



BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

The Incredible Shrinking Man

A landmark sci-fi classic with a superb script by Richard Matheson, this examines the protagonist's changing relationship with his wife and his immediate environment when he starts diminishing in size following a strange, perhaps radioactive incident. Imaginative and gripping as a thriller, the film is also philosophically insightful and incisive as a pulp-fuelled meditation on questions of humanity and existence.

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A contemporary review

Neatly adapted from his own novel by Richard Matheson, this horrifying story grips the imagination throughout. A great deal of the trick photography is successful, though inevitably the early stages, while Carey is still three feet or more, prove the most difficult: his height seems to vary, nor is his relationship with his wife and doctors particularly convincing. The biggest error is the casting of a pretty and utterly normal-looking blonde in the part of the midget, Clarice.

But once Carey is left to his own devices, struggling for survival in the wastelands of the cellar, sleeping in a match-box, fashioning weapons from pins and cotton, desperately attempting to forage food from a mousetrap liable to snap him in two at the slightest miscalculation – then the story takes on a significance not unlike that of Buñuel's *Robinson Crusoe*. The battle with the spider is handled with such breathless assurance in the early stages, that one bitterly regrets being denied the climax for some reason the *coup de grace* has been cut.

Straightforward, macabre, and as startlingly original as a vintage Ray Bradbury short story, this remarkable film – for all its peaceful and resigned conclusion – opens up new vistas of cosmic terror. Jack Arnold's characteristically blunt and melancholy style of direction is here perfectly attuned to and in sympathy with the story's implications. And Grant Williams, slim, wiry and mousy-haired, brings a puzzled anonymity to the part of the hapless Carey which is notably effective.

Monthly Film Bulletin, July 1957

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN

Directed by: Jack Arnold

©: Universal Pictures Company, Inc.

a Universal-International picture

Presented by: Universal-International

Produced by: Albert Zugsmith

Assistant Director: William Holland

Screenplay by: Richard Matheson

From a novel by: Richard Matheson

Director of Photography: Ellis W. Carter

Special Photography: Clifford Stine

Optical Effects: Roswell A. Hoffman, Everett H. Broussard

Film Editor: Al Joseph

Art Direction: Alexander Golitzen, Robert Clatworthy

Set Decorations: Russell A. Gausman, Ruby R. Levitt

Gowns: Jay A. Morley Jr

Make-up: Bud Westmore

Hair Stylist: Joan St. Oegger

Trumpet Soloist: Ray Anthony

Music Supervision by: Joseph Gershenson

Sound System: Westrex Recording System

uncredited

Co-ordinator: Ray Gockel

Unit Manager: Lew Leary

2nd Assistant Director: Wilbur Mosier

Script Supervisor: Dorothy Hughes

Screenplay: Richard Alan Simmons

Camera Operator: William J. Dodds

Camera Assistant: Robert Pierce

Gaffer: Tom Oulette

Best Boy Electrician: Everett Lehman

Cable Man: Henry Janssen

Key Grip: Stanley Gulliver

Co-grip: Jim Hilbert

Stills Photography: William Walling

Special Effects: Charles Stine

Assistant Property Master: Roy Neel

Props Maker: Whitey McMahan

Property Master: Ed Keyes

Wardrobe Master: Rydo Loshak

Wardrobe Mistress: Martha Bunch

Make-up: Jack Kevan

Hair Stylist: Virginia Jones

Sound Recordist: Clifford Cunliffe

Sound: Leslie I. Carey, Robert Pritchard

Mike Man: Roger Parish

Sound Editors: George Ohanian, Bob Hirsch

Cast

Grant Williams (*Scott Carey*)

Randy Stuart (*Louise Carey*)

April Kent (*Clarice*)

Paul Langton (*Charlie Carey*)

Raymond Bailey (*Doctor Thomas Silver*)

William Schallert (*Doctor Arthur Bramson*)

Frank Scannell (*barker*)

Helene Marshall (*nurse*)

Diana Darrin (*nurse*)

Billy Curtis (*midget*)

uncredited

Luce Potter (*Violet*)

USA 1957©

81 mins

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

The Incredible Shrinking Man

Thu 19 May 14:30; Tue 31 May 18:20

Journey to Italy (Viaggio in Italia)

Thu 19 May 18:10; Wed 25 May 20:50; Fri 27 May 18:20

Daughters of the Dust

Fri 20 May 14:40; Thu 26 May 20:40

Tokyo Story (Tokyo Monogatari)

Sat 21 May 11:10; Wed 25 May 18:00

The Long Day Closes

Sun 22 May 12:30; Thu 26 May 20:50

Still Walking (Arutemo arutemo)

Mon 23 May 20:45

A Farewell to Arms

Tue 24 May 20:50

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Les Parapluies de Cherbourg)

Sat 28 May 18:15

The Miracle Worker

Sun 29 May 11:20

Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans

Mon 30 May 18:20

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Programme notes and credits compiled by the BFI Documentation Unit

Notes may be edited or abridged. Questions/comments? Email prognotes@bfi.org.uk

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