

ONTARIO STUDIO DOES A ROARING TRADE IN DINOSAUR DESIGN

# Peter makes no bones about his expertise at making monsters

by ROGER BRYSON

MODEL expert Peter May knew he had a monster job on his hands when Steven Spielberg called him up.

The movie giant wanted him to re-create a Tyrannosaurus Rex for his latest blockbusting movie, "Jurassic Park".

And the Oldham-born sculptor couldn't wait to get his teeth into the mammoth task — because he used to be a real-life dinosaur hunter himself.

Just like the movie's hero, Dr Alan Grant, Peter, who now lives in Ontario, once sifted through ancient rocks searching for bones from prehistoric animals.

But now he uses the latest technology to conjure up the awesome skeletons — and his business is doing a roaring trade.

Peter (38), who went to St Stephen's primary school, Oldham Edge, designed and built the 45ft-high skeleton design in the entrance hall of the "Jurassic Park" headquarters.

The models, made of steel and glass-fibre, took three months to make and two weeks to assemble at the Hollywood studios.

However, the display was wrecked in minutes when it was flattened by the movie dinosaurs chasing the terrified visitors in the film's thrilling finale.

### Realistic

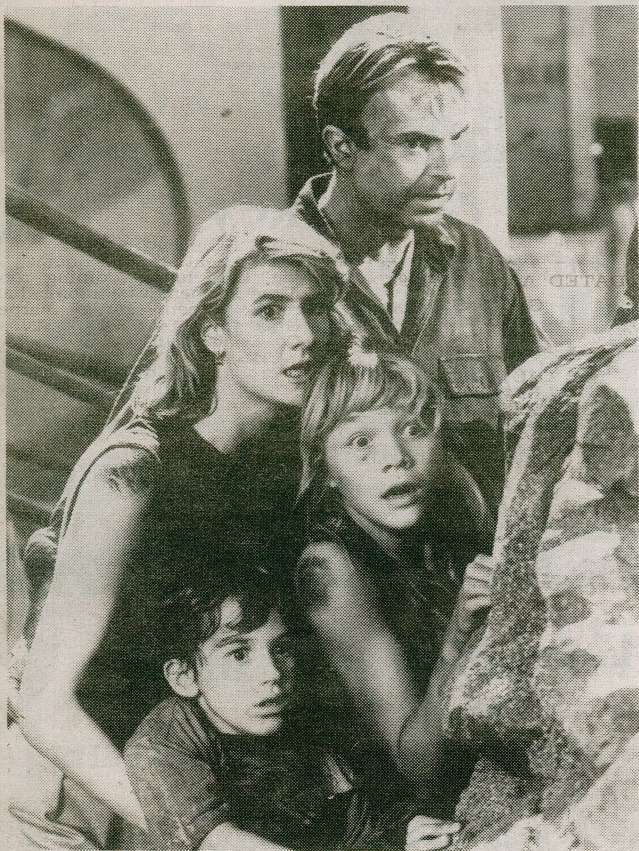
Peter said: "We sent about 25 parts out and got 400 back! I am glad it only happened in a movie and not in real life."

"I have seen the film three times with my children and we loved it. The models were great and so realistic."

His company, Research Casting International, of Ontario, makes dinosaur skeletons for museums and is probably the biggest company of its kind in the world.

He worked on a unique exhibition for the Museum of Natural History in New York, which includes a 45ft-high barosaurus rearing up on its hind legs.

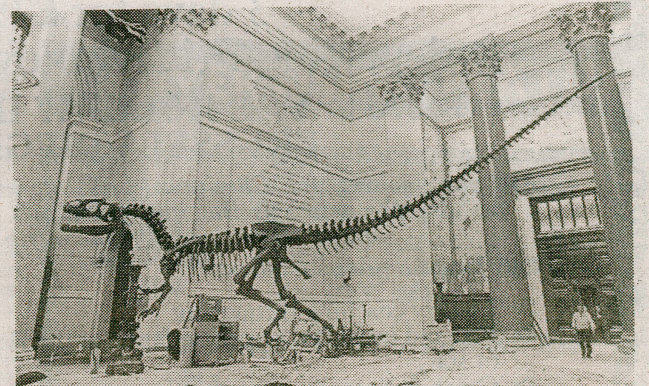
A special "Jurassic Park"



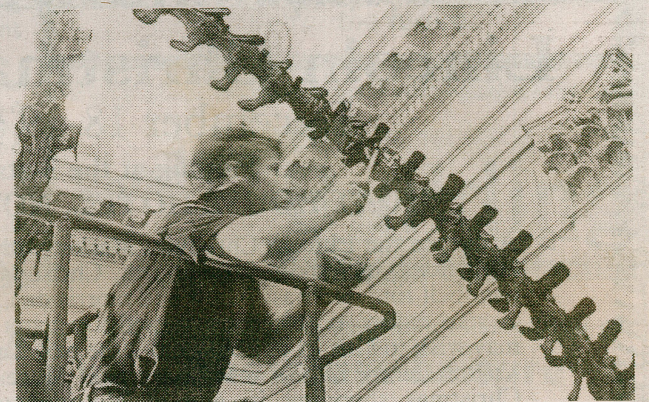
ALAN GRANT (Sam Neill), Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern) and children Lex (Arianna Richards) and Tim (Joseph Mazello) try to escape from the velociraptors which are chasing them in the movie "Jurassic Park"



ROYTON-BORN sculptor Peter May works on the skeleton of a dinosaur at his studio in Ontario



WORKERS install Peter May's dinosaur skeletons in the Museum of Natural History in new York



attraction, including bone-models and life-like replicas, will be set up by RCI in Rome next month.

Fine-arts graduate Peter, who is married with three children, became involved with the extinct monsters when he started work as a technician at the Royal Ontario Museum.

He said: "I was out in the field digging for dinosaur fossils and skeletons."

"A first I was only interested in the job because I wanted to learn more about modelling and casting."

"I was excavating in Montana and Canada, and helped to find a large Ichthyosaurus, a marine reptile."

Coincidentally, the movie's hero, Dr Grant, played by Sam Neill, is first spotted unearthing a dinosaur fossil in Montana.

He is taken to a remote tropical island by eccentric billionaire John Hammond (Sir Richard Attenborough), whose boffins have genetically engineered the monsters from fossilised DNA.

Director Steven Spielberg claims that one day science could make the fantasy come true.

But Peter, who emigrated from his Royton home to Canada with parents John and Mavis when he was eight years old, said he could not imagine coming face to face with a real T-Rex.

He said: "I do not think we will ever be able to clone dinosaurs."

"We have got DNA from insects sealed in amber, but never from dinosaurs."

"You would need an animal that had been pickled in the ground."