

HISTORY OF PEPLUM CONTINUED



Le gladiateur de Rome/Gladiator of Rome (1962)

1950s-60s CONTINUED

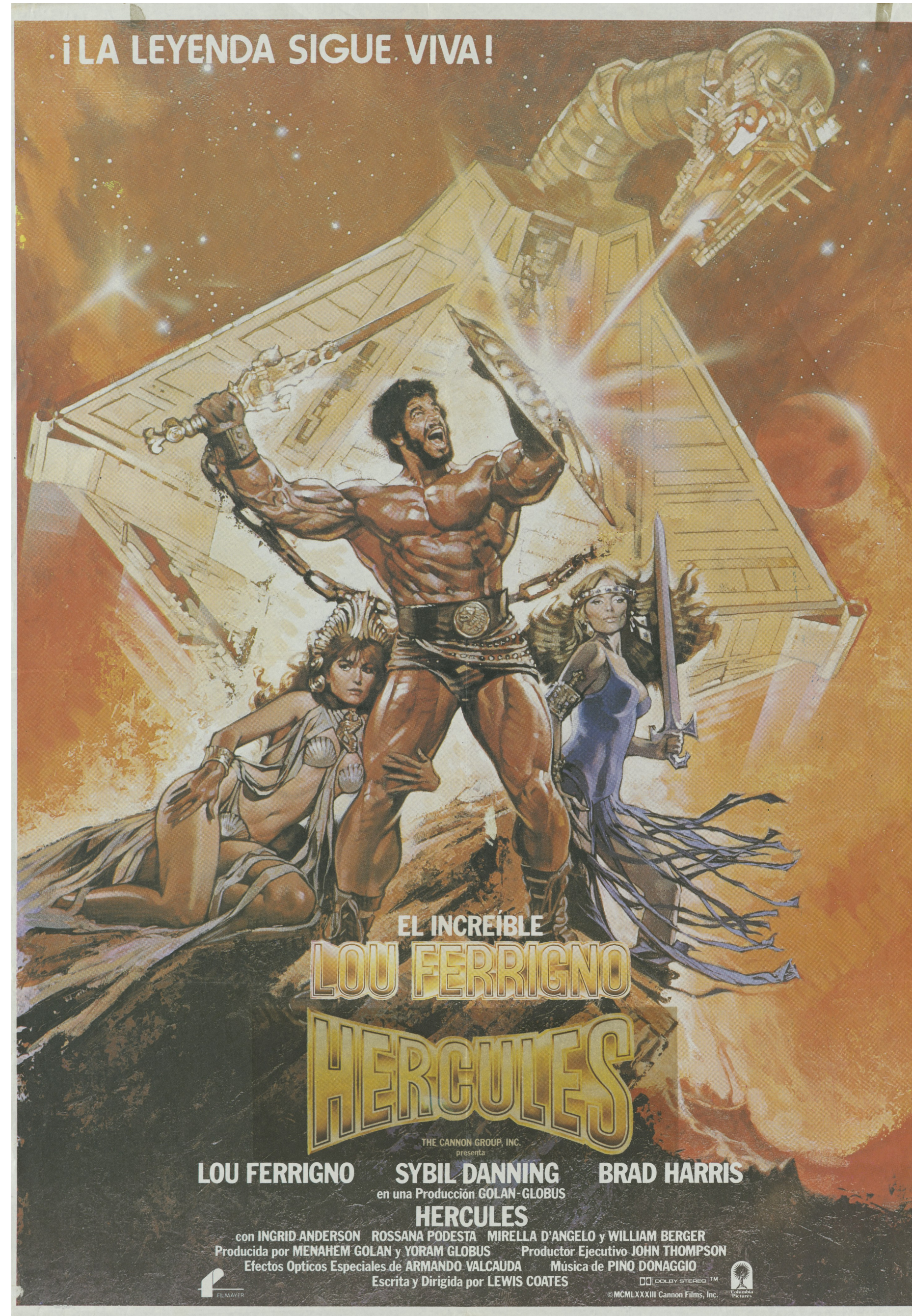
At the height of the genre's popularity, several Hollywood actors appeared in peplum films, including Victor Mature and Jack Palance. The outlandish and repetitive characteristics of these films also made them the subject of parody, as seen in the Three Stooges and Toto riffs on the genre. As the popularity of sword-and-sandals films waned in the mid-1960s, filmmakers turned to other themes, including the western.



Left: Les Trois Stooges contre Hercule/The Three Stooges Meet Hercules (1962)

Below: Toto contro Maciste/Toto vs. Maciste (1962)

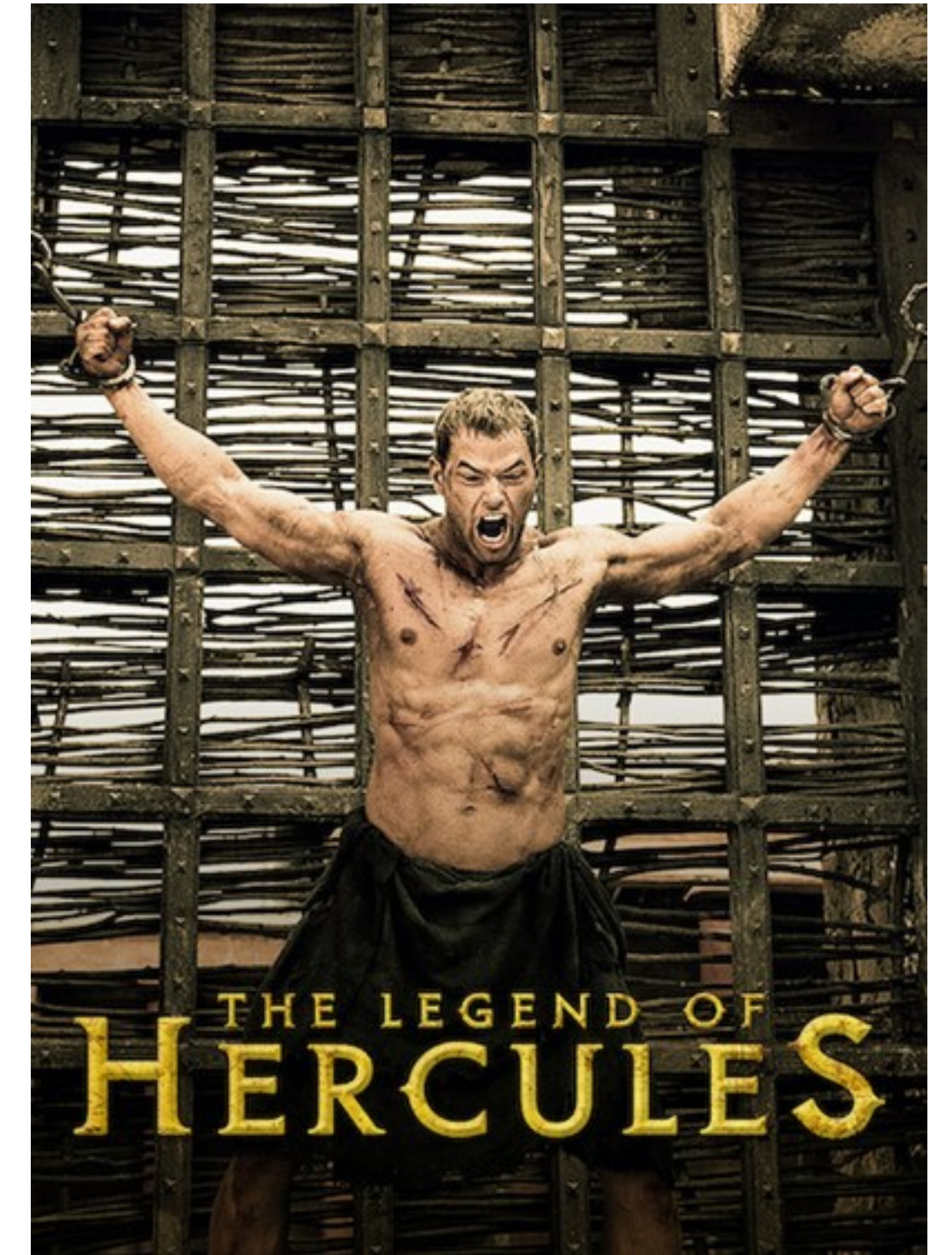
Right: Sword of the Conqueror (1961), one of several peplum films Jack Palance starred in



Hercules (1983)

1970s-80s

In 1983, Lou Ferrigno starred as Hercules, reviving peplum films in a style that was reminiscent of the sword-and-sandal films of the 1950's and 1960's. His consecutive Mr. Universe titles in 1973 and 1974 boosted him into stardom as a Hollywood actor. This career trajectory was not uncommon, peplum films having launched the star status of Steve Reeves, Alan Steel, and later Arnold Schwarzenegger who starred in many films in the 1970s and 1980s with his body builder physique.



Kellan Lutz in *The Legend of Hercules* (2014)

1990s-PRESENT

A resurgence of peplum film has been seen in renditions of Hercules, including versions starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and Twilight star Kellan Lutz, both in 2014. Johnson, whose physique as a former WWE wrestler is reminiscent of Steve Reeves or Eugene Sandow, takes on the iconic muscle man image of peplum. Lutz's costumery has him wielding a lightning bolt sword symbolizing the sword of the previous sword-and-sandal film era.



Peplum's newest wave: *Gladiator* (2000) sparked a return to historic epic in film, followed by the likes of *Troy* (2004), *300* (2006), and *Clash of the Titans* (2010), among others. 2014 alone saw the release of not just two Hercules movies, but also the gladiator-themed *Pompeii* and *300: Rise of an Empire*.



Samson und der Schatz der Inkas/Hercules and the Treasure of the Incas (1964)