

Godzilla 2000 marks the 23rd Godzilla film by Toho Studios in Japan.\* The series has had a lasting effect on American popular culture the way few foreign films have. It also has introduced such memorable creatures as Rodan, Mothra and Ghidorah. Here's a look at them all.

# GODZILLA



\* NOTE: TriStar's 1998 "Godzilla" was not produced by Toho Studios and, therefore, does not appear in this overview.

SOURCES: *The Official Godzilla Compendium* by J.D. Lees and Marc Gerasini; *Japan's Favorite Mon-Star* by Steve Ryfle; Paul Horn, *San Diego Union Tribune*; and Aaron Smith, *www.fandom.com/godzilla*.

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## G-speak

### Kaiju

- Japanese for "monster."

### Showa

- First series of Toho Godzilla movies, encompassing "Godzilla" in 1954 to "Godzilla" in 1984.

### Heisei

- Second series of Toho Godzilla movies. Many characters are re-introduced with new origins. Monsters grow in size to keep up with growing skylines of real cities.

### Gojira

- "Godzilla" in Japanese. Supposedly combines *gorila* ("gorilla") and *kujira* ("whale").

### Suitmation

- Term for special effects technique

## The Big G through the years

Numbers in parentheses refer to movies (see filmography)



**1954-55** (1-2)  
Very heavy and bulky. Tiny ears. Four fingers and toes. Visible fangs.



**1962** (3)  
Increased bulk and a more reptilian look. No ears. No fangs. Three toes instead of four.



**1964** (4-5)  
Slimmed-down body. Face softened. Grey-green eye color becomes grey with undertones of blue.



**1965-66** (6-7)  
Larger, movable eyes. Longer tongue. Smaller dorsal fins.



**1967** (8)  
Bulky suit. Huge head with big eyes, heavy eyelids and a pug nose.



**1968-72** (9-12)  
Less bulky suit. Smaller, rounded dorsal fins. Large eyes atop a rounded head.



**1973-75** (13-15)  
Head remains large and eyes — now brown — are huge. Features hardened and reduced after '73.



**1984** (16)  
Features from the first two movies — ears, fangs and four toes — return. Central dorsal fins bigger.



**1989-95** (17-22)  
Head reduced and neck elongated. Irises enlarged. Musculature added. No fangs.



**1999** (23)  
Dorsal fins become larger and craggier. For the first time in history, suit is tinted green.

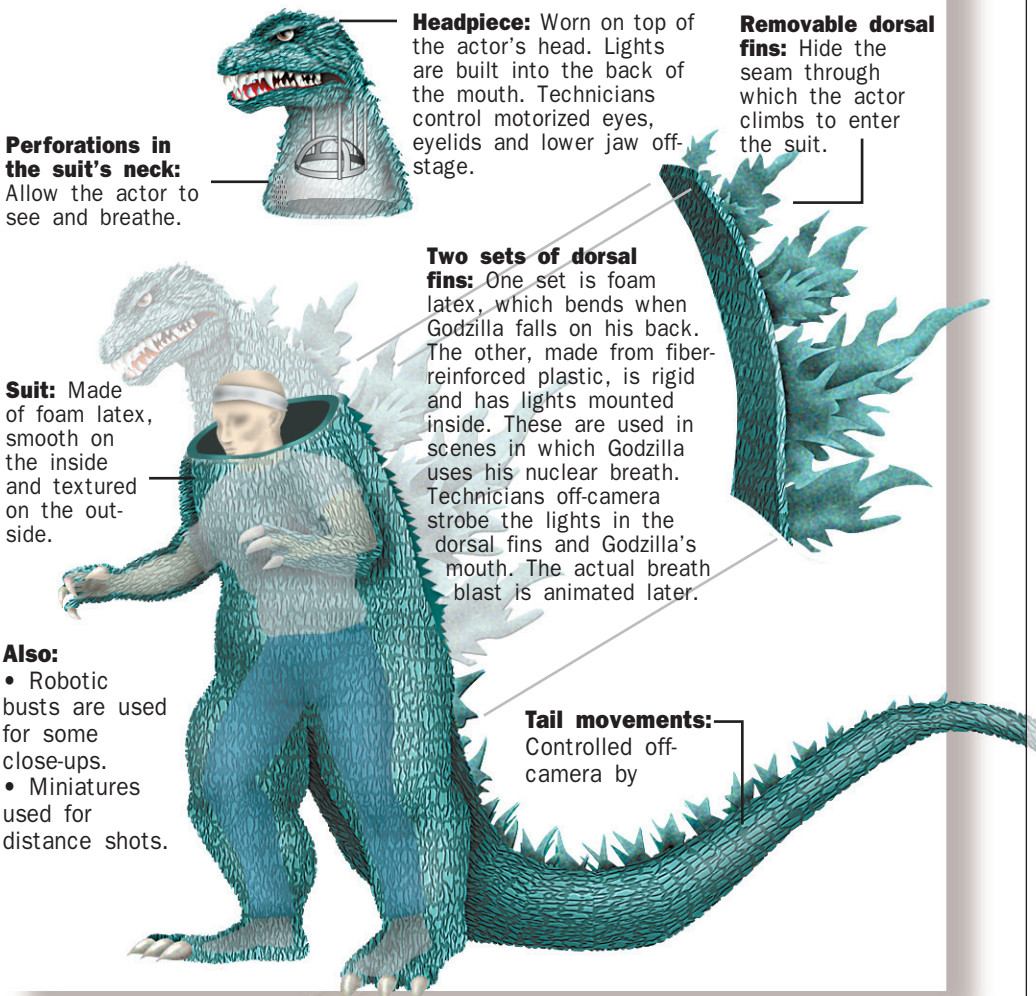
## Filmography

Toho has created 23 Godzilla movies. Video titles in *italics* if different from original.

No.	Original Title	Release	Length	Synopsis
1	<b>Godzilla</b>	1954	91 min.	The giant atomic reptile levels Tokyo before being killed by the Oxygen Destroyer (a weapon). Raymond Burr was spliced into the U.S. release.
2	<b>Godzilla Raids Again</b>	1955	82 min.	Godzilla — another one — and Anguirus battle, destroying Osaka.
3	<b>King Kong vs. Godzilla</b>	1962	98 min.	Clash of the titans between film icons Godzilla and King Kong.
4	<b>Mothra vs. Godzilla</b> ( <i>Godzilla vs. Mothra</i> )	1964	89 min.	Mothra fights mankind — and Godzilla — to protect its egg.
5	<b>Ghidrah, The Three-Headed Monster</b>	1964	92 min.	Godzilla, Rodan and the Mothra larvae unite to protect Earth from the alien menace, King Ghidrah, a three-headed dragon-like creature.
6	<b>Monster Zero</b> ( <i>Godzilla vs. Monster zero</i> )	1965	94 min.	Godzilla and Rodan defend against Ghidrah and its alien masters.
7	<b>Godzilla vs. the Sea Monster</b>	1966	87 min.	Godzilla and Mothra scrap with Ebirah, a gigantic crustacean.
8	<b>Son of Godzilla</b>	1967	86 min.	Godzilla protects his son from giant insects and a monster spider.
9	<b>Destroy All Monsters</b>	1968	88 min.	Aliens use mind control to make Earth's monsters attack.
10	<b>Godzilla's Revenge</b>	1969	70 min.	Godzilla teaches its son self-reliance in schoolboy's daydream. The younger Godzilla helps trounce Gabara.
11	<b>Godzilla vs. Hedorah</b> ( <i>Godzilla vs. the Smog Monster</i> )	1971	85 min.	Godzilla protects Earth from mutated pollution creature.
12	<b>Godzilla vs. Gigan</b>	1972	88 min.	Godzilla and Anguirus defend Earth from Ghidrah and Gigan.
13	<b>Godzilla vs. Megalon</b>	1973	81 min.	Godzilla and robot Jet Jaguar tag-team evil Megalon and Gigan.
14	<b>Godzilla vs. MechaGodzilla</b>	1974	84 min.	Godzilla battles a robotic version of itself, with help from the deity-creature King Caesar.
15	<b>Terror of Godzilla</b> ( <i>Terror of MechaGodzilla</i> )	1975	83 min.	Godzilla defeats MechaGodzilla and Titanosaurus with the help of humans.
16	<b>Godzilla</b> ( <i>Godzilla 1985</i> )	1984	103 min.	Godzilla re-introduced. Raymond Burr reprised role for U.S. release.
17	<b>Godzilla vs. Biollante</b>	1989	104 min.	Godzilla battles plant creature mutated with Godzilla genes.
18	<b>Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah</b>	1991	102 min.	Origins of Ghidorah retold. Godzilla battles it and its cyborg version.
19	<b>Godzilla vs. Mothra</b>	1992	102 min.	Origins of Mothra retold. Godzilla spars with it and Battra.
20	<b>Godzilla vs. MechaGodzilla</b> ( <i>Godzilla vs. MechaGodzilla II</i> )	1993	107 min.	Godzilla and Rodan face new MechaGodzilla. Godzilla's son re-introduced as BabyGodzilla. Rodan dies, creating FireRodan — who dies.
21	<b>Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla</b>	1994	111 min.	Godzilla protects its offspring from a space creature formed when Godzilla genes pass through a black hole and merge with an alien.
22	<b>Godzilla vs. Destoroyah</b>	1995	103 min.	Godzilla, its atomic heart melting down, is slain by a mutation caused by the Oxygen Destroyer — the weapon from the first film.
23	<b>Godzilla 2000</b>	1999	100+ min.	Godzilla battles Orgah, an alien that crashed to Earth 6,000 years ago.

## Suitmation

A typical suit is about 6 feet tall, weighs about 175 lbs. and costs roughly \$30,000. A new suit is made for each film.



## Web sites

<http://entertainment.philly.com/godzilla>  
[www.fandom.com/godzilla](http://www.fandom.com/godzilla)  
[www.godzilla.co.jp](http://www.godzilla.co.jp)  
[www.spe.sony.com/Pictures/SonyMovies/movies/Godzilla/gdb](http://www.spe.sony.com/Pictures/SonyMovies/movies/Godzilla/gdb)  
[www.monster-island.com](http://www.monster-island.com)

## Books

**The Official Godzilla Compendium** by J.D. Lees and Marc Gerasini

**Japan's Favorite Mon-Star** by Steve Ryfle

## Magazine

**G-Fan**, published bi-monthly by Daikaiju Enterprises, Ltd., Box 3468, STEINBACH, Manitoba, Canada, ROA 2A0. Web site: [www.g-fan.com](http://www.g-fan.com)

## Worth noting ...

■ **Godzilla's famous roar** is created by rubbing a contrabass (a large bass violin pitched an octave below the normal bass range) with a resin-coated leather glove and reverberating the sound emitted.

■ The American release of the first "Godzilla" was a tremendous success, earning \$2 million — a fantastic sum for 1954.

■ **Raymond Burr** reprised his reporter role in "Godzilla 1985" with one small change — his character was to be referred to as "Steve" or "Mr. Martin," but never "Steve Martin," to avoid confusion with the Wild and Crazy One.

## Some of the allies and enemies

The 23 Godzilla movies are divided into two subsets: the original *Showa* series and the *Heisei* series. In the latter series, origins of several creatures are recreated and all of the monsters become larger. In cases in which monsters have appeared in both series, the latest version appears below. **Movie numbers refer to**

