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WHY ARE  
PUB TELEPHONES  
ALWAYS NEAR THE TOILETS?

# video -the magazine

**THEY'RE BACK:  
'EVIL DEAD II'**

**EXCLUSIVE!  
WE TALK TO  
SAM  
RAIMI  
AND  
BRUCE  
CAMPELL**

**ALL THE  
LATEST  
VIDEO  
NEWS  
AND  
REVIEWS**

**WIN A COPY OF  
'EVIL DEAD II',  
'THE MOSQUITO  
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**HARDWARE:  
WE TEST JVC'S NEW  
BUDGET MODEL,  
SONY'S NEWEST  
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INVESTIGATE  
DIGITAL VIDEO**





# video

## -the magazine

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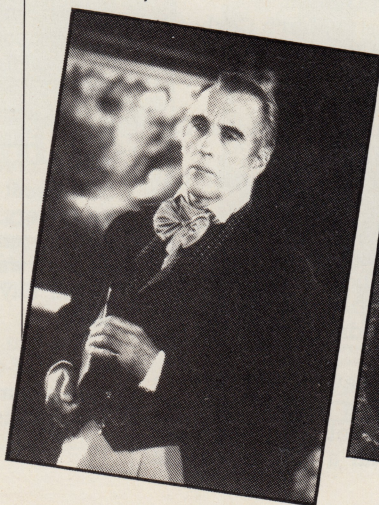
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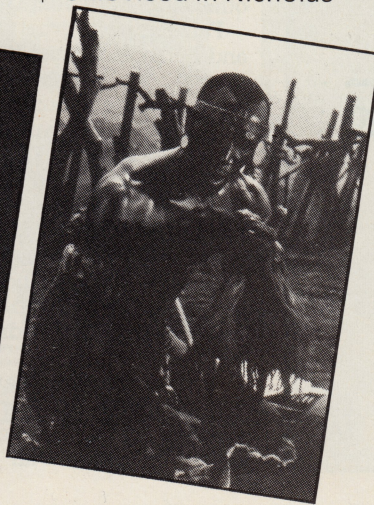


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ALL this and FOUR free-to-enter competitions. Win your very own copy of "The Mosquito Coast", "Evil Dead II" and "Witchboard" or "Geek".



### PALACE

#### EVIL DEAD II (18)

Bruce Campbell, Dan Hicks, Sarah Berry, Theodore Raimi, Kassie Wesley, Densie Bixler

Palace

★★★★

Sam Raimi's kinetic sequel to the original, and still no peace for poor Ash (Bruce Campbell) as he has to spend another night at *that* shack. Worse, the spirits of the Evil Dead are still very active and there's something terrible in the cellar!

Campbell again undergoes the torments of the damned and battles a host of special effects as the long night wears on.

Brilliantly entertainment with an excellent blend of shocks and laughs. And "Evil Dead III" could certainly be on the cards.

#### SLATE, WYN AND ME (18)

Sigrid Thornton, Simon Burke, Martin Sacks

Palace

★★★

Tight Australian thriller with two bank-robbing brothers kidnapping the young woman who was the witness to their shooting of a policeman during one of their raids.

They drive her into the country, and she realises she has to use her charms to turn the brothers against each other if she is to survive.

The charming Sigrid Thornton, from "The Man From Snowy River", and "Snapshot" plays the heroine effectively.

### NEW WORLD

#### EAT AND RUN (15)

Ron Silver, Sharon Schlarth, R. L. Ryan

New World

★★★

Agreeably daft comedy revolving around the rather corpulent R. L. Ryan as an alien from space who lands on Earth to discover that Italian is the cuisine for him. The people, not the pasta! A semi-potty lawman, McSorley (Ron Silver,) is put on the case before the alien eats the entire Italian population of New York!

Very silly in parts but amiable.

### WARNER HOME VIDEO

#### DEADLY FRIEND (18)

Kristy Swanson, Matthew Laborteaux, Richard Marcus, Anne Twomey

Warner Home Video

★★★

Disappointing Wes Craven story which proves he's better at ideas than actual direction. A young cybernetics genius (Matthew Laborteaux) is distraught when his girlfriend is sent into a coma. He uses his knowledge to revive her, but she comes back not as she was but as a killer seeking revenge on those who wronged her in life, such as her drunken, cruel father.

Reasonable in parts, but Craven is a little lost away from Elm Street.

#### DEATH OF A SALESMAN (PG)

Dustin Hoffman, Kate Reid, Stephen Lang, John Malkovich

Warner Home Video

★★★

A video release for the cable TV version of Arthur Miller's famous play, here boasting a remarkable performance from Hoffman as 63-year-old Willy Loman, once a great salesman, now reduced to borrowing from neighbours as his job is commission only.

His two sons are also failures, but Willy is facing life with dignity, even though suicide is



Above: Dustin Hoffman as salesman Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's "Death Of A Salesman" (Warner Home Video).

paramount in his mind.

Long at over two hours, and slightly stage-bound, but Hoffman's performance is compelling.

#### KNIGHTS AND EMERALDS (15)

Christopher Wild, Beverley Mills, Tracie Bennett, Warren Mitchell

Warner Home Video

★★★

Very odd contemporary comedy which tries to include racial harmony and musical intolerance in its themes.

Set in the Midlands against a brass band competition, a group of youngsters want to enter as the Emeralds, a reggae band, claiming that they are more representative of what people want to hear.

Unreleased theatrically, and it's easy to see why.

### VIRGIN VIDEO

#### GOTHIC (18)

Gabriel Byrne, Julian Sands, Natasha Richardson, Miriam Cyr, Timothy Spall

Virgin Video

★★

Ken Russell goes absolutely wild with this story of Byron, Shelley and cronies all getting blitzed out of their minds on laudanum at an Italian villa and having the horrific nightmares which led to the writing of "Frankenstein" and "Vampyre", the inspiration for "Dracula".

Byrne and Sands both look the part but the kinetic pace of the film with everybody running around screaming while being chased by all manner of bogies eventually comes to nothing, and Russell's attempts at humour fall flat.

"Gothic's a horror... and a loser all the way! Ken Russell as usual goes too far over the top.



who fires a shot at Duncan's adversary from a handy rooftop. But Duncan's troubles are only just beginning, as the gang want revenge for the man they have lost.

Later on, this mysterious character visits the McKaskel encampment again, where they learn that his name is Vallian (Sam Elliott) and, in the Wild West tradition, he's from "hereabouts". The mystery man becomes their guide and mentor throughout their lengthy trek and at one point in the action, he even becomes Susannah's lover (to enliven the romantic aspect of the plot). Will the McKaskels make journey's end in one piece? Or will the

gang succeed in their bid to gain revenge for the man Vallian shot? You'll have to hire the tape for yourself to find out!

"The Quick And The Dead" is a good family film, with much to keep everybody's interest going. Once you get used to the idea of Tom Conti as a Wild West pioneer, the film works splendidly, especially as Conti doesn't even attempt an American accent. The main characters are well acted, with good performances from Sam Elliott and Kate Capshaw. Even Kenny Morrison as young Tom isn't too cute to be unbelievable. The supporting cast is just as effective, with Matt Clark as

Doc Shabbitt and Jerry Potter as Red especially worthy of note.

All in all, "The Quick And The Dead" is an interesting way of filling an hour and a half. With great performances and an existing storyline, the film's great fun if you're in the right mood. Good stuff. **CK.**

### SHOCKS AND SHRIEKS IN "EVIL DEAD II"

#### EVIL DEAD II (18)

Bruce Campbell, Sarah Berry, Dan Hicks, Kassie Wesley, Theodore Raimi, Denise Bixler

Palace

★★★★½

At last, and it is entirely possible that no one actor in the history of the motion picture has undergone as much punishment as does Bruce Campbell in Sam Raimi's "Evil Dead II". As Ash, Campbell is flung, beaten, kicked, semi-strangled, zombified, de-zombified, thrown downstairs, half-drowned, generally walloped, skewered and worse! Yes, this is going to be a weekend he won't forget in a hurry.

We open with a condensed version of the first movie, with Ash decapitating his girlfriend with a shovel and making through the night, only to be attacked by that hurtling unseen force. New viewers begin here, as the force takes him through the forest, where only the dawn saves him. Escape seems impossible, and he is forced to spend another night in that cottage.

Here Raimi possibly plays his trump card too early, as Ash has a hallucination of his girlfriend's body rising and, in staggering and eerie stop-motion, performs a macabre dance with her severed head.

Ash shakes himself out of his dream, only to have the

head drop into his lap and bite a hefty chunk out of his hand.

From here Raimi's film escalates in both grotesque images and genuine black comedy as Ash's plight gets worse. And worse. And worse.

Rescue seem to come in the form of the daughter of the Professor who first inhabited the cottage, arriving with her boyfriend and the redneck couple who drove them there. Salvation?

Naw, they see the carnage and sling poor Ash (now minus his right hand) into the cellar. Where the Professor's wife now is, mutated beyond belief. And this is just the beginning, folks!

The movie moves like a steam train, with some of the most dazzling camera work I've ever seen. Raimi's direction of his small cast is assured but it is his camerawork which dazzles. It moves, prowls, soars and in one amazing sequence chases Ash around the tight corners and angled corridors of the cottage.

Angles and designs are more eccentric in this sequel. German expressionism springs at you in the contorted angles of windows, clutching trees and twisted bridges, curling upwards like a claw-like hand.

It is the humour which emphasises the powerful shock elements and works wonderfully. Ash's "possessed" right hand breaks saucers over his own head and drags him around by the hair, the redneck gets a death under the trapdoor with literally gallons of blood fountaining out as if someone has been let loose with a garden sprinkler or two and Ash tools up "Rambo"-like with a chainsaw and sawn-off shotgun for the final showdown with the Great Evil.

The pace is brilliant and the effects, with several crews handling such as stop-motion and opticals, all work very, very well. The make-up for the zombies is



Left: Bruce Campbell gets lent a hand in "Evil Dead II".



# SOFTWARE SECTION

REVIEWS · REVIEWS · REVIEWS · REVIEWS · REVIEWS ·

excellent and if the Great Evil, when it finally appears, is slightly disappointing, you must admit that it has one hell of a build-up to live up to.

There were mixed reactions when I saw it. The laughs worked very well through most sections of the audience although some patrons were slightly uneasy. one scene with a rogue eyeball I found hilarious while Mason wasn't particularly amused. Similar the twist ending, which I found very fitting. Mason wasn't impressed.

"Evil Dead II" is a totally satisfying sequel, hysterical (in both meanings of the word), frantic, funny, frightening and many other words beginning with "F".

Fabulously frightening fun. **MC.**

## DAWN'S PUNCHY "DOUBLE TARGET"

### DOUBLE TARGET (18)

Miles O'Keefe, Donald Pleasence, Bo Svenson, Kristine Erlandson, Richard Raymond, Alan Collins

Avatar

★★★★

Bruno Mattai again helms a Flora Film production under his "Vincent Dawn" pseudonym, "Strike Commando" being the first, and although "Double Target" quite obviously takes "Rambo" as it's role model the action rate and high-quality stunts make this one that action fans will clamour for.

Miles O'Keefe is actually convincing as Bob Ross, ex-Special Forces member whose sortie into the Vietnamese Embassy in Manila results in a shoot-out as he discovers Russians in there in the form of Colonel Govshin (Bo Svenson).

Ross wants his son out of Vietnam, the result of a marriage to a Vietnamese girl during the War, and the U.S. Govt. offers him the chance to go back to find him if he'll also search for a Russian camp over there



which is training international terrorists. The slimy Senator (Donald Pleasence fiddling with Ventolin inhalers all the while) gives him five days. After that the mission is over and Ross will be classified "missing".

In goes Ross, tooled up with some very heavy artillery, and that's where the fun starts, Col. Govshin, following Ross to expose the mission.

"Double Target" definitely has had an injection of ackers in the budget department. The set-pieces are spectacular, such as Ross blowing up the Russian camp where his son is being held, and several full-scale helicopters biting the dust. Both Russian **Spetznaz** and Vietnamese soldiers get slaughtered by the hundred and the Laos

undertakers would have a record year after Ross's sortie.

Co-written by Mattai and "Clyde Anderson" (Carlos Aured, who also handles the 2nd unit), the movie is a high-quality actioneer which makes up in pace and action what it might lack in the originality department, and there's a few nice spelling errors in the end titles, where one of the costumers "Phillipine Crow" is described as a "Taylor".

The score be Stefano Manetti, a name I haven't come across before, is very good, a relentless bass beat with ascending harmonics which fits the action sequences well.

"Double Target" is formula, but the quality and quantity of the action and stunt pieces raise it well above the norm. **MC**

## SEX 'N' DRUGS IN RUSSELL'S ROMP . . .

### GOTHIC (18)

Gabriel Byrne, Julian Sands, Natasha Richardson, Myrian Cyr, Timothy Spall

Virgin Video

★ 1/2

Ken Russell's attempt to update the gothic film by including ever more sex, violence, blood and grue is essentially a failure. What started out as an obvious triumph of style over content becomes a screaming, hysterical romp around the Villa Diodati.

"Gothic" purports to chronicle the events of 1816 that led to the creation of the novel "Frankenstein" (originally sub-titled "The Modern Prometheus") and "Vampyre", the story that led to the Dracula myth. The cast of players includes rake-about-town Lord Byron (Gabriel Byrne), the poet Shelley (Natasha Richardson, probably the best thing in the film), her half-sister Claire (Myrian Cyr) and Byron's pet physician Dr Polidori (Timothy Spall overacting).

After a suitable rutting period, and after topping up the old LAUDANUM, yes I said LAUDANUM, this collection of would-be pervers have a seance in order to conjure up their innermost fears. Fuelled by more LAUDANUM, some 19th century porn and a bottle or two of a decent hock, they go careering about the house pursued by who-knows-what, Claire goes bananas, Shelley sees a vampire in the bath, Byron hobbles about persued by all manner of demons, Mary has visions of her still-born child, and Polidori accepts his homosexuality.

Breaking only for some more LAUDANUM, and endless leaping around the corridors later, the only thing left to do is to have a second seance to exorcise themselves. In the morning, they all have a good laugh and write their novels.



SAM  
RAIMI

**W**hen your first movie is a smash hit all over the world, even getting fulsome quotes from Stephen King himself on the posters, your second is the result of major studios hounding you to work for them, and your third is the most long-awaited sequel in years, causing fans to salivate at the thought of it unspooling in front of them, you might just get a little conceited, a little cocky. And who, in all honesty could blame you?

That was precisely why Sam Raimi came over as one of the nicest guys I've ever met. There's certainly been no other interviewees who have called me "Sir", or asked if it was alright to smoke in my presence. It does throw you a little, I can tell you...

Debuting with "The Evil Dead" (Palace Video) before being wooed — and disillusioned — by a major studio for "Crimewave" (Embassy), and now finally getting "Evil Dead II" (soon from Palace Video) off the ground, Raimi has had a meteoric rise to the position of one of the world's top cult directors. He's a genuinely likeable person, but what made him go and develop the 8mm movies he was making into the feature "The Evil Dead", a difficult, one would say almost insurmountable, task?

"Yea, it was tough but we wanted to go with it," he says. "We had been making 8mm movies in school for our classmates. Bruce (Campbell) was often in them, and I did a lot with Tom Sullivan (later to be on the effects team of "The Evil Dead"). We'd make them in Super 8 and charge admission for people to see them so that we were covering our costs.

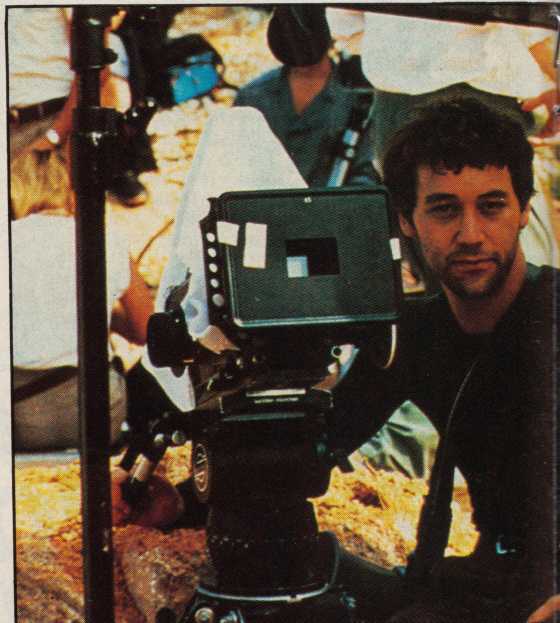
"We sort of dropped out of school, but I was working with Robert Tapert, and we started working on a 16mm short which was the basis of 'The Evil Dead'. We showed this around as a sort of promo reel and slowly got private investors to get involved, but it took so long. We were literally shooting on and off for nearly two and a half years. We kept running out of money. Come 1982 we had a finished print, blown up to 35mm, and a distributor took it to the Cannes Film Festival, having suggested that we take some really atmospheric colour shots as publicity stills. We had some done of Bruce covered in blood and wielding the chainsaw, and that one of Betsy Baker reaching out of the grave while a hand is trying to drag her back. It's not in the film but it was sure effective," he laughs.

"The Evil Dead" isn't the most complex of stories, with the device of an ancient chant on a tape recording bringing back evil spirits to possess the cast members who have wandered into a remote cabin being a way of keeping cast costs down.

## THE "EVIL DEAD

**They're back! Martin Coxhead talks to both director Sam Raimi and actor Bruce Campbell as they again tangle with horrors too awful to mention in "Evil Dead II"!**

**Clockwise from top: Director Sam Raimi setting up Bruce Campbell for the final scene of "Evil Dead II"; Campbell planning to trepan one of the advancing zombies; Campbell as Ash tooling up for his final stand-off and Ash delivering a splitting headache to one of the Evil Dead.**





# AD" TAPES

## BRUCE CAMPBELL

**W**hen I met Bruce Campbell he had just been interviewed by a reporter from a teen girls mag and was clearly puzzled by the experience.

"They asked me what my favourite flower was, my favourite bands ... Strange ..."

But Bruce Campbell does have classic hero looks, although in Sam Raimi movies they tend to be covered in slime, grue, blood, pus, mud and other substances too unpleasant to mention. As Ash in the "Evil Dead" movies, Bruce Campbell has undergone a great deal in suffering for his art. In real life he smiles a lot — not an expression Ash has much recourse to — and grins at the memory of his character.

"I really like Ash, I really do. He doesn't take it personally. All these terrible things happen to him, he's forced to mutilate himself terribly, and when help comes they beat him up, but he's still reasonable about it. They throw him in the cellar where Henrietta is, but when he gets out he doesn't want revenge, he wants to get everybody out safely. He doesn't bear any grudges. Ash is the sort of guy who can undergo all this sort of thing and still give you a decent conversation twenty minutes later when he's got his breath back."

Campbell has been associated with Sam Raimi since school days in Detroit and he was one of the team who worked on the original short which became "The Evil Dead".

"We really thought we had a good idea, something worth going for. Ah! Youth!," he laughs. "We hawked the sucker round and got people interested. You've got to remember that we were working on the original one off and on for nearly four years. For the sequel to take only two years from the first scripting to finished is breakneck speed for us."

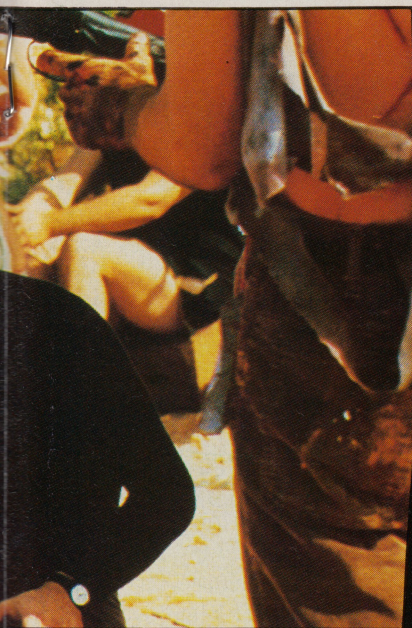
Bruce Campbell is much more than just an actor in Raimi movies. There's a very definite feeling of a deep partnership. "Sure, I toss ideas in, suggest a lot of stuff. We've been working together for so long now that we've got a good idea what will work for the other one and what won't."

Was he surprised at the first film's success? He thinks for a moment.

"Yes and no. I think the timing was right. At Cannes that year when we took the movie along all the horror flicks were still slasher movies, killers with knives movies. 'The Evil Dead' was so different, and so pacey, that it just took off."

Up comes the word I was rapidly finding taboo when dealing with these people — "Crimewave".

Still smiling, Campbell shakes his head. "That was such a shame. They just took it away from Sam, and the executives didn't





## SAM RAIMI

No zombies wandering around, just the cast members in make-up.

For all its cult success, the movie wasn't an instant hit. "No, not at all. In the States, New Line Cinema released it, and it really didn't do much. We did much better in the States on video where Thorn EMI had the rights. It's on its third release on video in the States now, it's on what you'd call your sell-through line. But Palace have been great to us over here. They really believed in the movie and really plugged it. They've been fair and honest with us all down the line."

Raimi's movie, of course, hit the headlines during the "video nasties" campaign, when it seemed to be singled out by the likes of Mary Whitehouse and Graham Bright for attention. It was taken to court many times in various parts of the country, even having Raimi fly over to speak for the defence in one case, along with several members of the video press.

"It was going to be great, I had my 'freedom of speech' bit all worked out. I was gonna be like Henry Fonda. But they never called me up."

The movie was never convicted, even after a final "test case" at Uxbridge Magistrates Court. After its acquittal a lot of police forces started to soft-pedal their line on seizing video titles.

"In a way I'm actually pleased that it happened that way," says Raimi of the court case. "It was a benchmark, saying just what people could see. I'd also really like to thank all the people in Britain who supported us. We got a lot of help from the video press and a lot of letters from ordinary film fans who didn't agree with what was going on. It was very heartening."

With "The Evil Dead" finally out of the way, Raimi found himself working for a major company, Embassy, on "Crimewave", a movie previously entitled both "**Relentless**" and "**The XYZ Murders**". The story of a young man discovering that a wave of murders throughout the city are actually the work of a pair of killers, called Coddish and Crush (Brion James and Paul Smith), who pose as exterminators, it wasn't exactly what Raimi fans were expecting after "TED". I mention to him that it was an... *interesting* movie.

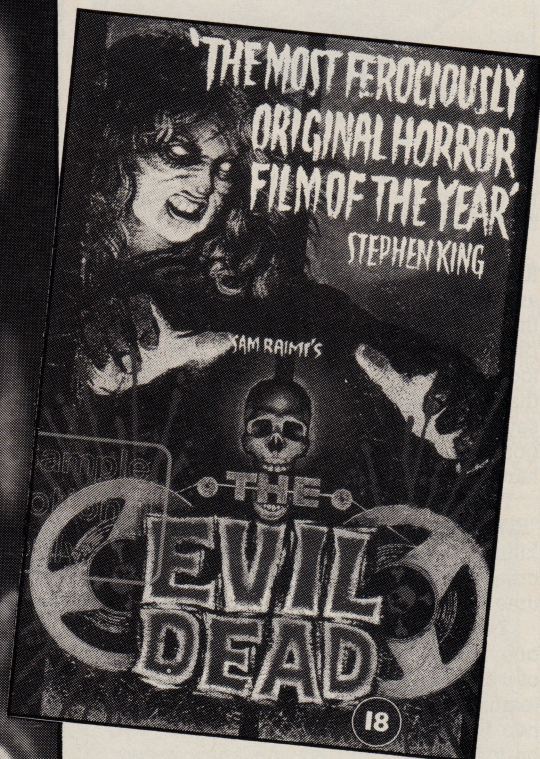
He nods. "Interesting is a good word for it... Crummy is another, and terrible is yet another." He laughs.

"It really wasn't good to do. I wanted to make it a funny and scary movie, really black. Trouble was that Embassy was in the middle of being sold at the time and the executives that were there one week weren't necessarily there the next. I finished it and it was shown to them, and they pulled it and re-cut it, and re-cut it





Clockwise from top: Ellen Sandweiss after her transformation in "The Evil Dead"; the sleeve of the original; Bruce Campbell as Ash ready to take on more of them in the sequel and Sarah Berry gets a bit of a shock after Ash's handiwork.



## BRUCE CAMPBELL

understand what they had on their hands anyway. 'Crimewave' was started by a very sympathetic management and then everything changed. The Coca-Cola Company bought up Embassy and changed everything. Sam never really had a chance with them."

How then did they get on with Dino De Laurentiis, considering that the man has a fearsome reputation in the film world?

"Oh, great, just great," enthuses Campbell. "With Dino you get decisions. You pick up the phone and ask to speak to him and you get through. You get your answer on the spot. You want to ask him for something to be flown down from New York or something extra for the set and you either get (Campbell adopts an accent which makes Brando's Don Corleone seem positively effete) "OK, go-a 'ed" or "No, no-a way". Dino's the last of the real film moguls, a one-man show. With Embassy no one was willing to make a decision in case it cost him his job. You ask and they'd say it would have to be transferred 'upstairs'. Nothing got done."

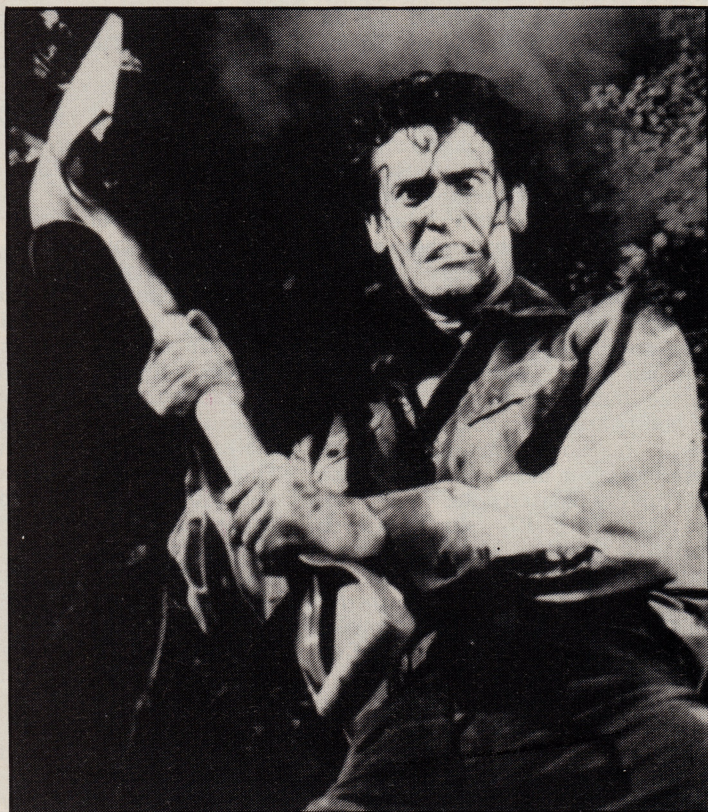
Did the legendary De Laurentiis *penchant* for what some might call interference ever surface?

"No, not at all. But we did cheat a little. Originally Dino wanted us to film at his studios in Carolina, but we held out for our original locations. So if anyone from the company wanted to drop in on us they had a couple of hours plane ride followed by about an hour of driving through some really rough country. I'm not saying that we stopped them from coming, but we didn't exactly make it easy."

With a vastly improved budget and crew, couldn't Sam have got a stuntman to do some of the terrible things Bruce was called upon to do for the movie?

"Naw, I really enjoyed that stuff. I'm a very physical actor, I like being thrown about and hurled into things. It's great. It's hard work but it's rewarding. Also audiences can tell when it's a stuntman. The cuts between you and him become so obvious. I got a few bruises here and there but nothing much. In the days we made the Super 8 movies we didn't have any stuntmen. You just had to do it yourself."

"I wasn't the one who suffered the most on the set though. That was Sam's brother, Theodore. He played Henrietta, the professor's wife, and the costume he had to get into was *horrendous*. It was all latex and very heavy. We were shooting for eleven weeks, six days a week, often twelve hours a day, but that was nothing to what Ted went through. It was a six-hour job to get him in and it was so hot in there. The legs of the thing would literally fill up with sweat. It was worse when they had the flying harness on him





## SAM RAIMI

again, and again, all without my consent. It was terrible. Originally it was very dark, but they didn't like that, they cut its balls off. They even objected to the casting early on, which should have warned me. I wanted Bruce Campbell in the lead but they objected. They thought it was too wild for a lot of audiences so they tamed it. It was a very bad experience, one I'm not going to repeat."

With all his movies Raimi shows a visual flair which is very much comic book in style, so it isn't a surprise that collecting comics is his major hobby.

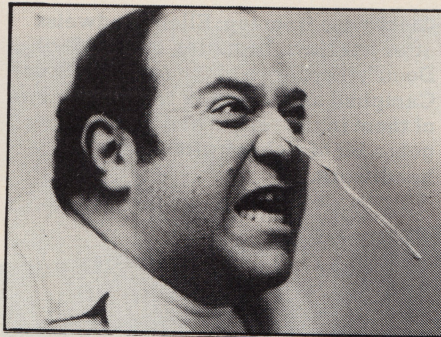
"Oh, very much, I love them, especially the early ones, the early 'Batman' and 'The Shadow' pulps. They're very visual. I've got several thousand of them back at home, and I always story-board movies like a comic book, with fades and zooms and tracks. It's very good how the best of them depict action, because it's very much like using a camera, the angles they take and such, very fluid. For 'The Evil Dead' I wanted a camera system that would swoop and fly along the ground as the Great Evil is coming to the cabin, but we had no money. A Stedi-Cam was out of the question so we made our own, a 'Shaky-Cam'. We bolted the camera to a piece of two-by-four and then to a pole 15 ft long, all that about the lower the centre of gravity making it more stable. Then with a guy at either end we just ran like hell! And it really worked. You'd have to give the guys a rest after a few runs but it was worth it for the visuals."

And effective visuals are what Sam Raimi serves up in abundance in "Evil Dead II", the long-awaited sequel. Announced some three years ago, why the wait?

"Well, it was a number of things, mostly to do with Embassy being sold off, because they were originally to produce. We didn't want to go with anything if the 'Crimewave' experience was anything to go by, but when Dino De Laurentiis finally took over Embassy he wanted it."

Announced under the titles "Evil Dead II: Army Of Darkness" and "Evil Dead — 1300 AD", are we to take it that the final production on the screen isn't the original concept? "Sort of. I had a couple of ideas of taking them away from the cabin, but then decided that we were going to hurt Bruce a bit more, give Ash a little more Hell!"

And if Bruce Campbell doesn't get an award for the actor suffering the most for his craft then there's no justice, as Ash, having survived the hellish night, undergoes more terrible events, including a couple of zombifications, cutting off his own hand, tangling with Henrietta, the wife of the professor who discovered the tape, now mutated and gnarly, and when help arrives in the form of four



Clockwise from left: Paul Smith wonders what the fork's going on in "Crimewave" (Embassy Video); "The Evil Dead" was so successful it even inspired a computer game, as shown in this window display in a London games shop; Betsy Baker in one of the posed publicity shots for "The Evil Dead"; Brion James and Paul Smith as killers Coddish and Crush in "Crimewave".

fellow travellers, he's assumed to have murdered the professor and gets beaten up for his trouble!

"Bruce was great as Ash," enthuses Raimi. "Really great. He'll do anything you ask him to. He does all his own stunts for the film except one little one, when he plunges down the staircase. It was a bit too dangerous to risk him. But he was like that when making the 8mm movies. You'd say to him: 'Bruce, for this scene you've got to slam yourself into the wall really hard', and he'd do it!"

The effects are certainly spectacular in "EDII", with a multitude of possessions, killings, stop-motion animation, flying creatures, opticals galore and even a time-warp come the end.

"I was in charge of a huge crew for this one," he says, remembering the logistics of it all. "We had three different animation teams, four mechanical effects crews, two flying rigs, four make-up units, two optical houses and six miniature crews. That's a lot to co-ordinate."

One of the most stunning scenes comes early in the movie where Ash, forced back to the cabin because of an impassable bridge, is again chased by the swooping Great Evil, this time chasing him through a wildly exaggerated Expressionist tunnel of corridors through the cabin. It all looks seamless, but surely couldn't have been done in one take?

"Thanks, it's nice of you to say that. There are actually two cuts in it. We shot first on the exterior set as it rushes up to the door. When it hits, that's where we cut to the interior studio, where the door shatters. Then we chase Ash using a variation of the 'Shaky-Cam', having the camera mounted on a long board, and the second cut comes when it's swooping along the floor and you see the pattern of the floorboards. We cut then just because it was so difficult to keep the camera moving in those corridors. It's an effect I'm very pleased with."

The ending of "EDII" — stop here if you haven't seen it yet — sees Ash carried back to England in 1300 AD, hailed as a hero from the skies because he manages to blast away a flying E.D. creature. Was this to be the starting point of an "Evil Dead III"?

"Possibly, I'd like to. It's also a bit of a thank you to the people of Britain for all the help and support you've given us. I love the idea of Ash fighting the Evil Dead in mediaeval Britain. All your cas-

ties and forests, it would be great! I've always like British horror movies, especially the great Hammer movies. I really love Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing, they've made some real classics. I'm not really a splatter movie fan as such. British horror movies and actors are taken so much more seriously in the States. I like George Romero's work, though, and Dario Argento. I haven't seen 'Demons' yet but I really want to. He only produced that, right?"

I explain that it was directed by Lamberto Bava, Mario's son, and Raimi's eyes light up. "That should be great, Mario Bava really knew how to use a camera."

I have to ask the inevitable question, why are his movies always essentially horror/comedies?

"It loosens people up, makes them uncertain. What I like to do is get people laughing and then hit them with something. Like the scenes in the new one when Ash is being beaten and hit by his own possessed hand. People laugh. Then something happens. I enjoy doing that. I think the 'Evil Dead' movies could be a bit gruelling without the humour. I want people to be thrilled rather than just horrified. I want them to have a good time."

For the future Raimi is still in association with Joel and Ethan Coen, editors on "The Evil Dead" and who now have had great success with "Blood Simple" and "Raising Arizona".

"Have you seen those? 'Raising Arizona' is a the funniest film of the year. I was on the floor. We've got several things planned together. The one that will probably come off first is 'Tails Of Manhattan'; it's an anthology story revolving around a tuxedo. That'll be nice to do. We're also planning another couple of comedies — 'The Hundsucker Proxy', that's a big business comedy set in the Fifties, and 'We Saps Three'. I think you could have a revival of the sort of Cary Grant comedies of the Forties and Fifties. Nice, sophisticated ones."

So is "EDIII" on the cards?

"Well, I feel a little bad about marooning Ash in 1300, I'll probably have to do something with him," he grins hugely.

Any final words for the people of Britain?

"Indeed. See 'Evil Dead II', it's wonderful. If you missed it in the theatres, rent it on video, several times."

Thanks, Sam, nice to have met you. MC



## BRUCE CAMPBELL



as he just had to hang there for hours on end. A couple of times he passed out in the costume and they had to revive him."

"You'd go to Sam's trailer after shooting and Ted would be there almost asleep after dinner. He'd raise his head, mutter 'Hi...' and then collapse again. Poor guy. You could see he was Sam's brother, cause no one else would do it. At the end of each day he'd go off and weep, silently..."

I ask if he's pleased with Ash's fate, marooned in 1300?

"I like the idea. It's got possibilities if Sam wants to work on them. Actually Sam is in that scene. He's the knight who comes up and says those couple of lines. Sam's a real ham actor at heart. He was in a low-budget movie a few weeks back called **'Thou Shall Not Kill... Except.'**"



(Also known as **"Sgt. Stryker's War"** and released in this country — MC).

"Sam played this wiggled-out Vietnam vet, very much like Charles Manson. He had a wig and a beard, you wouldn't recognise him. He loved it, joined the Screen Actors Guild, too."

Knowing that Raimi is reluctant to talk about it, I saved my questions about **"The Dead Next Door"** for Campbell.

"That is going to turn out really good. What happened was a bunch of young film-makers made this promo — rather like us and *'The Evil Dead'* — and went looking for finance. Sam saw it and helped them, so he's acting like an executive producer. He's working them hard but the guys behind it are eager, they're willing to do it. The plot's real good too, set a few years in the future where you have *'Zombie Squads'* out hunting rogue zombies. I think it's got real potential."

With both Raimi and Campbell now being leaders of a very definite cult, was there any time when he was tired of the whole *'Evil Dead'* genre?

"Only once, and I wasn't actually 'tired' of it. It was when Nik (Nik Powell, head of Palace) was on trial with the film. He could have gone to jail just for showing this movie. I mean, it's not pornographic, nobody got hurt or molested. We just made it for people to have a good time at. I was really worried for him. We never meant to offend anybody, which is why we've got more laughs in this one. People will still jump, but they'll laugh a lot more. It's funny but some countries are exercising more censorship, West Germany for instance. Our distributors there had some trouble with the movie. It's something I find worrying."

Will his next film role add more batterings to his already abused body?

"Of course! I'm doing a movie with Bill Lustig, who made *'Vigilante'*, and it's called **'Maniac Cop'**. What happens is a cop gets terribly maimed and disfigured by a street gang. he gets out of hospital but he's gone completely wacko. He dresses up in his best dress uniform and goes out on the streets, indiscriminately killing anyone. The story spreads and soon the whole city is in fear of cops, because one of them might be the killer. I play one of the cops on the case, trying to catch him and I get pretty knocked around. At one point I'm arrested on suspicion and thrown in the back of a paddy wagon, handcuffed, but the driver is the Maniac, and soon he's throwing the van around corners and I'm smacking into the walls and banging my head everywhere. That's what they call using your head in the movies."

He smiles again, "Yes, I'm going to get a few more bruises again..." **MC.**



**Y**ou waited through sleepless nights for it, and now, in association with Palace Video, you can ensure yourself sleepless nights by winning one of the ten copies of "Evil Dead II" we have up for grabs! And our lucky winners will also find themselves the recipients of a specially produced tee-shirt, all lurid and black and green and red. Should be banned under the noise abatement act or something...

To win just answer the four questions below about Sam Raimi and the actor who takes more punishment than anyone else in the history of screen heroes,

# WIN A COPY OF EVIL DEAD II

**KISS YOUR NERVES GOODBYE**

Bruce Campbell. And as a tie-breaker suggest an original title for Raimi's proposed "Evil Dead III".

(And if anybody has the *chutzpah* to put "Evil Dead III" on the entry form we will personally arrange for The

Great Evil to come round and knock hell out of you!)  
Send your entries to "Evil Dead II" Competition, Video — The Mag, Suites 83-84, 12/13 Henrietta Street, London, WC2E 8LH by the closing date of first post, Monday, September 28.  
And kiss your nerves goodbye...!

1. What part does Sam Raimi play in "Evil Dead II"?
2. Who played the killers in "Crimewave"?
3. Who plays "Henrietta" in "Evil Dead II"?
4. What will Bruce Campbell's next movie be?



## ANSWERS

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

Name .....

Address .....

TIE-BREAKER: My original title for "Evil Dead III" would be

(VHS/BETA)

Closing date: