KINONIK

THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON (1954)

WEDNESDAY October 29th 7PM

SATURDAY November 1st 7PM



A paradise from which no one ever returns; a lost link in the evolutionary chain; a Beauty and the Beast tale sunk in the Amazon River. Jack Arnold's 1954 **The Creature from the Black Lagoon** is a Universal creature classic with one of the best monster designs to hit the silver screen. Spawning two sequels and endless failed attempts at a reboot, the Gill-man remains an icon of monster movies and retains a loyal fanbase of enthusiasts and auteurs.

Producer William Alland was inspired by a dinner party tale told by cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa of menacing half-man, half-fish creatures that were said to inhabit the Amazon River. He jotted a quick treatment and a decade later, with the assistance of several screenwriters, expanded it to a full screenplay. Arnold, fresh from the success of House of Wax (1953), was brought on to direct. Hollywood was at the tail end of one of its many 3D fads, and the original run was shown in both polarized light 3D and 2D, with later theatrical and home video releases in anaglyph ("red and blue") 3D.

Milicent Patrick, former Disney animator and Universal makeup artist, designed the Gill-man by combining her research on Devonian-era creatures with 17th-century woodcuts of a Sea Monk and Sea Bishop. Her work was purposefully overshadowed by Bud Westmore, head of the makeup department, who changed her promotional tour from "The Beauty who Created the Beast" to "The Beauty Who Lived with the Beast" and even had her fired to solidify his claims to the design. Decades after his jealous cover-up, the truth was finally revealed, and her contribution to the monstrous canon can be properly appreciated. Come witness her creature, which inspired del Toro's Shape of Water and formed Stephen King's earliest movie memories at two Halloween screenings!