



It's Alive!: The Science of B-Movie Monsters (Chicago Shorts)

Michael LaBarbera

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The B-movie monster—be it gap-toothed gorilla, ripped-from-time dinosaur, overstretched arachnid, or another outrageous anthropomorphic fantasy—has thrilled moviegoers for decades, and firmly sunk its claws into popular culture. In *It's Alive!*, Michael LaBarbera delves into the science behind these characters' construction, from the biology surrounding tyrannosaurid postures in *Jurassic Park* and *King Kong* to the questionable physics employed by *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. Accompanied by a treasure trove of images from old movie posters and stills, and ranging from the 1930s to such recent films as *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the latest installments of the *Alien* franchise, *It's Alive!* cleverly uses science to remind us that the best parts of moviemaking might indeed be magic—for all creatures, great and small.

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