

If you want to reply quickly, please just tick the boxes. However, it would be really helpful if you can use the lines provided (or a separate sheet of paper if necessary!) to add any details or things to mind.

Tarzan Questionnaire

1. As a child, how did you feel about the Tarzan films starring Johnny Weissmuller? (Tick the appropriate box)

- These films were among my favourites
- I liked them a lot



- Very popular
- Quite popular
- Not very popular
- I do not like them

Your Name: Thomas McGoran.....

Comments: Date of Birth: .. 27 ..
 .. occasion.. to look forward to.. Sometimes we would go
 .. to see it twice, if funds extended so far.

If you want to reply quickly, please just tick the boxes. However, it would be really helpful if you can use the lines provided (or a separate sheet of paper if necessary!) to add any details or comments that spring to mind.

1. As a child, how did you feel about the Tarzan films starring Johnny Weissmuller? (Tick one box)

These films were among my favourites

I liked them a lot

I quite liked them

I did not like them much

I hated them

I do not really remember

Comments: The early Tarzan movies were very popular with children, because they took us to another world - the dark continent of Africa, - even though they were filmed on the back lot of Hollywood studios or nearby locations.

2. How popular were these films with children in general?

Extremely popular

Very popular

Quite popular

Not very popular

I do not really remember

Comments: A Tarzan film at our local flea-bit was an occasion to look forward to. Sometimes we would go to see it twice, if funds extended so far.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

3. Which of the following characters do you remember? (Tick as many boxes as you wish). Write beside each one whether you liked them, disliked them, or were indifferent. If you had a favourite, please indicate this.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tarzan (Johnny Weissmuller) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes - I liked all |
| Jane (Maureen O'Sullivan) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | of them..... |
| Boy (Johnny Sheffield) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Cheeta the Chimp | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

Comments: The chimp always introduced a bit of light hearted fun, - this would break the tedium of the part of the movie when the action slowed down - and we liked the way Tarzan commanded the animal world with his famous call, and by saying "Ungawa" - the animals knew exactly what he wanted.

4. What were your impressions of the Tarzan films as a child?
(Tick as many boxes as you wish and add more descriptions if you want to)

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Romantic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Boring | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adventuresome | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Violent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sad | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fun | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sexy/Rude | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Predictable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exciting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Frightening | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funny | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Did you think that they were suitable or unsuitable for children?
Suitable Fairly suitable Unsuitable

Comments: In the eyes of children, Tarzan films were harmless, Good always triumphed over evil, - this made them predictable, Tarzan always finished the movie smiling - with Jane and 'boy' beside him, - not forgetting Cheeta - back to their tree top house, to live happily ever after.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Please mention anything you recall about watching Tarzan films as a child. For example, did you go alone, with family, or friends? What did you like most about the films? Was there anything you disliked? Do you remember any particular scenes or images? Did the films appeal to children in general, or to boys or girls specifically? Did you ever play at being Tarzan, Jane, or one of the other characters? MGM Tarzan films came out in 1932, 1934, 1937, 1939, 1941 and 1942, and the character of Boy appeared from 1939. Did the films change much over that time? If so, how? Any other comments are also very welcome!

Children of the 30^s, lived in a period of great depression, consequently, there was not a lot of money available to families - which in my area were usually large. Geography lessons at school told us about places like America, Africa, India etc etc, but Hollywood brought them to life. Our summer holidays, consisted of a day at Saltcoats or Ballbock, so the movies took us to those places we could only dream about. We believed Tarzan lived in a super tree house in Africa, where an elephant operated a lift to the top - but as we found out as we grew older - it was all done in Hollywood. I went to the cinema a lot, especially with friends, - with no real preference for any particular type of movie, although I did like Flash Gordon and had a special liking for Deanna Durbin - a voice as clear as a bell. I also liked adventure films, which, I suppose, included the Tarzan movies, and I can recall several scenes, like Tarzan imprisoned in a cage and shaking it until it fell down into a chasm with a pool at the bottom, or Jane having a spear in her back as she tried to draw attention from 'Boy' as he made a getaway. I think boys enjoyed Tarzan better than girls, this could be because Tarzan seldom played lovey-dovey scenes with Jane, this made him more manly for tender aged hero worshippers. Over a period of time, MGM stopped making the Tarzan movies and the storylines were taken up by RKO Radio Pictures, and I personally feel, this is when they started to go downhill. The war, of course intervened, and

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT

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JULY 2000

we had a whole new cult of villains to throw into the movies, the Nazis, and the Tarzan story writers made good use of them. But the quality of the productions suffered under R.K.O. and Maureen Sullivan was no longer available to play Jane. R.K.O. introduced Brenda Joyce as Jane, and while she was a reasonable success — she too was replaced by others as the series went on. Like other things, as one grows older, taste changes, and so it was with Tarzan, I outgrew him. It's worth noting, that Johnny Sheffield who played 'Boy', went on to make a series of films for Monogram, called Bomba the Jungle Boy, this was a spin off from Tarzan, and they were very popular at the time as well. Hope this has been of some help to you. If you need any more, don't hesitate.

Sincerely,

Your Name: Thomas McGoran.....

Date of Birth: ...22...11...27.....