

SUPERMAN

THE MOVIE



Roadshow PRESS SHEET

SUPERMAN, The Movie

--BIGGER THAN LIFE!

Superman, a native of the planet Krypton, reared in Smallville, U.S.A. and a resident of Metropolis, 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 production team of Alexander and Ilya Salkind and their family friend, Pierre Spengler.

Directed by Richard Donner, who was responsible for "The Omen," SUPERMAN has taken almost two years 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 is released in the United States by Warner Bros., a Warner Communications Company.

It will open on _____ at the Theatre.

The project began with the development of the story and screenplay by Academy Award winner Mario Puzo, author of "The Godfather." Then, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton did additional work on the script. When Richard Donner became involved he brought in Tom Mankiewicz as creative consultant.

The cast and creative contingent which contributed to SUPERMAN boasts twelve Academy Awards and nearly one hundred nominations. Included are one three-time recipient, composer conductor John Williams; and two holders of the "Best Actor" Award, Marlon Brando and Gene Hackman.

A dual winner (for "On The Waterfront" and "The Godfather") and five-time nominee, Brando is almost as much a legend — in his own way — as Superman. He plays Jor-El.

Superman's father and the leading scientist of the doomed planet, Krypton.

"It's a crucial role," explained Donner, "which sets the tone and style of the film."

Gene Hackman, who won his Oscar as Popeye, the compulsive narc in "The French Connection," is seen as Lex Luthor, the evil genius who pits his cunning against Superman's strength.

For Gene Hackman, who believes that variety is the spice of an acting career, SUPERMAN was a "romp."

"I don't know why they thought of me; I'm not sure I would have thought of me," remarks the chameleon-like Oscar winner. "But Lex Luthor was the best time I've had on a movie set in years. Someone once said that the villains have all the fun, and Luthor is the ultimate villain."

"He's a real estate wheeler-dealer with a predilection for waterfront property...like Australia. From his luxurious lair in the bowels of the earth beneath Metropolis, he concocts the most bizarre, yet weirdly logical super-crime in history."

PICKING SUPERMAN...

Casting the crucial role of Superman presented the film's creators with a subtle and deep challenge. First, as Ilya Salkind pointed out, the actor chosen would have to create two distinctively different characterizations:

"Disguised as Clark Kent, a reporter for the Metropolis Daily Planet, he is meek, mild-mannered and totally inept in moments of danger. His writing may some day win a Pulitzer. But alone with Lois Lane, whom he secretly loves, he is awkward and speechless."

"Which makes him just the opposite of Superman, who can fly, vault skyscrapers, out-muscle locomotives, start fires

with a glare, freeze deserts with his breath, peer through any substance except lead and shrug off grenades, all of which he does in a never-ending battle against crime."

The dual personality, adds Salkind, is what has made Superman such a great legend. "Almost all of us see something of Clark Kent in ourselves and something of what we would like to be in Superman," he points out.

After months of speculation and rumor, the moviemakers tapped Christopher Reeve, who was brought to them by casting director, Lynn Stalmaster. Reeve's description as an "unknown" isn't quite true to the facts. At the age of twenty-four, Reeve had worked more than ten years as a professional actor, including a stint on Broadway and on tour opposite Katharine Hepburn in the play, "A Matter of Gravity."

Capturing that conflicting persona on screen, adds director Richard Donner, meant threading a thin line between illusion and reality. "We knew we had to avoid the trap which so many movies, filled by comic strips, have fallen into — parody or outright 'camp.' That approach would have achieved what scores of villains, including the unspeakably evil Lex Luthor himself, have failed to do — destroy Superman."

"Of course, the movie is bigger than life," he continues, "but amidst the most incredible adventures, the characters have reality. Even more important, it is a reality to the characters themselves. SUPERMAN is a comedy, a love story, an adventure and its own thing."

"But it is not a send-up."

Reeve developed not only his biceps, but his interpretation of the dual role. The caped hero, standing hands-on-

hips as bullets glanced off his chest, was only one aspect of Superman.

"But there is more to him than that," says the young actor. "In a sense, he is a stranger in a strange land, a solitary man with extraordinary powers, trying hard to fit into his adopted planet."

"He has warmth and a fine sense of humor, even about his own super-human strength."

DREAMS COME TRUE...

The search for Superman/Clark Kent was matched in its intensity by the hunt for Lois Lane. She had to be bright, spunky, pretty, and capable of projecting a fond indulgence with the fumbling Clark and a zesty romance with his steely alter-ego.

Margot Kidder finally went to the nod, who admits that she spent the first sixteen years of her life "fantasizing," and the next thirteen realizing her fantasies.

"There wasn't much to do but daydream when I was growing up, so I imagined myself a princess or an heiress or a movie star."

It took SUPERMAN to make her childhood dreams come true. She's not only a movie star, she's contemporary fantasy's favorite heroine.

A distinguished international cast completes the roster of citizens from Krypton, Smallville and Metropolis. Susannah York, British Academy Award winner, American "Oscar" nominee and "Best Actress" at the Cannes Film Festival is the Man of Steel's real mother, Lara on Krypton.

Glenn Ford and Phyllis Thaxter are the Kents of Smallville, who — in Ford's words — "try to give their amazing foster-son a normal American upbringing."

Jackie Cooper, celebrating a fifty-year screen career which

began when he was a three-year-old scene stealer, is Perry White, no-nonsense editor of the Metropolis Daily Planet.

Valerie Perrine, dressed to the nines, is Lex Luthor's fetching playmate. "She's not really evil, just sort of dumb," says Valerie. "She can't resist Lex or his weird schemes."

Ned Beatty, nominated for an Academy Award for his performance as the coldly logical tycoon in "Network," is Otis, dimwitted aide-de-crime to Lex Luthor.

Maria Schell, winner of seven German "Oscars" and the flawless beauty of "The Brothers Karamazov," is Vond-Ah, a Kryptonian scientist as brilliant as she is devious.

Trevor Howard and Harry Andrews, two of England's most enduring stars, are elders of the planet Krypton.

Terence Stamp, "Oscar" nominee for his disturbing portrait of "The Collector," is Superman's cunning adversary.

The behind-the-scenes credits have the same professional lustre.

Production designer John Barry came to SUPERMAN after winning an Academy Award for "Star Wars," and industry-wide acclaim for "A Clockwork Orange" and "Lucky Lady."

Composer-conductor John Williams is a three-time Academy Award winner for "Fiddler on the Roof," "Jaws" and "Star Wars." Oddly enough, when his "Star Wars" score won last year's Oscar, the man he had to beat out was...himself. (For "Close Encounters of the Third Kind.")

Still another Oscar winner is Geoffrey Unsworth, director of cinematography, whose award was for the decadent images in "Cabaret."

Cast

Jor-El	MARLON BRANDO
Lex Luthor	GENE HACKMAN
Clark Kent/Superman	CHRISTOPHER REEVE
Otis	NED BEATTY
Perry White	JACKIE COOPER
Jonathan Kent	GLENN FORD
First Elder	TREVOR HOWARD
Lois Lane	MARGOT KIDDER
Non	JACK O'HALLORAN
Eve Teschmacher	VALERIE PERRINE
Vond-Ah	MARIA SCHELL
General Zod	TERENCE STAMP
Martha Kent	PHYLLIS THAXTER
Lara	SUSANNAH YORK
Young Clark Kent	JEFF EAST
Jimmy Olsen	MARC MC CLURE
Ursa	SARAH DOUGLAS
Second Elder	HARRY ANDREWS

Credits

Executive Producer, Ilya Salkind; Producer, Pierre Spengler; Director, Richard Donner; Story, Mario Puzo; Screenplay, Mario Puzo, David Newman, Leslie Newman and 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; Creative Supervisor of Make-up and Special Visuals, Stuart Freeborn; Creative Supervisor and Director of Special Effects, Colin Chivers; Creative Supervisor of Optical Visual Effects, Roy Field; Creative Supervisor of Mattes and Composites, Les Bowie; Model Effects — Directed and Created by Derek Meddings; Superman Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

An Alexander and Ilya Salkind Production

MARLON BRANDO stars as Jor-El in "Superman," the Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre and starring Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat J-1

THE DESTRUCTIVE KRYPTONITE is displayed by Gene Hackman as the villainous Luthor in "Superman," the Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre and starring Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat B-1

SUPERMAN CLOSEUP — Christopher Reeve plays the title role as the mild-mannered Daily Planet reporter, in "Superman," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre. The film stars Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat G-1

LIVE-IN PLAYMATE — Valerie Perrine plays Eve, assistant and lover to master criminal Lex Luthor in "Superman," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre, with Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. Also starring are Margot Kidder, Ned Beatty, Jackie Cooper, Glenn Ford, Trevor Howard, Valerie Perrine, Maria Schell, Terence Stamp, Phyllis Thaxter and Susannah York. It opens on _____ at the _____ Theatre. An Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, "Superman" was directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat C-1

JACKIE COOPER is featured as "Daily Planet" editor-in-chief, Perry White, in "SUPERMAN," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre, with Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. Also starring are Margot Kidder, Ned Beatty, Jackie Cooper, Glenn Ford, Trevor Howard, Valerie Perrine, Maria Schell, Terence Stamp, Phyllis Thaxter and Susannah York. It opens on _____ at the _____ Theatre. An Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, "Superman" was directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat Z-1

SUSANNAH YORK is featured as Lara in "SUPERMAN," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre, with Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat J-1

GLENN FORD is Jonathan Kent in "Superman," the Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre and starring Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat R-1

Otis (NED BEATTY) is up to something underhanded... in this scene from "Superman," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre, with Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat G-1

BRIGHT, AMBITIOUS AND LOIS LANE — Margot Kidder portrays the young Daily Planet reporter who falls in love with Superman in the new movie, which is a Warner Bros. release, starring Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It opens on _____ at the _____ Theatre. An Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, "Superman" was directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat E-1

TERENCE STAMP is General Zod in "SUPERMAN," the movie, a Warner Bros. release, opening on _____ at the _____ Theatre, with Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. It is an Alexander Salkind Production of a Richard Donner Film, directed by Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Robert Benton. Ilya Salkind is executive producer and Pierre Spengler producer. Mat Z-1

HER DREAM WORLD IS REAL

"When I was a kid, living in mining towns in northwestern Quebec, I had a tremendous fantasy life," recalls Margot Kidder. "I would imagine I was a princess or an heiress or a movie star."

At one of Margot's dreams have been realized. She is a movie star. And now, after a search reminiscent of the great quest for Scarlett O'Hara, she is seen as Lois Lane in "Superman," the movie, a Warner Bros. release.

As Lois, she is bright, spunky, pretty and a top-flight reporter for the great daily newspaper, the Metropolis Daily Planet. She feels the kind of warm compassion for fellow reporter Clark Kent that one would have for a clumsy, well-meaning puppy. And she's in love with his other self, the Man of Steel.

"I've done ten movies, including 'Superman,' and probably would have done more, except that every time I fell in love, I gave up my career."

She even took a stab at being a housewife on a Montana ranch. "I was hopeless. I don't like big spaces and I can't stand cows. The marriage was simply never meant to be, although it gave me meaning to my life, in the form of my daughter, Maggie."

When romance hasn't reared its distracting head, Margot has been intrigued by the creative side of film making. At one point, she took a year out to work with "auteur" director Robert Altman, helping him edit "Brewster McCLOUD."

More recently, she joined the Women's Directing Workshop of the American Film Institute, in such illustrious company as

Lily Tomlin, Anne Bancroft, Lee Grant and Julia Phillips. The result was a highly praised fifty minute film.

"Superman" stars Marlon Brando, Gene Hackman and Christopher Reeve. Also starring are Margot Kidder, Ned Beatty, Jackie Cooper, Glenn Ford, Trevor Howard, Valerie Perrine, Maria Schell, Terence Stamp, Phyllis Thaxter and Susannah York. It opens on _____ at the _____ Theatre.

An Alexander Salkind presentation of a Richard Donner film, "Superman" was directed by Richard Donner from a story by Mario Puzo. The screenplay is by Puzo, David and Leslie Newman, and Robert Benton. Tom Mankiewicz was creative consultant. Ilya Salkind was executive producer and Pierre Spengler was producer.

YOU'LL BELIEVE A MAN CAN FLY

Nothing you have ever seen or heard could ever prepare you for this reality. This is a brilliant cast in an unforgettable story. The awesome technology of modern film brings you someone to believe in.

SUPERMAN THE MOVIE

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

CHRISTOPHER REEVE • NED BEATTY • JACKIE COOPER • GLENN FORD • TREVOR HOWARD • MARGOT KIDDER • VALERIE PERRINE

Released by Warner Bros. A Warner Communications Company

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 • EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ILYA SALKIND

PRODUCED BY PIERRE SPENGLER • DIRECTED BY RICHARD DONNER • PANAVISION • TECHNICOLOR

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ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON WARNER BROS. RECORDS AND TAPES A Roadshow Release

ACCESSORIES

DAYBELTS - ONE SHEETERS
3 SHEETS - 8 X 10 STILLS
11 X 14 PHOTOS - SLIDES
BLOCKS - TRAILERS
TV COMMERCIALS

INFORMATION

RATED 'NRC'
142 MINUTES
3896 METRES