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

Brian Taves

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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.

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