

This article was first published in the May 2019 issue of the Sylvia Woods Harp Center e-Newsletter. It is part of Sylvia's ongoing series about living on Kauai, Hawaii.

## Movies Filmed on Kauai

Over 60 major films and numerous TV shows have been filmed on the beautiful island of Kauai. FilmKauai.com says: "For over 80 years, filmmakers have been using Kauai's diverse landscapes and natural beauty to stand in perfectly for Central and South America, Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia, and the South Pacific. It's even been used for worlds that don't even exist."



Here's a partial list of movies and TV shows filmed here.

*White Heat* (1934), *South Pacific* (1958), *Blue Hawaii* (1961), *Donovan's Reef* (1963), *Gilligan's Island* (1964), *The Hawaiians* (1970), *King Kong* (1976), *Fantasy Island* (1977), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1983), *The Thorn Birds* (1983), *Uncommon Valor* (1983), *Lord of the Flies* (1990), *Flight of the Intruder* (1990), *Hook* (1991), *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992), *Outbreak* (1995), *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997), *George of the Jungle* (1997), *Six Days, Seven Nights* (1998), *Jurassic Park III* (2001), *Dragonfly* (2002), *Tropic Thunder* (2008), *Avatar* (2010), *Soul Surfer* (2011), *The Descendants* (2011), *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* (2011), and *Jurassic World* (2015).

I remember hearing about the hundreds of men who showed up for the open casting call for *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* about ten years ago. The casting company was looking for "authentic-looking scavenger-types, ages 18-60s, all ethnicities, especially extreme character types: thin, tall, short, odd features, huge nose, eyes, ears, lazy eye, grizzled and wrinkled faces, odd body types, missing limbs, teeth, etc." The rumor going around Kauai was that if you were missing any body parts, you got to go to the front of the long line, and you'd definitely be in the movie!

Last year, several of my friends were cast as extras in Disney's upcoming *Jungle Cruise* movie, which is based on the Disney theme park attraction. The movie is scheduled for release in 2020 and stars Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Emily Blunt. [Click here for the Jungle Cruise movie trailer](#). (The image at the top of this article is the Kauai set for this movie.)



Because so many movies have been made here, you can visit some of the filming locations on a variety of tours here on Kauai. I went on one of these "movie tours" about 20 years ago and really enjoyed learning about all the locations.

Elvis's *Blue Hawaii* was filmed at the Coco Palms Hotel in 1961. Unfortunately, this iconic hotel suffered great damage in Hurricane Iniki in 1992 and has been closed ever since. But during our "Movie Tour," we were allowed to go onto the grounds, and into the restaurant. The guide said: "Elvis' favorite table was right over there in the corner. Do you see that stain on the rug? That was where Elvis spilled ketchup." I couldn't believe that everyone took out their phones and took photos of the stain! I didn't take a photo, so I can't include it here. Sorry.