Harryhausen Was Master **Of Special**

Film Magic BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS

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CHICAGO - If Ray Harryhausen had designed only one sequence in his cinematic career, any one of his real lulus — let's start with the skeleton army battle in "Jason and the Argonauts" from 1963 — he'd still be the master of stop-motion animation special effects.

The master died Tuesday in London of natural causes at age 92. In 1981, the year he designed Medusa and Pegasus and other delectables for "Clash of the Titans," he visited the School of the Art Institute's Film Center (now the Gene Siskel Film Center) and said: "I'm worried about all this concentration on special effects. It breeds the seeds of its own destruction." This, from a film artist who made his living concentrating on special effects. He knew the value of selectivity. And of story.

Harryhausen's imagination scared the hell's bells out of me when I was 8. Friday night, sometime in 1969.

"Mysterious Island," the 1961 picture featuring Harryhausen's giant crab, to say nothing of the giant bee and the flightless oversize chickenlike bird monster, was on WGN-TV. I was watching with my father. I wasn't temperamentally a monster-movie kid — more of a comedy nerd — but this one had me.

The sequence in which the monstrous marauding crab squares off against Jules Verne's adventurers was enough to make me very, very quiet for a minute (a miracle; I talked near-con-stantly). Then my dad said, "Huh. Wonder how they did that. Something with little models. I think they move a leg, or a claw, maybe a millionth of an inch, and then film some more. And then put it all together."

And there it was: Harryhausen's genius with model animation on screen, explained.

When he was 13, the Los Angeles-born Harryhausen had his mind blown by "King Kong" at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. Sixteen years later, for "Mighty Joe Young" (1949), a se-quel of sorts to that fantasy classic, Willis O'Brien won an Academy Award for visual effects. He was credited as supervisor of the film's stop-motion animation

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sistant, and by most accounts, he did most of the animation. The atomic age ignited the age of atomic beasts in Hollywood. Harryhausen's monster in "The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms" floored moviegoers in 1953. The monster. for the record, was a prehistoric rhedosaurus unleashed by the Abomb. The amusement park finale? Fantastic. I still look for that creature every time I get on a roller-coaster.

Digital effects today strive for fluidity. Harryhausen's stop-motion model animation strived for something rougher, more transparently artificial — "partly mechanical, partly lifelike," says Barbara Scharres, director of programming at the Film Center. She was there, in 1981, working as the Film Center's technical director and an unofficial programmer, when Harryhausen came to Chicago for a tribute. She remembers him opening up his little suitcase during the question-andanswer period with the audience.

"He was like a traveling salesman," she recalls, "except his suitcase was full of little skeletons and creatures."<None>

In 1999, for a program included in the Chicago International Film Festival, Harryhausen introduced a double bill at the Music Box Theatre. In a Chicago *Tribune* interview he said: "The modern digital effects are very effective, but I don't think they're the be-all and by-all. You shouldn't eliminate everything just because CGI (computer-generated imagery) came. It's a wonderful tool, and I think you should treat it as a tool. It can enlarge everything we do with puppet animation — with hand puppets, with string puppets — and stopmotion. But it's not right to kill off everything just because CGI came

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Life *** "The Five-Year Engage ment" (2012) MAX (In Stereo) CC lason Off "Stash House" (2012) Dolph Lundgrer The Best Sex Ever Feature 5 "Dream House" (2011) [CC "Sneakers" (1992) MAX2 Dark Shadows *** "Love Actually" (2003) (In Stereo) "Edward Scissorhands' (1990)Lucky" (2011) Colin Hanks. (In Stereo) * "Why Stop Now?" (2012) ** "Stepmom" (1998) Julia *** "Our Idiot Broth The Big C: Hereafte Nurse The Borgias CC * "Mother's Day" (2010) CC SHOW 18(435) The Borgias CC ** "Just Like Us" (2010) "The Burning Plain" ** "It's About You" (2011) "Paul Williams Still Alive" CC The Big C: Hereafter Nurse ** "Man on a Ledge" (2012) Saget-What B Mon SHOW2 *** "War Horse" (2011) Emily Watson. (In Stereo) "Swedish Auto" (2006) CC Tomorrow. When the War ** "Turner & Hooch" (1989) (In Stereo ** "The Black Dahlia" (2006) "Accidental Stripper' CABLE STATIONS Storage The First 48 📼 The First 48 📼 Storage Storage Storage Storage Storage Storage Hoaaers Storage Storage ** "The Sentinel ** "Man on Fire" (2004) Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning (2001) Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore onds" (2000) Nicolas Cage "The Color of Money "Gone in Sixty AMC 41 (54) Hannibal To Be Announced To Be Announced Tanked CC River Monster Wild Wild Wild Wild Wild Wild Wild Weird Wild Wild Wild Wild River Monsters 19 43 Medicine Newlyweds: The First Year Newlyweds Tardv Tardv Tardv Tardv Housewives/OC Tardv Tardy Happens Tardv Married to Medicine Tardv Newlywed BRAVO 25 55 Happens Dog and Beth Reba Reba Swamp Pawn Swamp Pawn Cops Rel. Cops Rel. Dog and Beth Dog and Beth Guntucky Guntucky Reba Reba Swamp Pawn CMTV 38 (77) Reba Fast Money (N) Mad Money (N) The Kudlow Report Mad Money American Greed Closing Bell American Greed Crowd Rules American Greed Crowd Rules Paid Paid 53 52 CNBC E. B. OutFront Jake Tapper Anderson Coope E. B. OutFron The Situation Room E. B. OutFront Anderson Cooper Piers Morgan Live Piers Morgan Live Anderson Cooper CNN 33 49 Futurama Sunny Tosh.0 Futurama South Pk Tosh.0 Tosh.0 Amy Sch. Daily Colbert Amy Sch. Colbert Amy Sch. Work. Saving Colbert Daily my Sch. Tosh.0 Tosh.0 Tosh.0 45 (61) Capitol Hill Hearings Capitol Hill Hearings Public Affairs Public Affairs CSPAN 49 17 Deadliest Catch Deadliest Catch Deadliest Catch DISC 34 44 Deadliest Catch Deadliest Catch Deadliest Catch Deadliest Catch (N) Backyard Oi Deadliest Catch Backyard Deadliest Catch Shake It Austin Shake It Good Jessie essie lessie Good Wizards Wizards Good Dog Good Good DISN 64 36 Kickin' It Kickin' It Phineas Kings Wizards Suite Life Kings Kings Phineas Kickin' It Kickin' It Kickin' It Kings Kings DISXD Phineas Suite Life Fish Fish Buttowski Buttowski Fish Kid 65 (103) ** "Blue Crush" (2002) Kate Bosworth. E! News (N) Nick Cannon's Big The Un Chelsea E! News The Un The Soup Blinging Up Baby Jonas Jonas Jonas Chelsea Ryan Chelsea 51 62 * "Stepmom" (1998) lulia Robert *** Under the Tus an Sun" (2003 ** "This Is Elvis" ** "The Notebook" 2004) Ryan Gosling. 📼 Back to the Future Par ** "A Rage in Harlem" 00 (480) Baseball Tonight (N) SportsCenter (N) NFL Live (N) CC Around Pardon SportsCenter (N) E:60 (N) SportsCenter (N) SportsCenter (N) SportsCenter (N) SPN 28 24 30 for 30 30 for 30 ESPN2 NFL Live (N) ProFILE **Baseball Tonight (N)** NASCAR NFL32 (N) CC SportsNation (N) Around Pardor E:60 (N) NBA SportsNation CC 29 25 Mother Ang Faithful aby Catholic Truth Choices Faith Daily Mass Mother Angelica Religious Rosary Threshold of Hope Thought Women Daily Mas Defend EWTN 74 65 70s 70s 70s '70s Funny Home Videos *** "Matilda" (1996) Mara Wilson *** "Beetlejuice" (1988) Alec Baldwin The 700 Club CC Prince Prince Paid Paid Paid Paid FAM 62 (40) Two Men Two Men Mother Two Men | Two Men *** "Star Trek" (2009) Chris Pine "Star Trek" (2009) Chris P ** "Kiss of the Dragon" (2001) Jet Li. Mother Mothe Mother FX 23 (56) The O'Reilly Factor FOX Report FXNWS Neil Cavuto The Five Special Report Hannity (N Greta Van Susteren The O'Reilly Factor Greta Van Susteren The Five 50 (48) Sports Unlimited Premier League UFC Game Twins MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Minnesota Twins. (N) (Live) Twins Vikinas World Poker Tour MLB Baseball: White Sox at Twins FOXSP 35 27 Game **Big Break Mexico** PGA Tour Big Golf's Greatest Rounds (N) Golf's Greatest Rounds Central Central GOLF 55 (310) Lessons Learning Little House/Prairie Brady Frasier Golden Brady Brady Brady Brad Bradv Frasier Frasier Frasie Frasie Frasier Frasier Frasier Golden Golden Golden Cheers Cheers HALL 22 33 Million Dollar Rooms Hunt Intl Hunters Hunt Intl Flip or Million Dollar Rooms Million Dollar Rooms Hunters Flip or Flip or Income Property Hunters Hunt Intl Flip or Flip or ncome Property Flip or HGTV 54 34 Cnt. Cars Int. Cars Iodern Marvels Modern Marvels nt. Cars Cnt. Cars Cnt. Cars American American Cnt. Cars Cnt. Cars Cnt. Cars American Modern Marvels American America HIST 46 (47) Pawn Naked City Hopalong Hillbillies Ozzie Highway to Heaven Cold Squad Movin' On Cis, Kid McCove The Saint Route 66 Da Vinci's Inquest Tarzan Cold Case Files 15 22 12 14 Dragnet Adam-12 Perry Mason CC KWSD Emergency! Rifleman Rifleman M*A*S*H M*A*S*H Bewitch Jeannie Mary Newhart OddCple Van Dyke Zone Kojak Gallery Mission: Impossible Dance Moms Dance Mo Dance Moms (N) Dance Moms Vife Swap Wife S Dance Moms Dance Moms CC _IFE 58 29 66 50 Martin Bashir (N Hardball Matthews PoliticsNation (N) Hardball Matthews All In With Chris Rachel Maddow The Last Word All In With Chris Rachel Maddow The Last Word Hardball Matthews ISNBC Full H'se Full H'se Full H'se Full H'se NICK Parents Parents Sponge. Sponge. Sponge. Sponge. Sponge. Drake Nanny Nanny Friends Friends Friends Friends George George Lopez CC George 32 37 Horse America The Po racto Tracto Stock Ag PhD Cattle-Cat Horse Reining Horse King-Co Paid Paid Horse America Cowgirl hip boys" RFDT\ (131) Beverly Hills, 90210 Veronica Mars CC Young & Restless Days of our Lives General Hospital All My Children All My Children (120) Veronica Mars 🖾 Young & Restless Days of our Lives General Hospital NASCAR Race Hub The List 63 28 SPEED On Edge Classic Chop Cut Gearz PassTime PassTime Gearz Gearz Dreams Dreams Tran Gearz Gearz Dreams Dreams Tran The List Unique Whips Tenan Repo Tenants Tenants Tenants **Fenants** Tenants Tenants Tenants Ur. Tar Ur. Ta Tenants Tenants SPIKE 30 60 lepo * "Total Recall *** "Hope Springs' *** "Return to Me" (2000) (In Stereo ** "We Own the Night" (2007) CC (2012)*** "The Patriot" (2000, War) Mel Gibson, (In Stereo) 📼 ** "Felon" (2008) (In Stereo) STAR₇ Fact or Faked Fact or Faked Weird or What? (N) Weird or What? Fact or Faked Fact or Faked Fact or Faked Weird or What? (N) Weird or What? 'Mammoth" (2009) Michelle Williams SYFY 44 (46) Friends Friends Friends King King Seinfeld Seinfeld Seinfeld Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang Big Bang augh Big Bang Conan (N) CC Laugh Conan CC Office ** "The Wome rbs 36 57 *** "So Big" (1953) Jane Wyman. 💷 *** "Show Boat" (1936) @ (DVS) ** "Kiss of Death" Where the Sidewalk Ends' *** "Point Blank" 967) Lee Marvin *** "The Killer" (1989) ГСМ 76 53 Medium Medium Medium Gypsy Wedding 19 Kids 19 Kids 19 Kids 19 Kids Couple Gown TLC 43 (45) Gown Medium Couple Couple Couple Couple Couple Couple Gypsy Wedding Castle CC Castle CC Castle "Knockou NBA Basketball Cor nce Semifinal: Teams TBA NBA Basketball Confe Inside the NBA (N) Rizzoli & Isles Castle 🕫 nce Semif al: Teams TBA ΓΝΤ 37 59 Regular King/Hill King/Hill American American Fam. Guy Fam. Guy Chicken Gumball Incred Gumball Regular Regular Johnny T Teen Looney Adven Agua Squidbill. American American | Fam. Guy TOON 42 38 Food Airport Airport **Extreme Factories** Airport **Extreme Factories** Extreme Factories Bizarre Foods Food ood Bizarre Foods Airport Extreme Factories Airport Airport TRAV 24 (42) Pawn Pawn TRUTV Tow Tow Tow Tow Cops Cops Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn Repo Repo Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn Pawn 52 63 **TVFN** 56 31 Contessa Contessa Paula Trisha's Chopped Chopped Chopped Chopped Chopped (N Chopped Chopped Chopped Chopped King onanza 🛙 The Nanny 🛛 Golden Golder Golden Raymond Raymond Cleve '70s Nanny iolden Raymond King ne King of Queens King TVLND 47 39 El Gordo y la Flaca Impacto Zacatillo, un Primer Impacto (N Casa Notic. Corazón Indomable Porque el Am Amores Verdaderos Qué Bonito Amor Noticiero Al Diablo Conducta Casa 69 Law & Order: SVU CSI: Crime Scene Law & Order: SVU USA 31 58 CSI: Crime Scene House "Unwritter T.I.-Tiny *** "New Jack City" (1991) Behind the Music Model Employee The Gossip Game Love, Hip Hop m Married to A ... 'm Married to A. Love, Hip Hop Love, Hip Hop VH1 39 76 Rose. Ghost Whispere Charmed CC CSI: Miami "Rush' CSI: Miami 🕫 CSI: Miami CC CSI: Miami CC CSI: Miami CC CSI: Miami "Rush" CSI: Miami 🖾 Rose Charmed CO 16 18 Walker, Tex. Ranger Chris Funny Home Videos *** "Four Weddings and a Funeral WGN News at Nine Funny Home Videos Rules Law Order: CI Chris Rules 30 Rock Scrubs 30 Rock Sunny WGN

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