



# Semiotic Analysis

**The Signifier:** "Kong: Skull Island," a reboot/prequel to "King Kong."

**Denotation:** The film denotatively represents a reboot of the popular "King Kong" title.

**The Signified:** -"Kong" refers to the famous giant gorilla "King Kong," from the 1933 film, which has been rebooted multiple times.  
"Skull Island" refers to Kong's home, a remote, dangerous island inhabited by deadly creatures.

**Connotation:** The film connotatively represents the implementation of more classic monsters into Legendary Pictures' new monster franchise, along with Godzilla.

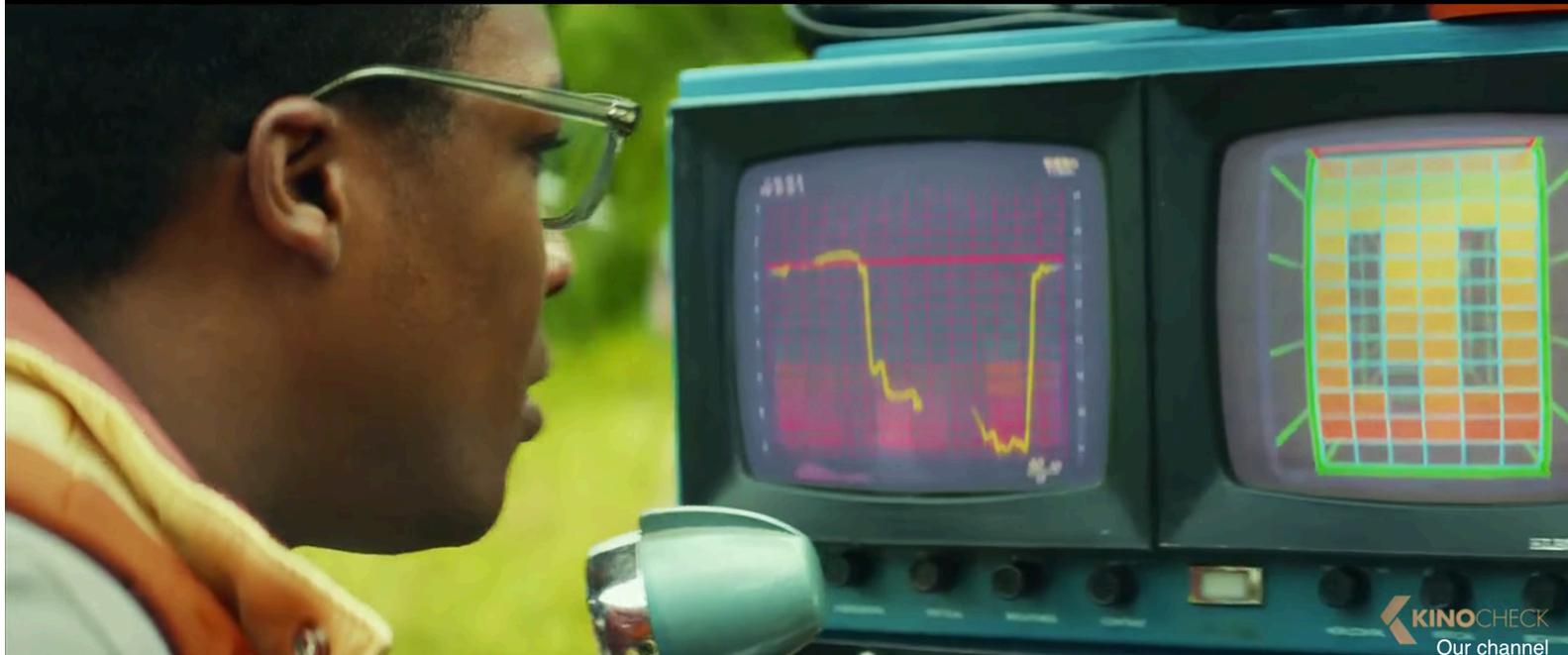
**Diachronic Analysis:** The film forgoes the traditional story of taking Kong off the island and, instead, focuses on Kong ruling his own domain. This is a departure from all previous reboots and adaptations of the title, and allows for a less predictable story.

**Ideology:** The film is startlingly nihilistic, showcasing countless brutal deaths of developed characters, with little impact on the story or conflict. This film shows how powerless humans are in conflict like this.

**Auteur Theory:** Jordan Vogt-Roberts (a CCC alumni) directed this film, bringing in a nihilistic yet colorful rendition of a classic monster. His directorial eye is very clearly guiding the course of the film, and every decision he makes seems deliberate. The film's stylistic success is due in large part to Vogt-Roberts. With this style also comes a palpable nihilism that runs throughout the story, and the arguably unfair treatment of developed characters.

**Intertextuality:** This film combines itself into Legendary's monster universe, and sets up future stories for crossovers and battles. The Godzilla vs. King Kong movie has already been confirmed for 2020, and that's due to the success of this film. From a historical standpoint, this iteration of the classic "Kong" character marks the largest he's been (aside from his temporary growth to fight Godzilla in a previous, older film), standing at over one hundred feet tall.

**Images:** The film is colorful, and takes place in the 1970s. This leads to some interesting images, many of which highlight the conflict between Kong and the humans, and the danger of the island itself. Here are some examples:



This shot shows some of the colorful, 1970s-era equipment used by the characters.



These shots are meant to showcase Kong's rage and size. Clearly he is a force to be reckoned with.



This shot is an example of the unique camera angles, wild visual effects, and horrific dangers lurking on the island.

**Icon:** This monster itself is an icon, and a highly recognizable one at that. This film took the liberty of making Kong even larger than other previous adaptations (so that he can stand up to Godzilla when the two meet in a later sequel).