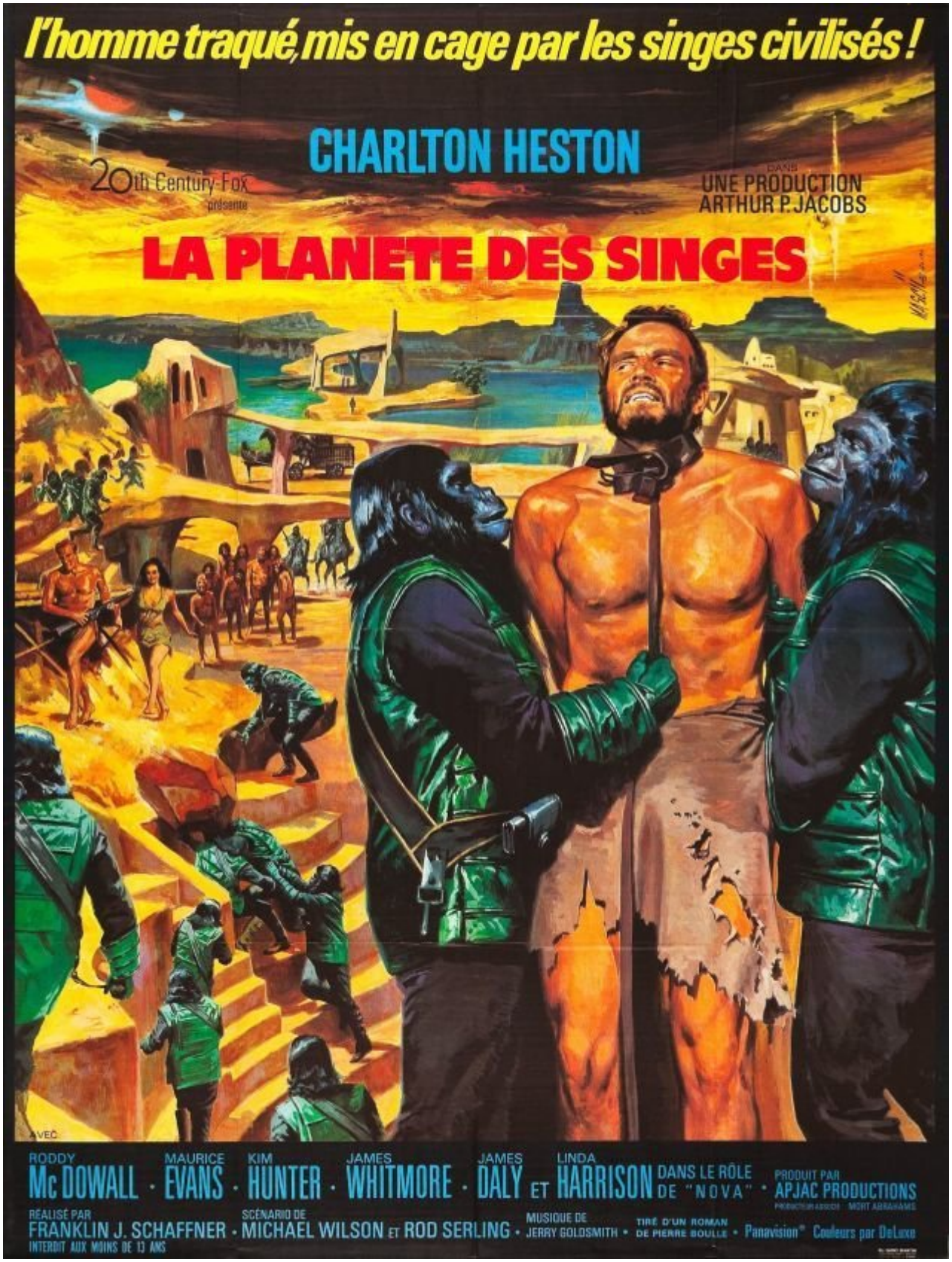
Twitter Thread by Pulp Librarian



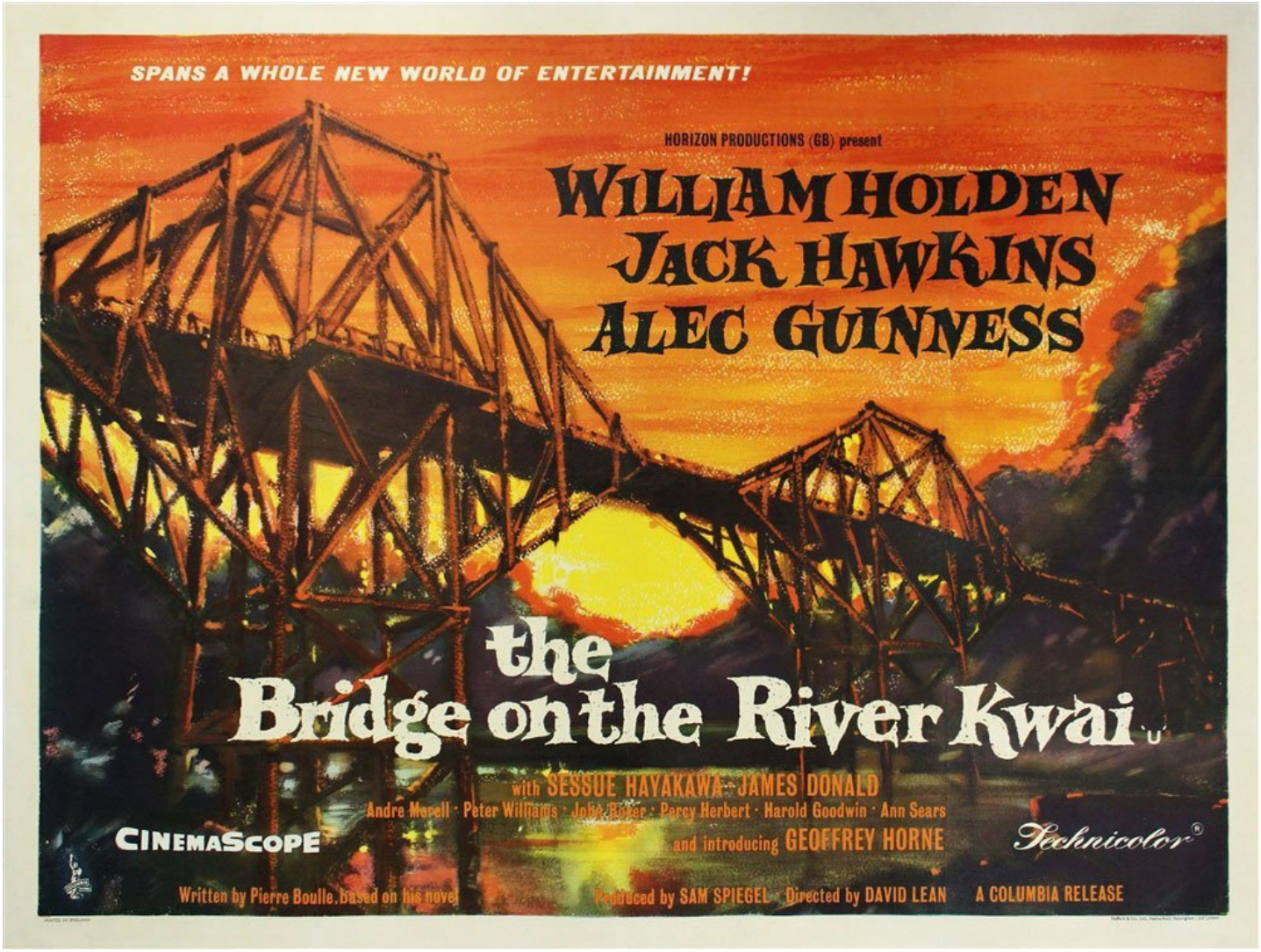
Pulp Librarian
@PulpLibrarian

Pierre Boulle was born today in 1912, so what better time to look back at his sociological science-fiction classic that paved the way for Star Wars and the MCU.

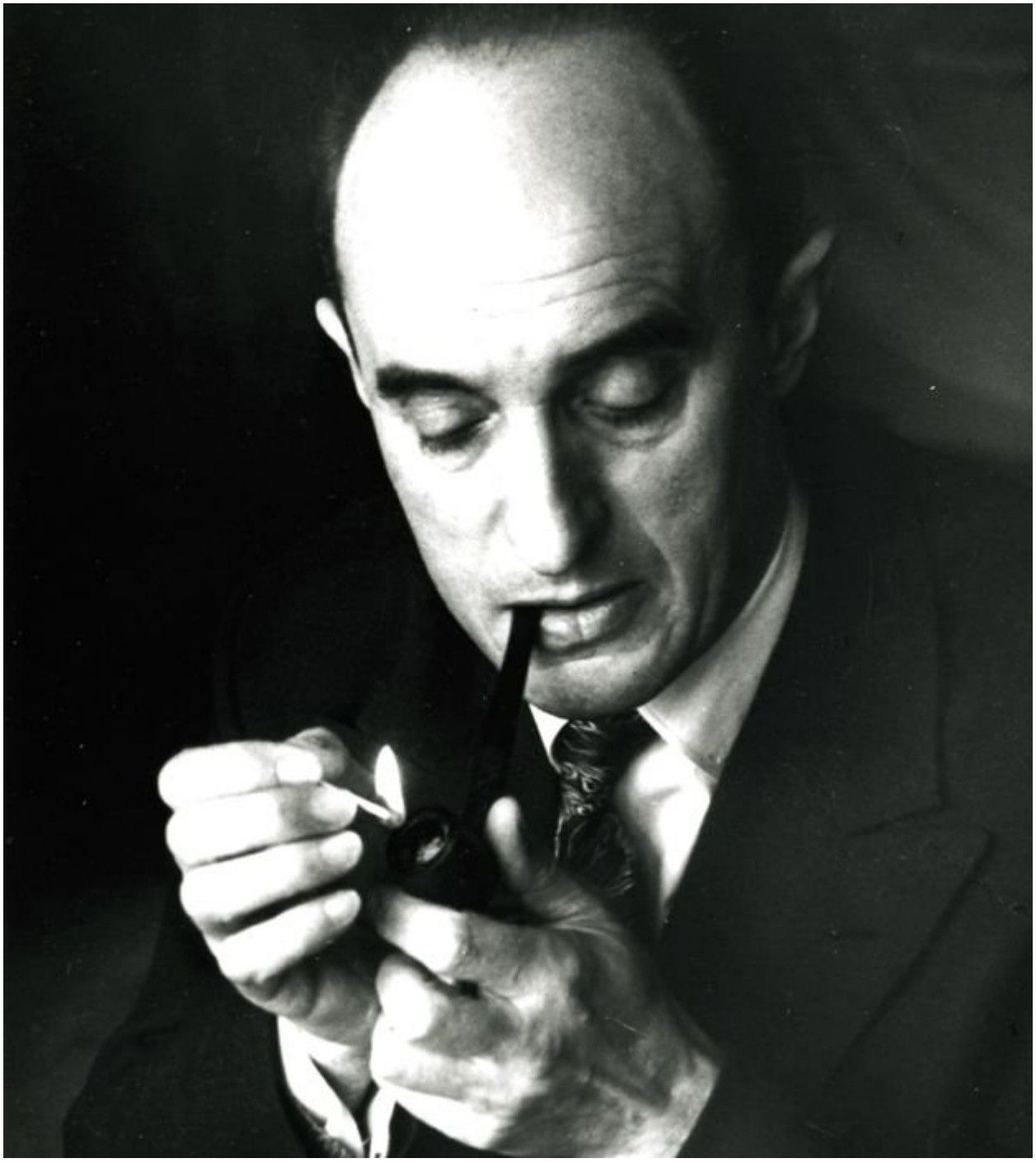
This is the story of Planet Of The Apes!



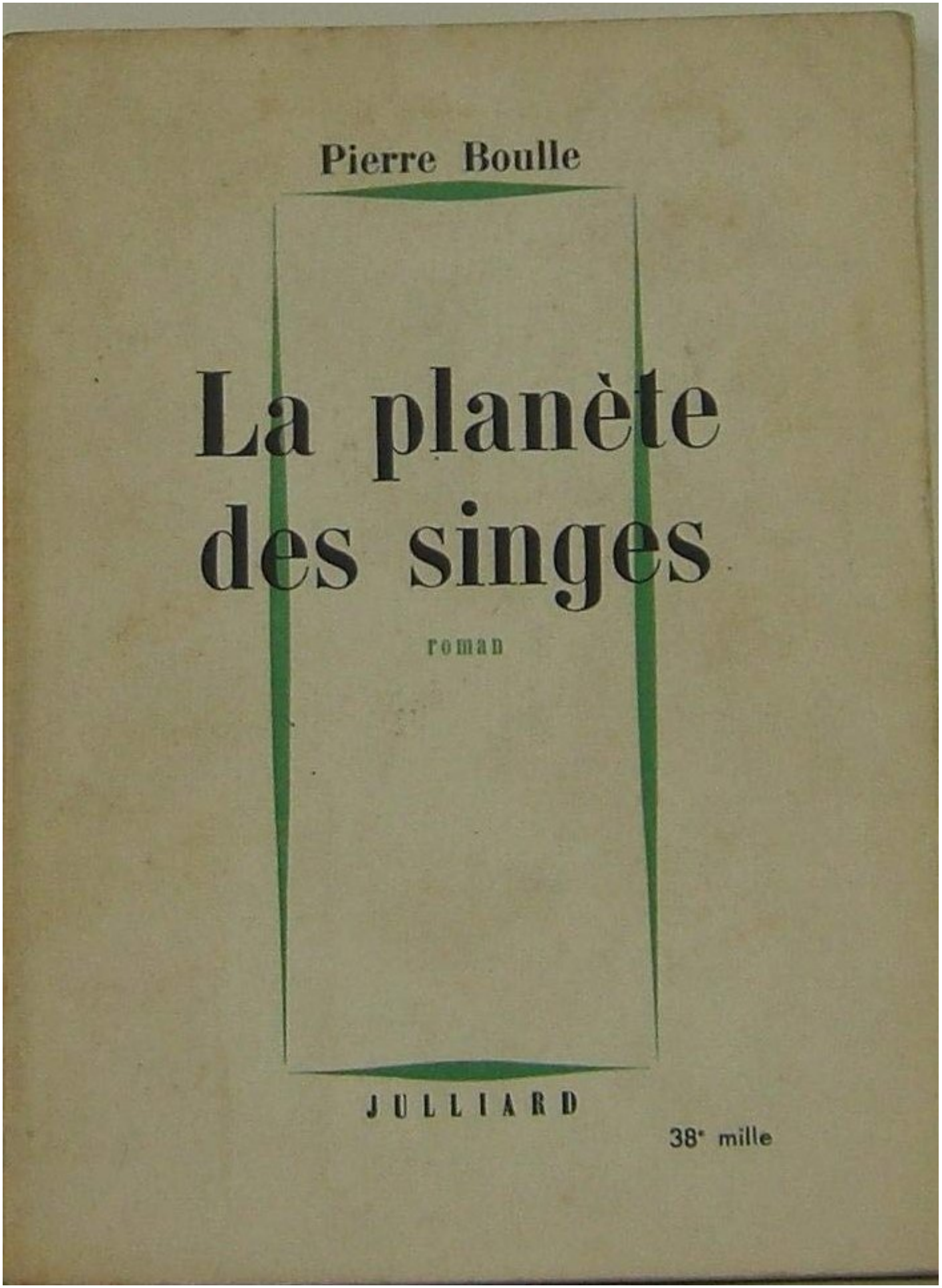
Pierre Boulle is probably best known for his 1952 novel Bridge On The River Kwai, based on his wartime experiences in Indochina. So it was possibly a surprise when 11 years later he authored a science fiction novel.



However Boulle had been a Free French secret agent during the war. He was captured in 1943 by Vichy forces in Vietnam and sentenced to hard labour. This experience of capture would shape his novel La Planète Des Singes.



Published in 1963 La Planète Des Singes recieved good reviews. An English translation - entitled Monkey Planet - was issued the following year. It was a story that seemed to strike a chord with readers.

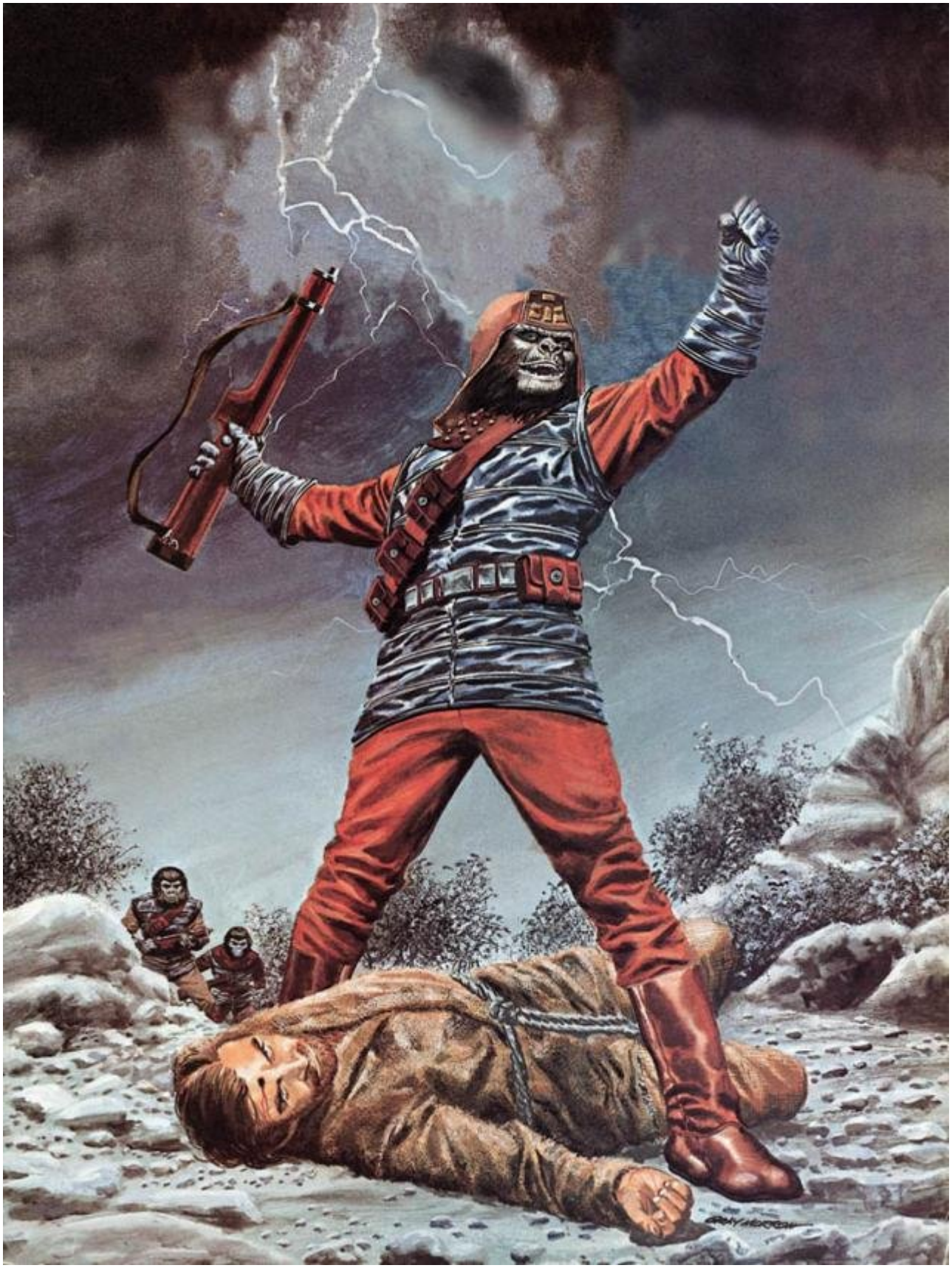


In the novel two rich travellers find a manuscript written by journalist Ulysse Mérou. It tells a fantastical tale: how he travelled with two wealthy explorers to Betelgeuse. They land on the planet Soror, a world of primitive humans ruled by advanced

civilised apes.

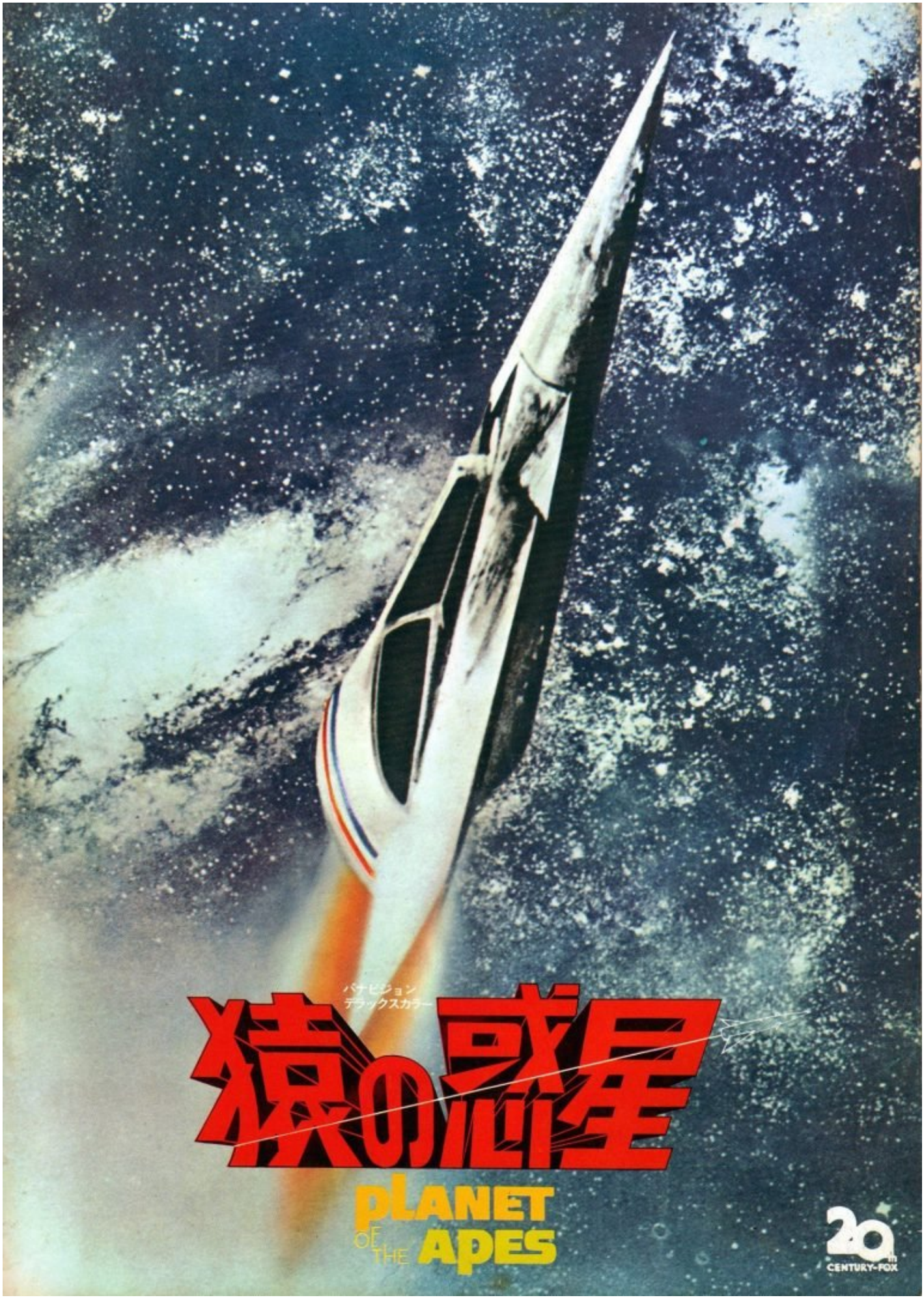


Zira, a chimpanzee scientist, discovers Mérou can speak; he is given his freedom and eventually has a child with Nova, another captured human. Zira's partner Cornelius also learns how humans once used tame apes as servants, before they overthrew their lazy masters.



Mérou and his family eventually escape back to Earth in a rocket ship, but time-dilation means several centuries have passed there, and now the Earth too is ruled by apes.

The travellers chuckle at this tale: as civilised chimps they know no brute human could become so advanced.


パナビジョン
デラックスカラー
猿の惑星
PLANET
OF THE APES
20th
CENTURY-FOX

Arthur Jacobs optioned the movie rights and got 20th Century Fox to stump up the cash. Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling wrote the initial movie script, though it was deemed too costly to produce. Blake Edwards came up with the famous ending, though in the end he didn't direct.


Fact and Science Fiction
AMAZING
stories
FEBRUARY
50¢
BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR, by Henry Slesar
BRIDGE TO AZRAEL
Novel by John Brunner
A ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLICATION
ALEX SCHOMBURG

Test screenings were needed to convince Fox to make the film. Charlton Heston appeared as Thomas (later renamed Taylor) and Edward G Robinson as Dr Zaius. Due to the long sessions needed in make-up Robinson eventually declined his role and Maurice Evans took his place.



Kim Hunter and Roddy McDowall were cast as scientific chimps Zira and Cornelius, with Linda Harrison taking the role of Nova after Raquel Welch and Ursula Andress declined it. Shooting began in May 1967 and location work was done in the canyons of the Colorado river.



John Chambers did the Oscar-winning prosthetics for Planet Of The Apes, aided by almost 100 make-up artists. Chambers also made Mr Spock's ears and later fronted up the 'Argo' production company involved in the 1980 Tehran rescue operation.



Amazingly at lunch breaks the Planet Of The Apes actors segregated themselves by 'species' - humans, chimps, orangutans and gorillas - and sat only with their own group. It was an unintentional thing, but a strong signal that the movie

was touching on some very important themes.



Jerry Goldsmith's score for Planet Of The Apes was ground-breaking, mixing a traditional orchestra with an electric harp and clarinet, Tibetan horn, conch shell and stainless steel mixing bowls. It made the movie sound - as well as look - like nothing audiences had seen before.



Planet Of The Apes was released on 8 February 1968 and 20th Century Fox used various PR tricks to promote it, including a spoof newspaper. Critical reaction was hugely positive. For a dystopian film it caught the mood of 1968: Vietnam, the Cold War and the counterculture.



Brilliant Scientist Dr. Zaius Advocates Extermination of Humans

Dr. Zaius

Young Simians were enthralled last night at the National Academy by an address by Dr. Zaius, Chief Minister of Science and Defender of the Faith. In a stirring speech advocating the complete extermination of the human animal, Dr. Zaius urged his young listeners to take their share of responsibility in clearing the planet of what he called "the greatest menace to our Ape civilisation in the last ten decades".

"Beware the beast man", said Dr. Zaius, "for he is the devil's pawn. Alone among God's primates he kills for greed. He will murder his brother to possess his brother's land.

"Let us prevent him breeding in great numbers, for he will make a desert of his home and of yours. Shun him. Drive him back into his jungle lair — or more appropriately, and this I urge with all my ape instincts, exterminate him completely, for he is the harbinger of death."

In concluding his address amid rousing cheers, Dr. Zaius said that it was the duty of every section of Simian society to take part in the fight to rid our planet of the human species.

THE APE EXCLUSIVE

MORE PICTURES OF THIS MORNING's BIG ROUND-UP

These exclusive pictures of the great human round-up were taken by famed "Ape" cameraman Simka on an assignment with the Gorilla guards.

Ready for the raid. Some of our mounted Gorilla guards prepare to attack the humans foraging in the cornfields near the Forbidden Zone.

A dramatic picture of some of our guards overpowering humans in the river on the edge of the Forbidden Zone.

"Intelligent Human" Claim Dismissed as "Nonsense"

Young scientists, some even employed at the Academy of Ape Science, have for some time been propounding the astounding theory that certain human animals possess some measure of intelligence. The more precocious have even gone so far as to suggest that a small number of the human beasts may possess a standard of reasoning almost as highly developed as that of the Ape.

This absurd theory, which this newspaper believes is a heresy against the Ape Law and the writings of the Sacred Scrolls, has been advanced defiantly and with amazing bravado particularly by two young scientists, Dr. Zira and Dr. Cornelius. The couple claim that several discoveries at the scene of archaeological excavations to the West of the Forbidden Zone tend to prove that there was some significant Ape civilisation in existence on this planet more than two thousand years ago.

It is alleged that Zira and Cornelius have manufactured "evidence" to support their claims in reports to their superiors at the Academy on their study of a particular human beast recently captured. The reports state that the man is able to make himself understood to the scientists by an intelligent form of sign language and even express the opinion that the beast may have been able to speak at one time. It is significant that the man-animal's ability to communicate by sound cannot be tested as he was wounded in the throat by Gorilla guards at the time of his capture.

"Many will think the accused throat wound is a convenient excuse to prevent the immediate debunking of these ridiculous claims. To suggest that we can learn anything about the Simian nature from a study of man is about as ridiculous as to suggest a leading member of the Academy is an evolutionary link with man."

The officials declined to comment further on the grounds that the two scientists mainly concerned were at present appearing before the National Tribunal on charges of heresy arising from their continuing to maintain these views after repeated warnings from the Academy Council that they were dangerous, subversive and against Ape Law. The matter was, therefore, sub judice.

The human claimed to having "intelligence" by the two scientists.

Two Accused at Tribunal

Heresy Trial Opens

Dr. Zira

Dr. Cornelius

The trial for heresy of two young scientists from the Academy was opened today before the Tribunal of the Ape Nation.

The accused were Dr. Zira and Dr. Cornelius, indicted on several counts of heresy and violation of Ape Law and the teachings of the Sacred Scrolls by what the prosecution described as "insane attempts to cast doubt on our ancient laws and teachings by basing what they purported to be evidence that the human animal is an intelligent creature."

The Tribunal consisted of the President, Doctor Zaius, Minister of Science and Chief Defender of the Faith and Doctor Maximus, Commissioner of Animal Affairs.

Doctor Honorius, Deputy Minister of Justice, appeared for the State. The defendants conducted their own case.

There was a moment of high drama at the opening session when a human animal was brought into court by the accused for examination by the Tribunal. The Bailiff was severely admonished by the President for failing in his duty to clean up the human beast before it was brought to court.

In expressing his severe displeasure, the President stated that the grounds given off by the man was offensive to the dignity of the Tribunal.

There were lengthy legal arguments as to the disposal of the human beast committed and that two accused scientists attempted to advance reasons as to why he should not be given the treatment normally meted out to human captives.

Dr. Honorius: "This exhibit is indeed a man. Therefore he has no rights under Ape Law. He is not being tried. The point at issue is merely the method and manner of his disposal."

In opening the case against the two defendants, Doctor Honorius said that it was scientific heresy that was in fact on trial. The State's case was based on the first Article of Faith — that the Almighty created the Ape in his own image, that he gave him a soul and a mind, that he set him aside from the beasts of the jungle and made him Lord of the Planet. The proper study for Apes was Apes.

"But these young cynics", he said, indicating the defendants, "have chosen to study man. They are perverted Lucretians who advance an insidious theory called evolution."

The Prosecutor said that the State charged that Doctor Zira had a corrupt surgeon named Galen had experimented on the wounded man-animal, tampering with his brain and throat tissues to produce a speaking monster.

With the Tribunal's permission, I will expose this beast by further examination of the human beast", said Doctor Honorius.

The hearing continues tomorrow. After the Tribunal had risen, the human was taken back to his specially strengthened cage in the grounds of the Academy.

THE TRIBUNAL IN SESSION

Shown in session at the Tribunal of the Ape Nation today are the President flanked by Dr. Zaius, Minister of Science and Chief Defender of the Faith, and Dr. Maximus, Commissioner of Animal Affairs.

Official Denial of 'Man Invasion' Rumors

An official denial was given today by Zaius, Chief Government spokesman, of the rumour that an invasion of Ape cities by human animals was imminent.

"There is not the slightest foundation of truth in these rumours", said Zaius, "and they have obviously been spread by Apes disenchanted with the present regime, in a cunning attempt to create unease and a feeling of unrest in our Simian society."

Despite the Government spokesman's statement, our political correspondent does not entirely share his apparent unconcern of our rulers. The rumours have been increasingly persistent in the last few weeks and were brought into the open after the latest round-up of humans near the Forbidden Zone. Observers on the spot claim that there was a significant stiffening of resistance by the man-animals, and that there were even signs of intelligent and organised resistance to the Gorilla guards by a small core of humans.

The reports that a small group of men with an intelligence almost equal to that of the Ape have landed on a hitherto unknown type of air vehicle, and are preparing their fellow beasts for an attack on our civilisation, cannot be dismissed so lightly", when several Ape intellectuals who have made a special study of the position.

One of the human beasts captured this morning is taken to the cages at the Academy of Ape Science.

WEATHER LATEST

The outlook for tomorrow is gloomy, particularly in the Northern Pines where sunshine rain is expected. Nearer the Capital lighter showers may be interspersed with bright spells.

The prospect for the rest of the week is a little brighter, particularly if the prevailing East Wind holds from the Forbidden Zone when we may get rather higher temperatures.

1000 NEW APE HOMES

The Minister of Housing issued a statement today that a thousand new homes for Gorillas, Orangutans, and Chimpanzees will be built over the next five years.

DAMAGE BY MAN INCREASED IN LAST TEN YEARS

Statistics issued today by the National Academy show that over the last ten years the damage caused by the human animals' unceasing quest for food has increased more than four hundred per cent. "If the present rate continues", said Doctor Zaius, reviewing the figures, "the Ape nation will find itself in a position where famine will be a very real danger. It is essential, in the interests of Simian survival, that the numbers of humans be drastically reduced. They breed too quickly, denude the jungles of food, migrate to the green belts and ravage the Simian crops."

The committee members were asked for suggestions to rid our society of this growing menace and reduce these startling figures.

HEAD OF SECURITY POLICE AT SCENE

"It was just routine"

Marcus, Head of our Security Police, who has been a long-time advocate of harsher and more drastic methods of dealing with the human animals, was on the scene of this morning's great round-up, directing operations.

His comment to our reporter on the round-up: "It was merely routine."

For the elegant ape...

Clothes of distinction tailored with taste.

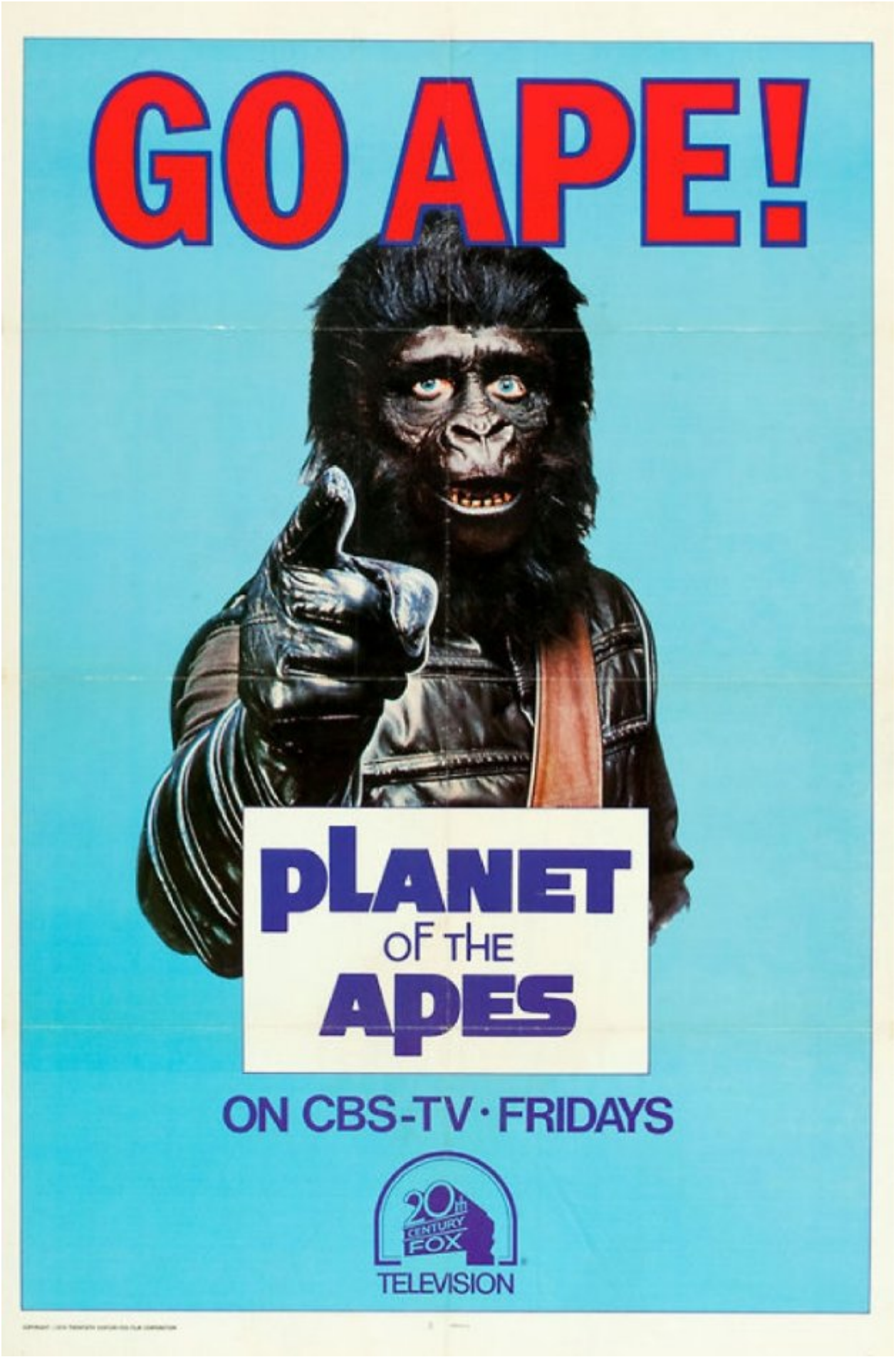
STYLED BY Zeeka's

CREATORS OF THE NEW LONG LOOK

ZEEKA'S 77, SIMIA WAY

Planet Of The Apes would have four sequels plus a TV spin-off series, as well as a reboot movie series beginning in 2001.

But for me it's legacy was something else...



The success of Planet Of The Apes opened the door for more challenging and gritty science fiction movies: the Omega Man and Soylent Green wouldn't have been made without its success.

BERKLEY

A BERKLEY MEDALLION BOOK

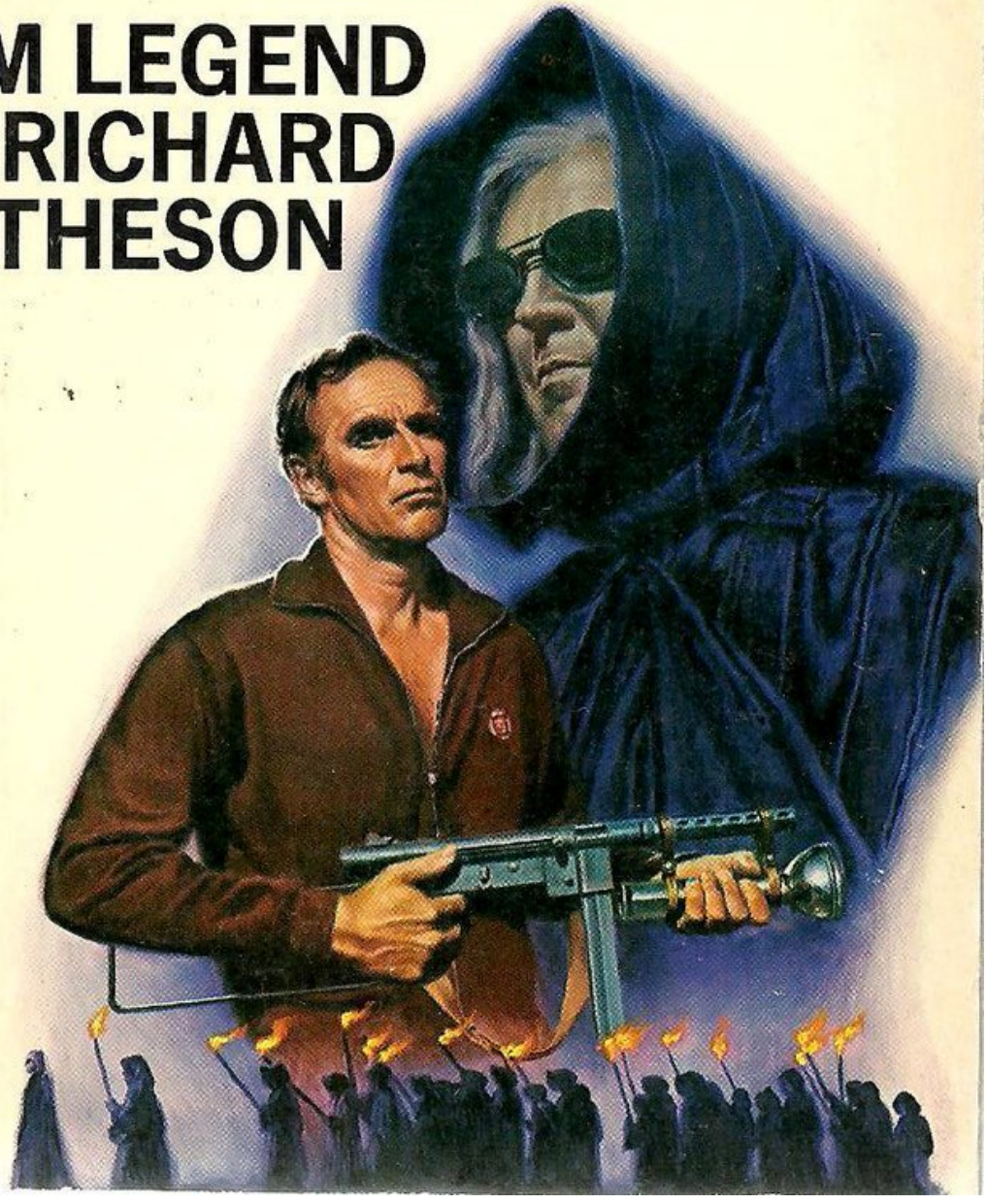
A WARNER BROS. PRODUCTION

CHARLTON HESTON in

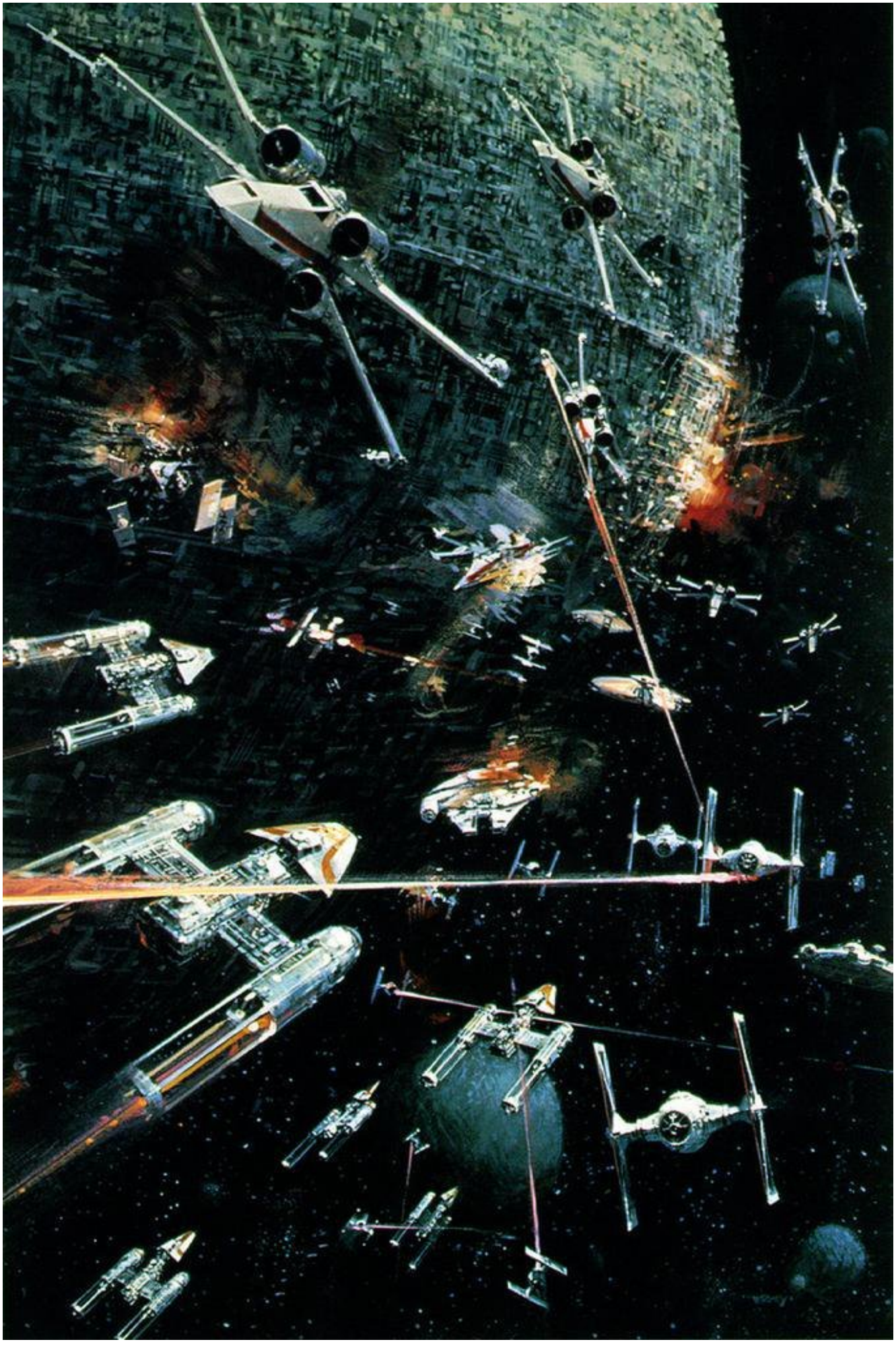
THE OMEGA MAN

S2041 * 75¢

I AM LEGEND
BY RICHARD
MATHESON



It also wrote the rule book of the modern movie franchise: a catchy idea, a cinematic universe and a range of toys. Star Wars would capitalise on all of this in 1977.



In the end the star of the film is the idea: what is 'civilization' and why must it involve slavery and suffering for others? Pierre Boulle experienced both during his life, which is perhaps why his novel stands the test of time so well.

More stories another day...

