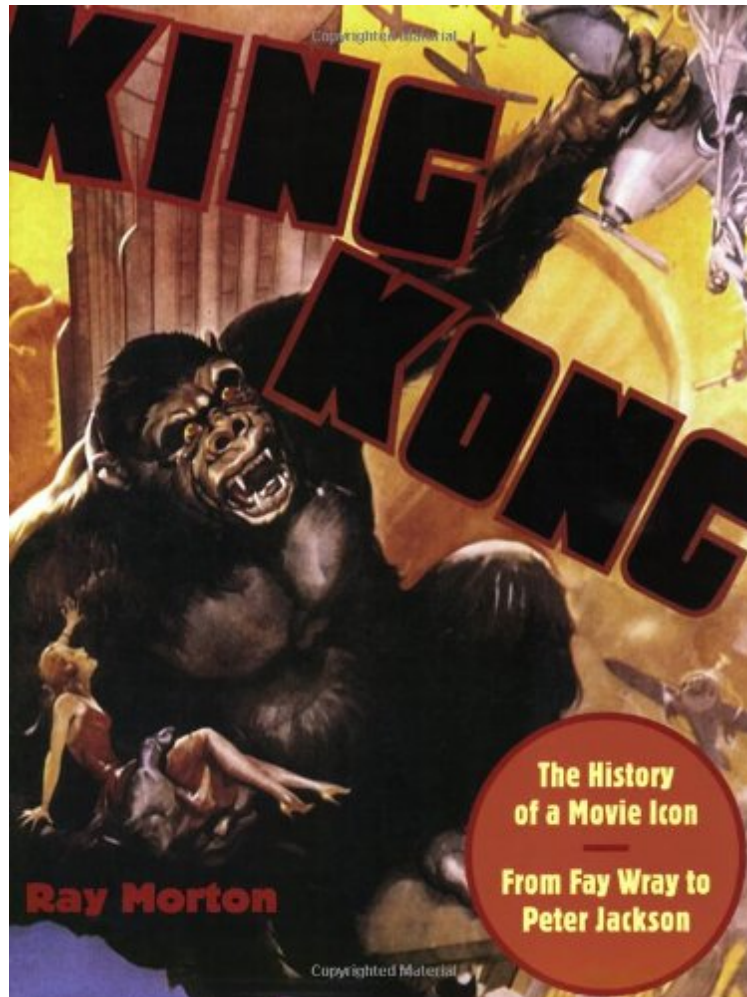


# King Kong: The History of a Movie Icon from Fay Wray to Peter Jackson

Ray Morton

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**Ray Morton : King Kong: The History of a Movie Icon from Fay Wray to Peter Jackson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised King Kong: The History of a Movie Icon from Fay Wray to Peter Jackson:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. The complete KONG!By John CoxThere are a lot of books about King Kong out there at the moment, but what made me choose Mr. Morton's book is the large section he devotes to the 1976 King Kong produced by Dino De Laurentiis. This was the pre-Star Wars movie sensation of my childhood and I loved reading the behind the scenes story of its making, as well as getting another peek at some Kong '76 merchandise (hey, I had those cups!). The author also appears to share my opinion that this film gets an unfair bad rap. Nice to see

him set the record straight re reviews and box office. Above Kong '76, it just great to have a book devoted to ALL the King Kong films. Sure, we all love the original film and Mr. Morton does a spectacular job covering it, but I equally enjoyed reading about Son of Kong, King Kong vs. Godzilla, King Kong Lives, etc. And a full chapter devoted Kong collectibles and the Kong movies that were never made...you gotta love that. If you're a Kong lover, or just want one good Kong movie book on your shelf, Ray Morton's KING KONG, THE HISTORY OF A MOVIE ICON is the book to get. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. I've gone ape for this book \*(groan)\* By Sean Caszatt In 1976, I was 8 years old and was caught up in the hype for the remake of King Kong. Having seen the original 1933 version on TV, I was really psyched for the new version which, according to the hype, featured a 40-foot replica of Kong that would be ultra-realistic. The reality turned out a little differently, but I still really enjoyed the movie. I even wrote a letter to Jessica Lange, the female star of the film who obviously went on to greater roles, and received an autographed picture (which I wish I still had). With the upcoming Peter Jackson movie, Kongmania has struck me again and I ordered this book along with the collector's edition of the 1933 film. The book is chock full of pictures, many of which I'd never seen before, and fully detailed accounts of the making of the 1933 and 1976 Kongs, as well as the ill-conceived (but still likeable) Japanese Kong movies and Dino DeLaurentiis' King Kong Lives. Definitely written with care about the subject at hand and not a quickie cash-in on the current interest in King Kong, this book is a must for anyone who's interested in Kong, moviemaking and action/fantasy films. I give it my highest recommendation. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. If you only buy one "Kong" book this year... By Michael S. Conaway Just as everybody's said, it's simply excellent. While the superb "Spawn of Skull Island" provides more detail on the making of the original, this book is the only one out there that covers all of the Kong films, including sequels and spinoffs. A large and fascinating chapter is devoted to the undervalued "Son of Kong", and another to "vs. Godzilla" and "Escapes". There's a making-of book out there on the 1976 "Kong", but it was written by the unit publicist and as such, while an interesting document and a unique perspective on the whole behind-the-scenes process, is much less technical and more a series of anecdotes. This book's chapter on that film goes into detail on the costumes, masks, and effects techniques used, and the following chapter is the only place you'll find anything at all on "King Kong Lives". Chapters on video releases and merchandising are also welcome.

He is one of the most amazing, popular, and iconic characters in the history of motion pictures. His 1933 debut was a legendary piece of pure cinema - simultaneously a terrifying monster movie, epic fairy tale, tragic love story, and deeply resonant cultural myth. His name is King Kong. Ray Morton's King Kong - The History of a Movie Icon is the first book to chronicle the making of all seven feature films in which the character of Kong has appeared, including the hotly anticipated Peter Jackson version. It is generously illustrated with photographs, production art, and promotional materials from the author's extensive private collection. Morton has interviewed the surviving members of each major film. A colorful overview of the tremendous amount of collectible Kong merchandise is also on view for all the fans of Kongdom to devour.

From Publishers Weekly Script magazine columnist Morton, who views King Kong as "an enduring cultural icon," was captivated at age eight by the giant gorilla, and his "Kong-mania went into overdrive" with the 1976 Dino De Laurentiis version. In an effort to survey all feature films in which Kong appears, Morton interviewed surviving cast and crew members, visited archives and trekked to film locations, documenting everything from ape suits, budget woes and optical effects to "Kongs That Never Were." The lengthy opening chapter recaps the making of the 1933 film in exhaustive detail, illustrated with dramatic conceptual art and test shots; an equal amount of space is given to the 1976 remake. Shorter chapters review "The Son of Kong," "King Kong vs. Godzilla," "King Kong Escapes" and "King Kong Lives." Peter Jackson's forthcoming version gets only 14 pages, but fans dazzled by this book's 100 color and bw illustrations (storyboards, stills, production art, collectibles) and comprehensive coverage of past Kongs won't complain. (Dec.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Ray Morton has worked in Hollywood for the past fifteen years as a writer, script consultant, and story analyst.