WHERE are the science, fiction and fantasy films of yester-

A young arts student at the University of Sydney who "grew up with Dr Who" and is a connoisseur of the genre says very few are available here. He is trying to remedy the situ-

The student, Antony Howe, has organised a Science Fiction and Fanta-sy Festival for the end of the month at the Paris

Mr Howe, who is con-centrating on government in his studies this year, organised a similar festival last year. He says this year's should be much better because he has managed to get the Paris Cinema with its wide screen.

with its wide screen.

There will be about 28 hours of films spread over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 31

to April 2.

Twenty-eight hours of escape from the nagging problems of this world to the excitement of this world to the excitement of warring monsters and robots and fantasy worlds far distant in time ог space

or space.

"I got interested in science liction from television, mainly,"
said Mr Howe. "Then I got on toreading books, and from that to
films."

reading books, and from that to films.

"I grew up with Dr Who.

"At the moment I'm president of the Sydney University Science Fiction Association.
"There's a science fiction convention in Melbourne over Easter. Brian Aldiss will be coming out for that and then coming to give a talk at Sydney University on April 3.

"One of the films to be shown at the festival, Doomwatch has never been released in Sydney before. It's akin in some ways to Andromeda Strain because they're both ecological thrillers.

"Andromeda Strain is about bacteria from outer space brought oack to the United States by a satellite.
"And Doomwatch is a very topical ecological thriller about radioactive and chemical wastes dumped in the sea near an inhabited island.

"The chemical waste corrodes the containers, leaks on to the sea bed and has a rather disastrous effect on some of the inhabited island.

"It's based on a fairly success-

the island.

"It's based on a fairly successful British television series of the same name. I can't swear if the actors are the same, but I think they might be.
"Several classics from the pass will be shown too. The earliest, A Trip to the Moon, was made in 1902. It's based on a com-



## CONVERSATIONS with Marie Knuckey

bination of Jules Verne and H.
G. Wells.

"The Cabinet of Dr Caligari (1918), Conquest of the Pole (1912), Metropolis (1926) and Fall of the House of Usher (1928) are the other classics.

"Robotrix" in Metropolis was one of the robots which inspired C3PO in Star Wars."

Zardoz, Planet of the Paradise, Futureworld, Andromeda Strain, Logar's Run, Soylent Green, Fantastic Voyage, Behind the Scenes with Ray Harryhau-lean, Creeping Unknown, and Jabberwocky, are the other films to be shown over the three days.

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Youngsters who enjoyed Star Wars should find the festival's backward look at more than 70 years of science fiction movies interesting.

None of the films are rated R, Mr Howe said, so parents will be able to bring their children.

"The Creeping Unknown (Quatermass Xpenment) is very rarely shown in Sydney. It was made I think in 1955 and is based on another British television series, the Quatermass series. The film must have been fairly successful because they made two more after it. We showed the third film, Five Million Years to Earth, last year. This year we're showing the first one, Creeping Unknown.

Mr Howe hopes by putting on these festivals to draw attention to the interest in science fiction films so that they will be more easily available.

"When films get scratched they often don't get replaced," he said. "Classic science fiction of the liftless is almost impossible to get.

"Occasionally, if you're very

get.
"Occasionally, if you're very lucky, you can get a 16mm print which isn't much use in a proper cinema. The 35mm prints are almost impossible to obtain. And



turkey in Wizards.

"When Worlds Collide is another fifties film that inn't available, although I believe two rival companies are trying to do

rival companies are trying to do remakes of it.

Andromeda Strain and Logan's Run will be full-size 70mm prints at the festival. Part of the picture is loss when 70mm prints are reduced to 35mm and purists object to this, said Mr Howe.

From earliest times, mankind has told and enjoyed tales of monsters, ghosts and supernatural doings. But by the end of the last century, as the horizons of the known world closed in with few places left unexplored, our imagination sought new worlds to conner.

our imagination sought new
worlds to conquer.
Writers ventured through barriers of time as well as space,
beyond the limits of the universe
to other planets and the stars.
But Fantastic Voyage, to be
shown at the festival on the Sun-

shown at the festival on the Sun-day afternoon, is different. It travells not to other planets but through the human body. Scien-tists in a submarine-type craft shrink to microscopic size to enter through the veins of another scientist with a brain clot inaccessible to sureers.

anouner scientist with a brain coit inaccessible to surgery.

The "hemonauts" have to fight the body's defensive mechanism, and lose their craft in the process. At the end they have to escape its a transfer.

cess. At the end they have to es-cape in a teardrop.

Planet of the Apes, the last of the three films to be shown on the Friday night, was made in 1968. It features Charlton Hesion as the astronaut commander. It's a pity they killed the woman astronaut off during the flight — her "hibernatory mechanism"

tailed.
Wizards, the opening film on
the Saturday afternoon, visualises the world two million
years hence.

After the nuclear destruction of mankind the world has been taken over by the elves, fairies and magicians. Some human mu-

and magicians. Some human mu-iants remain and they and an evil wizard called Blackwolf are at odds with the peaceful elves. The cives rely on magic and live in a rustic setting. No tech-nology or acience for them, after all, book where that led mankind.

But Blackwolf has vitions of

after all, look where that led mankind.

But Blackwolf has visions of world domination. Buried in the ruins of an ancient European city, he finds a motion picture projector and a collection of Nazi propaganda films.

Armed with technology, he and his Nazi-indoctrinated army of goblins (the mind boggles at that thought!) set out to destroy the elves way of life.

However, Avaiar, the good wizard, is on the elves' side. And

so the forces are embattled: Ava-tar and elves plus magic and the simple rustic life against Black-lwolf, technology and Nazi gob-

simple rustic life against Blacklwolf, technology and Nazi gobline.

Logan's Run, the last film on
the Saturday evening, is a bit
closer to today, it is set in a US
city in the 23rd century.

The city is sealed off from surrounding devastation. Its people
enjoy themselves until they reach
30 — their Lastday. A few senk
to live beyond 30. They are
called the Runners. The Sandmen are a police unit whose job
is to exterminate the Runners.

Melies' Conquest of the Pole
(to be shown on Sunday) is a bit
of a send-up of science fiction,
said Mr Howe.

"George Melies was a magician, and he transposed his sleight
of hand skills to the cinema and
got some quite hilarious results."

Ray Harryhausen is famous
as a science fiction special effects
sanan, and one of the films to be
shown on the Sunday is called
Behind the Scenes with Ray Harryhausen.

"He does the Sinbad films,"

ryhausen.
"He does the Sinbad films," said Mr.Howe, "His most famous was probably Jason and the Ar-

was probably Jason and the Argonauts.

"Jabberwocky, the first film to be shown after the dinner break on the Sunday, it based on Lewis Carroll's verse. Apparently it has a fairly unconventional sound track, but it's not the same as the Monty Python film."

Apart from his studies at the university, Mr Howe publishes a Dr Who magazine called Zorinza, which comes out every two or three months.

Bookings for the Festival can be made through Box 191, PO Gordon, or at the Galaxy Bookshop.



ANTONY HOWF "When films scratched, they often don't get replaced. Classic science fiction of the fifties is impossible to get."

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