

The Lost Volcano

(aka: "Bomba and the Lost Volcano")

US : 1950 : dir. Ford Beebe : Monogram

: 67 min

prod: Walter Mirisch : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Tommy Ivo](#)

Johnny Sheffield; Donald Woods; Marjorie Lord; John Ridgely; Robert Lewis; Elena Verdugo

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	♀	M	♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5251	3	3	3	992	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



"Now tell me everything you know about Turkish cuisine, and make it fast, sonny, fast!"

Source (and stills below): Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

"Bomba the Jungle Boy (Sheffield) fights greedy African guides who are after buried treasure."

Speelfilm Encyclopedie generic note on the BOMBA series:

"In 1949, with small budget, producer Walter Mirisch, who would later rise to far greater things, decided to make a series of adventure films based on a series of children's books about a boy who grows up in the jungle. For this Tarzan-esque series he took on Johnny



"A stampede of pygmy wildebeest!" warns the hunter

Sheffield, who had played the boy in the **Tarzan** films, and as director Ford Beebe, an expert in making something out of nothing. **"BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY"**, a pleasing little adventure, came about on the small studio backlot, and use was made of real footage of wild animals later edited in.

The subsequent eleven films in the series quickly reverted to a standard formula, due to which the later episodes had little new to offer. **BOMBA** was made for kids and children will presumably still take pleasure in the films. And as regards the adults, there are certainly worse series than this one."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"Routine jungle odyssey about Bomba's rescue of a zoologist's son from two mercenary guides who think the boy can lead them to a treasure.
** "

The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual
synopsis:

"Bomba, the jungle boy (Johnny Sheffield), knows secrets of the Dark Continent hidden from the people who live in the towns and villages. He knows, for instance, the whereabouts of a lost city long ago half buried by an erupting volcano.

Paul Gordon, who has come to Africa with his wife and little son, David, hears the legend of a lost volcano from Dr Charles Langley, but

disbelieves it. David, however, meets Bomba, and tells his father that the jungle boy knows where the volcano is and that a great store of jewels and precious stones of a bygone civilisation is hidden among the ruins there.

The story of the buried treasure interests others besides Gordon and Langley. Two jungle guides, Barton and Higgins, determine to go in search of the volcano. They kidnap Bomba and David, together with the Gordons' native maid, Nona, and force them to show them the route to the lost city. Nona breaks free, but Bomba is shot and wounded while trying to escape. David remains a captive and is compelled to lead the way.

The Gordons and Langley, with Nona, find Bomba, who tracks the kidnappers. In a clash with Barton and Higgins, Langley is killed.

With David still in their clutches, Barton and Higgins press on to the lost city, where they discover the treasure. But as they examine the glorious jewels, David's father and the rest of the party come upon them. At the pistol's point, Barton is forced to put back the jewels. The volcano is beginning to erupt, and the party's only chance is to run before the blazing river of lava engulfs them. Barton and Higgins, however, urged by greed for riches, go back for the treasure – and are destroyed by the volcano.

Bomba rescues his friends from danger in the nick of time, but the treasure remains where it has lain for centuries – buried.”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Ivo:

“Ivo was a toothy, tow-haired boy with the air of an emaciated chipmunk. This brought him a mass of work, often of a Western nature, which he handled good-humouredly but without blazing talent. His stab at a Devon accent in “PLYMOUTH ADVENTURE“ is highly engaging.

Though looking nothing like his age, Ivo dropped out after 1952 for a change of voice and returned two or three years later (often as “Tom“ rather than “Tommy“) to play teenage roles until the early Sixties. These included “YOU’RE NEVER TOO YOUNG“ (55), “IN TIMES LIKE THESE“ (55), “DRAG-STRIP GIRL“ (57), “THE BEAST OF BUDAPEST“ (57), “THE GHOST OF DRAGSTRIP HOLLOW“ (59) and “THE CAT BURGLAR“ (61).”

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]



“You call this TREASURE? MY grandma gives better junk than this to the Salvation Army! ”

Third of twelve **BOMBA** titles Monogram released between 1948 and 55, but Sheffield is already starting to look stout around the waistline. Still, we can afford to show some indulgence to such unpretentious matinee fodder, even when it wheels out the same tired formulaic plot of so many of Weissmuller's **Tarzan's** – bad white game hunters / treasure seekers / nazis kidnap Boy/Jane/Tarzan and force them to show the way to the hidden city/gold vein/lost tribe. And a volcano-erupting finale to boot.

Sheffield was 19 now, but Tommy Ivo was 14, and still good for a couple of years of boyish roles in films like “**FATHER IS A BACHELOR**” (50), “**THE TREASURE OF LOST CANYON**”

(51) and **"PLYMOUTH ADVENTURE"** (52). Quite why a zoologist's son should be gambolling about the jungle in leopardskin loincloth and ankle socks is a mystery as yet unlocked.

See **"BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY"** for other titles in this series, and subject index under [AFRICA](#), [JUNGLES \(LIANAS & LOINCLOTHS\)](#), [KIDNAPPING](#) and **TREASURE HUNTS**.