

MONSTER INVASION

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"JURASSIC PARK": Dinosaurs and modern science collide as the long-anticipated film adaptation of Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*, directed by Steven Spielberg, thunders into theaters June 11.

The movie, scripted by Crichton and David (Death Becomes Her) Koepp, tells the story of a megamillionaire who finances experiments in DNA genetics that succeed in creating live dinosaurs. The beasts reside on the island of Isla Nublar ("Cloud Island") off the Costa Rican coast, a site destined to become a hi-tech amusement park. During a pre-opening ceremony by a group of paleontologists and business cronies, however, the dinosaurs break out of their environmentally-controlled pens and wage a primordial battle against modern man.

The film toplines Sam (Dead Calm) Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff (The Fly) Goldblum, Sir Richard Attenborough, Samuel L. Jackson, Joseph Mazzello and Ariana Richards. Creating the real stars of the film, an estimated 12 different species of dinosaurs, are the combined special FX skills of Stan Winston and Industrial Light and Magic veterans Dennis Muren, Phil Tippett and Michael Lantieri. Rick Carter handled the production design for the film's Hawaiian location filming and the Southern California studio sets.

"If you think the T. rex is scary in this movie," enthuses Neill, "wait until you see the Velociraptor! That animal is truly terrifying!" This creature, a man-sized beast with slashing claws on its feet, promises to provide the film with its most frightening moments.

Jurassic Park, produced by Kathleen Kennedy and Gerald

Photo: Murray Close/Copyright 1993 Universal



Are Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Ariana Richards and Joseph Mazzello shocked by *Jurassic Park*'s dinosaurs or its equally mammoth budget?

R. Molen, had a rather unorthodox odyssey from the printed page to the screen. Rather than the typical auction of film rights to the highest bidder, Crichton elected to sell the project directly to the studio he felt would do the best job of translating his vision to the screen. Enter Universal

and Spielberg.

"*Jurassic Park* has all sorts of levels to it," according to the director, who spoke about the film at a licensing presentation at New York's Museum of Natural History. "It's filled with action, but it has a lot of heart and character. It's also a message movie that says a lot

about the environment and the ecosystem. But first and foremost, it's a high-spirited, entertaining film."

Word along the rumor line from those who have seen portions of the film describes it as having an *Indiana Jones*-style look and feel. Goldblum certainly agrees: "It's going to be slam-bang, crowd-pleasing, spectacular entertainment," hypes the actor. "But it also asks an important question: Just because we can create these things, should we? There are a lot of moral and ethical questions that the audience will have to deal with."

Aiding and abetting the authenticity of *Jurassic Park* were consulting paleontologist John R. Horner and dinosaur author/expert Don Lessem. The latter served a tour of duty on the *Jurassic Park* sets and its desert locations for the film's early "dig" sequences.

"The script is pretty close to reality," says Lessem, "although, based on the dinosaurs that are used in the film, it probably would have been more accurate to call this *Cretaceous Park*. There were some minor scientific inconsistencies involving things like dinosaur names and a line or two of dialogue. But Spielberg wanted this to be as accurate as possible, and always took our suggestions into consideration. In many instances, he changed things on the spot to conform to what was scientifically true."

And the director offers that, besides creating a "very entertaining movie," he wants *Jurassic Park* to get across a larger sense of verisimilitude. "Reality was very important to me," Spielberg says. "And I guarantee that you will believe that the dinosaurs are real."

—Marc Shapiro