

Industry and Empire:

Victoria Literature On Screen



Week Four

Welcome to *Industry and Empire*

Week Four

This week, we put genre fiction into the spotlight – most especially science fiction, some of whose most persistent foundation stones were laid in place during the Victorian era.

It's not necessarily the time period we most closely associate with tales of time travel and malevolent aliens, but here's one Herbert George Wells to prove us wrong with *The Time Machine* and that perennial inspiration for much of the sci-fi to come with *War of the Worlds*.

Across the channel, we also have Jules Verne, whose *Voyages extraordinaires* series gives us *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*, which combine adventure, fantasy, science fiction and lay some of the road towards future genres such as steampunk.

Mad scientists we may think of more readily as being Victorian. *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley predates the beginning the epoch by almost twenty years, but for Victorian horror with a touch of science fiction, we turn to Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

Stevenson, of course, also provides a number of classic adventure tales in the forms of *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island*, so we won't be entirely in the realm of the fantastical. Nonetheless, much of the genre fiction that has followed in the wake of these writers' work continues to owe a great debt to the popularisation and refinement of the ideas within.

WEEK FOUR FILMS

H.G. Wells

Novels

The Time Machine

War of the Worlds

The Invisible Man

The Island of Doctor Moreau

TV/Films

Time after Time (1979)

Nicholas Meyer

The Time Machine (2022)

Simon Wells

The War of the Worlds (1953)

George Pal

War of the Worlds (2005)

Steven Spielberg

The Invisible Man (1933)

James Whale

The Island of Doctor Moreau (1996)

John Frankenheimer

Jules Verne

Novels

Journey to the Centre of the Earth
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea
Around the World in Eighty Days
Around the Moon

TV/Films

A Trip to the Moon (1902)
Georges Méliès

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1954)
Richard Fleischer

Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959)
Henry Levin

Around the World in Eighty Days (1956)
Michael Anderson

Robert Louis Stevenson

Novels

Kidnapped

Treasure Island

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

TV/Films

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1931)

Rouben Mamoulian

Kidnapped (1971)

Delbert Mann

Muppet Treasure Island (1996)

Brian Henson