

VIDEO world

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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SELLING VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

100
PAGE ISSUE

WIN

TERMINATOR 2
NEW JACK CITY
LET HIM HAVE IT
RETURN TO THE BLUE
LAGOON
AND MORE...

PLUS



EXCLUSIVE
THE EVIL DEAD III IN
LIVING COLOUR

T2

THE VIDEO EVENT OF THE YEAR?





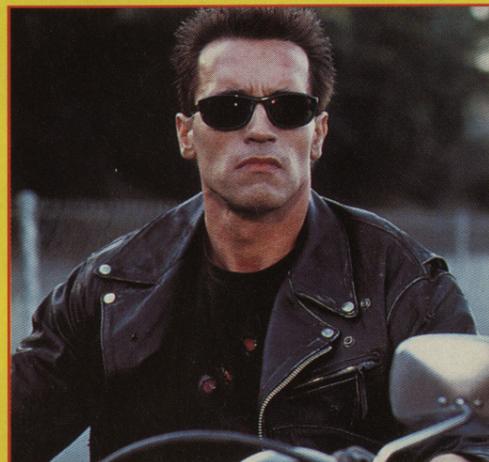
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NEXT MONTH

OK so we said it last month but this time *Aliens - The Special Edition* really is on its way, along with *City Slickers*, ride 'em cowboy!



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EVIL DEAD III

ARMY OF DARKNESS

As if last month's exclusive piccies from *Hellraiser 3* weren't enough to get the year off to an exceptional start, this month we've pulled out all the stops to bring you some red hot shots from *Army Of Darkness - Evil Dead 3*. There's no release date set as yet but now at least you know what to look forward to!



In 1982 when the video industry (and this mag) was in its infancy, we had the privilege of meeting an energetic young film-maker named Sam Raimi. Though only 21 years old, Sam had just made a low-budget horror movie called *The Evil Dead*, about five kids on holiday in a mountain cabin who became possessed by demons and chop each other to pieces! It was a wildly stylish affair that made up for in kinetic energy what it lacked in story sense and budget. Sam and his partner had raised the

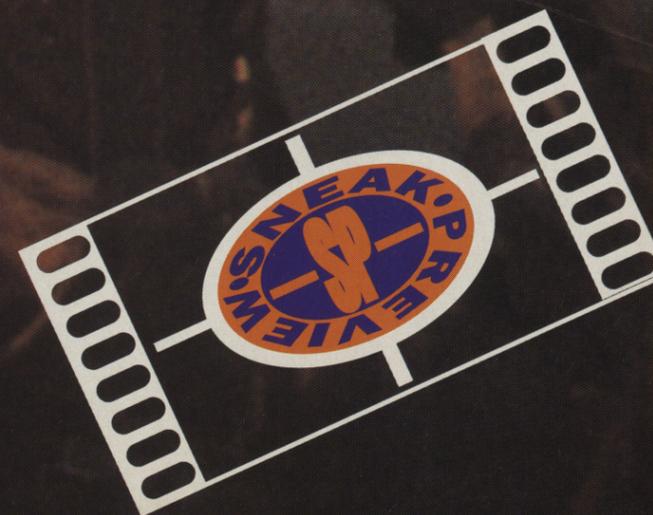
lolly to make the movie by literally going begging door-to-door and their investors got their money back in spades when *Evil Dead* became a big moneyspinner. According to Sam in a later interview its success was all down to the Brits, who obviously know a good horror flick when we see one. "England was the first country to buy *Evil Dead*, the English people gave us our start. They embraced us with warm reviews and the audiences who went to see it over here liked it so

much that they told their friends, who in turn went to see it and see it again. After those good reviews and the positive response from the audience we were able to take that back to the States and say, 'See! They liked it over in England. Now will you take a look at our picture?'. And they did and that's why we were able to sell it all around the world."

Another thing that helped a lot was Stephen King calling it "The most ferociously original horror movie I have ever seen!" But not everybody was so keen. The DPP in this country called it something else, 'A video nasty!' They then proceeded to waste a lot of taxpayers' money pursuing a fruitless campaign to prove they were right. Eventually, in an historic test case at Leeds, a court finally ruled that the boys in blue didn't know their art from their elbow. But by that time the damage was done and many video dealers refused to stock the film.

This upset Sam quite a bit. After directing the failed spoof, *Crimewave*, he was offered the chance to do an *Evil Dead* sequel on a far more lavish budget. But the bad publicity the first film had got in the UK 'nasties' scare encouraged him to take a less controversial route. Sam explained, "Rather than risk the follow up getting the same sort of reception, we decided to tone down the gore and have much more humour - intersperse the terror with the laughs so that audiences could scream and then laugh at its silliness and then scream again."

This tongue-in-cheek approach was personified in the scene where Bruce Campbell's Ash cuts his own demonically possessed hand off, 'Who's laughing now?' he grimaces as his face is splattered with blood. Then we notice that the book he's steadying the chainsaw with is Hemingway's *A Farewell To Arms*! This sort of thing may have appeased the Aunt Sally's of the British establishment, but it didn't do much for horror fans, who complained that the straight-out rollercoaster ride of the original had been swapped from a none-too-scary *Carry On* style zombie-movie.





Shot with Raimi's usual visual flourish, the sequel was actually more of a re-make, with Ash mysteriously resurrected and returning to the isolated cabin for more grisly mayhem. It did reasonably well at the box-office, but not well enough to encourage immediate thought of an *Evil Dead III*. Instead Sam moved on to develop other projects and also to take some small acting parts in pictures like *Maniac Cop*, *The Intruder* and *Thou Shalt Not Kill Except*. Probably his most memorable role was as 'the snickering gunman' who got peppered with machine gun bullets in *Miller's Crossing* - a studio gangster flick which was made by his old *Evil Dead* partners, The Coen Brothers.

In 1989 Raimi was back behind the camera again, making his breakthrough to the Hollywood big time with his first major studio movie, *Darkman*. This highly effective comic book re-working of *The Phantom Of The Opera*, starring Liam Neeson as a scientist left for dead by thugs who builds himself a new face (using Dr X type synthetic flesh) and sets out for revenge, was a hit and consequently the same studio (Universal) asked Raimi if he would like to do another movie for them. Sam's answer was 'Yes, if it's *Evil Dead III*' they agreed and after a few false starts the filming of the picture got underway towards the end of 1991. Sam was

apparently given complete freedom to do whatever he wanted on the creative side, but the one concession he had to make on the studio was that the film would now be called *Army Of Darkness*, with *Evil Dead III* as a subtitle. The powers-that-be told him that market research had proved this would bring in a mainstream audience that might otherwise stay away from a cultist *Evil Dead* film.

The pictures you see here are hot from the set of the movie and show that poor old Ash (once more played by Bruce Campbell) is still going through quite a lot, including being attacked with his own chainsaw and having his head 'stretched' in a painful fashion! The movie was shot under the usual veil of secrecy, but just as we managed to get these exclusive pics, so we also tracked down star Bruce Campbell, who gave us a tantalising taste of what's in store.

"If you remember the end of *Evil Dead II*," says Bruce, "you will recall that Ash was whisked through a time warp to end up in the 13th Century. He is now trying to get back to his own time, that's his main goal. But it's a *Catch 22* situation, because in order to do so he has got to go on this tremendous journey to get the Book of the Dead that has the recipe for getting back home. He encounters many horrible and ridiculous things, he's up against an Army of the Dead

this time, which eventually attacks this castle and Ash, with his twentieth century knowledge, has to help these primitives and lead a defence against the army of the dead - skeletons, ancient warriors, conquistadors and Vikings, every European from the past.

"Ash also has to face an evil version of himself, so he's up against a few obstacles, armed only with his shotgun and of course the chainsaw. Also, he gets a new hand, because my hand was cut off in *Evil Dead II*. He works with the local blacksmith to get a steel hand that can crush things and bash things. And in the trunk of Ash's care there's everything you could ever need, there are text books and gasoline and things like that. Don't forget that he's an engineering student and knows these things."

Sam's inspiration this time seems to have been equal measures of *Jason And The Argonauts* and Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court*. Will it be scarier than the second? Campbell's not talking. Still, it sounds 'dead' good too us and with a budget that tops both previous movies combined, it should look good too. We'll have to wait until the end of the year to see the finished product but in the meantime we hope you enjoy this upfront look at what, for horror buffs, will undoubtedly be one of the most eagerly awaited film's of the year.