

# Filming *Mysteries of the Gods*

by Dennis William Hauck



*Mysteries of the Gods* is a documentary film about the influence of "ancient astronauts" in human history. It is actually the English version of the German film *Embassy of the Gods* (*Botschaft der Götter*), which was based on Erich von Däniken's book Miracles of the Gods. The English version was directed by Charles Romine (shown at left), who was the producer for newscaster Edward R. Morrow. William Shatner narrates the film and stars in numerous added scenes.

I was hired by Hemisphere Pictures to prepare additional script and visuals for the film, and I also appeared on camera with Shatner (see photo right). My only qualification was that I was editor of several magazines, including *Ancient Astronauts*, *Official UFO*, and the *Journal of UFOlogy*. Surprisingly, I had a lot of influence on the film, since there was usually only four of us doing the filming (Shatner, Romine, me, and the cameraman). Due to my efforts, the focus of the English version shifted from ancient astronauts to modern UFO encounters. I did that because it was soon obvious to me that Shatner had a secret motive for making the film. He told me of his own UFO abduction experience in the Mohave desert and his belief that an alien intelligence was influencing the modern world. He implied several times that he felt he was personally chosen to help guide the earth into a new era of extraterrestrial contact.



The film included the original footage of such von Däniken material as the Nazca Lines, the monoliths of Easter Island, cave paintings that look like alien astronauts, and humanoid fossil footprints next to those of dinosaurs in Texas. Other sites the original film ranged from the Cerne Abbas Giant hill figure in Dorset, England, to the cyclopean basalt city ruins of Nan Madol in the southwest Pacific.

But the new footage with Shatner was entirely about modern extraterrestrial contact, and he was at his most animated and excited when talking about alien contactee experiences. You can see it in his heartfelt connection with the Crystal Skull during an interview with its discoverer Anna Mitchell-Hedges or in his conversations with psychic Jeanne Dixon, who had just predicted that beings from outer space would land in a major city in August 1977. The same genuine interest shows up in his interview with the director of the Exosociology Institute in Florida (see photo above right), who also believed he was being groomed by space aliens to help the transition when they arrive.



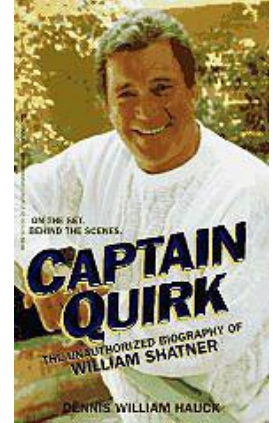
Shatner presented a copy of the film to the NASA archives. It was accepted by Herbert Rowe, Assistant Director of External Affairs, and Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer, Senior Staff Scientists for Advanced Programs of Space Flight. (See photo on next page.) After the presentation, the three men sat down and discussed the possibility that extraterrestrial beings will visit earth.



Shatner's interest peaked during his interview with John Billingham from NASA's SETI project ("Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence"), and he can hardly contain himself during an interview with NASA Senior Staff Scientist Jesco von Puttkamer (at right in photo). In fact, Puttkamer was like putty in Shatner's hands. Shatner gets the official NASA spokesman to admit that UFOs could be visiting from other galaxies. Then when he presses Puttkamer about ancient astronauts manipulating our genes, the scientist says he doesn't know "how our genetic code evolved unless it was—possibly—imported from somewhere else."

My final duty for Hemisphere Pictures was to write a UFO Brochure, which was handed out to patrons in movie theaters (see below). After that I worked as a consultant for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (Columbia Pictures 1977) and *Journey Into the Beyond* (Burbank International 1977). More recently, I consulted on *The Haunting* (Dreamworks 1999) and *White Noise* (Universal 2005). I also worked as a consultant for several television production companies, including Triage Entertainment, A&E Network, SyFy Channel, Paramount Domestic, Hill Field Productions, and Greystone Communications.

My experiences with Shatner inspired my book Captain Quirk (Pinnacle 1995). The unauthorized biography is available from Amazon or as an eBook from the Crucible.org catalog. Here is one thread through the book just on Shatner's infamous toupee:



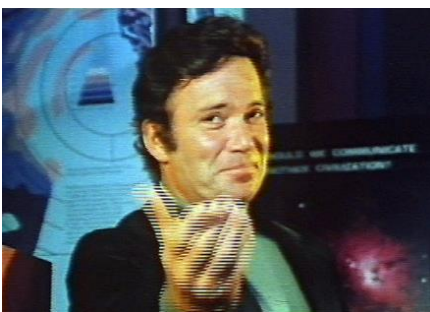
Captain Quirk (p38-39):

"Unfortunately, the bright sunlight made Shatner's long-haired toupee all the more obvious. The black hairpiece (see photo left) clashed against his blonde eyebrows and yellow jacket, giving him the appearance of a Beatle doll. His natural light-brown hair had steadily receded over the last decade leaving a bald spot at the crown of his head. His efforts to cover it up were betrayed by his inability to decide on one style or color. This was the longest hairpiece he had ever worn, and the unkempt look and dark color were dead giveaways

Captain Quirk (p96):

"As for Joan Collins, she says their relationship soured the day she walked into [Shatner's] dressing room and caught him without his wig on." (This story relates to the pair working together in the first season Star Trek episode "The City on the Edge of Forever").

Captain Quirk (p160-161):



"Unfortunately, the decade since he'd last played Captain Kirk had taken its toll. He had gained twenty-five pounds, most of it in a spare tire that hugged his waist. The crown of his head was completely bald, and other assets that had made him the heartthrob of millions were now noticeably sagging...some suggested that Shatner resorted to some less than natural means of regaining his youth, such as liposuction, a facelift and a new hair weave. Looking back over the first few Trek films, Newsweek commented that while the rest of the actors were getting 'jowly and gray,' Shatner

appeared to be growing 'curiously smooth-skinned and hairy.'"

Captain Quirk (p177):

"Actress Molly Cheek, who was a regular on the Gary Sandling Show...guest starred in a T.J. Hooker episode...[and] recalled...'he wears a girdle and a terrible hairpiece and is the male counterpart to a grande dame.'"

Captain Quirk (p183):

"This time [for *Star Trek III*] Shatner also opted for a much younger hairstyle. The thick locks he suddenly sprouted prompted many a snide remark. One reviewer suggested retitling the movie *Star Trek III: The Search for a Good Toupee*."

Captain Quirk (p197):

"Once while directing a scene [for *Star Trek V*], he got so worked up, he stumbled over a large rock and fell to the ground. The force of the fall flung his hairpiece across the set, and as the mortified director got back to his feet, a group of extras in the scene started laughing out loud. Shatner fired them all on the spot, with no further discussion."



Captain Quirk (p218):

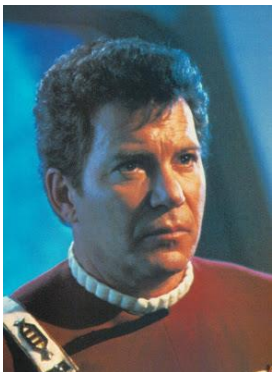
"Susan Rosini noted in *USA Today*: 'You don't have to be a Trekkie to savor this timely plot [of *Star Trek VI*]. Even though Scotty looks like he's hiding a meteor under his shirt, Kirk looks like a squirrel is napping on his head, and Spock's ears aren't quite as perky, this is quite a suitable send-off.'"

Captain Quirk (p247):

"[Shatner's mistress Vera Montez] said that despite his toupee and corset, Shatner was very romantic and a wonderful lover."

Captain Quirk (p273)

"The most outrageously enjoyable turn [in the 1993 movie National Lampoon's *Loaded Weapon 1*] is William Shatner's' wrote the San Francisco Examiner, 'as the ludicrously toupeed, Banana-Republic-outfitted villain who gobbles piranhas with glee.'"



Captain Quirk (p276):

"Always concerned about his appearance, Shatner has undertaken a variety of cosmetic and health routines to ensure he looks his best. At one point, he was spending \$2000 a month to keep his hairweave looking fresh. In one Hollywood poll, Shatner tied with Sean Connery at the top of a list of actors who do the best job of hiding their 'chrome domes.' Shatner did such a good job that he started receiving requests for 'hair grants.' Dozens of financially strapped bald men have asked him for anywhere between \$500 and \$10,000 to buy wigs or start expensive hair treatments. Yet despite Shatner's active participation in a number of charities, the requests have all been denied."





“Along with Sean Connery, Burt Reynolds, Tony Bennet, Rob Reiner and Rip Taylor, Shatner shares one of Hollywood’s best known ‘secrets.’ They are all bald. But Shatner would be the last to admit it. “In November 1994, while promoting Star Trek: Generations, Shatner agreed to a telephone interview on Florida’s ‘Power Pig’ radio station, WFLA in Tampa. Toward the middle of the interview, deejay M.J. Kelley brought up the forbidden subject: ‘I hope this is not a sensitive question – the hairpiece. It’s the best I’ve ever seen.’ ‘I don’t wear a hairpiece,’ said Shatner tersely. ‘That’s the stupidest question I’ve ever heard. “M.J.” must stand for “Most Jerk.” That’s a stupid question by a stupid person.’ Thereupon, Shatner hung up the phone, abruptly terminating the interview.”



Captain Quirk (p280):

“Death and growing old were always touchy subjects for Shatner. Corsets, hairpieces, health fads and working out were all part of his strategy to keep looking young. Amazingly, he never kept any personal photographs because he did not want to see 'the harsh reality of the passage of time etched in the unforgetting stills.’”

# UFO PAMPHLET

Your government is keeping secrets from you:  
**WE HAVE BEEN INVADED FROM OUTERSPACE!**  
 A Spectacular Space Adventure for the whole Family!

CAPTAIN KIRK  
 (William Shatner)  
 WILL PROVE IT TO YOU!

JEANE DIXON,  
 America's most AMAZING mind says  
 "SPACE SHIPS  
 have ALREADY landed!!"

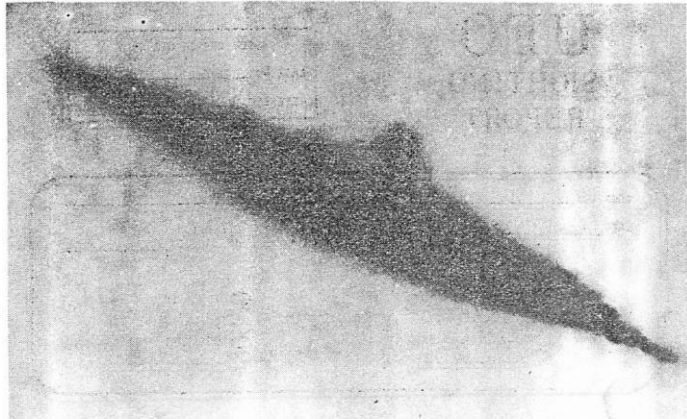
**"More exciting than 2001... BECAUSE IT'S HAPPENING NOW!"**

The most **SENSATIONAL** Film of the Decade!

**WILLIAM SHATNER'S MYSTERIES OF THE GODS** **ALL NEW!**

**This is no HOAX...this is REAL!**

©1976 Miracles of the Gods Associates • Color A Hemisphere Pictures Release



Close Up of Same UFO

## UFO'S – WHAT ARE THEY?

In many cases they represent such mundane objects as weather balloons or cloud formations, but in over 20% of all UFO sightings they actually are unidentified flying objects. These "objects" can make right-angle turns at 10,000 miles per hour, cause interference with communications and radar, and have even been reported landing in fields or hovering over automobiles. Scientists have classified these mysterious objects into three general categories:

- (1) "Nocturnal Lights": glowing objects seen in the nighttime sky.
- (2) "Daylight Discs": the spectacular flying saucer cases so often in the news.
- (3) "Close Encounters": cases which occur within 50 feet of an observer.

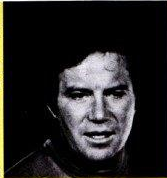
**Procedure To Follow For A UFO Encounter**

Should you spot a UFO remain calm and try to remember the details of the sighting. How did you first notice the object? Did you detect any color changes or hear strange noises? Because of the "time-lapse" experiences of many UFO witnesses, it is important to note the exact time and duration of your sighting. Remember to take names of other witnesses and report the sighting as soon as possible.

See Sighting Report On Back Page



# WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF SPACEMEN.



The ancient legends are true. Milleniums ago superior men from distant galaxies came to earth, loved earthwomen and founded the human race.

## See!

-THE CRYSTAL SKULL THAT NO HUMAN TOOL COULD HAVE CARVED.

-GIANT ANTENNAS THAT TALK TO DISTANT PLANETS.

-JEANE DIXON PREDICTING THE ARRIVAL OF ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE.

## See!

-THE PREHISTORIC INDIANS WHO KNEW OPEN HEART SURGERY AND TELESCOPES.

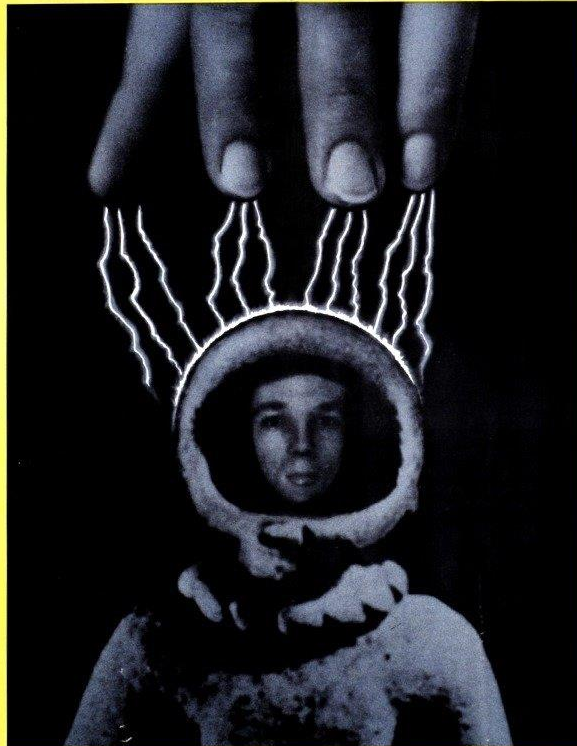
-A PRIMITIVE TRIBE'S SQUADRONS OF AERODYNAMICALLY PERFECT AIRCRAFT.

-NASA EXPERTS AGREEING ON SPACE VISITORS PAST AND FUTURE.

## See!

-THE PRIEST-KING'S TOMB WITH A CARVING OF A SPACE MODULE AND INSTRUMENT PANEL.

-THE 3000-YEAR-OLD JUNGLE DANCE THAT SIMULATES NEIL ARMSTRONG'S MOONWALK.



## See!

-THE PREHISTORIC WEAPON WHICH HAD TO BE INVENTED BY A SPACE TECHNOLOGY.

-THE MAMMOTH WORLD-WIDE LANDING FIELDS FOR MEN FROM BEYOND OUR GALAXY.

-THE BIRDMEN OF MESOPOTAMIA WITH ROCKETS ON THEIR BACKS.

## See!

-PLATINUM ON EARTH 5,000 YEARS BEFORE OUR TECHNOLOGY COULD PURIFY IT.

-POCKET UFO DETECTORS.

-EXTRAORDINARY NASA PHOTOS, SHOWING UFO'S, NEVER BEFORE RELEASED.

## See!

-THE FLYING BIBLICAL WHEEL WHICH IS AERODYNAMICALLY PERFECT.

-ANCIENT INDIAN DOLLS AND PRIMEVAL RITUAL HEADMASKS WITH SPACE HELMETS.

-AND DOZENS MORE.

Now For The First Time - See Their Astounding Legacy.

# WILLIAM SHATNER'S MYSTERIES OF THE GODS

As Incredible As Star Trek

GENERAL AUDIENCES  
ALL AGES ADMITTED

Based on "Miracles of the Gods" the new best-seller by Erich von Daniken  
© 1976 Miracles of the Gods Associates In Color A Hemisphere Pictures Release



Your government is keeping secrets from you:  
**WE HAVE BEEN INVADED FROM OUTERSPACE!**  
A Spectacular Space Adventure for the whole Family!



**CAPTAIN KIRK**  
(William Shatner)  
WILL PROVE IT TO YOU!

**JEANE DIXON**  
America's most AMAZING mind says  
**SPACE SHIPS**  
will land in 1977!!!

"More exciting than 2001... BECAUSE IT'S HAPPENING NOW!"

The most **SENSATIONAL** Film of the Decade!  
**WILLIAM SHATNER'S MYSTERIES OF THE GODS** ALL NEW!  
This is no HOAX...this is REAL!

Based on "Miracles of the Gods" the new Dell best-seller by Erich von Daniken  
©1976 Miracles of the Gods Associates • Color A Hemisphere Pictures Release

GENERAL AUDIENCES

STARTS  
**TODAY**  
AT THESE  
CONVENIENTLY  
LOCATED  
THEATRES!

**the MOVIES**  
North Kendall Dr. at  
126th Ave. 279-8177

★  
**NORTH SIDE**  
TWINS — 693-0600  
N.W. 84th St. at 27th Ave.

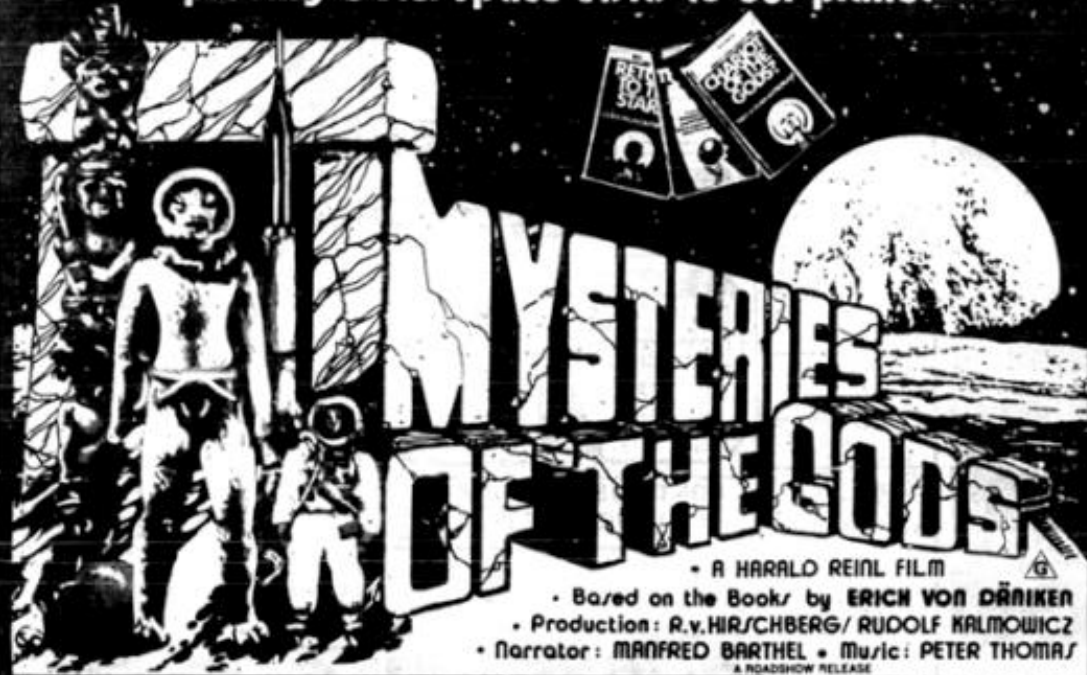
★  
**GOLDEN GLADES**  
Drive-In  
Palmetto 2-Way at N.W. 27th Ave.

★  
**DIXIE**  
Drive-In  
U. S. 1, South Miami

★  
E. M. Loran's  
**MIAMI**  
Drive-In  
N.W. 7th Ave. at 83rd St.

CHECK MOVIE  
TIME CLOCK  
FOR FEATURE  
STARTING TIMES  
AND  
ADDITIONAL  
FEATURES!

**STARTLING! FANTASTIC! UNBELIEVABLE!**  
**NEVER BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHED EVIDENCE**  
 Based on Erich von Daniken's astonishing new discoveries  
 proving Outer Space Visits to our planet



- A HARALD REINHOLD FILM  
 • Based on the Books by ERICH VON DANIKEN  
 • Production: R.v.HIR/SCHBERG/ RUDOLF KALIMOWICZ  
 • Narrator: MANFRED BARTHEL • Music: PETER THOMAS  
 A ROADSHOW RELEASE

**starts Thursday at 8 DRIVE INS and 6 CINEMAS**

SUPPORTS AT VILLAGE DRIVE-INS ONLY - "Brother of the Wolf" (G) at Crookwell, Dandenong, Toorak, "The 1000th Man" (G) at Essendon, Northland 1, Clayton 1 and Brooklyn

**VILLAGE**  
 drive-ins  
 Restaurants 6.30 Showtime 7.30

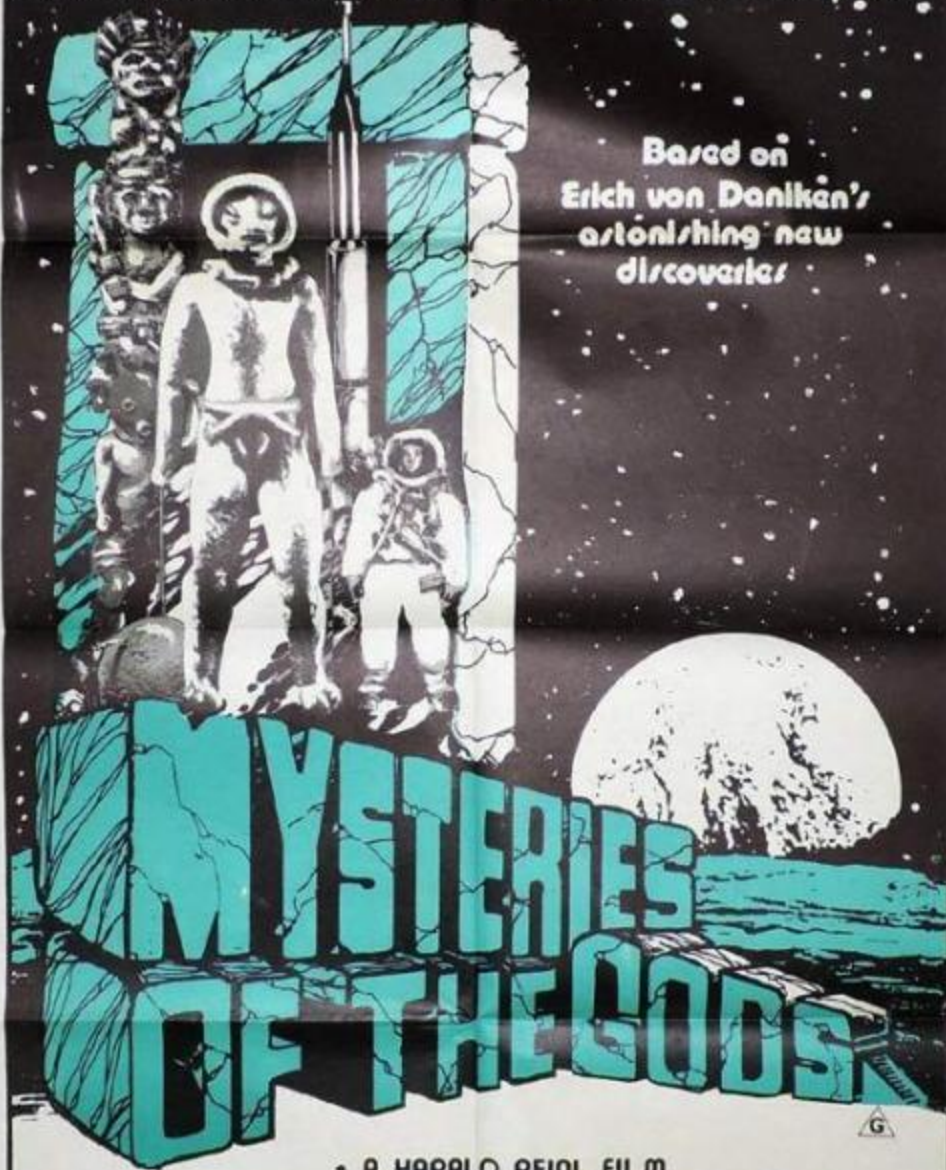
<b>TOORAK</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>DANDENONG</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741
<b>CLAYTON 1</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>CROYDON</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741
<b>BROOKLYN</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>NORTHLAND 1</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741
<b>ESSENDON</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>BENTLEY</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741

<b>CHELSEA</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>BALWYN</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741
<b>DRIVE IN</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741	<b>CLASSIC CINEMAS</b> 178 FLINDERS 63 3741



**STARTLING! FANTASTIC! UNBELIEVABLE!  
NEVER BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHED EVIDENCE**

Based on  
Erich von Däniken's  
astounding new  
discoveries



• A HARALD REINL FILM

- Based on the Books by ERICH VON DÄNIKEN
- Narrator: MANFRED BARTHEL • Music: PETER THOMAS
- Production: R.v.HIRSCHBERG/ RUDOLF KALMOWICZ

A ROADSHOW RELEASE

Order Captain Quirk eBook from [www.DWHauck.com](http://www.DWHauck.com)

Download *Mysteries of the Gods* movie