

# 10 Questions for Christopher Showerman



Coming in July, SyFy will air a new version of *The Land That Time Forgot* by Edgar Rice Burroughs. SciFi4Me.com got a chance to shoot some questions to Christopher Showerman, who was gracious with his time and gave us some insight into the production.

Besides watching *Jurassic Park*, what preparation did you need to do to play Stack, and how long did it take?

From the time that I found out about the project to actually shooting was less than a month, so there wasn't much time to prepare. Tommy asked me to do the role because I was already physically what he had envisioned for the role. I practiced tying some sailor knots just for the heck of it – cause I'm geeky like that.

We remember C. Thomas Howell from movies like *Red Dawn* and *Tank*. What's he like as a director?

Tommy is a very talented director as well as a wonderful actor. He's got a very solid idea of where he wants the project to go, and he can articulate it in such a way that everyone gets it. Not to mention he's fun, funny, and an all around hell of a guy. *The Land That Time Forgot* is the third film we've done together - the other two, *Big Game* and *Commander & Chief* will be released shortly. Tommy is also set to play the role of Doctor Burke Chayne in a film I'm producing titled *First Howl*.

We've seen many versions of *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle. How does *The Land that Time Forgot* compare? How is it different?

I think you've probably got me beat on LOST WORLD viewings. The closest I've ever come to seeing THE LOST WORLD is *Jurassic Park* – which had exactly nothing to do with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Why do you think there are more versions of *The Lost World* than there are of *The Land that Time Forgot*?

**Excellent question. It's a simple matter of mathematics. See, THE LOST WORLD has 12 letters in its title and THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT has a whopping 21 letters in its title. Keeping in mind that most movie theaters have a finite number of plastic letters to put up in their marquee and assuming there is more than one screen at that theater, naturally that theater is going to pick movies with shorter names so they can conserve their plastic marquee letters.**

So many adaptations try to modernize the story. How faithful to the original book is this movie?

**This is also an updated version of the book, which was considered very modern when it was first published back in 1924. It was intended to be an "it-could-happen-to-you" scenario. That is probably why when it is reproduced now, almost a century later, it is modernized to engage audiences in a similar way rather than a nostalgic period piece that separates the audience from the action. That said, writer Darren Dalton maintained a lot of the original elements.**

What's fun about playing Stack?

**Stack lives his job. He is a hardcore island hopper and knows all there is to know about boats, weather, the ocean, and every island in the pacific. In stark contrast, I'm clueless about all things on the water and get a little seasick if we hit a couple of consecutive wakes in the boat. It is always fun to live in the skin of someone that different from yourself. Stack also gets to swing about this cool machete.**

How much of a trip has it been coming this far from "Fear Factor"?

**"Fear Factor"!! Ha! That feels like it was on a land that time forgot as well! I had so much fun doing that show because, though the set-ups were very choreographed, the actual stunts were REAL! I really got to dangle from the runner of a flying helicopter with no strings attached – arguably one of the coolest things I've ever done. No producer in his right mind would ever let a principle actor do some of the things we got to do in that show. I love adventure. It's fun to make adventure stories in the comfort and security of movie magic, but honestly, nothing beats doing it for real. For instance, last year right after I wrapped on a golf comedy called *Perfection*, I took my girlfriend to Costa Rica where we got stranded deep in the heart of the rain forest overnight. Now *THAT'S* an adventure!**

There have been many complaints of late about the quality of the movies airing on SyFy. Is this movie going to be more of the same CGI monster-of-the-week? Or is it going to have more substance?

**It would appear that the Monsters-of-the-week have a better union than the actors do, as they seem to work a lot more. Honestly, I haven't seen the finished product, so I can't intelligently comment on the visual effects. I can say, however, that it is amazing to me how these guys can create what they do with their given time and budget limitations. Already hearing wonderful things about *Transmorphers 2*, which our friend Shane Van Dyke wrote. Amazing!**

Have you read the book?

**Yes, and your readers can too FOR FREE online at *[at this point Mr. Showerman gives a link, but we'll politely point you to our own copy [in the Library...](#)]***

Having written *Between the Sand and the Sky*, did you ever find yourself on set wanting to re-write the scenes? How much collaboration was done on-set?

**Collaboration is a luxury when there is time enough for it. With this particular shooting schedule, we stuck pretty closely to Darren's script. Every day on set was a marathon working through eleven to sixteen pages of the script. For those of you who are not familiar with the usual pace of a feature, you are doing good if you make it through four or five pages a day – and much less that that if you are shooting action. Tommy always encouraged everyone to make their own character choices, but as far as major dialogue changes and plot twists, we relied heavily on the written word. I'm currently polishing my latest screenplay, *Radio America*. We should have an announcement on that soon.**

**Thanks for the great questions, Jason. You have a very fun site - big *ATTABOY* from me!**

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Thanks, Chris.

*The Land that Time Forgot*, based on the classic Edgar Rice Burroughs novel, is directed by C.Thomas Howell. It stars Howell, Showerman, and Timothy Bottoms. Premieres on SyFy July 28.