

**THE
GREYSTOKE
CHRONICLES:
THE ADVENTURES OF
TARZAN IN PRINT,
ON SCREEN AND
ON THE STAGE**

**A CHECKLIST COMPILED
BY JOHN A. SMALL**

**(ORIGINALLY COMPILED IN 1983;
REVISED 1987, 1994, 1999, 2000,
2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008)**

PART ONE: THE TARZAN BOOKS

By Edgar Rice Burroughs:

1. *Tarzan Of The Apes*
2. *The Return Of Tarzan*
3. *The Beasts Of Tarzan*
4. *The Son Of Tarzan*
5. *Tarzan And The Jewels Of Opar*
6. *Jungle Tales Of Tarzan*
7. *Tarzan The Untamed*
8. *Tarzan The Terrible*
9. *Tarzan And The Golden Lion*
10. *Tarzan And The Ant Men*
11. *Tarzan, Lord Of The Jungle*
12. *Tarzan And The Lost Empire*
13. *Tarzan At The Earth's Core*
14. *Tarzan The Invincible*
15. *Tarzan Triumphant*
16. *Tarzan And The City Of Gold*
17. *Tarzan And The Lion Man*
18. *Tarzan And The Leopard Men*
19. *Tarzan's Quest*
20. *Tarzan And The Forbidden City*
21. *Tarzan The Magnificent*
22. *Tarzan And The "Foreign Legion"*
23. *Tarzan And The Madman*
24. *Tarzan And The Castaways*

(These are the 24 volumes considered to be the "Official Tarzan Canon," and which are still in print and numbered in chronological order by Ballantine Books. Burroughs also completed two other volumes featuring the jungle hero, which are listed below:)

25. *Tarzan And The Tarzan Twins*

(Although some maintain that Burroughs wrote for a primarily juvenile audience in general, this is a rare example of a work aimed specifically at the same age group that had made such series as "The Hardy Boys" so popular. Chronologically the book - which is actually comprised of two shorter works that were originally published separately - appears to take place some time between *Tarzan, Lord Of The Jungle* and *Tarzan And The Lost Empire*; the young heroine of "The Tarzan Twins" turns out to be a younger sister of a character who later appears in *Lost Empire*. It doesn't rank with Burroughs' best, which may be forgiven considering that he was writing specifically with a younger audience in mind; but it still probably should be included as part of the overall canon, and why Ballantine has not done so is a mystery to me.)

26. *The Eternal Savage*

(Technically not a Tarzan adventure, although Tarzan and Jane both appear in it; a portion of the story takes place at Tarzan's African estate. Chronologically the story takes place between *The Return Of Tarzan* and *The Beasts Of Tarzan*.)

By Edgar Rice Burroughs
and Joe Lansdale:

1. ***Tarzan: The Lost Adventure***

(This is the remaining “Tarzan” manuscript which was left unfinished at the time of Burroughs’ death in 1950, and was found among his papers in a safe nearly a decade later. It was discussed by both Richard Lupoff and Erwin Porges in their respective books on Burroughs’ life and works, *Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master Of Adventure* and *Edgar Rice Burroughs: The Man Who Created Tarzan*. Several authors - most notably Philip Jose Farmer - had expressed interest in completing the book over the years, but it was not until 1995 that the work finally appeared in print, published in four monthly installments in the old “pulp fiction magazine” format by Dark Horse, which had acquired the rights to do a new series of “Tarzan” comics. It later appeared in a single hardcover edition from Dark Horse, and Ballantine/Del Rey eventually released a standard paperback edition. It’s not the best Tarzan book, but it’s also far from the worst; Lansdale actually did a fairly admirable job of taking the untitled, unfinished manuscript - which reportedly stood at roughly half the length of the standard Burroughs novel when ERB set it aside - and turning it into a publishable book. Interestingly, however, Lansdale still left the story somewhat unfinished; the novel concludes with Tarzan, presumed buried alive following a typically Burroughsian battle to the death, forsaking both his jungle home and his beloved wife Jane and setting out on a return trip to Pellucidar, the land at the earth’s core. Is a sequel in the works? One can only speculate at this point...)

By Fritz Leiber

1. ***Tarzan And The Valley Of Gold***

(A novelization of the 1966 film, which starred Mike Henry as Tarzan. This was the first novel featuring one of Burroughs’ heroes or settings to be authorized following Burroughs’ death in 1950, and in terms of capturing Burroughs’ style it remains one of the best. Leiber went to such pains to maintain authenticity that he even included footnotes referring to several of Burroughs’ original Tarzan books; Ballantine even published it as “Volume 25 in the series,” thus making it part of the canon in the minds of many readers. But after the film vanished so did the book; to the best of my knowledge has never re-appeared in print, which is too bad.)

By R.A. Salvatore

1. ***Tarzan: The Epic Adventures***

(Like ***Tarzan And The Valley Of Gold***, this is also a novelization – in this case, of the script of one episode of the 1996 syndicated television series of the same title, which was itself taken from a ERB Incorporated-authorized line of Tarzan toys released the previous year. Unlike Leiber’s contribution, however, this novel is most decidedly NOT a part of the canon. The TV script it is based upon was itself a curious blending of plot points from ***The Return Of Tarzan*** and ***Tarzan At The Earth’s Core***: Jane is mentioned but never seen, and Tarzan is said to have renounced his claim for her hand just as he had at the conclusion of Burroughs’ original novel; the villains and several other secondary characters are from ***The Return Of Tarzan***, but the bulk of the plot revolves around a mystical pendant and a voyage to Pellucidar! So far there is only the one book; I’m watching to see if more follow. Whether or not they do, the publication of this one creates an interesting game for Tarzan fans: those readers interested in getting to know the original hero as Burroughs created him, but who do not want to make his way through the entire Burroughs series, could follow the original ***Tarzan Of The Apes*** with this book instead, thus following the legendary hero down an alternate path of reality. Salvatore, by the way, went on to write the *Star Wars* novel *Vector Prime*.)

By “Barton Werper”

1. ***Tarzan And The Silver Globe***
2. ***Tarzan And The Cave City***
3. ***Tarzan And The Snake People***
4. ***Tarzan And The Abominable Snowmen***
5. ***Tarzan And The Winged Invaders***

(This truly awful series of hastily-produced paperbacks was released in 1964 and 1965 by the New International Library of Derby, Connecticut. They were unauthorized, written without the permission of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., and were intended as a quick cash-in on the sudden popularity of Ballantine’s paperback reprints of the originals, which had just made a big splash in the market. According to Burroughs expert Richard Lupoff, the first book in the series was a blatant piracy of Burroughs’ ***Tarzan And The Jewels Of Opar***, with entire paragraphs having apparently been lifted from the earlier book; even the authors’ pseudonym, “Barton Werper,” is derived from the name of the villain of *Jewels Of Opar*. [Gabe Essoe, author of *Tarzan Of The Movies*, reported that the books were actually written by the husband-and-wife team of Peter and Peggy Scott.] The books originally sold for 40 cents apiece; more books were planned, but a federal court put an end to such unauthorized piracies of Burroughs’ works and the five existing volumes became hard-to-find and thus have increased in price over the years. My copy of *Winged Invaders*, which was only in fair condition when I bought it at the 1989 Chicago Comic-Con, cost \$5.00; I’ve seen copies of *Snake People* and *Abominable Snowmen* selling between \$25 and \$100 a copy, depending on the condition.)

By Philip Jose Farmer

1. ***Tarzan Alive***

(A “biography” of Lord Greystoke, which treats the popular fictional hero as a real-life personality. Farmer goes to great lengths to point out which of Burroughs’ books were supposedly based on “fact” and which were “mere fiction”; he also provides a lengthy and detailed family tree, in which we learn that Tarzan is kin to several other popular fictional heroes such as Doc Savage, The Shadow and Sherlock Holmes. A fun book, so long as one doesn’t take it too seriously.)

2. ***The Adventure Of The Peerless Peer***

(Another fun little volume in which the jungle hero is teamed with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; it is supposedly written by Watson as one of Holmes’ final adventures, and “presented” to the world by Watson’s American agent – Farmer – after Farmer learns that it has validated some of the information he had previously alluded to in *Tarzan Alive*. Apparently the story takes place between the Burroughs volumes *Tarzan The Untamed* and *Tarzan The Terrible*, and shortly after the Holmes adventure entitled *His Last Bow*. The novella was later reprinted in an anthology of Farmer’s works, entitled *The Grand Adventure* – but, due to some sort of dispute at the time between Farmer and the Burroughs estate, Tarzan’s character was replaced by Mowagli from Rudyard Kipling’s *Jungle Book*.)

3. **“Extracts From The Memoirs Of Lord Greystoke”**

(A short story which appears in the Farmer anthology *Mother Was A Lovely Beast*. I’ve not read it, but I’ve read of it; in it Tarzan briefly recounts his own life story, thus proving certain aspects [and disproving others] of *Tarzan Alive*. What a wonderful web Farmer has weaved!)

4. ***Hadon Of Ancient Opar***
5. ***Flight To Opar***

(These two books probably represent Farmer's best contributions to the mythos. That said, they are not actually stories of Tarzan; rather, they relate the adventures of Hadon, a heroic figure of the African colony of Opar who lived some 12,000 years before Tarzan discovered what little remained of the colony's civilization in *The Return Of Tarzan*. Farmer suggests in *Flight To Opar* that both books are based upon translations of the writing on gold tablets found by Tarzan in *The Return Of Tarzan*. Farmer obviously obviously intended for other Hadon adventures to follow, but as of this writing – September 1999 – no further books have appeared in the series.)

6. *Time's Last Gift*

(It took about five readings of this book before I realized that the hero of the thing, John Gribardsun, is actually Tarzan. He's never once referred to as such in the book, but there are so many obvious clues scattered throughout the thing - especially in the last chapter - that I still feel a little stupid for not having made the connection earlier. Farmer later confirmed the fact in an interview published in *Starlog* magazine, which led me to realize that I wasn't the only one who didn't make the connection at first. But whereas Farmer's other Tarzan entries - especially the two Opar books - compliment Burroughs' originals fairly well, *Time's Last Gift* is such an oddity that I have not placed my copy of it on the same bookshelf as Farmer's other Tarzan stories; it stands alone on another bookshelf, along with some of Farmer's other non-Burroughs-related material. I include it in this checklist only in the interest of completeness.)

7. *The Dark Heart Of Time*

(An honest-to-goodness Tarzan novel - not a pastiche, as most of the previous Farmer volumes had been - this one fully authorized by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. and written with input from Burroughs' grandson Danton Burroughs. Like *The Peerless Peer* it takes place sometime between the Burroughs volumes *Tarzan The Untamed* and *Tarzan The Terrible*, although the final chapter would appear to take place during more contemporary times - i.e. the 1990s.)

8. *Myths For The Modern Age* (edited by Win Eckert)

(Not a novel, but a 400-page collection of essays by Farmer and other writers which build upon the concepts Farmer first introduced in *Tarzan Alive* and a companion volume entitled *Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life*. One of the essays, "Kiss of the Vampire," happens to have been composed by a fellow named John A. Small - hey, that's me!)

By J.T. Edson

1. *Bunduki*

(Edson is probably best-known for his western novels. This novel describes the adventures of an adopted son of Tarzan's, whose given surname is Gunn and who goes by the Swahili translation of that name, "Bunduki." The heroine of the piece, Bunduki's love interest, is Tarzan's granddaughter, which makes for an interesting relationship! Edson's plot acknowledges a debt to Farmer's *Tarzan Alive*, and adheres a little too closely to Farmer's "Korak was really an adopted son" theory for my taste; but he also refutes one portion of Farmer's book by claiming that Tarzan, Jane, and various other members of their family have made new homes for themselves in Pellucidar, the setting for Burroughs' "At The Earth's Core" stories [*Tarzan At The Earth's Core*, Volume 13 of the "Tarzan" series, is also Volume Four of Burroughs' "Pellucidar" series]. Come to think of it, though, having Tarzan retire to the eternal jungles of Pellucidar makes more sense than having him become the time-travelling Gribardsun of Farmer's *Time's Last Gift*; it also provides a potential link with the Burroughs-Lansdale volume *Tarzan: The Lost Adventure*. I think Burroughs would have approved.)

2. ***Bunduki and Dawn***

3. ***Sacrifice for the Quagga God***

4. ***Fearless Masters of the Jungle***

(Three further novels featuring the adventures of Bunduki, which were apparently printed only in Great Britain and which I have never been able to acquire copies of; I only learned of their existence via the Internet while doing research on Burroughs for an article I was writing in 1998. It was here that I learned more information regarding the fact that several of Edson's western novels, particularly those featuring hero Dusty Fog, have also incorporated Farmer's theories and genealogy from *Tarzan Alive* – a fact first pointed out to me by my father, who has read many of the Edson westerns. Turns out that Farmer (in his novel *The Lavalite World*) returned the favor by stating that Dusty Fog's family were descended from the British Foggs – as in Phileas Fogg, hero of Jules Verne's *Around The World In 80 Days* and also an ancestor of Paul Janus Finnegan, a.k.a. Kickaha, hero of *The Lavalite World* and the other novels in Farmer's "World Of Tiers" series.)

By "John Bloodstone"

1. ***Tarzan On Mars***

(Like the "Barton Werper" books, this is an unauthorized Tarzan novel - in fact, it is probably the first such unauthorized work, having been written in 1955, and it is definitely the most famous. The book was written by "Bloodstone" - a pen name for writer Stuart J. Byrne - for magazine editor Ray Palmer, whose hope had been to create an all-new series of novels using Burroughs' characters. Palmer publicized the novel in several issues of his magazines *Fantasy Times* and *Other Worlds*, announced his intentions to publish the novel, and called upon his to join his crusade to convince ERB, Inc. to allow "Bloodstone" to write and publish further novels. Instead ERB, Inc. warned Palmer that the Tarzan character was copyrighted and the property of the company and legally suashed any hopes of publishing the book. Later, however, Palmer loaned copies of the manuscript to several fans [reportedly to obtain their opinion of the story], and according to legend it was this action that resulted in the existence of a small number of pirated copies that had circulated among ERB fans for years. One of those copies eventually found its way into the hands of a fan in Australia, who had the book printed and bound and made it available for sale on the Internet, where it was discovered and purchased ("for an ungodly sum of money," I'm told) by my friend Win Eckert, founder of the New Wold Newton Meteorics Society. Win promptly made photocopies and distributed them among the members of the NWNMS - including Yours Truly, who first heard of the book back when I was about 12 years old and had always hoped to one day obtain a copy. As non-Burroughs Tarzan novels go, it falls somewhere in the middle of the spectrum in terms of quality; it's better than the "Barton Werper" books, on (or just below) a par with most of Farmer's contributions to the mythos and Edson's *Bunduki*, but nowhere near the quality of Leiber's *Valley of Gold* or Farmer's *Hadon* novels. The biggest problem - aside from some discrepencies regarding continuity with the original novels - is that fact that the novel ends with no final resolution. Apparently ERB Inc.'s legal efforts to prevent publication also prevented "Bloodstone"/Byrne from completing the book; the photocopy I have contains a note from Byrne to Palmer in which he explains his ideas for the final chapter.)

Postscript:

According to Lupoff, there are some Burroughs fans who insist on including ERB's historical novel *The Outlaw Of Torn* as part of the *Tarzan* series. This is due to the brief (and ultimately tragic) appearance of a Lord Greystoke in that book - not Tarzan, obviously, but almost certainly an ancestor of his. *The Outlaw Of Torn* was the second novel Burroughs wrote, after *A Princess*

Of Mars but before *Tarzan Of The Apes*; it's possible that Burroughs liked the name so much he decided to use it again in the later book, not dreaming at the time that the Tarzan book would go on to create such a phenomenon.

This particular argument is given added weight when one considers that the original title Burroughs created for Tarzan was "Lord Bloomstoke," which was later changed to "Greystoke." And, of course, we all know that Burroughs later wove many of his various stories into a single web – characters from *The Mad King* and the "Tarzan" stories turn up in *The Eternal Savage*, Burroughs is shown receiving a message from Mars via the Gridley Wave device while Jason Gridley is off in Pellucidar with Tarzan, etc. – so this can be seen as the origins of this vast tapestry that makes up the "Burroughsian Universe."

Of course, if you subscribe to the Farmer *Tarzan Alive* theory, then the alternate titles of "Greystoke" and "Bloomstoke" are both supposedly fictional titles meant to disguise the "real" family being depicted. Farmer also maintains that the noblemen known as "Lord Holderness" and "Lord Greyminster" in various Sherlock Holmes stories are in fact one and the same; that they are in fact members of the "Greystoke" family; and that no less than five fictional names - "Greystoke," "Bloomstoke," "Greyminster," "Holderness" and "Savage" - were actually part of an elaborate code concocted by Burroughs, Doyle and "Doc Savage" creator Lester Dent to disguise the true identity of this noble family.

That Farmer is a real pistol sometimes!

PART TWO: THE TARZAN FILMS

1. **Tarzan Of The Apes** (1918)
National Film Corporation Of America
Starring Elmo Lincoln (Tarzan) and Enid Markey (Jane)
2. **The Romance Of Tarzan** (1918)
National Film Corporation Of America
Starring Elmo Lincoln (Tarzan) and Enid Markey (Jane)
3. **The Revenge Of Tarzan** (1920)
Samuel Goldwyn Film Corporation
Starring Gene Polar (Tarzan) and Karla Schramm (Jane)
4. **The Son Of Tarzan** (1920; serial in 15 episodes)
National Film Corporation Of America
Starring P. Dempsey Tabler (Tarzan), Karla Schramm (Jane) and Kamuela Searle (Korak, Son of Tarzan)
5. **The Adventures Of Tarzan** (1921; 15-episode serial)
Weiss Brothers Film Corporation
Starring Elmo Lincoln (Tarzan) and Louise Lorraine (Jane)
6. **Tarzan And The Golden Lion** (1927)
F.B.O. Gold Bond Pictures
Starring James H. Pierce (Tarzan) and Dorothy Dunbar (Jane)
7. **Tarzan The Mighty** (1928; 15-episode serial)
Universal Pictures
Starring Frank Merrill (Tarzan)
(Note: This was the first “Tarzan” film produced after the advent of sound features; the only sound in it was Tarzan’s jungle cry, which was a far cry from the familiar “yodel” later developed by Johnny Weissmuller and used by most of those who followed him in the role.)
8. **Tarzan The Tiger** (1929; 15-episode serial)
Universal Pictures
Starring Frank Merrill (Tarzan)
9. **Tarzan The Ape Man** (1932)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) and Maureen O’Sullivan (Jane)
(Note: This was the first “all-talkie” Tarzan film.)
10. **Tarzan The Fearless** (1933; released as both feature and as a 12-episode serial)

Principal Productions
Starring Buster Crabbe (Tarzan)

11. **Tarzan And His Mate** (1934)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan)
and Maureen O'Sullivan (Jane)
12. **The New Adventures Of Tarzan** (1935; 12-chapter serial)
Burroughs-Tarzan Enterprises
Starring Herman Brix (Tarzan)
13. **Tarzan's New Adventure** (1935; feature version of first half of **The New Adventures Of Tarzan**)
Burroughs-Tarzan Enterprises
Starring Herman Brix (Tarzan)
14. **Tarzan And The Green Goddess** (1936; feature version of second half of **The New Adventures Of Tarzan**)
Burroughs-Tarzan Enterprises
Starring Herman Brix (Tarzan)
15. **Tarzan Escapes** (1936)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) and
Maureen O'Sullivan (Jane)
16. **Tarzan's Revenge** (1938)
Twentieth Century-Fox Pictures
Starring Glenn Morris (Tarzan) and Eleanor Holm (Jane)
17. **Tarzan Finds A Son** (1939)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Maureen O'Sullivan (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield
("Boy," Tarzan's adopted son)
18. **The Adventures Of Chinese Tarzan** (1940)
The Hsin Hwa Motion Picture Company
Starring Peng Fei (Tarzan) and Lee Cha Cha (Jane)
(Note: This was one of many "unauthorized" Tarzan films made over the years without the permission of Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc.; in spite of this I have chosen to include it on this list, mainly because of its reported unusually close adherence to Burroughs' original tales compared to many of the "authorized" films. I learned of its existence through Gabe Essoe's book *Tarzan Of The Movies*.)
19. **Tarzan's Secret Treasure** (1941)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),

Maureen O'Sullivan (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)

20. **Tarzan's New York Adventure** (1942)
Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Maureen O'Sullivan (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
21. **Tarzan's Triumph** (1943)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) and
Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
22. **Tarzan's Desert Mystery** (1943)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan) and
Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
23. **Tarzan And The Amazons** (1945)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Brenda Joyce (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
24. **Tarzan And The Leopard Woman** (1946)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Brenda Joyce (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
25. **Tarzan And The Huntress** (1947)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Brenda Joyce (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
26. **Tarzan And The Mermaids** (1948)
RKO Pictures
Starring Johnny Weissmuller (Tarzan),
Brenda Joyce (Jane), and Johnny Sheffield (Boy)
27. **Tarzan's Magic Fountain** (1949)
RKO Pictures
Starring Lex Barker (Tarzan) and Brenda Joyce (Jane)
28. **Tarzan And The Slave Girl** (1950)
RKO Pictures
Starring Lex Barker (Tarzan) and
Vanessa Brown (Jane)
29. **Tarzan's Peril** (1951)
RKO Pictures
Starring Lex Barker (Tarzan) and

Virginia Huston (Jane)

30. **Tarzan's Savage Fury** (1952)

RKO Pictures

Starring Lex Barker (Tarzan) and Dorothy Hart (Jane)

31. **Tarzan And The She-Devil** (1953)

RKO Pictures

Starring Lex Barker (Tarzan) and
Joyce MacKenzie (Jane)

32. **Tarzan's Hidden Jungle** (1955)

RKO Pictures

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan)

33. **Tarzan And The Lost Safari** (1957)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan)

(Note: This was the first color Tarzan film.)

34. **Tarzan's Fight For Life** (1958)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan) and Eve Brent (Jane)

35. **Tarzan And The Trappers** (1958)

Sol Lesser Productions

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan) and Eve Brent (Eve)

(Note: This film was actually made up of three unsold television pilots which were later edited together to form a single feature and eventually shown on TV in movie form in 1966; it was later released on video as a double-feature with Glenn Morris' *Tarzan's Revenge*, and I was able to obtain a copy at that time.)

36. **Tarzan The Ape Man** (1959)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures

Starring Denny Miller (Tarzan) and
Joanna Barnes (Jane)

(Note: This was billed as a remake of the original 1932 Weissmuller film, although there were a number of major changes in the screenplay. Until 1981, this was generally regarded by fans and critics alike to have been the single worst Tarzan film ever made.)

37. **Tarzan's Greatest Adventure** (1959)

Paramount Pictures

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan)

38. **Tarzan The Magnificent** (1960)

Paramount Pictures

Starring Gordon Scott (Tarzan)

39. **Tarzan Goes To India** (1962)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Jock Mahoney (Tarzan)

40. **Tarzan's Three Challenges** (1963)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures
Starring Jock Mahoney (Tarzan)

41. **Tarzan And The Valley Of Gold** (1966)

American-International Pictures
Starring Mike Henry (Tarzan)

42. **Tarzan And The Great River** (1967)

American-International Pictures
Starring Mike Henry (Tarzan)

43. **Tarzan and the Perils of Charity Jones** (1967)

National General Pictures
Starring Ron Ely (Tarzan) and
Manuel Padilla Jr. (Jai, Tarzan's ward)

(Note: This was the first of several features re-edited from the Ron Ely "Tarzan" TV series for theatrical release in Europe; I don't know whether any of them were released as such in the U.S. or not.)

44. **Tarzan And The Jungle Boy** (1968)

American-International Pictures
Starring Mike Henry (Tarzan)

45. **Tarzan and the Four O'Clock Army** (1968)

National General Pictures
Starring Ron Ely (Tarzan) and Manuel Padilla Jr. (Jai)

(Note: Another feature re-edited from the Ron Ely "Tarzan" TV series for theatrical release in Europe.)

46. **Tarzan's Jungle Rebellion** (1970)

National General Pictures
Starring Ron Ely (Tarzan) and Manuel Padilla Jr. (Jai)

(Note: Another feature re-edited from the Ron Ely "Tarzan" TV series for theatrical release in Europe. I found a listing of Tarzan films on the Internet which states this was released in 1965, which is impossible since I seem to recall reading that production of the series didn't start until 1965 or very early 1966.)

47. **Tarzan's Deadly Silence** (1970)

National General Pictures
Starring Ron Ely (Tarzan) and Manuel Padilla Jr. (Jai)

(Note: Another feature re-edited from the Ron Ely "Tarzan" TV series for theatrical release in Europe.)

48. **Tarzan The Ape Man** (1981)

Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Pictures

Starring Miles O'Keefe (Tarzan) and Bo Derek (Jane)

(Note: This film was billed as an alleged second remake of the original 1932 Weissmuller film, though it bears even less resemblance to that film than did the earlier remake starring Denny Miller. Generally regarded as the very WORST Tarzan film of all time!)

49. **Greystoke: The Legend Of Tarzan, Lord Of The Apes** (1984)

Warner Brothers Pictures

Starring Christopher Lambert (Tarzan) and
Andie McDowell (Jane)

50. **Tarzan In Manhattan** (1989; Made-For-TV movie)

American First Run Pictures

Starring Joe Lara (Tarzan) and Kim Crosby (Jane)

(Note: This was intended as a pilot for a new TV series set in the modern era, but CBS passed on it. Even so, Lara would return seven years later to star in a much different "Tarzan" TV series for a different producer.)

51. **Tarzan's Return** (1996; Made-For-TV)

Keller Entertainment

Starring Joe Lara (Tarzan)

(Note: According to information I obtained via the Internet, this was the 2-hour pilot episode for the syndicated "Tarzan: The Epic Adventures" TV series which premiered in 1996. It may have been released theatrically overseas, but to date I have been unable to determine this for certain.)

52. **Tarzan And The Lost City** (1998)

Warner Brothers Pictures

Starring Casper Van Dien (Tarzan) and
Jane March (Jane)

53. **Tarzan Of The Apes** (1999; direct-to-video animated featurette)

Sony Wonder/Golden Films

Names of actors providing voices not available

(Note: This was a poorly-made animated production, obviously intended for very young children, which was rushed into video stores about a month before the release of Walt Disney Pictures' animated "Tarzan" feature in an attempt to take advantage of the publicity surrounding that film's release. The cheap animation was provided by some Japanese studio, with the result that the various apes all ended up looking like the chimpanzee Chim-Chim from the old "Speed Racer" animated TV series. And the songs brought a whole new meaning to the word "bad." Even keeping in mind the average age of its intended audience, this one has to rank alongside both the Denny Miller and Miles O'Keefe films as one of the worst versions of all time. An interesting sidebar: the video package contained no mention whatsoever of the fact that the character of Tarzan is copyrighted and owned by Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc., which raises a question of whether or not this particular film was even authorized by the Burroughs estate. I'm looking into that...)

54. **Tarzan** (1999; animated feature)

Walt Disney Pictures

Starring Tony Goldwyn (Tarzan) and

Minnie Driver (Jane)

(Note: Despite the typical Hollywood alterations to Burroughs' original storyline – and the fact that it's a musical – this animated feature may well be one of the best screen representations of the jungle hero to date. Certainly it follows the spirit of Burroughs more closely than most other versions, with the exception of 1984's "Greystoke." And it should be pointed out that in this instance, even the changes seem to make more sense from a storytelling point of view than those made in previous versions. A wonderful achievement.)

55. **Tarzan And Jane** (2002; direct-to-video animated feature)

Walt Disney Pictures

Starring Michael T. Weiss (Tarzan) and

Olivia D'Abo (Jane)

(Note: This was a made-for-video sequel to Disney's hugely successful 1999 animated theatrical feature.)

55. **Tarzan II** (2005; direct-to-video animated feature)

Walt Disney Pictures

Starring Harrison Chad (Tarzan)

(Note: Actually the third film in the set, despite its title, this was another made-for-video sequel to Disney's original animated theatrical feature, this one goes backwards in time to focus more closely as Tarzan's childhood - just as ERB himself did in the sixth book of the series, *Jungle Tales Of Tarzan*.)

Postscript:

One of the great "lost projects" of Hollywood concerns a script for a Tarzan film written in 1971 by Gene Roddenberry, creator of *Star Trek*. Roddenberry failed to sell the proposal, which he once referred to as his "dream project," although some aspects of his storyline reportedly bear certain similarities (no doubt entirely coincidental) to the awful Miles O'Keefe-Bo Derek version of a decade later.

PART THREE: TARZAN TV SERIES

1. **Tarzan** (1966-68; NBC Television Network)

Banner Productions

Starring Ron Ely (Tarzan) and

Manuel Padilla Jr. (Jai, Tarzan's Ward)

2. **Tarzan, Lord Of The Jungle** (1976-82; animated; CBS Television Network)

Filmation Studios

Starring Robert Ridgely (voice of Tarzan)

(Note: After the first year of its run, this program evolved into one segment of several "umbrella title" programs: in 1977 it became one-half of "The Batman-Tarzan Adventure Hour," which combined the Tarzan cartoons with those featuring the popular comic book hero produced by Filmation a year or two earlier; then in 1978 it evolved into "Tarzan And The Super Seven," a 2 1/2-hour program which combined both the "Tarzan" and "Batman" segments with several new Filmation series, including the poorly-done live-action "Star Wars" rip-off "Jason Of Star Command." These three incarnations accounted for a grand total of 36 animated "Tarzan" episodes; reruns of those 36 episodes were then utilized in "The Tarzan/Lone Ranger Adventure Hour" [1980-81] and "The Tarzan-Lone Ranger-Zorro Adventure Hour" [1981-82], which replaced the Batman adventures with cartoons featuring the popular Old West heroes - like the "Tarzan" and "Batman" segments, the "Lone Ranger" and "Zorro" segments were originally separate series of their own.)

3. **Tarzan** (1991-94; Syndicated)

Worldvision Entertainment

Starring Wolf Larson (Tarzan) and Lydie Denier (Jane)

(Note: To date, only the first season of 25 half-hour episodes has aired in the United States, while all three seasons - 75 half-hour episodes in all - have been syndicated internationally. At least eight episodes of the series have been released on the home video market - two tapes with four episodes each - and these include episodes which never aired in America. So eventually we may see more episodes from the second and third seasons.)

4. **Tarzan: The Epic Adventures** (1996-97; Syndicated)

Keller Entertainment

Starring Joe Lara as Tarzan

(Note: Judging from the few episodes I've seen, this hour-long television version may well have been the closest to the spirit of Burroughs' original vision to date; in spite of this it is generally not looked upon with favor by the majority of Burroughs fans I've talked to. It attempts to incorporate the elements of Burroughs' original novels into their original time frame, rather than placing them in a contemporary setting. It also utilizes ideas from several of Burroughs' other series, such as the episodes which sees Tarzan visit Pellucidar, the lost civilization hidden at the earth's core [as, indeed, Tarzan did in the novel *Tarzan At The Earth's Core*], and meets Carson Napier [the hero of Burroughs' novels set on the planet Venus]. Jane's character was mentioned but never shown in the first season of episodes; she was reportedly going to become a major character during the second season. Chronologically this series appears to take place during the period between Burroughs' first two novels, *Tarzan of the Apes* and *The Return of Tarzan*, although several of the stories are based on or inspired by novels that Burroughs wrote

much later. Sometimes ideas from more than one novel have been combined into a single teleplay, as in the case of the Pellucidar episode which incorporated characters and situations from the novels *The Return of Tarzan* [Tarzan Novel #2] and *Tarzan at the Earth's Core* [Tarzan Novel #13/Pellucidar Novel #4] into a single storyline. The fate of this series after its first season is something I've not been able to fully determine; I'd read it had been renewed for a second year, and that Lara had been replaced by a French actor named Xavier Declie; there was even at least one article published in a nationally-known magazine regarding the talent search for a suitable actress to portray Jane opposite Declie. As best as I have been able to determine, however, these second season episodes were never made - or, at the very least, they've never been shown in America.)

5. The Legend Of Tarzan (2001; animated; made for cable)

Walt Disney Television Animation

Starring Michael T. Weiss (voice of Tarzan) and

Olivia D'Abo (Jane)

(Note: A sequel series to Disney's popular 1998 theatrical feature, this series debuted both on the Toon Disney cable network and in syndication in the Fall of 2001. The storyline picks up where that of the film left off and actually manages to work in other ERB themes and locales, such as Pellucidar; in one episode - my favorite - ERB himself actually appears in a story revolving around the author's attempts to research Tarzan in order to write his original book!)

6. Tarzan (2003; WB Television Network)

Warner Brothers Television

Starring Travis Fimmel (Tarzan) and

Sarah Wayne Callies (Jane)

(Note: A contemporary take on Edgar Rice Burroughs' enduring character much like the 1989 TV pilot "Tarzan In Manhattan," this latest version revolves around Tarzan as a young man as he is brought from the jungle to his childhood home, New York, by his uncle, the head of powerful Greystoke Enterprises, and centers on Tarzan's relationship with Jane - a fiery police detective! The series was originally going to be titled "Tarzan And Jane," but this was changed not long before the pilot episode aired; to date I've only seen that first episode, which was actually a little better (but ONLY a little) than I'd feared it might be, but it's still not really Tarzan to me. Others apparently felt the same way; the series was cancelled after only eight episodes aired.)

PART FOUR: TARZAN ON STAGE

1. **Tarzan Of The Apes** (1920)

Four-act play produced for the British stage

Starring Ronald Adair (Tarzan) and Ivy Carlton (Jane)

(Note: This production was originally intended to be given a trial run in the provinces before being brought to London; it opened October 4, 1920, for a two-week stay at Brixton, with ten weeks' bookings to follow at other suburban theaters. At the Brixton opening, audiences were reportedly highly enthusiastic; from there, however, the play continued irregularly – and with apparently little success – throughout England before it finally closed altogether in June of 1921. There were still plans to produce the play in London in the fall of 1921, but producers chose instead to bring the play to America.)

2. **Tarzan Of The Apes** (1921)

Four-act play produced for the American stage

Starring Ronald Adair (Tarzan) and Ethel Dwyer (Jane)

(Note: This production of the earlier British stage version debuted on Sept. 1, 1921, at the Broadhurst Theater in New York City. Here the play was even less successful with both audiences and critics than it had been in England, and the play closed after an extremely short run.)

3. **Disney On Ice: Disney's Jungle Adventures** (2001)

Produced By Feld Entertainment Inc.

Starring various performers in the roles of Tarzan and Jane

(Note: This particular production wasn't a "stage show" in the traditional sense, but this seemed like the best place to include it. A product of the same organization that operates the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, "Disney on Ice" is a touring ice show produced under agreement with The Walt Disney Company and runs several productions and touring companies at any given time. The shows play all over the world, including non-traditional skating regions like South America, the Middle East, and southeast Asia, as well as North America and Europe. Aimed primarily at children, the shows feature figure skaters dressed as Disney cartoon characters in performances that derive music and plot from the various Disney films; the "stars" are the Disney characters themselves rather than the skaters. This particular production was unique in that "Jungle Adventures on Ice" marked the first time Feld and Disney combined three stories into a single show; in addition to "Tarzan," the show also featured favorite characters from the animated Disney features "The Lion King" and "The Jungle Book." It proved to be one of the most popular and best reviewed Disney On Ice shows in the history of the franchise; my wife and kids and I were lucky enough to see it when the show played for a couple of days at the Oklahoma State Fair that year. The most exciting and cliff-hanging part of this production was its innovative combination of world-class figure skating and daring acrobatic performance; Tarzan and Jane made ice show history while climbing into the canopy of the African jungle, expertly navigating the swaying branches and swinging between vines high above the ice, all with no safety nets below.)

3. **Tarzan: The Broadway Musical** (2006)

Produced By Disney Theatrical Productions

Starring Josh Strickland (Tarzan) and Jenn Gambatese (Jane)

(Note: This version is a musical production based on the animated Disney feature film, originally presented at the Richard Rodgers Theater in New York City and produced by Disney's Theatrical Productions unit, which previously had great success with Broadway stage versions of their films *Beauty And The Beast* and *The Lion King*. Early word of mouth was reportedly very good, and the production was recognized as one of the few Broadway shows to actually open in the black, thanks to overwhelming advance ticket sales. The show opened May 10, 2006, and played its final performance July 8, 2007, after 35 previews and 486 regular performances. In late 2007 it was announced that a new traveling production of the musical was scheduled to debut in January 2009 at Atlanta's Theater of the Stars before playing several other theatres, including American Musical Theatre of San Jose, CA, at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts (February 2009); North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh, N.C., at the Progress Energy Center (March 2009); and Dallas Summer Musicals in Dallas, Texas, at the Music Hall at Fair Park (April 2009).)