

New Monster Dredged Up for Movie Thriller

BY JOHN L. SCOTT

American monsters will have to look to their laurels now that the Japanese have dredged up Godzilla, a prehistoric beast, from Tokyo Bay, for the picture "Godzilla," which arrived yesterday at Los Angeles, Vogue, Ritz and Loyola Theaters, plus a passel of other Southland film houses.

It comes as no great surprise that the first Japanese-made film to show in other than American art theaters is a thriller, since prehistoric monsters are the fashion this season on our screens. Most any horrible-looking creature from the deep is box office nowadays.

Effects Terrific

At any rate the joint direction of Ishiro Honda and Terry Morse and the terrific special effects of Eiji Tsuburaya, Akira Watanabe, Hiroshi Mukoyama and Kuchiro Kishida create a maximum of cinema horror as Godzilla, awakened by H-bomb experiments, surfaces and creates havoc in Tokyo.

Godzilla, incidentally, had been a Japanese legend until its physical appearance, during which the "thing" spews fire and tramples skyscrapers and bridges like so many matchsticks.

There's a plot, of sorts, to fill out 80 minutes of footage.

Raymond Burr, only American actor in the cast, plays a newspaperman who works his way into an investigating mission headed by Takashi Shimura, a paleontologist; his daughter and assistant, Momoko Kochi; her naval officer boy friend, Akira Takarada, and various scientists, etc.

Lots of Horror

While acting his mediocre, various principals give definite impressions of horror, which is what the picture is selling anyway. Most of the English dialogue appears to be dubbed.

Godzilla, the awesome monster from the depths proves impervious to shell-fire and electric shock... but there's a secret weapon devised, natch!

If you're a horror devotee, "Godzilla" should go on your shopping list.

Second feature on the program is "A Strange Adventure," story of teen-agers on the rampage, which spotlights Marla English, Ben Cooper and Joan Evens.