

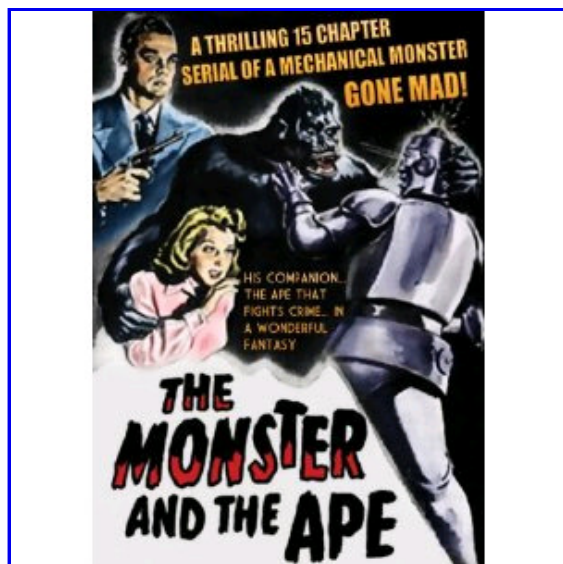


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## Friday Night Frights: The Monster and the Ape DVD Review

August 5, 2010 No Comments





After famed scientist Franklin Arnold unveils his finest work The Metalogen Man and demonstrates the power the robot possesses, he receives a threatening phone call. The caller, Professor Ernst threatens that his creation has been ripped off by Professor Arnold and that he will get revenge. To aid him in his scheme, Professor Ernst has trained Thor (Ray Corrigan), a killer gorilla, to take care of anyone who stands in his way. Meanwhile, Professor Arnold's lovely daughter Babs (Carole Mathews) has teamed up with our hero, Ken Morgan (George Macready) to find the kidnapped Professor and save the day.

The cool retro cinema factor unfortunately wears off about 30 minutes into the disc when you realize there are 7 more hours to go! The plot is one of the more bizarre I have ever seen from these serials and Ray "Crash" Corrigan is very underutilized as Thor, the killer gorilla, or, if you prefer, ape. From that point on, save for some fun fight scenes, the serials really start to drag. I cannot imagine stretching this story over 15 separate chapters as it was originally presented in 1945. That would require a kid from that era to go to 15 different movies just to see the whole thing.

The transfer itself is a lot stronger than I expected for a 65 year old movie. The prints must have come from a variety of sources, as they vary quite a bit from chapter to chapter. Most notably, the first segment seemed to have the cleanest print, with subsequent chapters all containing a bit more grain and film damage. When I say damage, I do mean wear as there are specs of dust and some lines but the print never gets to the point that it is a distraction. Sound has the expected noise elements but dialogue is clear and understandable. The music is quite loud whenever the action kicks in. Overall both the audio and video transfers are acceptable.

Aside from the original theatrical trailer, Cheezy Flicks includes a fun intermission package. These vintage clips are a bit newer than 1945 but include a combination of retro commercials, movie trailers and intermission announcements that make for a fun diversion. On a side note, I have seen several Cheezy Flick releases and the intermission segments are different on them, so you do not end up with the same clips every time, which is another nice touch!

One of the things I have always loved about Cheezy Flicks is their love of genre cinema, which leads them to release long forgotten titles such as this and Savage Weekend, The Mask and others. Fans of these classic black and white sci-fi movies will probably enjoy The Monster and the Ape more than me but due to the slow pacing and massive length, I cannot advise a purchase for straight horror fans as they will never endure the entire runtime to find out what happens.

### Not Recommended

### Special Features:

- Intermission Shorts
- Original Trailer

**The Monster and the Ape is available on DVD now, courtesy of Cheezy Flicks and MVD Releasing.**

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