Tekst 9

'King of the Apes' swings again

Adapted from an article by Vincent Dowd

1   The Musée du Quai Branly in Paris has a new exhibition looking at Tarzan's popularity and influence almost a century after the character was first created. The two dozen Tarzan novels by American author Edgar Rice Burroughs are not much read any more, but the character remains famous worldwide through television, films and comics.

2   The Musée du Quai Branly is an important centre for the study of the arts and cultures of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, so an exhibition about a fictional Brit created by an American might seem an odd choice. But the museum's head, Stephane Martin, insists the Tarzan phenomenon is well worth studying. "How pop culture creates a vision of non-Western culture is a serious topic," he tells me, "it is the vision a lot of Westerners had of Africa in the first part of the 20th Century."

3   The first Tarzan movie came out in 1918, though more familiar today is *Tarzan the Ape Man*, starring Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan and released in 1932. Like most Tarzan films, it uses aspects of Burroughs' original but invents a whole lot more. What is surprising now is the sexiness of the Tarzan-Jane relationship. The movie came out just before Hollywood __32__ screen eroticism and it gets away with scenes and shots which just a couple of years later might have been censored.

4   Stephane Martin thinks sensuality was always central to the story. "A strong part of the success of Tarzan was the physical appeal he and Jane had," he explains. "And also the Africa which it shows – filled with powerful animals and muscular men and near-naked women. It's pretty sexual for a society not far removed from the Victorians."

5   The new exhibition uses movie clips, artwork, music and text to illustrate the character's influence. They are fun, but the exhibition's curator, Roger Boulay, has also been keen to investigate why some are left uneasy about Tarzan, especially his relationship to black Africans. He says this queasiness is mainly generated by the Hollywood versions of the story, not by Edgar Rice Burroughs' original novels. "Sometimes the books can

be quite subtle and rich," he says. "Tarzan protects Jane against bad black guys but also against bad white guys ... but you do have to remember that he dates from 1912."

6 Though the Tarzan myth appears indestructible, today's film-makers seem warier of the story than their predecessors; the last live-action Hollywood Tarzan was in 1998. Perhaps, given the film industry's obsession with easy profits, film-makers will find a way to reinvent Tarzan for today.

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"The two dozen … any more" (alinea 1)

1p **30** Wordt er in het artikel een verklaring gegeven voor de verminderde belangstelling voor de Tarzan-boeken?
Zo nee, antwoord "Nee". Zo ja, noteer het nummer van de alinea waarin deze verklaring gegeven wordt.

"an exhibition … odd choice" (alinea 2)

1p **31** Citeer de eerste twee woorden van de zin uit de alinea's 1 of 2 waarin wordt verklaard waarom de Tarzan-tentoonstelling toch goed aansluit bij het interessegebied van het Musée du Quai Branly.

1p **32** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- **A** became famous for
- **B** cracked down on
- **C** relaxed the rules on
- **D** started promoting

"sensuality was always central to the story" (alinea 4)

1p **33** Citeer de eerste twee woorden van de zin uit alinea 4 waarin een andere reden voor Tarzans populariteit wordt genoemd.

"it uses aspects of Burroughs' original" (alinea 3)

1p **34** Welk aspect van Tarzan komt minder positief tot uiting in de films dan in de boeken, volgens alinea 5?

"'King of the Apes' swings again" (titel)

1p **35** Which of the following quotes from the text refers to the title?
- **A** "a new exhibition looking at Tarzan's popularity and influence" (alinea 1)
- **B** "The first Tarzan movie came out in 1918" (alinea 3)
- **C** "It's pretty sexual for a society not far removed from the Victorians." (alinea 4)
- **D** "'Sometimes the books can be quite subtle and rich'" (alinea 5)