A SCREEN FACTS SUPPLEMENT

Bela Lugosi in THE RETURN OF CHANDU (THE MAGICIAN) with Maria Alba directed by Ray Taylor

"THE RETURN OF CHANDU"
SOL LESSER PRESENTS

BELA LUGOSI IN

The RETURN of

CHANDU

(THE MAGICIAN)

WITH

MARIA ALBA

DIRECTED BY RAY TAYLOR

THE LONG AWAITED THRILL IS HERE!

"CHANDU" The Master of Magic and Thrills
in a new series of nerve-tingling adventures,
baffling mystery and necromancy.
YOU OWE YOURSELF A THRILL! "CHANDU"
WILL PAY YOU A HUNDREDFOLD!

A PRINCIPAL PICTURE
Bela LUGOSI

THE RETURN
OF
CHANDU

THE MAGICIAN
HE'S BACK!
The Master of Magic and Thrills

Bela Lugosi in

The RETURN OF CHANDU
(The Magician)
New and Different
with Maria Alba
Directed by Ray Taylor
THE CAST

Frank Chandler (Chandu) .................. BELA LUGOSI
Princess Nadji ............................. Maria Alba
Dorothy Regent ............................ Clara Kimball Young
Vindhyan, High Priest of Ubasti ......... Lucien Prival
Betty Regent ............................... Phyllis Ludwig
Bob Regent ................................... Dean Benton
Prince Andra ................................ Bryant Washburn
Judy .......................................... Pegay Montgomery
Sutra, an accomplice ...................... Cyril Armbister
Bara, an accomplice ....................... Elias Lazaroff
Morta, an accomplice ...................... Dick Botellier
Nito, the butler ............................. Frazer Acosta
The Voice of Ubasti ....................... Murdock McQuarrie
Vitras, High Priest of Ubasti .......... Jack Clark
Tyba, the White Magician ............... Josef Swickard
Tagora ...................................... Harry Walker
Mr. James ................................... Charles Meecham
Mrs. James ................................... Isobel LeMall

CHAPTER 1: "THE CHOSEN VICTIM"

A gay party is in progress at the Beverly Hills home of Mrs. Dorothy Regent, sister of Frank Chandler (Chandu). The guest of honor is an Egyptian princess, Nadji. Chandu is expected to return that night from Chicago.

At the airport Bara and Morta, members of the secret cult of the Ubasti await Chandu to kill him. At the party, Vindhyan and Sutra are awaiting their chance to kidnap the princess. The latter sensing her danger, prays for the return of Chandu. He arrives at the airport and foils the efforts of his would-be assassins, arriving at the party just as the princess is about to drink from a drugged glass of wine.

The goblet is shattered in her hand.

Dr. Chandler stands smiling at the door.

While questioning Nito a servant whom he suspects of having been in the plot with Vindhyan and Sutra, Chandu learns that the Ubasti have a hidden temple in the hills nearby. Just as the exact location is about to be confessed by the guilty Nito, the latter is mysteriously murdered and falls at the feet of the amazed Chandu.

CHAPTER 2: "THE HOUSE ON THE HILL"

Although the Princess Nadji escaped the drugged wine, she is far from being clear of the threatened kidnapping at the hands of the powerful secret cult of the Ubasti. Chandu decides to remove the Princess at once to the yacht of his friend Prince Andra and sail to distant seas. He tells Nadji that her peril is due to the Ubasti’s vow to sacrifice her on their altars, to the end that their demi-goddess Ossanna may be restored to life and again rule the continent of Lemuria which she alone is capable of recovering from its submersion in the waters of the Pacific.

At the temple, plans are made to take Nadji from the Regent mansion in a mummy case brought by Chandu from Egypt and which he has donated to a local museum. They succeed in this nefarious effort while Chandu is making arrangements for Nadji’s removal to the yacht. Nadji is made prisoner at horrid rites in the Ubasti temple. Chandu, accompanied by Bob, his nephew makes futile efforts to locate the Ubasti’s meeting place.
CHAPTER 3:  "ON THE HIGH SEAS"
At the Temple of the Ubasti, Princess Nadji is the center of ceremonial rites while the high-priest invokes sleep upon her eyelids. The plan is to remove her at once to the harbor where a high-powered vessel awaits to take her to the Island of Lemuria, which is the solitary peak of the sunken continent. There she will be sacrificed and Ossanna restored.

The meeting in the temple is disturbed by the sudden arrival of Chandu, who, operating "white magic," is able to conquer the diabolical incantations of the High Priest Vindhyan. With the unconscious form of Nadji in his arms, Chandu reaches his waiting automobile and Bob, drives away amid the curses of the foiled Ubasti.

They reach the yacht in safety and with Mrs. Regent (Dorothy) and her two children Bob and Betty and Prince Andra they leave at once for Tahiti.

After five days, however, Nadji still sleeps. Not even Chandu can break the spell. And neither does he know that their yacht is followed by the Ubasti boat. or that Vindhyan himself is aboard their craft. An explosion on board throws the crew into a panic. Vindhyan, with the now restored Nadji in his arms makes for the rail of the ship to leap into the water and make for his boat. A terrific "battle of wills" takes place between Vindhyan and Chandu — and Vindhyan loses. He leaps to the sea and strikes out for his boat.

CHAPTER 4:  "THE EVIL EYE"
After the escape of Vindhyan from Prince Andra's yacht and the recovery of the Princess Nadji, it is discovered that not only has the prince been murdered but that the explosion has destroyed the engines. There is no chance of pursuing the Ubasti boat. Slowly they head towards Suva, the nearest port.

At Suva, Chandu reports the murder of the Prince. The Ubasti taking advantage of his absence from the apartments of his sister and the princess kidnap the two, and immure them in a temple dedicated to the goddess Ossanna. It is now planned to propitiate their angry gods by the sacrifice of Dorothy and to remove Nadji at once to the central temple of Lemuria. With the aid of occult powers Chandu leads a rescuing force to the temple just in time to save his sister from a horrible death. Vindhyan is killed in the struggle.

CHAPTER 5:  "THE INVISIBLE CIRCLE"
As long as the Temple on the Island of Lemuria exists the Princess Nadji will be in peril. The slaying of the High Chief Vindhyan in the last episode will not suffice. Chandu must find the temple and destroy it. He leaves Nadji with his sister at Suva and starts out. Meanwhile, at Lemuria, the Mystic Voice has instructed Vitras that Nadji be taken at all costs at Suva and brought thither. The episode is devoted to details of her capture at Suva, and the hastily return of Chandu who is warned by friendly occult powers that the princess again is in peril.

Vitras is more fortunate than Vindhyan, and though he loses his other captives to Chandu and his sailors and police, he magically escapes their saving hands through "the mystic circle," which may be invoked by a demoniacal incantation but once in a magician's lifetime. Chandu knows the signs of the mystic circle. He knows that even as he looks at it, Nadji is miraculously transported to Lemuria.
CHAPTER 6: "CHANDU'S FALSE STEP"

Vitras, master magician of the Ubasti, succeeded where Vindhyan failed. He captured the princess Nadji and made her a prisoner in the cult's most sacred—and horrid—temple on the Island of Lemuria. There she is doomed to be sacrificed so that her soul may enter the body of Ossanna, the Ubasti demi-goddess, within whose tomb she is held prisoner until the rays of the North Star fall within the temple dome.

On the ship which the authorities have placed at Chandu's disposal and which is conveying him and his party to find Lemuria if they can, mutiny is inspired by Ubasti spies and the compass is bewitched with their 'magic.' Conversant through his occult powers with the peril of Nadji, Chandu insists on proceeding. In his magic fire-bowl, Chandu shows Bob the terrible plight of Nadji and the monsters that people the uncharted island. Then their ship, with the crew in chains, drifts idly in a becalmed sea, while his occult vision shows Chandu the imminent peril of his beloved Nadji, for whom it would appear, he can do nothing.

CHAPTER 7: "THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND"

While Vitras holds captive the Princess Nadji in the Lemurian temple and surrounds her by the monstrous 'cat-men,' the rescuing party, becalmed at sea on a ship with a mutinous crew, is threatened with death by the Ubasti, one of whom, Agla, floods the vessel and sinks it. Nadji, meanwhile, is held in ever tighter circles of menacing cat-men and cruel tormenting Ubasti priests. On an improvised raft the party escapes from the sinking ship and lands on the shores of an island. Chandu recognizes the island as Lemuria when he detects the tracks of the cat-men who even then are surrounding the rescued party and watching their prey. They attack Captain Whyte and kill him. The rest escape immediate death because it is willed to protect them for a more spectacular fate. Chandler, trying to find the hidden temple, disappears as if swallowed up by the earth. Dorothy, Betty and Bob are held in hideous captivity by the monstrous cat-men.

CHAPTER 8: "THE EDGE OF THE PIT"

When Chandu disappeared on the Island of Lemuria it was into a cave which the magic of his foes opened beneath his feet. He is menaced by the cat-men that have been forbidden to kill him. Meanwhile, Vitras, knowing Chandu's power, has placed Nadji within the invisible circle. He prepares for the 'feast' that night when the cat-men will be turned loose on his captives. Chandu makes his way to the invisible Nadji, and communicates with her. He learns of the horrible fate that awaits his sister, Bob and Betty. He calls on the highest powers he can summon. Tyha, the White Yogi, comes to his aid.

On their way to the cave where the captives are held, Chandu is plunged into a pit—the Yogi had not foreseen that peril...
CHAPTER 11: "THE UPLIFTED KNIFE"

Vitrus and his evil forces learn of Chandu’s escape from death in the cave of the creeping waters. Chandu, regardless of his own peril, inspired by the cry he had heard, makes his way towards the temple where the Princess is held, while Tyba proceeds to aid Bob if the latter isn’t already beyond all mortal help. Bob is now in the pit at the bottom of which lurks the hideous tiger—mother of the cat-men.

Dorothy and Betty are about to be sacrificed in a hideous manner, before Nadji’s tortured sight. It was her screaming that Chandu heard. The raised paw of the cat-god is about to claw them to death.

At the juncture, Nadji is promised that if she will forswear Chandu and his love, and dedicate her body as a sacrifice to Ossana, the lives of all her friends will be spared and they will be permitted to leave the island unmolested. In despair, Nadji makes the promise. Chandu himself is permitted to hear the vows of renunciation before he is led from the temple.

But the Ubasti had failed to consider—the cat-men!

CHAPTER 12: "THE KNIFE DESCENDS"

The cat-men, natural foes of the Ubasti, are in open revolt on the Island of Lemuria, as heedless of Nadji’s vows as of her safety. Nothing seems powerful enough in black magic to save the Ubasti; but nothing may save Chandu, Nadji and their party either—nothing but the virtue resident in the powers of the Yogi and the few priests of the White Temple.

Meanwhile the Ubasti feverishly proceed with the sacrificial ceremonial for if Ossana is restored all may yet be saved of the evil cult and its temple. In their temple, the knife is about to be plunged into the heart of the Princess while, outside, Chandu is captive to the monsters as are also the other members of the Chandu forces.

Word is taken to Tyba in the White Temple. He releases the cat-men from the evil spell they have been under to the Ubasti, and thus reinforced they attack the temple in time to save the Princess while the Yogi calls down upon the temple the wrath of the heavens. A thunderbolt destroys it utterly and the earth swallows it up with all remnants of the cult which had so nearly brought chaos to the world. Chandu and the Princess at last are happy in each other’s arms.

CHAPTER 9: "THE INVISIBLE TERROR"

On their way to rescue Dorothy Regent, Bob and Betty from the claws of the monstrous cat-men, Chandu and his Yogi guide fall into the trap laid for them. The Yogi passes over the pit unharmed but Chandu plunges into it. The hideous mother of the cat-men is at the bottom. A fearful struggle—the Yogi’s aid—and Chandu emerges from this peril. He seeks Nadji, but to reach her has to accept the peril as well as the advantage of the “invisible oath,” by which he reaches her side. Warned by her of Bob’s immediate danger, Chandu hastens, still invisible, to Bob’s rescue. A huge pendulum with a swinging blade oscillates above the bound body of the young man. Invisible hands liberate Bob who escapes for the present at least; but Chandu has overstayed his time, and becomes visible. He is captured. The end seems now in sight—a terrible end.

CHAPTER 10: "THE CRUSHING ROCK"

Chandu, now in the power of The Mystic Voice and of Vitrus, is given the alternative of betraying the location of the White Temple on the island whence comes his (Chandu’s) help, or being subjected to a terrible death. He refuses to betray his friends. He is taken to the “caves of the creeping waters” where he is being slowly drowned, when Bob, who has been found by the Yogi, comes with the latter to Chandu’s aid, and at what appears to be the cost of his own life, rescues his beloved uncle, Chandu. Before the latter with the Yogi can attempt to solve the mystery of Bob’s disappearance in the waters of the cave, a piercing shriek assails their ears. It is Nadji’s cry for help.