



20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1954) Screening and Panel Salutes Harper Goff, Award Winning Production Designer

**Presented by the Art Directors Guild Film Society
and the American Cinematheque**

Sunday, July 28 at 5:30 P.M. at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood
Sponsored by *The Hollywood Reporter*

LOS ANGELES, July 17, 2013 - [The Art Directors Guild](#) (ADG) Film Society and [American Cinematheque](#) will screen *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954), the original cinematic steampunk adventure story based on Jules Verne's novel, on Sunday, July 28th at 5:30 pm at the Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Boulevard, in Hollywood. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* was the most expensive Hollywood tentpole film of its day and the first live-action science fiction film produced by Walt Disney Productions. The visually creative masterpiece stars Kirk Douglas, James Mason, Peter Lorre and Paul Lukas.

The program, sponsored by [The Hollywood Reporter](#), will honor the film's legendary Production Designer Harper Goff, a 2013 ADG Hall of Fame Inductee, for his major design contributions to this and many other highly influential motion picture and themed-design endeavors. If Walt Disney was the first Imagineer, then Harper Goff was the second, and he was the first designer to be entrusted with the envisioning of Disneyland. Harper Goff was honored with the title of Disney Legend in 1993.

"I have fond memories of working with Harper Goff in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*," said actor Kirk Douglas. "He was an artist, but more important to me, he was a very pleasant guy. He used to like to hear me sing 'I've got a whale of a tale...' He was probably the only one. I miss him."

A Q&A exploring Goff's legacy and talents will follow the screening with panelists **Marty Sklar**, The Walt Disney Company's International Ambassador for Disney Imagineering and Former Vice-Chairman of WDC; **Tony Baxter**, former Senior Vice President of Creative Development in Walt Disney Imagineering; **Harrison Ellenshaw**, former head of Disney Studio's effects department and matte/visual effects artist for *Star Wars* (1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Tron* (1982) and *Dick Tracy* (1990) and **Stephen Berger**, Production and Theme-park Designer, Art Director, Set Designer and collaborator with Harper Goff on *Fantastic Voyage* (1966). ADG Film Society co-chair, Production Designer **Thomas A. Walsh** will moderate the panel discussion.

"The production design in *20,000 Leagues* is unforgettable," says Walsh. "Harper Goff's visual influence on countless generations of young designers, film-goers and science fiction fans is undeniable. He was a Production Designer, Illustrator, Sketch Artist, Set Designer, musician and raconteur. A 'World Builder' long before the term was created, Goff was a unique soul, one who inspired all those that had the good fortune to be touched and influenced by his modest gift of genius."

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, directed by Richard Fleischer, is an excellent example of the Steampunk genre. It incorporates elements of fantasy, adventure, drama, horror and historical science fiction. “Harper Goff unknowingly envisioned and influenced Steampunk long before it had a name or became a movement, one that celebrates retro-Victorian industrial design,” adds Walsh.

The film tells the story of a ship that is sent to investigate a wave of mysterious disappearances and encounters the advanced submarine, the Nautilus, commanded by Captain Nemo. “Without the Nautilus there would be no innovative vessel of discovery to take us into wonders of the deep, and without Harper Goff there would be no Nautilus like his, an inspired achievement of industrial design that has become an enduring and iconic visual signature, one that continues to excite the imaginations of film-goers of all ages,” says Walsh.

“The atmosphere at our screenings is very casual and the audience of film enthusiasts, students, and colleagues from the film industry bring their love of film to the Q&A, which makes for some lively and entertaining discussions,” says Walsh. The 2013 ADG/American Cinematheque Screening Series schedule will conclude with *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie* (2001), Sunday, August 25, at the Aero Theatre.

About Harper Goff

Harper Goff (Ralph Harper Goff) was an American Production Designer, Art Director, artist, musician and actor. He studied art at Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles and was a magazine illustrator creating artwork for *Colliers*, *Esquire* and *National Geographic*. Goff's career spanned 58 years, designing primarily for motion pictures, commercials, world fairs and theme-parks. In 1935, Goff became a Sketch Artist for Warner Brothers, producing sets for Academy Award winning films such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1935) and *Casablanca* (1942). In 1951, Goff joined the Walt Disney Studios in Los Angeles where he became the primary Concept Artist and eventual Production Designer for *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, which won Oscars for Best Art Direction-Set Decoration and Best Effects, Special Effects. Goff was one of Walt's original Imagineers and he had a significant influence on the original concept art for Disneyland, including Main Street U.S.A. and the Jungle Cruise, which he conceived and art directed. He also worked on EPCOT Center, the World Showcase and several other Disney theme parks around the world. He was honored as a Disney Legend in 1993, and will be inducted into the Art Directors Guild Hall of Fame at the 18th Annual ADG Awards on February 8, 2014.

Representing the ADG are Film Society Co-Chairs John Muto and Thomas A. Walsh, and Debbie Patton, ADG Manager, Awards and Events. Working with them are the American Cinematheque's Gwen Deglise and Grant Moninger. General admission: \$11. American Cinematheque members: \$7. Students/Seniors with valid ID: \$9. All screenings start at 5:30 p.m. 24-hour information is available at 323-466-FILM (3456).

For images: [20,000 Leagues/ Harper Goff photos](#) For ticket information: [American Cinematheque Tickets](#).

NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are invited to cover!

About the [Art Directors Guild](#):

The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) represents nearly 2,000 members who work throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world in film, television and theater as Production Designers, Art Directors, and Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; and

Set Designers and Model Makers. Established in 1937, ADG's ongoing activities include a Film Society; an annual Awards Banquet, a creative/technology community (5D: The Future of Immersive Design) and Membership Directory; a bimonthly professional magazine (Perspective); and extensive technology-training programs, creative workshops and craft and art exhibitions. The Guild's Online Directory/Website Resource: [Art Directors Guild](#); Follow ADG on Twitter: [@ADG800](#); For Facebook: [ADG Facebook](#).

About [American Cinematheque](#):

Established in 1981, the American Cinematheque is a 501(c)(3) non-profit viewer-supported film exhibition and cultural organization dedicated to the celebration of the Moving Picture in all of its forms. At the Egyptian Theatre, the Cinematheque presents daily film and video programming which ranges from the classics of American and international cinema to new independent films and digital work. Exhibition of rare works, special and rare prints, etc., combined with fascinating post-screening discussions with the filmmakers who created the work, are a Cinematheque tradition that keep audiences coming back for once-in-a-lifetime cinema experiences. The American Cinematheque renovated and reopened (on Dec. 4, 1998) the historic 1922 Hollywood Egyptian Theatre. This includes a state-of-the-art 616-seat theatre housed within Sid Grauman's first grand movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard. The exotic courtyard is fully restored to its 1922 grandeur. The Egyptian was the home of the very first Hollywood movie premiere in 1922. In January 2005, the American Cinematheque expanded its programming to the 1940 Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. For more information about American Cinematheque, visit the website: [American Cinematheque](#). Follow the American Cinematheque on Twitter ([@sidgrauman](#)) and Facebook ([Egyptian Theatre](#), [Aero Theatre](#)).

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