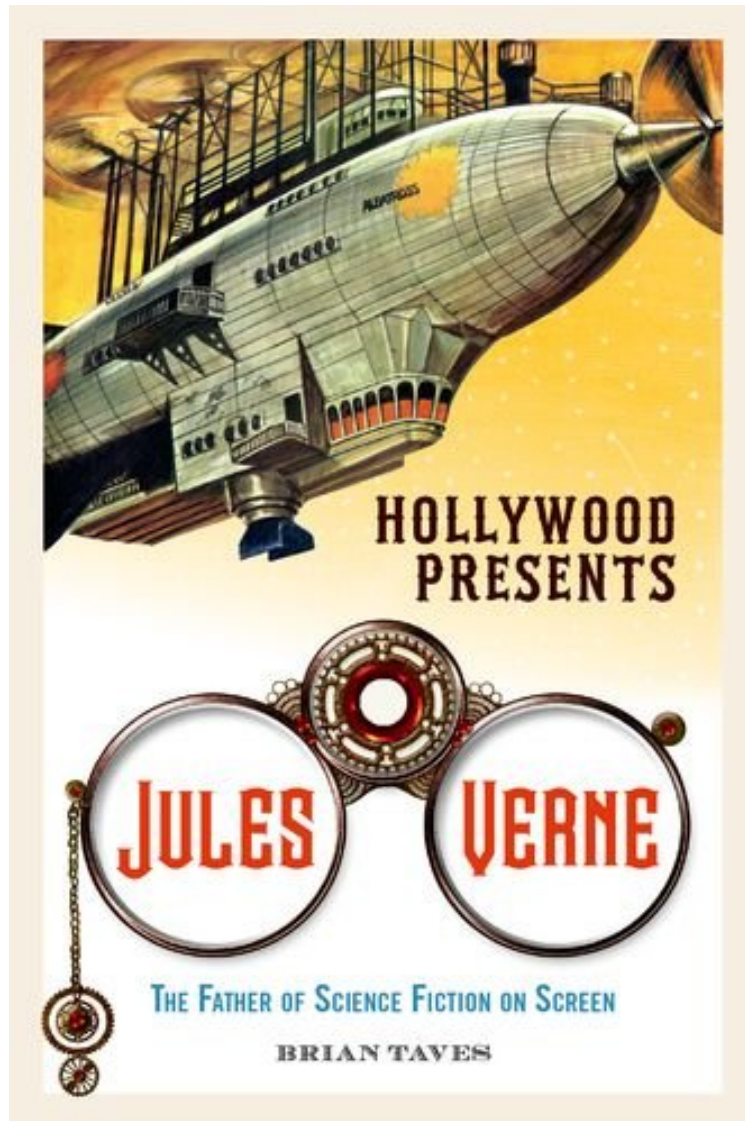


(Library ebook) Hollywood Presents Jules Verne: The Father of Science Fiction on Screen (Screen Classics)

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Brian Taves

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Presents Jules Verne: The Father of Science Fiction on Screen (Screen Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. it was evident that his novels were perfect vehicles for other forms

of entertainment media. By Victor Rodriguez From the onset of the launching in 1863 of Jules Verne's magnificent Extraordinary Voyages, it was evident that his novels were perfect vehicles for other forms of entertainment media. Verne had, after all, been a playwright with moderate success; he had imbued his stories with great drama and comedy. As his novels increased in popularity, great plotting, intriguing characters, exotic backdrops, thrilling action—several of them ("Around the World in 80 Days", "Michael Strogoff", "Captain Grant's Children"), proved huge on-stage successes. But it was not until the advent of motion pictures at the turn of the 19th Century that the name Jules Verne practically became a household word across the globe. "Hollywood Presents Jules Verne" by film archivist and Jules Verne scholar Brian Taves is a superb history of the movie adaptations of Verne's books. Beginning with French film pioneer Georges Méliès' well-known short film "Trip to the Moon" (1902), (which Verne lived to see), to today's high-tech viewing film, animation, television versions Taves guides the curious reader through a century of the ups and downs of this interesting history. By far the most faithful renderings of Verne's work started in the 1950s with Walt Disney's wonderful "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (1954), Mike Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days" (1956), and "Journey to the Center of the Earth" (1959); through "Mysterious Island" (1961), and "Master of the World" (1961). There were many other cinematic depictions of Jules Verne's oeuvre made, for the most part, by European filmmakers. But many of those films bear different titles and plotlines than those written by Verne; making it difficult to connect them to the Extraordinary Voyages. "Hollywood Presents Jules Verne" is an informative and entertaining introduction to Jules Verne's impressive filmography.

—Victor Rodriguez, member of the North American Jules Verne Society, and author of *Tano Sunrise*. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Journey Worthy of Jules Verne Himself!

By Anthony J. Piazza Being a long-time Jules Verne fan (starting at the age of nine), I found this book simply fascinating. I was fortunate enough to experience that era in Hollywood (late 1950s through the 60s) when some of Verne's classics hit the screen in some marvelous productions as "Journey to the Center of the Earth" (1959) and "Around the World in Eighty Days" (1957). I also seen the Disney films in the theater, "In Search of the Castaways" (1962) and the re-release of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (1954)—my favorite. Mr. Taves covers all these in detail, as well as the earlier, silent incarnations of Verne's work. Not just a listing of these works, but an interesting, scholarly, in-depth history of Verne in the cinema. Never boring, or repetitious in its information; it took me through a nostalgic adventure through the years that was ever much just as entertaining as Verne's novel were themselves. It brought back 1962, when my dad took me for my birthday to see "Five Weeks in a Balloon" (1962), and how I left with an enthusiasm for Verne, that hasn't left me until this day. I very highly recommend this book to lovers of Verne, science fiction, or film history. A fantastic, well-written, well researched novel that will provide you with hours of entertainment.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Best Book on Verne Films

By Ace G. Pilkington Many people regard Brian Taves as the world's foremost expert on Jules Verne and film. This book demonstrates why that is so. From now on, other scholars will quote this book, and other works will be compared to it. Taves, who is the series editor of the North American Jules Verne Society's Palik Series and a film archivist with the Library of Congress, provides the history of Jules Verne's works on screen, and by screen, I mean movies, television, mini-series, animation, and the occasional video game. He has limited himself to Jules Verne's works filmed in English in order to make the subject manageable, but even there, he sometimes goes beyond his self-imposed restrictions and discusses foreign films. Taves starts with silent films and ends in 2012. He discusses the adaptations of the novels into films and then the transformations of the adaptations. Of particular interest, I think, is his analysis of how the films have become part of our culture so that one film builds on and refers to others, and the audience comes to view each new screening equipped with the knowledge of earlier films. One of Taves' greatest strengths is his ability to look at this process on its own terms. In spite of his intimate knowledge of Verne's works in both English and French and his natural love for the original texts, he treats the various forms of film and television with the respect they deserve. Often, he points out the strengths of an underestimated film or provides just that extra bit of information that shows the depth in a seemingly lighthearted interpretation. He says, for instance, of *Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D* with Brendan Fraser, "The homage to the source is warm, never campy, and steadily leavened with humor" (282). His style is straightforward and clear, never cluttered with jargon but always supported by deep learning and happy enthusiasm. The book has notes to chapters, a selected bibliography, a thorough index, and black and white illustrations.

Even for those who have never read Jules Verne (1828-1905), the author's very name conjures visions of the submarine in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, the epic race in *Around the World in Eighty Days*, the spacecraft in *From the Earth to the Moon*, and the daring descent in *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. One of the most widely translated authors of all time, Verne has inspired filmmakers since the early silent period and continues to fascinate audiences more than one hundred years after his works were first published. His riveting plots and vivid descriptions easily transform into compelling scripts and dramatic visual compositions. In *Hollywood Presents Jules Verne*, Brian Taves investigates the indelible mark that the author has left on English-language cinema. Adaptations of Verne's tales have taken many forms: early movie shorts, serials, feature films, miniseries, and television shows—and have been produced as both animated and live-action films. Taves illuminates how, as these stories have been made and remade over the years, each new adaptation looks back not only to Verne's words but also to previous screen incarnations. He also

examines how generations of actors have portrayed iconic characters such as Phileas Fogg and Captain Nemo, and how these figures are treated in pastiches such as *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* (2012). Investigating the biggest box-office hits as well as lower-budget productions, this comprehensive study will appeal not only to fans of the writer's work but also to readers interested in the ever-changing relationship between literature, theater, and film.

"Jules Verne remains a household name for his science fiction and adventure novels more than a century after his death. Brian Taves' comprehensive manuscript examines an entire century of American film adaptations of the novels of Jules Verne, including television programs and biographical pieces. This book will stand as the definitive work on this subject for many years." Sheri Chinen Biesen, author of *Blackout: World War II and the Origins of Film Noir* "This is surely the most detailed and knowledgeable summary of adaptations of Verne's work to mass media that is likely to appear for decades to come. It's the volume that all subsequent scholars will cite and against which subsequent work will be judged. Taves has a remarkable, seemingly inexhaustible store of information and insight on Verne's work." Rick Worland, author of *The Horror Film: An Introduction* "Fortunately for us all that giant among Vernian scholars, Brian Taves has no snobbery for "the liveliest art." Indeed he happens to be an authority on both subjects and those of us who adore "Jules Verne movies" are in for a major treat. You're also in for a surprise if you think you are very well versed in the subject, for Taves has taken the subject from the very earliest days of the cinema to the present." John Goodwin, Emmy-winning makeup artist and science fiction authority "With his newest book *Hollywood Presents Jules Verne: The Father of Science Fiction on Screen*, Brian Taves combines his vast knowledge as a Verne scholar with his expertise as a film historian to provide a fascinating look at cinema based on the works of one of the most acclaimed authors of all time. Through exhaustive research, detailed descriptions, trenchant insights and evocative images, Mr. Taves takes us on an incredible journey worthy of Verne himself. From the earliest days of motion pictures right up to the present day, no cinematic stone is left unturned. *Hollywood Presents Jules Verne* gives anyone who's interested in the lively arts a reason to rejoice." Ted Okuda, author of *The Golden Age of Chicago Children's Television* "The film not covered under the umbrella of the book's title has simply got to be the film that has not been produced yet. Taves' *Hollywood Presents Jules Verne* succeeds on multiple levels and will be of interest to the casual fan and future researcher alike. A century's worth of pictures are discussed yet, incredibly, perspective never goes wanting at any time." Steve Joyce, co-author of *American Silent Horror, Science Fiction and Fantasy Feature Films, 1913-1929* "The task was considerable - the result is invaluable. Brian Taves, one of the world's most erudite Jules Verne scholars and a well-known specialist of popular literature, has completed a comprehensive study that stands unmatched in its thoroughness and detail. His systematical comparison between literary sources and their public reception in the US, screenplays, Hollywood's production strategies, cinematographic translations and their exploitation (including television and the more ludicrous variations of the original material) reveals a profound knowledge of the mechanisms and archetypes of our audiovisually oriented society. This study goes far beyond what one would expect on the subject." Herv Dumont, author of *Frank Borzage: The Life and Films of a Hollywood Romantic* About the Author Brian Taves is a film archivist with the Library of Congress. He is the author of more than one hundred articles and six books, including *The Romance of Adventure: The Genre of Historical Adventure Movies* and *Thomas Ince: Hollywood's Independent Pioneer*.