



DE LAURENTIIS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

Dec. 1, 1986

Robert Tappert
195 W. Nine Mile Road
#207
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Robert,

Per your conversation with Blaise Noto, enclosed you will find a copy of the "unedited" production notes for "Evil Dead II." Please feel free to mark directly on this copy any changes in content which you feel are necessary. Or, if you prefer, call me directly, and we'll make the changes over the phone. I may be reached at 213/854-7977.

Hope all's well and...dare I say...warm, in Michigan.

Regards,

Tracy Masington
Publicity & Promotions

"EVIL DEAD II"

PRODUCTION NOTES

"Somethings out there - something back from the dead, and the only way to stop the possessed is bodily dismemberment..."

"We're just trying to give the audience a good time, " says director Sam Raimi of "Evil Dead II." The main character in the film spends a good deal of time trying to cut off his own arm in hopes of ridding his body of evil demons.

"Evil Dead II" is directed and co-written by Sam Raimi with Scott Spiegel, produced by Robert Tapert, and Co-produced by Bruce Campbell. The film is a DEG presentation of a Renaissance Motion Pictures film.

The film tells the story of a battle with the supernatural, of man vs. demon, and as Bruce Campbell who reprises his starring role from the the original "Evil Dead" says, -"the story of a decent guy in a sticky situation.

Based in Detroit, Raimi, Tapert, and Campbell have been good friends for the past decade. They formed Renaissance productions and began making a variety of short films. They produced a thirty minute horror film which they showed to investors in Detroit .

"We'd make people sick and then ask tthem to invest,"

says Raimi. They raised enough money to make a feature film, the result being "Evil Dead." The film was highly successful and was also a successful video.

Filming^{of "Evil Dead II"} began on May 10th, 1986 in Wadesboro, North Carolina, a small town an hour outside of Charlotte. The first three and a half weeks were spent on the same location used as "The Color Purple." Temperatures often exceeded one hundred degrees, and the crew showered themselves in bug spray to protect themselves from mysterious flying objects. During night shooting there was also a lookout for rattlesnakes which swarmed the area.

An unused high school was converted into production offices, a stop motion animation studio, and art department. The gymnasium became the sound stage where the cabin from the first film was recreated. Originally, the script for "Evil Dead II" had been set in 1300A.D., but as Raimi says, "why mess with a good thing."

Out of seven hundred shots in the film, two hundred required special make-up effects. Raimi spent six months working with make-up artist Mark Shostrom (Nightmare on Elm Street II) designing monsters which would not only differ from the creatures in the first "Evil Dead" but also be much scarier.

"We wanted them to be 'real kick ass,'" says Shostrom, who after seeing "The Bride of Frankenstein"^{as a child} "began messing

up my face like a crazy person."

In designing the creatures each character had to be possessed in a specific way. The most complicated and elaborate creature was that of Marie after she has become possessed. Ted Raimi, Sam's brother, plays the part of the demonic Marie and had to undergo a tedious process to prepare for the part. First, full head and body molds had to be made of Ted Raimi. Made of plaster, they took three days to complete. The casts were so detailed they included Raimi's tongue and teeth. Fiberglass copies were then made with clay added to give full detail. The body and head each took a week separately to prepare for the final process. A negative mold was then made from the fiberglass mold made primarily of foam rubber. Finally, the process of getting Raimi into costume began. The costume was glued to his face, and then Shostrum and his team spent six hours painting and detailing the costume.

Special make-up effects were combined with stop-motion animation to blend together the life sized creatures and the detailed characteristics of the miniatures. Tom Sullivan (Evil Dead) acted out the characters on videotape and used it as a model to create the miniatures and film the stop-motion animation. Using a similar process as Shostrum, Sullivan made foam rubber models which he then detailed with paint, hair, and make-up.

The biggest difficulty Sullivan encountered was putting elaborate facial expressions into the miniature "Deadites." He built a miniature cable system for the head which allowed for a variety of facial movements.

The animation itself was a time-consuming process. Sullivan spent fourteen hours animating the "Book of the Dead" writing itself and flying away. Other animation effects took slightly less time, but as Sullivan says, "took the same amount of resource."

"Evil Dead II" is a DEG presentation of a Renaissance Motion Picture directed by Sam Raimi.....

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BIOGRAPHY

OF

SAM RAIMI

Sam Raimi, who co-wrote and directed DEG's "Evil Dead II, " was raised in Detroit and has remained a faithful resident ever since.

In grade school Raimi took a test which would suggest career choices. "I was expecting the test to confirm my ambitions," says Raimi, " an airplane pilot or a meterologist. Instead the results suggested I become a handyman."

Luckily, Raimi's father, owner of a chain of furniture stores, began making home 16mm films. Raimi became fascinated with the process, and began making his own films with the support of his parents. (His mother owns 'Lulu's Lingerie, a collection of woman's shops, and "Bra World," -'Largest bra shop in the world'.)

At Michigan State University Raimi studied literature and history. He and roommate Robert Tapert, who produced "Evil Dead" and "Evil Dead II," were evicted from their apartment for playing movies too loud. They decided it would be just as easy to drop out as find another apartment, and they formed Renaissance Motion Pictures with Bruce Campbell being the third partner.

After making a few short films, the company produced

a half hour horror film which helped raise the money for "Evil Dead." The film became a huge success, and the best selling video in England in 1983.

Renaissance Motion Pictures remain based in Detroit, but with Bruce Campbell moving to Los Angeles, "it may be necessary for the company to also move so we can continue working together," says Raimi.

Though he loves horror films, Raimi would also like to make comedies. "The blood starts to get to me after awhile," he says.

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EVIL DEAD II

ABOUT THE CAST ...

BRUCE CAMPBELL stars as Ash in DEG's "Evil Dead II." Campbell reprises his role from the first "Evil Dead," playing a "decent guy trying to stop evil."

Campbell also serves as the co-producer on "Evil Dead II," and it was his function to lay the groundwork for the film such as location scouting. He was also the associate producer on "Evil Dead."

Other film credits as an actor include "Crimewave," "Going Back," "Cleveland Smith," "Torro, Torro, Tofro!" "The Blind Waiter," and "Within the Woods."

On television he has appeared in the soap operas "Generations" as a regular, was the co-host for "Classic Car Magazine," and "The Director." He has also been in numerous theater productions.

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SARAH BERRY stars as Annie in DEG's "Evil Dead II."

A native of South Carolina, Berry has lived in New York for the past eight years and appeared on such soap operas as "Another World" and "One Life to Live." She also performs street theatre in New York, and has done regional theatre around the country.

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Starring as Jake, DAN HICKS marks his feature film debut in "Evil Dead II."

Hicks has appeared in numerous industrial films and television commercials. He won the Golden Camera Award in 1983 for his performance as Rod Le Rod in "The Case of the Real Deals" for NAPA Auto Parts. In 1984 he won a Cleo Award for "Dan Foss Used Cars."

A resident of Detroit, he has appeared in numerous local theatre productions, and was nominated Best Actor for the Detroit Theatre Award for his performance in "Mice and Men."

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KASSIE WESLEY stars as Bobby Joe in "Evil Dead II." As a singer she went on the 1984 world tour of Patti LaBelle and Sly Stone, appeared on "George Burns in Nashville," and sang at the Grand Old Opry in 1980. She has also appeared in numerous television commercials.

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RICHARD DOMEIER stars as Ed in "Evil Dead II." Domeier studied acting at the San Francisco Theatre Academy where he also did Equity Waiver theatre. He received a scholarship to study at South Coast Repertory Theatre and moved to Los Angeles where he has appeared in the soap "Days of Our Lives," and the series "Lottery" and "Detective in the House."

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LOU HANCOCK stars as Marie in "Evil Dead II."

Hancock's film credits include "Places in the Heart," "Eddie Macon's Run," "Undercover, " and "Liar's Moon."

On television she has appeared in "New Love American Style," "Peyton Place, Next Generation, " "Face of Rage, " "Intent to Kill," " and "North and South." Hancock has also been seen on the television series "Dallas, " and "Rags to Riches."

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As the character of Marie becomes possessed, TED RAIMI takes over, playing Marie possessed in "Evil Dead II."

Raimi has appeared in the films "Broken Hearts and Noses," "Evil Dead, " "Cleveland Smith," "Bounty Hunter," "Stryker's War," and various independent productions. He has also appeared in numerous regional and community theatre productions.

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JOHN PEAKES stars as Professor Knowby in "Evil Dead II." A veteran actor, Peakes has appeared in a wide variety of television commercials, has been host of a radio talk show, and appeared in theatre throughout the country. He has been the artistic director of the Boarshead Theatre in Michigan.

He has been seen on the television series "Route 66," and "Naked City," and appeared in several original PBS dramas.

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DENISE BIXLER stars as Linda in "Evil Dead II."

A singer and dancer, she has been in numerous musical theatre productions throughout the country. She has appeared in a variety of commercials and industrial films. Bixler is also a model and spent five months in Japan modelling and doing commercials in 1986.

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"EVIL DEAD II"

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS ...

Sam Raimi is the writer/director of "Evil Dead II." A writer/director of his own independent films since the age of thirteen, Raimi banded together with Robert Tapert and Bruce Campbell to form Renaissance Productions. Together, the three have made "The Happy Valley Kid," "Clockwork," "Within the Woods," the highly successful "Evil Dead," and "CrimeWave." Other independent films made by Raimi include "The Bogus Monkey Pignut Swindle," "A Pieing We Will Go," "Flight of the Paper Eagle," and "Six Months To Live."

Raimi's writing credits include "The Man with the Screaming Brain," "W.O.W. (Women on Wheels,)" and "The Hudsucker Proxy."

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ROBERT TAPERT is the producer of "Evil Dead II." The President of Renaissance Productions, Tapert has produced all the films made by the company including the first "Evil Dead." It was Tapert's direction and strong marketing skills which began the process of making "Evil Dead" the cult film it has become.

Other films made by Renaissance Productions include "The Happy Valley Kid," "Within the Woods," "Clockwork," and "CrimeWave."

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Co-producer BRUCE CAMPBELL of "Evil Dead II" is a man of varied talents. He has starred in many of the Renaissance Productions' films and was associate producer for the company's production of "Evil Dead" and co-producer for "CrimeWave."

Campbell has also produced "The Final Round," "Acting and Reacting," "Shemp Eats the Moon," and "Thou Shalt Not Kill ... Except."

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As co-writer of "Evil Dead II," SCOTT SPIEGEL is very familiar with the genre. ~~His own company, Action Pictures, produced "Thou Shalt Not Kill ... Except,"~~ distributed by ~~Films Around the World~~ ^{TRAMA PICTURES}, the same company that marketed "Evil Dead." Spiegel ^{is} was also the co-writer and producer of "Dark Moon."

He has also appeared in the films "The Dead Next Door," "CrimeWave," and has a small part in "Evil Dead II."

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PETER DEMING is the Director of Photography for "Evil Dead II." Deming photographed films including "The Carrier," "Scarecrows," "Red Moon," "The Scheme of Things," "Bobby T.", "Tracy," "A Dollar a Day," and "Red Heat."

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