

MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

O' all th' movies in this fleet o' five naval epics, 'tis *Mutiny on the Bounty* 'tis th' one most likely t' be familiar t' American audiences, primarily 'cause o' th' film's association wit' that notorious freebooter Marlon Brando, who seized upon th' role o' Fletcher Christian at th' height o' his career. Much o' th' film was shot on location in *Tahiti* 'n *Polynesia*, 'n th' budget fer th' film enabled th' construction o' a purpose-built replica o' th' *HMS Bounty*, larger than th' original in order t' afford cabin n' board fer cameras 'n shootin' crew.

Th' replica *Bounty* was approximately twice th' size o' th' historical *HMS Bounty*, 180 feet long 'n 31 feet wide as opposed t' 90 feet by 24 feet fer th' original. She was a real sailin' ship, built in *Nova Scotia* 'n sailed t' *Tahiti* fer th' movie. She shipped new-fangled engines 'n screws 'n went on t' be a tourist vessel based in *Greenport, New York*. She sank off *North Carolina* durin' *Hurricane Sandy* in October 2012 wit' th' loss o' two crew, Captain Robert Walbridge 'n Claudene Christian, who t'ot she was bein' a descendant o' Fletcher Christian, th' leader o' th' historical *HMS Bounty* mutineers. In 2013, th' long-form journalistic website *Th' Atavist* published an investigative essay on th' loss o' th' ship 'n events thereafter.

Th' director credit goes t' Lewis Milestone, whose previous best known work be 1930's *All Quiet on th' Western Front*, but apparently Brando essentially commandeered direction o' th' film on-set. 'tis said t' be one o' th' causes fer th' film's commercial failure, earnin' about 7.4 millions o' pieces o' eight on an estimated 19 million livres budget. Th' film's production was troubled 'n generated negative publicity, reflected in reviews o' th' time which tend t' focus criticism at Brando's performance, a performance that be generally admired today. Brando's reputation soured aft th' film 'n his next major role was as ye rascally buccaneer Don Coreleone in Francis Ford Coppola's *Th' Godfather*.

Brando famously cast a Tahitian as his love interest, Terita Teriipaia, who would become his beauty 'n th' mother o' two o' his sprogs 'n it appears that some o' Brando's colorful politics 'n career as an activist may stem in part from his experiences while workin' upon this film.

Thar be a well-regarded 1935 adaptation o' th' tale, also an MGM vehicle, which be wee seen today due t' th' ubiquity o' th' 1962 production. Both films are based on a 1932 novel o' th' same name by Charles Norhoff 'n James Norman Hall.