inspired Ray to follow his muse. It says much about the man.

Harryhausen is the critically acclaimed master of stop-motion animation and has a huge following. Publishers Weekly called *Ray Harryhausen: An Animated Life* terrific; Kirkus said it's a must; Library Journal said Harryhausen is a geek god! Lavishly illustrated and packed with Harryhausens own words and images. The huge ape of *Mighty Joe Young*. The fighting skeletons of *Jason and the Argonauts*. And, of course, the angry T. Rex of *Island of the Gwangi*. All these creations and many more, seared into our collective consciousness, are the work of one man Ray Harryhausen. The father of special effects, Ray Harryhausen is revered among film historians, animators, special-effects designers, and everyone whos ever seen his inspired stop-motion creations. In 2004, Watson-Guptill published *Ray Harryhausen: An Animated Life* to critical acclaim and sales of over 20,000 copies. Now WG is pleased to present a companion book: *The Art of Ray Harryhausen*. Concise essays and lavish illustrations look at each of Harryhausens many specialties, including aliens, prehistoric creatures, mythological monsters, and much more. At last, fans of Harryhausen can see the progression of his work over time, in a visual celebration of his art and artistry.

From Booklist Fantasy-film geeks revere Harryhausen's technically dazzling, meticulously crafted movies employing the painstaking technique of stop-motion animation. This coffee-table volume showcases the material Harryhausen discovered in his archives while researching *Ray Harryhausen: An Animated Life* (2004). Harryhausen stresses that this book isn't as much about animation as about the previsualization that precedes making the models that will be filmed; accordingly, it focuses on sketches, key drawings, storyboards, and preliminary clay models rather than film stills. Thematic chapters cover Harryhausen's early work, including his stint with animation legend Willis O'Brien on the *King Kong* quasi sequel, *Mighty Joe Young*; dinosaur movies, such as *One Million Years B.C.*; sci-fi flicks such as the 1953 *War of the Worlds*; and the series of films portraying the adventures of *Sinbad of, more or less, the Arabian Nights*. Like O'Brien before him, Harryhausen hugely influenced younger filmmakers. In the introduction, *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson says he grew up wanting to become Harryhausen's apprentice and notes that the animator's films "have lost none of their ability to provoke wonder." Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Ray has been a great inspiration to us in the special visual industry. The art of his earlier films, which most of us grew up on, inspired us so much." GEORGE LUCAS PRODUCER/DIRECTOR "The *Lord of the Rings* is my Ray Harryhausen movie. Without that lifelong love of his wondrous images and storytelling, it would never have been made not by me at least." FROM THE FOREWORD BY PETER JACKSON "One of the worlds greatest manipulators" KERMIT FROG About the Author Ray Harryhausen, the greatest animator in movie history, recently completed the film *The Tortoise and the Hare*, a fairy tale originally begun more than fifty years ago; it was released to great acclaim. He lives in London. Tony Dalton was involved in the publicity for *Star Wars*, *The Towering Inferno*, and *The Omen*. A film historian and producer, he has written for *Variety*, *Broadcast*, and other industry magazines. He lives in London. Peter Jackson is the Oscar-winning director of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *King Kong*.