

"It's not easy being King of the Monsters . . . but the pay is great!"

Some of you astute Big G. fans have undoubtedly noticed that our resident King of the Monsters hasn't put in an appearance for a few issues now. Well, you can rest easy for, even as all good things must come to an end, Godzilla's period of silence is now over. He's got quite a bit he'd like to get off his gills so, without further ado, here's the man . . . er, monster . . . himself.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GHIDRAH
or
THREE HEADS ARE
BETTER THAN NONE
by Godzilla

Greetings, Godzillaphiles, it's me, the Big G., and I've been busy once again recalling my cinematic past for your Godzilla scrapbooks.

As promised in TMT 15, Ghidrah's here along with his complete filmography, and big daddy bolt-breath is just rearin' to relive his "finest moments." And now, for the first time in recorded history, Godzilla introduces to the civilized world the talented tongue (s) of that 3-headed crumb (s) . . .

First head: Hi!

Second head: Hello.

Third head: Good Evening.

All three heads: We (I, us) are (is, am) here today to discuss my (his, her, our) movies. I (you, me) hope you (him, whom?) like this (that, the other thing).

First head: It's got class, real class!

Second head: Shut up, you cheese!

Third head: Fellers, let's stop this silly bickering and put our heads together!

CLUNK! (BRUNK, SLUNK!)
THE THREE-HEADED
SUPERSTAR

Ghidrah has had starring roles in three Japanese feature movies, and his following is quite large indeed. A triple-domed interstellar dragon capable of emitting an enormously powerful electrical charge, Ghidrah is similar in both design and function to a creature appearing in a foreign film of the early sixties entitled *SWORD AND THE DRAGON*. His initial effort, *GHIDRAH*,

Godzilla gets a lift from Rodan, the better he might do battle with Ghidrah, his triple-headed foe, while Mothra helps out below. The World-Conquering Business grows more competitive by the day.

THE THREE HEADED MONSTER was originally titled *THE GREATEST BATTLE ON EARTH* and followed the previous film of the series, *GODZILLA VS. THE THING*. Released in 1965 and distributed by the Walter Reade Organization, the movie was humorously paired with an MGM Elvis Presley opus called *HARUM SCARUM* and both hit local movie houses around the holiday season. Cinematically, this is probably the best example of Toho's horror cycle. It is well acted (*within reason; dubbing, of course*), the plot is clever and well defined (*a subplot: a lovely princess is*

The Big G's got Ghidrah so confused that he doesn't know which way to turn . . . & that can be bad when you've got three heads.

possessed telepathically by a martian who had experienced the monster's attacks) and the special effects are clean and colorful. Rarely has Toho achieved such a balance with pure storybook fantasy and

GHIDRAH GETS HIS

The next seemingly logical step was the inevitable *DESTROY ALL MONSTERS!*, Ghidrah's third and last feature film. Once again aliens are

This Ghidrah mask will make you the life of any party . . . enough room for 3 lampshades



monster mayhem, and it is doubtful we will see the likes of this enjoyable funfest again.

Ghidrah literally was *MONSTER ZERO* (although for some unknown reason he is referred to as "King Ghidorah" in the script), and this second film is a half-hearted attempt to recapture the glittering sci-fi spectacle of Toho's original classic, *THE MYSTERIANS*. Even with the late Nick Adams on hand (Adams also starred in the Japanese *FRANKENSTEIN CONQUERS THE WORLD*), the film is clearly an expensive yet uninspired rehash of familiar characters and themes. Alternate titles: *INVASION OF THE ASTRO MONSTER*, *INVASION OF THE ASTRO BEAST*.

involved in the premise, but this time the monsters are given far more screen footage, and the result is one of the most humorous and exciting battles in horror history! Virtually all the Japanese creations are present, including the Spiega (from *SON OF GODZILLA*) and, oddly enough, Angurus, who hadn't shown his spiny face since his initial debut in *GIGANTIS* ten years before. Ol' Ghidrah really gets his lumps in this one, as all the patriotic monsters of Earth team up and work together for the very first time. Gosh . . .!

Well, knowledge seekers, I see that time is running short and my writings overlong, so, until next time, chin up, chest out and remember . . . **MAY GODZILLA BE WITH YOU!**



GHIDRAH!!

