

Ray Harryhausen, A Pioneer in Movie Making

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Group Website

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Process Paper

Why We Chose Our Topic

While looking into the history of a topic of shared interest, stop-motion animation, we discovered legendary Ray Harryhausen. A pioneer, Harryhausen changed animation and movie-making for the future when he developed a brand-new technique, known as Dynamation. He crossed a frontier in fantasy storytelling, inviting audiences into his imagination, inspiring some of today's most prominent names in filmmaking. Because of Dynamation, movie-making was thrust into the future. This had a great impact on us because we are motivated to be innovators and world changers. He simply inspires us.

How We Conducted Our Research

We researched a variety of sources including online articles, three fascinating books (an autobiography, a biography, and one co-authored by Harryhausen), which proved very educational about Harryhausen's work and influence. We took notes on all sources, including a documentary we watched several times. We spent time after school working with our teacher, getting feedback, and had the opportunity to watch *Jason and the Argonauts* in an historic theater. As our enthusiasm grew, we viewed another Harryhausen film. We reached out to the Ray and Diana Harryhausen Foundation in London, and the Board agreed to hold an enlightening online interview with the Collections Manager, Connor Heaney. He shared stories about Ray and helped us gain a

greater appreciation for who Harryhausen was as an artist and human being. In addition, he generously sent us multiple images from the foundation's private collection.

How We Created Our Project

Website design, a useful skill, interested us most. After researching Harryhausen's life, career progression, and legacy we started working with the website builder. We compiled our research and composed an outline. Then, we began to format our website. An important part of our project has been making multiple revisions. We took feedback from the Regional and State judges, researched more, and strengthened our argument. We met with a professional tech expert to gain a better understanding of the website builder to better utilize the tools.

Our Historical Argument

Harryhausen, one of the most skilled and influential special effects pioneers in history, created Dynamation and used it to make extravagant fantasies that crossed the frontier of special effects in the time before CGI. Audiences were taken on the adventure of a lifetime when they viewed his movies. As a pioneer in special effects, he certainly crossed a frontier, changing filmmaking forever. Although most of his animation style has been replaced by CGI, there is still hope that some will recognize the caliber of his work and create their own.

How Our Topic Is Significant

Harryhausen single-handedly proved that hard work, focus, and dedication can change your life. These characteristics made him a pioneer in movie-making and left a lasting legacy. Many “big names” in Hollywood say that Harryhausen greatly influenced their work. Dynamation inspired others to make their own techniques, such as modern-day CGI. Harryhausen was one of the most important artists in the history of filmmaking, revolutionizing the future of movies, and instilling joy in everyone’s heart.

Annotated Bibliography

PRIMARY SOURCES

Bros., Warner. "Mighty Joe Young - Original Theatrical Trailer." YouTube, 8 July 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=lomsPBt6OKs&feature=youtu.be.

From this, we made a clip of the trailer for Mighty Joe Young.

Crockford, Sue, director. Big World Animators Ray Harryhausen. HTV West, 1991. Ray Harryhausen Interview, <https://youtu.be/7amfxTp6Oiw>. Accessed 30 1 2023.

This video helped us learn that *Jason and the Argonauts* was the first movie Harryhausen filmed with more than one puppet moving at the same time. We also extracted a video clip of Harryhausen talking in an interview

"Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze, January 7, 1894." The Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/00694192.

This website helped us find the primary source "Fred Ott's Sneeze".

Harryhausen, Ray, and Tony Dalton. *A Century of Stop Motion Animation: From Méliès to Aardman*. 2008.

Written by the artist himself, this book helped us find firsthand knowledge and lots of fantastic images. It contained information about his movies, creatures, methods, and quotes by others about Ray Harryhausen.

Harryhausen, Ray, and Tony Dalton. *Ray Harryhausen: An Animated Life*. Aurum Press, 2010.

This book was very helpful, as it was Harryhausen's autobiography. This source contained many quotes by Harryhausen and gave us a lot of perspective about his life.

Home Page | Sony Pictures Entertainment. www.sonypictures.com.

This page was helpful to find movie posters to cite again.

"La Sortie De L'usine Lumière À Lyon." Internet Archive, 22 Mar. 1895, archive.org/details/LaSortieDeLUsineLumireLyon.

This article helped us find the primary source "Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat".

"The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring Movie Poster 2001." Film Art Gallery, filmartgallery.com/products/the-lord-of-the-rings-the-fellowship-of-the-ring-1.

This website helped us find a poster for Lord of the Rings. It was very helpful as it provided us with a high-quality picture.

“Pixar Animation Studios.” Pixar Animation Studios, www.pixar.com.

This website helped us find a screen capture of “Monsters, Inc.”.

“Poyet Drawing of Lumière Camera.” Chapman University Digital Commons, digitalcommons.chapman.edu/jonathan_silent_film/1823.

This image depicts a Cinematographe.

“The Official Home for All Things Disney.” *Disney Home*, www.disney.com.

This webpage was useful to find a lot of movie posters.

“Trailer - King Kong (1933).” YouTube, 5 Jan. 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=sND4F3hdBS4&feature=youtu.be. Accessed 2 Feb. 2023.

From this video we made a clip of the King Kong Trailer.

Van-Tongeren, Phil, and Roel Haanen. “Ray Harryhausen interview — THE FLASHBACK FILES.” *THE FLASHBACK FILES*, <https://www.flashbackfiles.com/ray-harryhausen-interview>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This article showed that many modern movies were indeed inspired by Harryhausen, and also proved he had a sense of humor.

WarnerBros.com | Home of WB Movies, TV, Games, and More! www.warnerbros.com.

We got a lot of movie posters from this webpage.

SECONDARY SOURCES

“Art And Entertainment in the 1930s and 1940s | Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945 | U.S. History Primary Source Timeline | Classroom Materials at the Library of Congress | Library of Congress.” *The Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/great-depression-and-world-war-ii-1929-1945/art-and-entertainment-in-1930s-1940s.

This article helped us find proof that people used movies as an escape from the hardships of the Great Depression.

The Artifice. “Ray Harryhausen: The Monster Maestro.” *The Artifice*, 27 September 2019, <https://the-artifice.com/ray-harryhausen/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

We scavenged a quote from this article and used this to learn more about Harryhausen.

Babrams. “‘Playing the Palace’: A History of Motion Picture Palaces.” *Motion Picture Association*, 15 Apr. 2013,

www.motionpictures.org/2013/04/playing-the-palace-a-history-of-motion-pictures-re-palaces.

We got a better image of a “Picture Palace” from this website.

“Before CGI Animation, There Was Ray Harryhausen.” YouTube, 18 May 2013,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DgdJyOBN9Q.

From this, we made a video clip of Ray Harryhausen explaining one of his tools.

Campagna, Jeff. “Earth Vs. The Flying Saucers @ the Hirshhorn.” Smithsonian Magazine, 29 June 2011,
www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/earth-vs-the-flying-saucers-the-hirshhorn-23999283.

This article helped us find a picture for our image slider.

Carthay Circle Theatre During a Dramatically Lit Hollywood Premier. It Was One of the Most Famous Movie Palaces of Hollywood’s Golden Age. May 19, 1937, By.
www.bridgemanimages.com/en-US/noartistknown/carthay-circle-theatre-during-a-dramatically-lit-hollywood-premier-it-was-one-of-the-most-famous/black-and-white-photograph/asset/2924323.

This webpage helped us find a good image of the Carthay Circle Theatre, one of the most iconic theaters during the Golden Age.

Carlson, Brady, and Danie Ware. "Before There Was CGI, There Was Special Effects Master Ray Harryhausen (Cool Weird Awesome 562)." *Brady Carlson*, 29 June 2021, <https://www.bradycarlson.com/before-there-was-cgi-there-was-special-effects-master-ray-harryhausen-cool-weird-awesome-562/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This brief historical overview of Harryhausen did not give us much information, but we got one piece of information about his movie *Mighty Joe Young*.

"Credit." National Galleries of Scotland, www.nationalgalleries.org/exhibitions/image-credit/54721/673936.

This article helped us find an image of one of Harryhausen's Cyclop armatures.

Dargis, Manohla. "The 24-Hour Movie and Digital Technology." *The New York Times*, 5 Feb. 2013, www.nytimes.com/2011/04/10/movies/the-24-hour-movie-and-digital-technology.html.

This website helped us find a picture of people watching a movie.

Dennis Muren and Hal Hickel. "Remembering Ray Harryhausen." *StarWars.com*, 8 May 2013, <https://www.starwars.com/news/remembering-ray-harryhausen>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

In this article we saw examples of how Harryhausen inspired people with his movies and how his inventions changed movie making.

Docter Talks Harryhausen – Animated Views.

animatedviews.com/2013/docter-talks-harryhausen.

This article helped us find a quote by Pete Docter.

Dorn, Lori. “A Fascinating Top Ten Compilation of Creatures by Stop Motion Pioneer Ray Harryhausen.” *Laughing Squid*, 2 February 2021,

<https://laughingsquid.com/ray-harryhausen-creatures/>. Accessed 30 January 2023.

This article helped us learn that Harryhausen had made over 50,000 creatures for his films.

“Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, Oscar a. Price and Mary Pickford | Photograph | Wisconsin Historical Society.” *Wisconsin Historical Society*, 1 Dec. 2003,

www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM97571.

This article helped us find a picture of movie technology in 1919.

Dow, Keith, and Maria Vu. “The Lasting Legacy of VFX Legend Ray Harryhausen.”

Metaflix.com, 17 November 2021,

<https://www.metaflix.com/the-lasting-legacy-of-vfx-legend-ray-harryhausen/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

By reading this article we learned that Harryhausen put more effort into his last movie than any other. And we also found interesting facts about *Clash of Titans*.

DVD Talk. www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/71796/one-million-years-bc.

Through this article we found a picture of a dinosaur in *20,000,000 Years B.C.*

Elliott, Chris. "Special Effects Legend Ray Harryhausen: An Appreciation." People's World, 21 May 2013, www.peoplesworld.org/article/special-effects-legend-ray-harryhausen-an-appreciation.

This firsthand account told of the experience of him and his friend watching *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* as 7-year-olds.

"Filmmaking 101: What Is CGI in Movies and Animation? | Boords." *boords.com*, 11 Jan. 2023, boords.com/blog/filmmaking-101-what-is-cgi-in-movies-and-animation#brief-history-of-technology-and-cgi-in-movies-and-animation.

This article talks about CGI, and that was useful for our 'Immediate Influences' page.

Fischer, William. "Why Ray Harryhausen Matters: How the Effects Legend Influenced LOTR and Wes Anderson." *Collider*, 27 August 2021, <https://collider.com/ray-harryhausen-special-effects-why-you-should-care/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This long historical overview of Harryhausen was a good source; it gave us

lots of information about his early career and two quotes.

Frownfelter, Chuck. "Scholars' Spotlight: Ray Harryhausen." *Cinema Scholars*, 10 January 2022, <https://cinemascholars.com/scholars-spotlight-ray-harryhausen/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

By reading this article it allowed us to extract a very influential quote and learned about his various movies.

Goldberg, Matt. "R.I.P. Visual Effects Legend Ray Harryhausen (1920 – 2013)." *Collider*, 7 May 2013, <https://collider.com/ray-harryhausen-dead-at-92/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

In this article we were able to analyze how many people were devastated by Harryhausen's death, which proved that he was a well loved historical figure.

Harper, Matt. "When Sound Was New: Sound and Image in Tandem in 1930s Cinema". *Reel Rundown*. 6 March 2023, <https://reelrundown.com/film-industry/When-Sound-was-New-Sound-and-Image-in-Tandem-at-the-End-of-the-Silent-Film-Era>

This source helped us find a few images to put on our website.

Harryhausen, Ray [@Ray_Harryhausen]. "If not for Ray's contribution to the collective dreamscape, we wouldn't be who we are'. Kind words from legendary director James Cameron!" 25 February 2022, 7:04 A.M. Tweet.

This Tweet, which was introduced to us by Connor Heaney, provided an amazing quote by James Cameron to put on our website.

Harryhausen, Vanessa. *Ray Harryhausen: Titan of Cinema*. Artmedia (Acc), 2020.

We found a lot of images in this book that we already had, but we could cite a more credible source for our images. This source was also very helpful for some context on our pages. The book gave us perspective from the point of view of Ray Harryhausen's daughter.

Heaney, Connor. "NHD project on Harryhausen." Received by Isai Gilbert and Sawyer Smith" 16 May 2023. Email Interview

This email was helpful to us because we gained information about the Ray and Diana Foundation.

Heaney, Connor. *Research Request*, 6 Mar. 2023. Email Interview

We reached out to Connor Heaney and he replied back starting our conversation that led to the video conference and receiving sources from The Ray and Diana Harryhausen Foundation.

Heaney, Connor. "Video Conference with Connor Heaney, Collections Manager". 15 May 2023.

This interview was extremely helpful for finding info, gaining access to images, and getting confirmation to many claims. He made us feel like we had a personal connection with Ray.

Heaton, Louis, director. Ray Harryhausen: Working with Dinosaurs. 1999. IMBD, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0313515/>.

We used the clip of Ray Harryhausen animating a skeleton from this documentary.

History of film. Summary, Industry, History, & Facts. (2023, March 12). Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/history-of-the-motion-picture/Edison-and-the-Lumiere-brothers>

This encyclopedia entry helped us gain access to a lot of info on the history of cinema.

Hughes, Ross. "The 7th Voyage of Sinbad [1958]." Horror Cult Films, 23 September 2019, <https://horrorcultfilms.co.uk/2019/09/the-7th-voyage-of-sinbad-1958/>. Accessed 31 January 2023.

This article helped us find a picture of the *Sinbad* movie poster with Harryhausen's name on it.

Ikuma, John. "The History of Stop Motion - In A Nutshell." *Stop Motion Magazine*, 4 June 2016, <https://stopmotionmagazine.com/history-stop-motion-nutshell/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This information was useful because it provided a background of movie technology at the time.

“IMDb: Ratings, Reviews, and Where to Watch the Best Movies and TV Shows.” *IMDb*,
m.imdb.com.

This website was very helpful because it helped us find a lot of movie posters.

Jmdls. “Celebrating a Master Effects Artist: Ray Harryhausen at 100.” *Cineluxe*, 2 Jan.
2023,
www.cineluxe.com/celebrating-a-master-effects-artist-ray-harryhausen-at-100.

This website helped us find a picture of the kraken in one of Harryhausen’s later
films, *Clash of the Titans*.

MacCarthy, Lauren. “Ray Harryhausen’s Dinosaurs | M Shed Bristol.” Bristol Museums,
30 Sept. 2019, www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blog/ray-harryhausen-dinosaurs.

This website helped us find a quote by Steven Spielberg regarding how
Harryhausen impacted his life and career.

Maher, Mike. “The Golden Age of Hollywood: Its Rise, Decline, and Legacy - the Beat: A
Blog by PremiumBeat.” The Beat: A Blog by PremiumBeat, 3 Oct. 2022,
www.premiumbeat.com/blog/golden-age-of-hollywood.

This article helped us to find an image of the *Warner Bros.* company.

Mary Evans Prints Online Photo Prints. "Prints of Filming King Kong." *Mary Evans Prints Online Photo Prints*, 2 Oct. 2007,
www.prints-online.com/filming-king-kong-1-607814.html.

We found a drawing of the making of *King Kong*, which was not accurate, but provided a theory as to how *King Kong* was made.

Maxwell, Erin. "Variety." *Variety*, 7 May 2013,
variety.com/2013/digital/news/special-fx-pioneer-ray-harryhausen-dies-at-92-1200470873.

This webpage was useful because it helped us find a picture of a statue of Harryhausen.

Mitchell, Chris J., director. *A Concise History of the Origins of Cinema*. 2013.
Youtube.com, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBahe2_sZko.

Through the viewing of this short film about cinema we learned a lot of background knowledge about the early cinema.

The Movie Sleuth. "New to Blu: Arrow Video: Ray Harryhausen - Special Effects Titan." The Movie Sleuth, 5 July 2016,
<https://www.spoilerfreemoviesleuth.com/2016/07/Ray-Harryhausen-Documentary.html>. Accessed 30 January 2023.

From this article we found an excellent drawing that Harryhausen sketched of his

dynamation setup.

National Galleries of Scotland. "The Dynamation of Ray Harryhausen." YouTube, 12 Apr. 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAS8qW9df9s&feature=youtu.be.

We made a video clip from this that illustrated that you cared more about Harryhausen's monsters than the actors' performances.

National Galleries of Scotland. "Ray Harryhausen | The grandfather of stop-frame animation." *National Galleries of Scotland*, 25 June 2019, <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/features/ray-harryhausen-grandfather-stop-frame-animation>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This article showed a lot of things, one of them being a lot of movies were modeled after Harryhausen's films, such as *Mars Attacks* being copied from *Earth vs the Flying Saucers*. It also helped us find a lot of quotes for our website.

Nichols, Chris, and Chris Nichols. "A History of the Hollywood Sign in 16 Rare Photos." *Los Angeles Magazine*, 17 Feb. 2017, www.lamag.com/askchris/history-hollywood-sign-16-rare-photos.

This helpful article was useful because it had a picture of the "Hollywoodland" sign.

O'Neill, Phelim. "Ray Harryhausen: the father of fantasy film-making." *The Guardian*, 1 November 2012, <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2012/nov/01/ray-harryhausen-father-fantasy-film>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This article told a bit about his life, but at the beginning, it said that Harryhausen would rather call himself a film-maker than a Special Effects Artist.

Penso, Giles, director. *Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan*. 2011.

We watched and rewatched this documentary multiple times to get the right info gleaned from it. We learned about Harryhausen and how Dynamation worked.

“Recapturing Mighty Joe Young: Promotion and Propaganda.” Harry Heuser, <https://harryheuser.com/mighty-joe-young-1949-posters-and-promotion-1953/>. Accessed 31 January 2023.

This article helped us get a picture of a poster of *Mighty Joe Young*.

“Remembering Ray Harryhausen.” *StarWars.com*, 10 Nov. 2022, www.starwars.com/news/remembering-ray-harryhausen.

This article helped us find a quote to support our argument of Harryhausen’s movies being important.

Richards, Dan. “The Father of Stop-Motion.” *A+C Stop-motion Animation Studio*, 1 July 2019, <https://www.aplusc.tv/blog/the-father-of-stop-motion>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This article was written by a person who wrote a letter to Harryhausen along with a short film he had made. It didn’t really help us with our topic of Dynamation, but it showed that Ray was able to give constructive criticism to other

filmmakers.

Science and Media Museum. “A very short history of cinema.” *National Science and Media Museum*, 18 June 2020,
<https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/very-short-history-of-cinema>. Accessed 27 January 2023.

This article helped us learn about the Kinetoscope and Cinématographe and realize that cinema was only about 60 years old when Harryhausen started to make movies.

Screen Dollars. “MGM Studios Opens 4/26/1924.” *Screendollars*, Apr. 2022,
screendollars.com/mgm-studios-opens-4-26-1924.

This article helped us find an image of the MGM studios in 1924.

Sklar, Robert, and David A. Cook. “History of Film | Summary, Industry, History, and Facts.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 12 Mar. 2023,
www.britannica.com/art/history-of-the-motion-picture.

This was a very long article that helped us get more information for our “History of Cinema” page.

Staff, Asc. “The Photography of Ben-Hur.” *The American Society of Cinematographers (en-US)*, 21 Oct. 2019, theasc.com/articles/flashback-ben-hur-1959.

This website helped us find images of early cinematography.

Spuhler, Robert. "In Downtown Los Angeles, the Return of the Movie Palace." *The New York Times*, 25 Aug. 2017,
www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/travel/downtown-los-angeles-la-movie-palaces-music.html.

This article helped us find a picture of a movie theater.

Stop Motion Magazine. "Ray Harryhausen: The Legendary Life of an Animation Master." *Stop Motion Magazine*, 4 June 2016,
<https://stopmotionmagazine.com/ray-harryhausen/>. Accessed 28 January 2023.

This article helped us realize that Ray's parents were a huge part of his career. Ray once said he was very lucky to have parents who didn't force him to have a certain job.

Vishnevsky, Jennifer. "Vintage Photos of Movie Theaters Through the Years." *Redbook*, 18 June 2021,
www.redbookmag.com/life/charity/g35157108/vintage-photos-movie-theaters.

This webpage helped us find a useful image of a movie crowd.