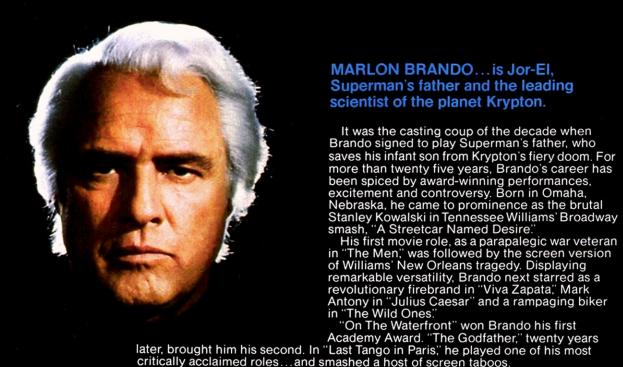




ALEXANDER SALKIND PRESENTS A RICHARD DONNER FILM

THE CREDITS

| | ILYA SALKIND |
|---|--|
| PRODUCER | PIERRE SPENGLER |
| DIRECTOR | |
| STORY | MARIO PUZO |
| SCREENPLAY | MARIO PUZO |
| | DAVID AND LESLIE NEWMAN |
| CREATIVE CONSULTANT | ROBERT BENTON |
| CREATIVE CONSULTANT | TOM MANKIEWICZ |
| ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | CHARLES F. GREENLAW |
| MUSIC BY | JOHN WILLIAMS |
| PRODUCTION DESIGNER | JOHN BARRY |
| DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY | GEOFFREY UNSWORTH, B.S.C. |
| EDITOR | STUART BAIRD |
| COSTUME DESIGNER | YVONNE BLAKE |
| MAKE-UP | |
| CREATIVE SUPERVISOR AND | |
| DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EFFECTS | |
| CREATIVE SUPERVISOR OF OPTICAL VISUAL EFFECTS | |
| OPTICAL VISUAL EFFECTS | ROY FIELD |
| CREATIVE SUPERVISOR OF MATTES AND COMPOSITES | . 50 50////5 |
| MATTES AND COMPOSITES | LES BOWIE |
| MODEL EFFECTS – DIRECTED AND CREATED BY | DEDEK MEDDINGS |
| SUPERMAN CREATED BY | IEDBY SIEGEL AND |
| SHEERWAN CREATED BY | |
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| OUT ETHINAIT OTTEATED DT | JOE SHUSTER |
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| THE CAST | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO |
| JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDOGENE HACKMAN |
| JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDOGENE HACKMANCHRISTOPHER REEVE |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD TREVOR HOWARD JACK O'HALLORAN |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH GENERAL ZOD | JOE SHUSTER |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH GENERAL ZOD MARTHA KENT | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD TREVOR HOWARD JACK O'HALLORAN VALERIE PERRINE MARIA SCHELL TERRENCE STAMP PHYLLIS THAXTER |
| JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH GENERAL ZOD MARTHA KENT LARA | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD TREVOR HOWARD JACK O'HALLORAN VALERIE PERRINE MARIA SCHELL TERRENCE STAMP PHYLLIS THAXTER SUSANNAH YORK |
| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH GENERAL ZOD MARTHA KENT LARA YOUNG CLARK KENT | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD TREVOR HOWARD JACK O'HALLORAN VALERIE PERRINE MARIA SCHELL TERRENCE STAMP PHYLLIS THAXTER SUSANNAH YORK JEFF EAST |
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| THE CAST JOR-EL LEX LUTHOR CLARK KENT/SUPERMAN LOIS LANE OTIS PERRY WHITE JONATHAN KENT FIRST ELDER NON EVE TESCHMACHER VOND-AH GENERAL ZOD MARTHA KENT LARA YOUNG CLARK KENT | JOE SHUSTER MARLON BRANDO GENE HACKMAN CHRISTOPHER REEVE MARGOT KIDDER NED BEATTY JACKIE COOPER GLENN FORD TREVOR HOWARD JACK O'HALLORAN VALERIE PERRINE MARIA SCHELL TERRENCE STAMP PHYLLIS THAXTER SUSANNAH YORK JEFF EAST MARC McCLURE SARAH DOUGLAS |



MARLON BRANDO ... is Jor-El. Superman's father and the leading scientist of the planet Krypton.

It was the casting coup of the decade when Brando signed to play Superman's father, who saves his infant son from Krypton's fiery doom. For more than twenty five years, Brando's career has been spiced by award-winning performances, excitement and controversy. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, he came to prominence as the brutal

critically acclaimed roles...and smashed a host of screen taboos.

Brando's home is a Polynesian island he first spotted—and bought—when he starred in "Mutiny on the Bounty." There, he has financed experiments in sea farming calculated to increase the world's food supply.



GENE HACKMAN...is Lex Luthor, Superman's evil nemesis.

An actor who hates type-casting with a vengeance, Gene Hackman thoroughly enjoyed playing Lex Luthor. "Hidden there in his underground lair, plotting to destroy the civilized world, he's funny and weird and menacing at the same time," says Hackman. "Best of all, he's like no character

anyone's ever seen before'

Hackman's route to ultimate screen villainy began when he left the U.S. Marines and came began when he left the U.S. Marines and came to Broadway—as the doorman at the Howard Johnson's restaurant in Times Square. It wasn't long, however, before he was cast in challenging TV roles and Broadway hits like "Any Wednesday." Hollywood beckoned and his first films included "Mad Dog Coll;" "Covenant With Death" and "Lilith" opposite Warren Beatty. When Beatty produced "Boppie and Clydo" he sought out Hackman to

opposite Warren Beatty. When Beatty produced "Bonnie and Clyde," he sought out Hackman to play Buck, the backwoods bank robber. The result was Hackman's first "Oscar" nomination.

The poignant drama, "I Never Sang For My Father" brought a second nomination, and when Billy Friedkin cast him as the tough "narc," Popeye, in "The French Connection," it was third time lucky. Hackman was not only the "Best Actor" of 1972, he was an established star, confirmed by "The Poseidon Adventure," "Scarecrow," "The Conversation," "A Bridge Too Far," and even an off-beat contribution to Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein."



CHRISTOPHER REEVE... is Superman and Clark Kent.

During a two year search for the Man of Steel and his fumbling

Man of Steel and his fumbling alter ego, hundreds of actors—famous and unknown—were rumored to have "clinched" the role. But it wasn't until Christopher Reeve flew (by plane) to a London screen test that the film's creators knew they'd found their man. "Oddly enough, it was the studio driver, on the way back to the airport, who told me I'd made it," recalls Reeve. "How he knew is a mystery."

At the age of 26, Reeve has been acting professionally for more than ten years. Born in New York City and raised in New Jersey, he followed his high school graduation by touring with Celeste Holm in "The Irregular Verb To Love." To write a college paper, he zig-zagged across the British Isles, visiting repertory theatres. Reaching London, he joined the backstage crew of the famous Old Vic Theatre, and wound up teaching several of its young actors to speak with an American accent.

Reeve has starred on Broadway—and on tour—opposite Katharine Hepburn

Reeve has starred on Broadway—and on tour—opposite Katharine Hepburn in "A Matter of Gravity." Daytime television audiences know him as a bigamous scoundrel in the series, "Love of Life," a role he played so realistically that an outraged viewer once beat him over the head with her handbag for doing such 'awful things" on TV

To train for the role of Superman, the lanky, good-looking actor spent six months working out—"like a heavyweight contender," he smiles—with Dave Prowse, the actor-athlete who played Darth Vader in "Star Wars."

MARGOT KIDDER...is Lois Lane, ace reporter for the Metropolis Daily Planet.

As a youngster, growing up in mining towns in northwestern Canada. Margot Kidder had an "active fantasy life" Among her dreams was becoming a movie star—which is what happened soon after she came to Hollywood at the age of sixteen.

Norman Jewison signed Margot for her screen debut, as Beau Bridges first love, in "Gaily Gaily." She later starred opposite Gene Wilder in "Quackser Fortune Has A Cousin in the Bronx" and opposite Robert Redford in "The Great Waldo Pepper." Her baunting perfeat Waldo Pepper. haunting performance in "The Reincarnation of Peter Proud" won critical

Active behind the cameras, as well. Margot helped Robert Altman edit "Brewster McCloud," then joined the Woman's Directing Workshop of the American Film Institute, in such elite company as Lily Tomlin, Anne Bancroft and Lee Grant.



GLENN FORD... is Jonathan Kent, Superman's foster father.

When Glenn Ford walked on the set of "Superman," the movie, it

marked his 200th film appearance.
The sensitive star, born Gwyllin Samuel Newton Ford in Quebec.
Canada, enjoyed his first taste of show business when he worked as a 16-year-old stable boy for the immortal Will Rogers. He made his

movie debut, in 1940, in a little-known drama titled "Heaven With a Barbed Wire Fence" But after serving as a much-decorated combat officer in the U.S. Marines during World War II, his career went into high gear with "A Stolen Life" opposite Bette Davis. "Gilda" opposite Rita Hayworth. "The Blackboard Jungle" and "A Pocketful of Miracles

Ford, who has ridden hard in scores of westerns, admits "when I'm not acting. I ride horses to relax." His home ing. This horses to relax. His nome is a fabled Beverly Hills estate where Gable and Lombard first met and where Rudolf Valentino took his first Hollywood date.



NED BEATTY... is Otis. Lex Luthor's dimwitted henchman.

No two roles could be further apart than Ned Beatty's Oscar-nomi-nated performance as a ruthless TV tycoon in "Network" and his current on-screen guise as the addled aide-to-crime to evil master-mind Lex Luthor in Superman

But Beatty has displayed amazing versatility ever since his days with the Barter Theatre. Virginia's famous playhouse where farmers still swap livestock and groceries for theatre seats. Born in Kentucky, Beatty made his Broadway bow in The Great White Hope. Director John Boorman spotted him in that show and promptly summoned him to Hollywood for Deliverance

Other screen appearances have included "Nashville," "W.W. And the Dixie Dance Kings," "All The President's Men" and "Silver Streak." He lives with his family in the mountains above Malibu, California. in a home which he single-handedly built.



TREVOR HOWARD. is the First Elder of the planet Krypton.

It was a reunion for Trevor Howard and Marlon Brando when they came togetheron the doomed planet Krypton—in "Superman". They do-starred several years before in "Mutiny on the Bounty," with Howard as the notorious Captain Bligh and Provide as his force that the second series of the ser Brando as his favorite victim.

Born and raised in Margate. England, Howard stud-ied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and worked continuously on the London stage in the late 1930's. World War II—and combat injuries-interrupted his career. But when he returned to London, he was promptly offered the starring role in Carol Reed's "The Way Ahead," followed by two movie milestones, David Lean's "Brief Encounter" and Reed's classic thriller, "The Third Man"

Howard, whose other hits have included "Ryan's Daughter and The Battle of Britain," has a standard clause in every movie con-tract he signs. It says that he will not work on any day that Britain's international cricket team is in action.



JACKIE COOPER... is Perry White, tough editor of the Metropolis Daily Planet.

Jackie Cooper was a star when he was three years old. He was a member of "Our Gang." who specialized in crying on cue, at age six By the time he was nine years old, he'd won two Oscar nominations
-for "Skippy" and

The Champ

Emerging from the United States Navy after World War II, he pursued a new career as a writer, producer and director of television series. He helped launch such high-rated hits as "Hennessy" and "The Peo-ple's Choice" and won an Emmy for directing "M*A*S*H."

But acting continued to fascinate Cooper and he cancelled his first vacation in years when the call came in to play Clark Kent's boss, in the City Room of the Daily Planet, in "Superman"

VALERIE PERRINE...

is Lex Luthor's beautiful playmate, Eve.

Valerie Perrine credits "positive thinking" with launching her incendiary acting career. The Texas-born beauty was "bored to distraction as a Vegas showgirl when she began thinking about movie stardom

Lo and behold, in walked director George Roy Hill and she was whisked to Hollywood to co-star in "Slaughterhouse Five

She played a race track groupie in The Last American Hero, then won an Oscar nomination and a Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival, for her portrait of Lenny Bruce's troubled wife in "Lenny." Recent movies have included "Mr. Billion" and "W.C. Fields and Me."

She calls her "Superman" role the

"most entertaining" she's done yet. "I can relate to complete fantasy sooner than reality," she says. "It's what movie-

making is all about



MARIA SCHELL... is the scientist, Vond-Ah.

Maria Schell was a twelve-year-old exile in Switzerland when she played her first movie role—in a drama called "The Gravel Pit." Her family had left Vienna at the outset of World War II when her father refused Hitler's offer of German nationality.

After the war, she co-starred with another newcomer, Oskar Werner, in the German language hit, "Angel With a Trumpet," which was so successful that British producer Sir Alexander Korda remade it in

English-with the same stars. Maria next appeared opposite Trevor Howard in "The Heart of the Matter" and Sir Laurence Olivier in "The Magic Box, then came to Hollywood to star in "The Brothers Karamozov."

in "The Brothers Karamozov.

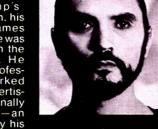
After raising a family and launching her own successful production company in Munich, Maria returned to the screen as Jon Voight's mother in "The Odessa File." Starring roles in "Voyage of the Danned and Claude Cha-brol's "The Twist" followed—and her movie resurgence was climaxed by her Kryptonian performance in Superman, opposite close family

friend Marlon Brando.



TERENCE STAMP ... is the super villain, General Zod.

Terence Stamp's mother was French, his father was a Thames tugboat man and he was born in Stepney in the London slums. He wanted to be a professional golfer, worked briefly for an advertising agency and finally turned to acting—an ambition shared by his room-mate, Michael Caine



An appearance in a little-known musical, "Why the Chicken?" led to the title role in the movie. "Billy Budd," for actor-director Peter Ustinov. Next came another title role, as the demented anti-hero in "The Collector," and a Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Other major movie appearances have included "Far From The Madding Crowd" for director John Schlesinger and "Term of Trial" co-starring Sir Laurence Olivier and Sarah Miles. But he calls the seldom-seen classic. "Toby Dammit" the pivotal role of his career because its director. Federico Fellini, "opened my eyes to what acting is really all about



PHYLLIS THAXTER... is Superman's fostermother. Martha Kent.

Superman is my first motion picture in twelve years, says beautiful Phyllis Thaxter. And there couldn't be a better vehicle for a

homecoming.
It was in 1944 that MGM discovered Ms. Thaxter on Broadway, named her the studios New Girl of the year, and starred her in a series of major films including Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo. Bewitched. Sea of Grass. Weekend At The Grass. Waldorf and Sign of the

In the early 1960's, she returned to her native Maine to marry publishing executive Gilbert Lea, work with hospitalized children at the Maine Medical Center and commute to television centers in New York and Holly-wood—when time permitted Among those appearances was "Miracle In The Rain," a landmark in TV's dramatic coming-of-age.

Ms. Thaxter's children

from a previous marriage are the brilliant young actress Skye Aubrey and James Watson Aubrey Now I'm a mother all over again -to Superman, she smiles. even if he is only adopted



SUSANNAH YORK ... is Superman's mother, Lara.

Susannah York always wanted to act-but couldn't care less about stardom.

It began with a school production of Cinderella, she recalls. They wanted me to play Cinderella I chose the ugly sister. It's a much better role

Despite herself. Susannah is now an

Susannah is now an international star, via such screen successes as "Tunes of Glory" opposite Sir Alec Guiness, "Tom Jones," "A Man For All Seasons" and "The Killing of Sister George." She has won the British Oscar, an American Academy Award nomination and the Best Actress crown at the Cannes Film Festival. She is also the best-selling author of "In Search of the Unicorn," written after she was told she could never have children—and promptly had two daugh-

never have children—and promptly had two, daughter Sasha and son Orlando.

There's nothing more vulnerable than being an actress. Susannah York once said. "But when I'm offered a good role, I have no will power." Playing Superman's mother on the planet Krypton? "Just the

kind of role I can't resist," she admits



ALEXANDER SALKIND is the Presenter of Superman

Alexander Salkind's pre-sentation of "Superman," the movie, culminates a career as one of the most imaginative and successful producers on the international film scene.

The son of a distinguished European movie-maker. Salkind was born in Danzig/ Gdansk and raised in Berlin (where his father made one of Garbo's first pictures). Paris and Cuba He entered the film industry in Mexico where he also met-and married-playwright, poet and painter Berta Dominguez.

Returning to Europe, he turned out a succession of hits in Spain, Italy, France and Hungary, including "The Light At The End of the World," starring Kirk Douglas, and the dual blockbusters, "The Three Musketeers" and "The Four Musketeers

He is proud of the fact that a key contribution to the success of these films was made by his son, Ilya Salkind, Executive Producer of 'Superman

JOHN WILLIAMS is the Composer-

With "Star Wars," "Close world.

Born in New York City. Williams studied to be a concert pianist at the worldfamous Julliard School of Music. Moving to Hollywood. he became a three-time Oscar

He received a standing ovation at London's famed Royal Albert Hall, where he conducted his own "Disaster Suite," made up of themes from four blockbuster movies. The Poseidon Adventure. "The Towering Inferno." "Earthquake" and "Jaws"



ILYA SALKIND ... is the **Executive Producer of** Superman

Ilya Salkind grew up in the movie industry. His father is Alexander. Salkind, the renowned international moviemaker with whom he brought "The Three Musketeers," "The Four Musketeers" and now "Superman" to the screen. His grandfather made one of Garbo's first films and a legendary production of Don Quixote

Born in Mexico City, and raised throughout Europe. he recalls that he saw his first movie as a six year old—seated on Zsa Zsa Gabors

In his teens, he wanted to be an actor. But when his father summoned him to work "The Life of Cervantes." he found he had a flair for production. He persuaded Kirk Douglas to star in the Salkinds "Light At The Edge Of The World," and became part of the remarkable team -including his father and his closest friend, Pierre Spengler-which created the "Musketeers" films and now "Superman



is the Producer of

for working 18-hour-days and seven-day-weeks and for what one associate called a "logistic genius" at moviemaking.

Born in Paris, the son of a composer, Spengler's ancestry is Russian with a "dash of Dutch." He entered the movie industry as a "runner" and rose through the ranks while working on such films as The Madwoman of Chaillot, "The Hot Line," "Le Mans and "The Battle of Neretva He then teamed with his lifelong friend. Ilya Salkind, on "The Light At-The Edge of The World" (produced by Ilya's father, Alexander Salkind). Their partnership continued with Bluebeard ". "The Three Musketeers, "The Four Musketeers" and "Superman."

He thrives on the challenge of movie-making. "It's the tremendous element of risk in this field," he says, "that makes success-when it happens—so satisfying



RICHARD DONNER... is the Director of Superman

Richard Donner's direction of "Superman" follows the stunning success of his

classic chiller, "The Omen." Born in New York City, the son of a gifted woodcarver. Donner wanted to be an actor. It was director Martin Ritt who persuaded him that his future was behind the camera. His first TV film, "Wanted: Dead or Alive," brought stardom to newcomer Steve McQueen. His special, "Portrait of a Teen-Age Alcoholic. remains a television land-

During 2½ "exhausting tascinating" years making "Superman," he says, "we never took the easy way We made our own challenges because that's what you thrive on in this business." His capsule description of the movie: It's a comedy, a love story, an adventure and its own



Conductor of "Superman

Encounters of the Third Kind, and now "Superman," John Williams' music can literally be described as "out of this

winner for "Fiddler on the Roof," "Jaws" and "Star Wars."



JOHN BARRY ... is the **Production Designer of** Superman

The fantastic sets which make "Superman," the movie, a visual feast were created by production designer John Barry, an Academy Award winner for "Star Wars"

Trained as an architect, Barry entered the movie industry during the production of "Cleopatra" ("I was the seventeenth draftsman from the left," he recalls.) His first solo effort was a low-budget movie called "Decline and Fall ... of a Birdwatcher," but it led to such major projects as "A Clockwork Orange, Lucky Lady" and "Star Wars."

He calls the collapse of the planet Krypton, the most challenging" scene in "Superman"



YVONNE BLAKE...is the Costume Designer for "Superman"

Yvonne Blake admits that her most difficult challenge in costuming "Superman"-was to find a fabric for the hero's costume which wouldn't wrinkle or crease

It would be unforgiveable for 'Superman' to fly through the air with baggy knees, she points out

After studying art, Yvonne costumed her first film-'Passport to Shame"—at the age of twenty-one. Her career has taken her back through the centuries, from the medieval era of "Robin and Marian" to the days of "The Three Musketeers" to turn-of-the-century Russia and "Nicholas and Alexan-dra," for which she won an Academy Award.



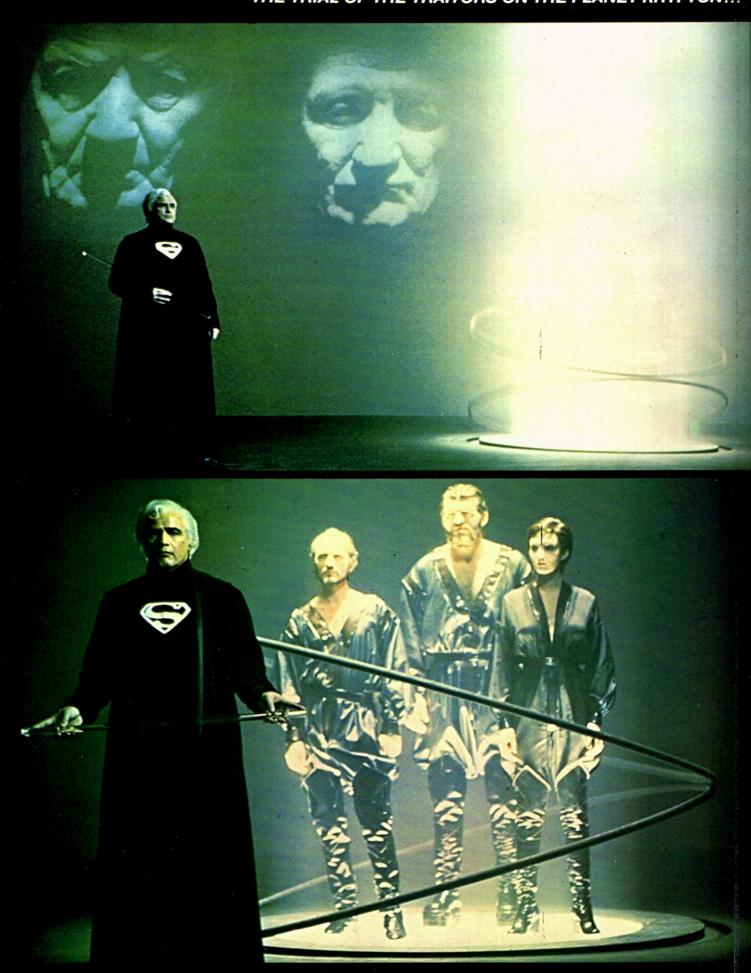
GEOFFREY UNSWORTH...is the Cinematographer of Superman

When Geoffrey Unsworth received an Academy Award in 1972, for the visual impact of "Cabaret," it also marked his fortieth year in the mo-

tion picture industry.
Unsworth was first hired in 1932 as a "slate boy," then moved up through the ranks as an assistant cameraman, cameraman and finally cinematographer, working with such top directors as Victor Saville and Alfred Hitchcock

Recent movies which have caught his camera's "eye" include "Becket," "Cromwell," "2001: A Space Odyssey," Murder On The Orient Express and "A Bridge Too Far

THE TRIAL OF THE TRAITORS ON THE PLANET KRYPTON...







WHERE HE WILL BECOME SUPERMAN!









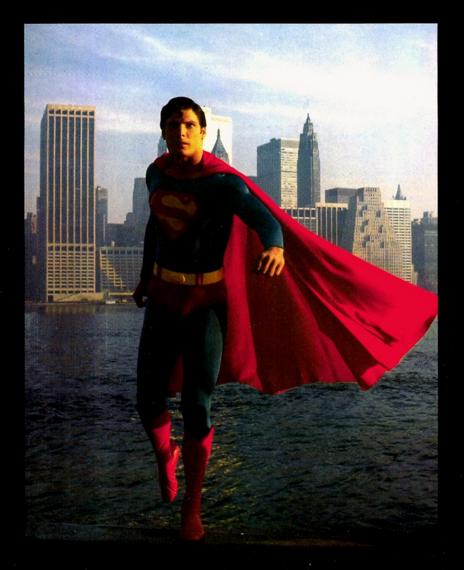
SUPERMAN GROWS UP IN SMALLVILLE, U.S.A....



DISGUISED AS CLARK KENT, MILD-MANNERED REPORTER FOR THE METROPOLIS



DAILY PLANET, HE WAGES A CEASELESS BATTLE AGAINST CRIME AND INJUSTICE...



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION...

Superman, a genuine American folk hero, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the brainchild of writer Jerry Siegel and cartoonist Joe Shuster.

SUPERMAN:

The movie was conceived at a sidewalk cafe in Paris by the father- and-son pro duction team of Alexander and Ilya Salkind and their family friend, Pierre Spengler.

Directed by Richard Donner, (who was responsible for "The Omen") "Superman," the movie, took three years to prepare and more than a year to film at locations including New York City; Gallup, New Mexico; Alberta, Canada; and England's two major production centers, the Shepperton and Pinewood Studios. "Superman," the movie, is being released throughout the United States by Warner Bros., a Warner Communications Company.

The Salkinds and Spengler were fresh from the rollicking success of their dual adventures, "The Three Musketeers" and "The Four Musketeers" when they met over an elegant Paris lunch to choose their next project. Superman, they agreed, was a hero who'd captured the imagination of the entire world. Now, thanks to rapid strides in movie technology and a public taste for soaring excitement, the timing was perfect to bring him—again—to the screen.

But to do the character justice, "Superman" would have to be a "super" movie.

The scope of their approach was later described by Academy Award winning production designer John Barry: "Few films have ever had more than three or four scenes which required special effects on a large scale. We had forty-five, not counting scores of scenes in which the characters flew. There's hardly a set in this movie that someone doesn't demolish, crash into or smash out of."

The challenging project began with a story by Academy Award winner Mario Puzo, author of "The Godfather," who then collaborated on the screenplay with David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton.

Under Richard Donner's direction, five Oscar winners took on crucial production assignments—John Barry as production designer; Geoffrey Unsworth as cinematographer; John Williams as composer-conductor of the musical score; Yvonne Blake as costume designer; and Roy Charman as the sound man.

The casting was equally impressive. Eighteen characters in "Superman" are played by internationally known stars, headed by Academy Award winners Marlon Brando as Superman's father, the leading scientist of the doomed planet Krypton, and Gene Hackman as Lex Luthor, the Man of Steel's most cunning adversary.

Casting the title role gave the film's creators their greatest challenge. The actor chosen would portray a character who had fascinated 6-1/2 billion enthusiasts during a span of 40 years, in comic books, syndicated newspaper strips, serialized radio programs, animated cartoons, records, education reading programs, television, a novel and a Broadway musical. Actually, he would play two world-famous characters—Superman and his other identity, Clark Kent, bumbling, mild-mannered reporter for the Metropolis Daily Planet.

During an intense, two-year search, virtually every leading man in Hollywood was rumored to have won the role.

Finally, the long-awaited announcement was made. Christopher Reeve, a tall, handsome, muscular 24-year-old with more than ten years acting experience—including a Broadway stint as Katharine Hepburn's leading man—would be the Man of Steel. Under the watchful eye of David Prowse, the actor-athlete who portrayed Darth Vader in "Star Wars," he began a training regimen that would have challenged a heavyweight contender. Already in superb physical shape, he added thirty five pounds—all muscle—to his powerful frame.

But more than the hero's biceps were being developed during the months which preceded the start of filming. The creative approach to SUPERMAN was honed and sharpened at the same time.

"From the outset, we were determined to stay true to the spirit of Superman," said Ilya Salkind. "We wanted this movie to have more color, style, action and spectacular visuals than any film of its kind ever made before. But there would be no tampering with the legend."

Richard Donner expressed it this way: "Too often, movies sired by comic strips fall into a trap of parody or outright camp. That approach would have done what Superman's enemies have been unable to achieve for forty years. It would have destroyed him."

Donner describes "Superman," the movie, as "a comedy, an adventure, a love story and its own thing."

To which Ilya Salkind adds: "In a changing world, there's a wonderful stability about 'Superman'. Everybody wants to fly, to feel free and on top of the world, to challenge injustice.

"If only for one magic moment, everyone wants to be Superman."





ALEXANDER SALKIND PRESENTS MARLON BRANDO-GENE HACKMAN IN A RICHARD DONNER FILM

ALSO STARRING

SUPERMAN STARRING CHRISTOPHER REEVE

NED BEATTY · JACKIE COOPER · GLENN FORD · TREVOR HOWARD · MARGOT KIDDER VALERIE PERRINE · MARIA SCHELL · TERENCE STAMP · PHYLLIS THAXTER · SUSANNAH YORK

STORY BY MARIO PUZO-SCREENPLAY BY MARIO PUZO, DAVID NEWMAN, LESLIE NEWMAN AND ROBERT BENTON-CREATIVE CONSULTANT TOM MANKIEWICZ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GEOFFREY UNSWORTH B.S.C.-PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOHN BARRY-MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS-DIRECTED BY RICHARD DONNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ILYA SALKIND-PRODUCED BY PIERRE SPENGLER-PANAVISION* TECHNICOLOR*-AN ALEXANDER AND ILYA SALKIND PRODUCTION RELEASED BY WARNER BROS. A WARNER COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY TMS & © DC Comics Inc. 1978