

Here is another archive of GDT posts. Read them carefully before you post questions. Thanks!

Guillermo del Toro, director of the movie HELLBOY, pops up every once in awhile to answer questions. Below are collected his answers to our questions. Read what he's had to say so far so that you don't

Then ask your own questions. It's a rare opportunity to see how the creative mind works when adapting a favorite comic.

1. When exactly we'll see Red Ron?

At this time, you already did.

2. I just rewatched BLADE II. In the commentary you talked about how you pushed the color palette for a comic book effect.

Is there anything in the technique you're using for this film that is pulled directly from the Hellboy comic?

Yes, many a thing I tried on BLADE II was like a test lab for Hellboy. This DOES NOT mean at all that the movies will be similar. Some of the formal or technical solutions will be applied to HB, but not the

We will color-correct the entire HB movie digitally to ensure the Redness of our big boy as much as possible.

3. Was there anything that surprised you about trying to adapt the material in the comic or any super cool moments that you looked forward to putting on film that ended up just not translating to film?

A few slipped away, but hopefully we caught enough that we will all be happy.

4. What attracts you to Mike Mignola's comic? What made you want to film Mike's comic as opposed to any other?

Is there any other?? Not in the last 10 years there isn't. Mignola has created a unique blend of pulp, horror, Kirby dynamics and blue-collar attitude that makes it just impossible to resist.

5. Okay, that's two questions but one theme.

For me, one of the coolest images in THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE was the blood drifting up from the head of the ghost.

-Thank you

It wasn't until how we knew the boy died that the image turned out to make literal sense.

-Correct

Who came up with the concept for that image?

- I did. Many years ago. I just thought it would lend an eerie beauty to the ghost image. Horror images have their own poetics- not everybody likes them, but they do- and I think part of a great monster

And to tie it into this board... it reminded me of the ectoplasmic vapors that Mike Mignola often draws trailing out of the mouths and eyes of mediums or energy beings.

-We couldn't do it on every scene. But I'll tell you this: we shot for 3 weeks under unmerciful ice rain to achieve just that effect in the opening of the film. You'll see it.

6. In your production notes, you spoke of how a new Abe Sapien design was needed because you felt that the comic design would have looked like an actor in green makeup. Were there any surprises

All the time. But I feel that we also have to have the guts to go with some designs that might be TOO OUTLANDISH . Mignola's visual style is anything but mellow. I mean, to this day, people think Hellboy look. It's faithful only to the world within those pages. If it looks great WITHIN those parameters, then it's in the movie.

Now, back to shooting. Please read these questions and answers carefully. Now and then -time permitting- I may answer them again.

All the best.

Guillermo  
PRAGUE, 2003

Good morning from Prague!!

And a special good morning to you li'l' Sapien. Are you a dad yet??? Drop me a line...

Now, on to the questions.

1. In terms of flexibility and useability, how has the Right Hand been constructed, and how dextrous is it? Also, will it always be an appliance or are there scenes where that sort of thing is just plain-old

The hand is 80 % live action RC controlled animatronic and 20% CGI. It's quite dextrous and was mechanized to be self-contained.

The hand is made of polymer and rubber.

2. Also, with HB's eyes - how have you gone about that? It's been mentioned that a lot of acting comes through the eyes - so what have you done with the eyes on big red? Or is that TOP SECRET?

The eyes are full scleral contacts, painted Golden-yellow and burnt sienna by Katsuo -Rick Baker's top guy. They are beautiful. They do have a pupil though. The pupil-less look was too odd would've given away the trick.

3. Much like the techniques used in LOTR, did you consider forced perspective as an option for Hellboy, to give him that extra impact?

Oh, we have a crapload of miniatures and forced perspective composites. I am in favor of all old-fashioned techniques. I favor getting a physical model, stunt, etc and leave CGI only as a last resource.

4. In terms of casting I believe Karel Roden is a perfect choice for Rasputin. I thought his performance in 15 minutes reflects what he is capable of as a man just out of reach of his senses (I thought his performance was perfect).  
I agree.

5. Also, when casting Luke Goss in B2, did you know just how famous/notorious/80s he was to folk in the UK?? No criticism as such - he was bloody brilliant in the film! Bang up job! But like I say "Bros"

The latter is true. I loved Luke's audition. I must also point that he is one of the best human beings I know: humble, hard-working and talented.

6. How much is the script based on the original script for the comic? Is it "Seed of destruction" with small changes to fit a movie better, or is it an entirely new script with only the original idea?

I would say that is sort of the "alternate worlds" version of the HELLBOY mythos. It's loosely based on SOD but it has a completely new set of dynamics between the characters.

7. Is there a sequel planned if the movie is succesful, and will it be based on the next comic album?

I would hope so, but that's a long way to go.

8. Will most of the creatures or monsters be done entirley in CGI or both CGI and make-up?

I would say that they are 70% MAKE UP and animatronics and 30% CGI

9. Have you (Guillermo) and Mignola dissagreed on anything about the movie? If yes, on what and who won?

Only on two small points. Mike won, so they are not in the movie.

10. During production what has been the most heart-rending decision you have had to make concerning editing the comic book content? What was the worst cut? And why wasn't that character/scene in?

I would loooooove to have Roger in. Why isn't he in?? Time and money.

11. Aaaaaaaaand, what was the single most important lesson you learned from directing Blade 2?

I think I got pretty fluent at staging and shooting fights.

12. A slightly more personal question, concerning Master Mignola:

Having met and spent time with Mike, what parts of the comic book reflect his personality most? ie where does Mike "appear" in his comic books? Do you now read Hellboy and at certain points think, "I wish I could be like Mike?"

13. I want to ask how many characters/monsters, situations, etc. are deal by CGI? Is movie packed by special effects or are they used with caution and only when realy necessary?

Answered above.

14. I guess that HB's tail gonna be CGI. What about his big, stone right hand?

Partially answered above. But the tail is also animatronic 70% and CGI 30%

15. How important for you, as a director, are advices or suggestions of Mike Mignola on the set? Does he changed a lot of your ideas or maybe you two agree most of the time with each other?

I value Mike's opinion not only because this is a character and a world he created (I'm just doing my version of it) but because the man is a genius. I really believe it and use the term wholeheartedly.

16. GDT, will Mignola be making a cameo in the film?

He already did. We appear together -my first (and only) cameo too- in a neat scene.

17. And you skipped the teaser/trailer question : ).

I really don't know at this stage but I would venture July/Aug for a teaser.

18. Why did you choose to leave Kate out of this one? (or did you?) I'd have loved to see even a cameo (in the background or something).

Jeez, i dunno, I'm never been a KC fan. My apolgies.

19. And on behalf of some of us folks discussing the pros and cons of 3D-fying a 2D Mignola sketch..., The questions is this.

In designing Hellboy, how many different iterations of him did you do? Speaking for myself, I notice that you kept with the goggle look for his horns instead of going with a more realist animal-like horn translation?

We did what would allow Ron to perform the easiest. Wait a bit 'til more photos pop out and -certainly- until you see him perform. Heavier prosthetics would have made a really neat PHOTO STILL or BA comics acts through an ever-changing model of lines and shadows. He's as flexible as Mike's pen.

Make up is different. Creating a red character is even trickier. Rob Bottin's great make-up for LEGEN always looked odd to me in stills: too rubbery, too bold, etc. It was Curry's performance that sold it t

Make up is a play pen, NOT a prison. Making him red is a tough task, and will only be fully realized when the digital timing is done, The hue in the photo you saw is much more vibrant on film but will pr

Enjoy your weekend, guys. We will "talk" again early next week.

All the best.

Here we go-

1) The jaw? one of my favorite visual aspects of hellboy was his giant jaw that made him look so bad-ass and unique...has that been totally dropped for the movie design? it just doesn't seem too pronou

The jaw is also one of HB's trademarks in my eyes. Wait for more shots. The make-up IS NOT one single photo (color was off BTW) but yes, it was taken to a "real" proportion by the Bakeer guys. Remem

2) i think someone may have already sort of asked this, but is hellboy rockin the hoves/cloven feet in the movie? i hope so....

He does, but ONLY in a couple of scenes. For the rest, he wears regular boots on top of them. The "half-boots" in the comic were completely unpractical, painful, dangerous AND kinda goofy looking in 3

3) somewhat (okay let's face it, \_completely\_) off-topic: have you seen peter jackson's Dead Alive? if so, what did you think of it? just wondering because of your obvious connection the the horror movi

LOVE THAT MOVIE "I kick ass for the Lord!!!" what a scene. Peter Jackson is a true genius. The only movie of his that I didn't like as much was FRIGHTENERS and having done MIMIC I can imagine why.

4) When a teaser shows up, will it have your input or will it purely be a creation of the marketing department? Obviously you're busy making and editing the movie, but would you suggest some shots f

The director is consulted but is the studio that has the last word on marketing.

5) Have you cut the trailers for any of your films?

Oh, I did (MIMIC, BLADE II), they tossed 'em out.

6) If you could direct/write three comic book films, what would they be?

Hellboy, Demon, Domu (Otomo), Coffin, Sandman (no chance of getting that one right in H'wood), Watchman (ditto, a 3-part movie), Killing Joke, Batman year One.

But only ONE of them

7) I'm sure you've read Gary Gianni's Monster Men, and I absolutely love this. Your thoughts on adapting this to screen?

Gianni's brilliant!!! But I think it should be a mini-series, not a movie.

<!-- s8 --><!-- s8 --> What would you have changed in Mimic if you had the chance?

A WHOLE LOT!!!!!!

Want details?? Check the original script (much better before it got "fixed") by going to:

<!-- m --><a class="postlink" href="http://www.horror-asylum.com/media/scripts/mimic.htm">http://www.horror-asylum.com/media/scripts/mimic.htm</a><!-- m -->

or check in your browser by typing "Mimic del Toro Greenberg" and check the listings for a script.

9) the hooves - this has been bugging me since I knew the movie was green-lit (lighted??). Will they be mostly CGI with prosthetics just for close-ups or what?

Completely CGI in the few shots they appear.

10) I heard rumor early on that for the film you and mike had changed the right hand of doom to the left hand of doom, but you had a good reason. Is there any validity to this and if so what was the "g

The right hand remains the right hand of doom. Stone made and all. No switches were ultimately made.

11) Is there any chance we'll be getting a glimpse at this come SXSW '04? If not I at least hope you'll swing by town for a showing or two.

Hi Richard. Not fo SXSW but I'll make a big-ass premiere at the ALAMO DH I hope!!

12) In the comic, as i'm sure you're aware, Hellboy's "Big but FAST" (to kinda quote the Corpse), are the actions sequences going to reflect that? Or maybe a better question, was it difficult to make Hell different than what we've seen in Blade/Blade2, any comment on that?

The HELLBOY fight scenes are EXACTLY as you described them from the comics. Hellboy get beaten a lot and in a BIG way, but when he connects- oh, mamma!!- its hard.

NOTHING to do with the fights in B2. I did that, and I for one have had quite my fill of "acrobatic" martial arts stuff for now.

There is one character that uses blades to fight in the HELLBOY movie but some of the moves he has you have NEVER seen before. And all the fighting of said character is done live. NO acrobatics.

Then, there's HELLBOY himself... 100% two-fisted, bare-knuckled ass-dragging, sweaty, dirty alley fighting- MONSTER SIZE. 0% martial arts. Not with his size!! He weights three-four times what Sammo

13) Since there has been a spate of (less than) fantastic interpretations of Lovecraft's tales in films and other media, do you have any ambition to improve this body of work by making one of your own

Which story would you actually turn into a film anyhow?

I'm thinking the outsider...

I adore "The outsider" it was the FIRST Lovecraft story I ever read. Difficult to do except as a short -all POV until the mirror comes into view...

But next year, I'm hard at work in AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS. I hope it comes through.

14) What are the production facilities like in Prague? Is location shooting difficult or are the city fathers cooperative? When it comes to sculpting statuary and sets, do you bring in artisans from other co

Prague is great. I could live here. The facilities are not ideal but the craftsmanship and people are just amazing. The forefathers are -sometimes- a little bureaucratic but the city is so unspoiled architect

15) Who is the sculptor behind the amazing HB? The make-up fits Ron beautifully!

Matt Rose and Chad Waters from CINNOVATION studios.

16) Any word on that proposed special edition of Cronos on DVD?

Coming out in October, a beatiful re-transfer that we did personally (the DP and I) a new dolby remix and a slew of extras and audio-commentary tracks. Oh, and in some packages a replica of the CRO

Also look out for the DEVIL's BACKBONE ultra-limited edition DVD set from Sony/Sideshow toys with a WETA sculpture of the ghost and the BOMB, limited to a 100 worldwide.

17) Regarding Selma Blair...-- I hear the movie Storytelling made a difference in your casting of her as Ms. Sherman. How true is this, and if not true, how difficult was it casting Liz before you found Bla are you making her do as part of this role?

Yeah, STORYTELLING showed her in a non-comedic (well, some may find Solondz black humor comedic) role. I think she's terrific and there's great chemistry with HB.

18) Regarding the beasties/baddies in this film...-- Sammael (see wayne barlowe HB painting) plays a significant role in this, correct? Is this the name of the demon or a type of demon.--

It is. He's the Lord of the Shadows, harbinger of pestilence, seed of destruction and hound of the resurrection. He looks different from the painting but is VERY miognolaesque.

19) Are the Sadu-Hem depicted in this movie or is that left for the sequel?

They're in, my friend.

20) Regarding Hellboy himself...-- Hooves or Feet?

See above

21) General questions.-- What calendar year does this movie take place in?-- Does HB have any inkling of a chance showing up at Dragon Con. Some of us here Southern boys can't afford to make it to Love Dragoncon- juz love it. HB will open Summer 2004.

22)In Blade II you had to deal with several Blade vs Vampire fights so you were very conscious of lighting, rhythm, efx etc. to make each fight seem different. In the Hellboy storyline, I'm assuming he has Hellboy's technique is to beat the crap out of the monster while the monster beats the crap out of him, but, yes, I do make every "fight" different to give you variances. One is more of a chase or a fight

23) I think the costume of the Gil man in CREATURE OF THE BLACK LAGOON actually concealed a scuba tank in its hump. Abe is pretty slim. Not much room for air tanks. Are you shooting practical underwater? We are using "Dry-for wet" and CGI and wires and everything you -obviously- know about to put Abe under water.

24) -----Funny you mention the Creature from the Black Lagoon TAD. The superhero hype review of the Hellboy script describes the movie as more about a love story. Is more a BEAST and the BEAST type of love story. She explodes a lot, ' member??

25) It's been said that the Daredevil movie got a big budget boost as the result of Spider-man's success. If the summer's comic movies do well, might you get a similar boost?

I don't think so. I'm proud of the freedom I got and I'm working 24/7 to make the budget STREEEEEEEECH!! as much as possible. We could have gotten more -much more- budget by compromising but we want All the best.

Guillermo

PRAGUE 2003

This is the last batch on Sunday night. I am about to read my daughter a bit of THE CORPSE (she's 7 and in love with Hellboy/Ron in makeup) but I have a few minutes to kill-

1) On Blade II you said you liked to use 'background' CGI if you could, to support the scenes (reapers scurrying over walls etc.) Have you continued to do this in Hellboy, or have you mainly stuck with background? I think the substance of BLADE II was in the form, the colors, the shapes, and mostly on the beautiful way Wesley kicks butt. In HB we have a richly textured world and characters but there are some reapers

2) if they decide on Hellboy II (Please ... oh God, I'm whining now ...) would you consider directing it (Preferably with a larger budget this time) if you had the freedom to do it the way you would wish? Whatever the budget, if HB is to continue I would love to be there. I also would love to see him turned into a 100% faithful to mignola anime series (can you imagine that?????!!!!) of short episodes.

3) I was wondering if a young hellboy will make an apperance in the movie?

Yes. Both baby Hellboy in the 40's and still photos of him (briefly glimpse in New Mexico and taken away by an FBI AGENT) these will become downloadable AFTER the movie opens as JPEG files for you to have your VERY OWN BPRD screen saver.

4) With comic book movies and rights being picked up so frequently do you think it will get to a point when even the fans will be tired of comic based movies?

Comic books are -unfortunately- an art form in constant agony... the industry has been half-alive half-dead for almost 2 decades. Movies don't boost sales as much as they should, so -hoping that the future is a more human narrative.

5) A friend of mine really loved the devils backbone, he swears by it and keeps telling me there hasn't been a genre like it. He even wants to make his own scary/noir flick, will you return to this genre? Devil's Backbone I adore. It's a movie where I was left alone. It is also the most difficult hybrid of genres -part war movie, part melodrama, part ghost story- and I could -and I do- talk for hours about it.

I plan to make a companion piece very soon. It is called "Pan's Labyrinth" and its again set against a political background but full of Machenesque/Blackwoodesque elements.

When I return to LA, and shortly after Hellboy opens I am planning to do a small festival where I would introduce 20 genre movies that fans forgot (sort of a larger version of the re-introduction we made

If your friend / or anyone ever leaves a movie (mine or anyone's) feeling such love for cinema that he wants to make a movie of his own, then the movie has touched him/her deeply. I have felt that in movies like OLVIDADOS, EL BRUTO or CITIZEN KANE. Movies make our dreams seem closer. Tell your friend to make his movie. He will learn a lot. About himself, about cinema and about telling a story. Daring is winning

That said. I'll shut up and go to work and sleep. My daughter is tapping me on the shoulder for the 5th time.

Stay well

G del Toro

Prague 2003

A few quick answers and then, on to the set!!

1) I had another question concerning the story.

Since I started reading Hellboy quite late, I started out with the "Hellboy: The Chained Coffin and Others" TpB. I thought the hellboy character was a bit of an ignorant person. Hit first then ask question (the monster doesn't seem to do anyone harm and sits perfectly happy in his tower).

Will this aspect of the hellboy character return in the movie?

I wouldn't call HB "ignorant" but he's a hardboiled kinda guy. "Seen 'em all, beat 'em all" and very "working class" about his approach to all things supernatural. An ancient grimoire from the 17th century.

He is what he is and we are not watering down his nature.

2) To comment on the Abe Sapien make-up being too stiff.

The Abe character in the comic is very stiff himself, almost decadent with his high and mighty attitude. So little emotion would fit him perfectly.

Guys, the pictures reveal what the pictures have, not the every detail of the character in the movie. Abe is my favorite. As for a few folk that digged him more in human visage, well, that's their opinion and approach.

3) What other houses are working on the show aside from Phil Tippett? Any in Los Angeles?

Orphanage, Eden, Fantasy II and others. All in LA.

4) Also, poster question....I have 2 words....DREW STRUZAN. Thoughts?

I love his work but we are going another route. Hope you dig it.

5) Will the rocketpacks be in the movie?

Nope. Saved 'em for the future.

6) Ever met Bruce Campbell?

Only briefly -too briefly- love the guy.

7) As far as merchandise, do you have anything in mind?

I would hope they at least do "the Samaritan" real size and a few 12" sideshow figures and statues. I know SPECTRAL MOTION is doing a handful of great resin kits taken directly from the maquettes -uh

BTW the DVD will include footage of every single maquette and a GALLERY of them.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> If there ever will be a Hellboy 'toon, do you think it would be anything like HBO's "Spawn"?

If you mean "not kiddie oriented" yeah, I would hope so.

9) How do you feel about images being leaked onto the net?

The net is democracy, like it or not, is here to be the great equalizer. Long live democracy, folks.

10) Kudos to you for favoring live-action over CGI. All the CG in Spider-Man really seemed to take a lot of the soul out of it. I think because the whole "How'd they do that?" element was lost. Keep up the good work.

Don't get me wrong. We have over 900 CGI shot/digital enhancement shots. But Mignola's universe needs a strong physical component to the creatures.

11) How did you first get into Hellboy? Did you hear about it from a friend, or did it just grab your eye from the shelf?

I was already a fan. Picked it up as my MIGNOLA FIX. Got hooked.

12) What's your take on Ellis's Transmetropolitan? Who would you suggest make a Transmet film if it were ever optioned?

Love reading it. I'm not the guy to make a movie out of it.

13) Have you ever thought of doing something for television, an HBO mini-series, perhaps? I could see you helping out with a Dark Tower TV series.

Yeah, I would've loved to do a series based on pulp occult detectives from WEIRD TALES.

14) With all this talk of a "Mountains of Madness" film, would you consider working with Rob Bottin on this one? The Thing is one of my faves, and I'd really like to see him get some work on another horror

Rob is a genius, he has done the best Lovecraftian effects ever. Yeah, he's high on the list. Might prove tough to afford though-

15) What novels do you recommend? Personally, I think that you'd get a kick out of "The Sirens of Titan" by Kurt Vonnegut.

I'm into horror. Science Fiction I enjoy only if it is human-driven, Ellison, Sturgeon, Matheson, Bradbury, etc

As far as good horror, well anything by Ramsey Campbell, Algernon Blackwood, Arthur Machen, Joseph Sheridan LeFanu, MR James, Stephen King, William Hope Hodgson, Lovecraft, Robert W Chamber.

16) One of Mignola's many talents is his ability to seamlessly meld Satanic, Lovercraftian, and Pagan European concepts of the supernatural (mostly evil, but. . .). As much of this may derive from Mike's

Mike and I discussed this: he has carefully melded all concepts of Hellboy origin: the Cosmic origin (aliens, etc) the judeo-Christian origin (heck) and the Lovecraftian origin.

I think that to lock into only one is to diminish the character and make it "offensive" to certain groups. Hellboy is such a great character that it would pain me to see him misread. The movie has a good

17) What about Mike's bizzare rendition of Hell, where the big "S" never actually makes an appearance? (Or at least is named. . .) Since most of the audiecne is coming in with preconcieved notions of Hell

No hell on this one. There are other issues to tackle.

18) Speaking of Hell, what place will Christianity have in the film? Will HB be on a first name basis with a number of Catholic preists? (I personally love that about the comic.) Of course I realize that in the real power of the cross and holy ground to be admirably true to Mike's source material.

You said it: HB is "underground" on this one. But Broom gives a definite origin to the logo of the BPRD: the slaying sword of archangel St. Michael.

19) You probably might not want to answer this one, but: . . . aliens? Buh? Maybe. . . ? I assume that the American populace might not be ready to take on THAT many fantastic elements in one film, but

I agree!!!! I was dying to have 'em but found their prescence beautifully mistifying in the comics and utterly baffling on film. We are saving 'em for later.

20) I was kinda disturbed (well, that's way too strong a word) about a script review I read way back a while ago that intimated that Rasputin has a smaller part in the movie. In fact, I would argue that Rasputin is the Conquerer Worm - in a movie the characters can't have that oh so lovable and warm sense of immutability. I guess all I really want to know is: do Rasputin and company retain that powerful and disturbing

Whoever reported Rasputin is not the main villian misread the pages. He is. Ilsa is different in the film. Her devotion is to Grigori. But her final moment is equally touching.

21) Speaking of immutability: how tough was it to expand HB and clan as chracters? Part of the masterpiece that is HB is, as you said, the strange simplicity of it all, including minimalist character development of the park, but how hard was it/how did you go about it?

It was not hard. Just different from the comics, where the relationships are barely hinted at. Mike enjoys it quite a bit. He gave me the biggest compliment. He said: "Had I seen your script before I did the

22) Will you be taking any breaks from the film schedule to make a trip to ComicCon this year? If so, will you be bringing any of the cast and crew with you? I think it would be a great opportunity to show

Sadly, no breaks.

23) Belinda: the stes won't appear until late summer or early fall. In the meantime, what you see are NOT stills or studio portraits of the characters, just a glimpse of them.

Ciao until Sunday.

All the best

Guillermo  
Prague  
2003

Hello from Prague again!!

Let's go:

1) Budget constraints. You're a master at wheedling every bit of film you can out of the last cent, and in your commentary for Blade II you said you liked to use 'background' CGI if you could, to support all the little details etc you put in B2 as it added such substance to the film.

We have the creatures in HELLBOY about 70% real fx and 30% CGI effects, but sometimes this percentage goes into blending CG components over a make up or animatronic so as to keep the eye busy

2) one is a closeup of Kroenen. it looks pretty cool, but will we be able to see he eyes through the mask in the movie like you can in that photo? i sorta hope not, it looks kind of strange.

The photos on countingdown were NOT official or sanctioned by the Hellboy production (good scoop Dave!!) so I have not seen them excpet in printouts (they seem to me to be taken by an extra during

3) another picture is one of all of the GIs and prof. broom in their "look, we found ourselves a hellboy" pose, of course minus the little hellboy. will he be inserted with CGI? or will he have some 'real' elements?

You'll have to wait and see... But rest assured, the lil' red monkey will be there-

3) last picture is of kroenen and rasputin. just awesome. nothing to ask about that, other than why is it so damn cool?

We tried to re-create the Mignola "steam" effect by shooting most of this sequence in under-zero temperatures ( one day the trees froze so hard and got so filled with ice stalactytes that a few of them

3) Have you or anyone else seen any of the anime SoulTaker? i don't think it's particularly good, but the one thing that got me to even bother watching it is that the animation is like watching Mignola's art.

I am an anime addict (my daughter is -right now- watching Totoro for the 1000 th time) but as far as SOULTAKER is concerned, I found it not very engaging, I can barely remember it. Nice cover art though.

4) where would this movie be if pearlman had never been born? as in, was there any other choices for the part of HB?

Not for me. I would be doing something else.

5) any relation to Benicio Del Toro? (im sure many people no this answer, but i dont...sue me.)

Benicio is Puerto Rican, I am Mexican. But the last name comes from a common branch started in Spain and Portugal. It originated with an ancestor who apparently owned a Bull. I have met Benicio so

6) What is the Coffin lookin' like? Has there been any progress made on getting that proposed adaption greenlit?

We are working on it. The main variance is that the "suit" is now a rescue telemetry robot with neural links. I hope to continue working after the fall or Winter but right now time is crazy.

7) In an interview, Mike said you had been working on the Hellboy script for about five years. In the most general terms, what were the "mistakes" you made in the first draft? Too ambitious? Character

When I came on board there was a completely different draft than the one I am shooting. I started anew. It is not my position to comment on that first draft in critical terms it was simply not what I wanted.

As far as my own drafts, they have remained -in essence- the same all along.

<!-- s8 --><!-- s8 --> I don't see how you would, but are you ever working on the story of a future movie while you're shooting? How

Mmmh- maybe yes, but I have a tight writing agenda for post. I'll go to pages on WIND IN THE WILLOWS and polishing the last draft of MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS.

9) When you write the first draft do you worry about length or budget or are you just trying to get all the good stuff out of you and onto the page?

I worry about budget but I don't censor myself on the page. I have -many times- found creative ways to have "expensive looking" scenes for a fraction of the cost.

10) You sit down and say, "By damn! I'm going to adapt Hellboy!" What's the first thing you do? Put the best stuff from the comics on a bulletin board? Write plot points on cards? Ask Mike what he'd do

Well in the case of Hellboy I met with Larry Gorodn and Lloyd Levin and started working -isolated in a Holiday Inn in Monterrey Nuevo Leon- until I banged out 70 pages of ideas and molded them into a

Of course I went through the comics and filled them with highlighter marks and POST-IT notes, etc and then made an inventory in my diary, filled it with images and sketches and then started "living" with it (in

11) What's your usual process for starting a script?

Oh, God, there isn't one. But in general I do 3x5 structure cards and then 4-5 pages of bios on the characters and then go to pages.

12) What was the process for HELLBOY?

It was VERY hard. Adaptation is like marriage to a widow. You have to be tactful and respectful. Totally aware about the memory of the late husband. But, hey! at some point the honeymoon requires s

13) Seems like I remember that Hellboy the Movie started development at Universal. Did you get notes from studio executives? Did they help?

Got notes. No comments.

14) When you took the project to Revolution, more notes? Or no?

No notes. Just love for the material. Revolution has been a dream come true.

CONTINUE

15) Does writing a story for the BPRD comic hold any interest for you?



I am talking to Mike about doing one HB short story (which I think is the ideal medium for the character) in the near future.

16) My question actually has nothing to do with Hellboy, but it has constantly been nagging me after seeing Blade 2.

After seeing Blade 2 (still have to buy the dvd, so I only saw it once in theaters) it appeared to me that the use of parts of the Cartoon Network animation series The Powerpuff Girls was intentionally an option.)

I always thought this was you, the director telling us, Blade 2 was just a fun action flick, nothing too serious.

At least that is what I try telling my friends when they are too lazy to check out Cronos or The Devils Backbone and only know your work from Mimic.

You are 100% right. I have actually said that in interviews. To me BLADE II was pure -kinda brainless- entertainment and was ultimately a feast of color, noise and movement much like an adult version of

17) Ow and since we should uphold the Hellboy theme, my sub-question should obviously be :

Will there be some hidden subtext of criticism on the film or the film industry (for example the comic hype Hollywood probably will push until comics become an annoyance to the casual moviegoer) in

No. Hellboy is a story about nature vs nurture and contains simple but hopefully beautiful truths about what it is to be human.

18) BTW & & Anyway is there a possibility of ever getting an internship working on one of your filmsets ?

Yup- if the time and the place are right it might happen. Two of our conceptual artists were guys at met at conventions and 2 storyboarders were employees at DVD shops!! Ask Simeon- I try to be accessible for a lil' longer.

19) My first question is about controversy. Do you foresee Hellboy causing any controversy among the public, or critics, etc? It seems as if anything that deals with heaven, hell, or religion is highly controversial.

No one controls controversy. Hellboy is just clean fun. Blade II had a far more mischievous spirit. Much more punk and hard. HB is truly like the comic: full of imagination and presenting us an unlikely genre.

20) I love the way you interact with fans. I wish more directors shared your passion for getting things right and pleasing the fans.

I am not only the president. I am also a client. Geek club.

21) My second bit of questions are related. Firstly, there is only one comic that I enjoy more than Hellboy (I love HB, but I apologize to all HB fans) and that is Garth Ennis's run of Preacher.

Are you familiar with this? Yup-

Do you like it? Not as much as HB

And, after viewing your passion for Hellboy, and your attempts to do it right without sacrificing the material for the crappy studio, would you ever consider doing a Preacher film? Not really. You give these people a hard time. I'm married 15 years ago. I am the same way about movies. I will only engage if I think is marriage material. No one night stands.

I believe it would take someone with enough balls (like you) who has your passion for the project, and wouldn't back down on his beliefs, and I would probably be elated if I ever heard you were connected.

The right guy will come. And if not, we always have the comics, right?? No one will screw with the published issues.

And just to connect these two questions, how would you deal with the controversy created by Preacher, if you chose to be involved?

Looks like I won't Nacho.

22) Just saw DEAD ALIVE last night on cable. Thanks for the recommend. It would be hilarious to see it with a crowd.

But to questions: I believe you've said that BLADE II was a popcorn superhero movie while HELLBOY is a horror movie. But BLADE II certainly traded on horror elements and Hellboy is certainly a variation of

You are right. The horror in Hellboy will be of the comic book kind. Not disturbing, but very entertaining. BII was a whole different beast.

So, keep in touch guys. I enjoy the chat quite a bit. Expect HB the movie to come out early summer or late spring 2004 and keep spreading the word about the big red guy.

Yours truly

Guillermo

Hi from Prague!!

1) Can you try and get the Cronos and Devil's Backbone special edition DVD's a release in the UK. American DVD's don't work over here and we generally end up with extra-less DVD's that claim "scene deleted"

The CRONOS special edition that was published in France will ONLY exist there, but we will release a 10th anniversary edition in the USA in October, loaded with stuff. DEVIL'S BACKBONE will get a special

2) What about Abe's eyes? A key means of human (which I think 99% of Abe is, especially in his personality) expression comes from our eyes. We widen them when surprised, squint when angry, etc. I want to know if you're using CG, either via photo-manipulation or complete CG replacement of his eyes? And if so, where does Mr. Jones get involved in that post process? Usually animators decide how a CG element will finally appear, and they use a mask for eye movement reference for the animators. Or maybe this is not an issue to you at all.

You will get a little of everything. SPECTRAL MOTION did a fabulous puppet Abe's "blinking" is done by 3 different "nictomembranes" and his eyes widen a little bit when surprised, etc, but we will do so

3) I take it that Hellboy will be rated R. Every work that you've done thus far has been, that I know of, and I'd imagine that it would free you substantially creatively. But perhaps studio pressure (though even though I still hope that to be the case.

Nope. Hellboy will be PG-13. The Mignola books have no cursing, no nudity and all violence -or most of it- is inflicted amongst monsters. There is actually no reason to "push" for another rating.

4) Will Abe's gills be touched-up with CG or do you have finalized mechanics in the makeup?

They are fully mechanical. And a beauty to behold.

5) And one that won't get a response for it has already been asked and cryptically answered but, pweese, pweese, pwetty pweese can you tell us how you plan on creating little Hellboy? Full CG? CG/puppet?

We created a puppet mostly for reference, but we will use extensive CG because of the size of the mechanics needed in a space that remains syill very small.

6) Do you have an extra camera handy on the set as you film that will capture stuff for the DVD's special features? I think I speak for all when I say, please give us as much behind the scenes info and

We will have the mother of all behind-the-scenes. I believe that DVD's are the film schools of the future and should give us collectors a real peek behind the scenes.

7) And finally (this was asked before), no voice manipulation with Hellboy or Abe, right? Though if so, I'm sure you know what you're doing and won't over-exaggerate anything.

I rather die than do that voice manipulation crap. It sound horrible.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> What do you think of The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (comic and movie)?

Haven't seen the movie, but Alan Moore is brilliant always. Love the comic.

9) Will Abe's origin be in the movie? If so, will it be as sketchy as in the comic, or more detailed?

Just as in the comic. Although Mike was telling me about a comic HE will publish next year with the origin. Pretty heady stuff, even by Mignola standards.

10) I realize you are very, very busy, so please just read this. No reply is needed if you don't have time.

I have been reflecting the past few days upon what it would be like if you directed Watchmen. I (for the longest time) have wanted nothing more than to see this brought to the big screen. After thinking about it so long, I feel strangely with a deep inner saddess. (Or something to that effect). The end result is that when I see one of your films, the inner beauty makes me feel like crying (which I did after the Devil's Backbone). I want to see Watchmen to the big screen. Look at Peter Jackson. He did some great films, but he only truly was noticed by all when he did the Lord of the Rings Trilogy. I believe this could make you one of the, if not the, greatest directors of our time. I hope you'll let me to write this post.

I think that part of being able to sleep well at night is to assume charge of your own acts -including mistakes- and that no matter how much you love a property you have to -when offered it- ask yourself if you're ready. WATCHMAN one name kept popping in my head: Marty Scorsese.

He will never make it, I know. But, me? No. I am not "possesed" by WATCHMAN the way I am by HELLBOY. Movies suck the life out of you for years and years...

I may -however- keep an eye on it as an "interested party". It won't be hard, since the producer -Larry Gordon- is doing HELLBOY. My short geek list of guys to direct it: Scorsese, Gilliam, Cameron, Fincher.

11) It is a real honor to be able to leave a message to one of the greatest filmmakers/writers of our time.

I'll pass it on Burke, but in the meantime, any questions for me?

12) What is the actors name that is playing Abe Sapien? I have a feeling it is someone from BLADE2.

No, his name is DOug Jones. We worked together in the movie MIMIC -sigh- he played a giant "Judas insect"

13) And would'nt it be nice if you could get the person that did the music for Conan The Barbarian(the greastest music in motion picture history) to do the music for HELLBoY the motion picture?

You are talking about Basil Pouledoris. A great musician. He also did ROBOCOP which kicks butt. But I'm on track to do it with Marco Beltrami.

14) Do we get any quirky scenes like in the comicbook where there's just a bunch of demons hanging out just discussing HB?

If there ever is a sequel. You'll get 'em. We are quirky enough already.

15) Have you changed how Grigori get's rediscovered in the movie? Is he doing the meditation thing or is he still active between the time that HB is reborn and the time that they next meet?

It's similar and yet very different. They DO find him in a frozen landscape (Eastern Europe though) but the "resurrect" him.

16) GDT - Just rented Blade 2 - your commentary was insightful and hilarious. Actually it's the only film of yours I've seen but I've got The Devil's Backbone set up for tomorrow.

Oh, and I love when Goyer asks Snipes "if he has a black belt or something in some style". And Snipes just kind of laughs at him. Pretty great.

I also realized that I rather prefer the action in Blade 2 to The Matrix Reloaded. I didn't really dig your movie when I saw it in the theaters - probably because I'm like Peter and am a big ^^^ when it comes to action (I did a lot of job with what you had.) It also might have had something to do with the evil parents who forced their screaming five year old daughter to sit through it.

But I thought your use of cg and fights exemplified why a lot of people walked away from The Matrix Reloaded slightly unsatisfied. So much of the Matrix was THIS IS AN EFFECT while Blade 2 is WAY more grounded. It pulls you out of the reality. Okay enough kissin' ass. For today.

Consider it kissed. Thank you my friend.

17) Kinda curious how Abe will handle conflict in this one. Seeing how gracefull and beautifull and otherworldly he is, it seems kinda hard to imagine him kicking ass. How did you handle that?

He is not the man of action in this one. I am saving that for -hopefully- future adventures where you will see Abe kick butt in a graceful "acquatic" fight style. Here, he is the brainy guy with psychic powers.

18) A lot of comic-book movies seem to be ending with the old to-be-continued sequel-style endings..will HellBoy feel like a whole movie or are you gonna leave it open ended for a possible HellBoy 2 ?

Not at all. But I would love -if given the budget- to add a small "epilogue where he kicks Werewolf butt.

19) Premieres an' stuff - I think you maybe mentioned the ALAMO, but as well as the Stateside premiere will you be doing any European prems with cast members? And ... what about coming to the World premiere maybe ...just MAYBE ... HB2 ...

I love Glasgow. Perfect Gothic landscapes. Love Edinburgh too -The Beane cannibal clan operated nearby. I will go everywhere the damn thing opens.

cont-

20) In hindsight, is there anything you would change about Cronos or did it turn out pretty well how you envisaged, and how difficult was it to get the project onto the screen?

Any film is hard to do. The first one is no exception. It was a very grueling ordeal. The best and worst of times: I was fructifying a project that I cherished for 8 years but -being financially screwed- I was forced to sell it.

The screenplay was much better than the film -I think- and I would have done a lot of things differently. But each movie is a portrait of the moment you made it in. And to me CRONOS still has a lot of quality.

21) GDT I was wondering how you are dealing with the issue of introducing such a bizzare set of characters to the public. It seems to be the main complaint linked to the first X-men film that that's all it is (by the way)

Also I've just been listening to PJ Harvey and I recon she'd be cool for a track in the film. Perhaps HB singing along in the bath???

Love PJ, that's a good idea. The rest of your question is more a marketing issue. I'm not an expert. All I know is that I fell in love with the character, so some people are bound to love him too. Numbers don't matter.

22 ) Which of my....I mean Gregori's servants will be appearing in the film? Although I have a basic idea, I would love to hear the low down of the baddies and their significance in the film.

An honor, sir. Ilsa is here with us. And so is Kroenen. Von Krupt is there for a second or two.

23) Is there any plan to use von Klempt or Lobster Johnson in a future movie? (Namely the Conqueror Worm storyline, which I love)

Not this time around.

24) Given you ever venture out into comics again I'd LOVE nothing more than to see you do a 3-part Watchmen or The Coffin. That would be beyond cool. (I hope to God someone as talented as you find the time)

I hope Coffin happens.

25) I couldn't be happier with the choice of director and star for this movie. It is gonna rock!

26) What do you think of THE MATRIX films? Do you think the first BLADE influenced THE MATRIX? It seems to me that the films share a lot of elements: super-powers, wire fu fights, techno music, long takes.

I think BLADE kicked butt. And I -personally- got a bigger rush from it than from Matrix. BLADE is not a "flawless" film. It's rough around the edges and sometimes kinda clunky, but there is so much raw talent.

I think the movie will be reexamined in the future. Norrington, Goyer and Wes created a world that I had to join -even if just once.

27) You've made several vampire films -- are there any other classic monsters that you'd like to make movies about?

I would amputate my left hand and a chunk of the right -I don't need ALL fingers- to do FRANKENSTEIN the way the novel intended it to. Much as I adore certain versions (namely Whale, Fisher's and FRANKENSTEIN 2003)

28) I loved Blade 2 and was thrilled to hear Goyer will be directing Blade 3. What are your thoughts on Goyer getting to direct Blade 3?

I think he's gonna kick our butts!!! Goyer is very talented and you should seek ZIG-ZAG his feature debut to check his great actor work. Specially check Oliver Platt and Snipes!!!!

29) Were you happy with the BLADE 2 script? If the studio had given you free rein, what changes, if any, would you have made?

I did a few changes, but I was afraid of "messing it up" I was sure Goyer had the pulse of the series and didn't want to change it to a point where it became too "dense" . I would have loaded more "head

30) Do you still plan to make THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS? If so, will you direct this film, or produce only?

I don't give up on projects, I just wait on them to happen.

31) What comics and books are you reading lately?

Lone Wolf 2100, THE NEVERMEN, Anything by Jim Woodring and Ben Katchor.

32) What is your favorite film of the past 5 years?

Jeez- lemme see. I flipped over SPIRITED AWAY, MONONOKE, MONSTERS inc, UNBREAKABLE, LE PACT DES LOUPES, TALK TO HER, etc

33) Regard Abe Sapien..

-- Are you going with Doug's [Jones] voice for the voice of Abe? If yes, are you modifying his voice to sound more fishy (gargle sound fx, etc.) or are you going for a straight human, unmodified sound?

No modified sounds. Doug is one of the choices and will get a shot at it. The other choices -my dream choices- are David Hyde-Pierce and Kevin Spacey.

-- This is about the photo of Abe that we've all seen...is that background taking from Abe's room?

No, is broom's library.

-- Can you get Doug to come by the Board to answer some questions too? pretty please )

Doug left Prague about 24 hours ago. But let me see what we can do.

34) Regarding Hellboy.

-- For both the images that we've seen of HB. Where are the two backgrounds taken from.. the metallic background from the new pic and the weird hellish carvings from the first side shot of HB. Is that

No. Once again, Broom's library.

35) Regarding the Mecha Gloves.

-- Absolutely, hands down the best thing I've seen in ages... how heavy are those things, has Karl had any problems using them in his scenes?

Thank you. They are SUPER HEAVY and yes, Karel was nearly death at the end of the scene -shot in freezing rain.

36) Do you plan on directing any films completely lacking in horror?

I dunno. I just do what I like. SOme time the projects vary. I have a suspense script to write and WIND IN THE WILLOWS, but even that one is pretty different to the usual versions.

37) What do you think of Dario Argento? You see with Suspiria and Tenebrae he was getting pretty close to that Michal Powell idea of total cinema, only he was always let down by ropey plots. Devil's B conscious decision on how to employ each or are you just annoyingly talented? <!-- s:-) --><!-- s:-) -->

I wish I was. I DO -however- work very hard about getting a coherent -and meaningful- color palette and textures. I remember a comment made about Fellini -one of my idols- where it was said that wh open to inspiration adn the ever blissful chance.

38) Quite a few reviews mention the tendancy of some of your films, mainly Cronos and Devil's Backbone to try and reconcile different aspects of Spanish culture and nationality, but there was this one (I'm trying to show Cronos and Devil's Backbone as part of a film club double bill and I need some introduction links..)

If I wanted "distribution" I would have done DEVILS BACKBONE in English. That's nonsense. I think that one has to make films of thing that are close to your heart and mind, whatever nationality you are

39) Last one, more a request than a question, please can you try and get the Cronos and Devil's Backbone special edition DVD's a release in the UK. American DVD's don't work over here and we gener

See Q&A 1 in this column.

40) Didn't you mention that Hellboy would listen to Tom Waits if he listened to music? I hope I'm correct in that assumption. Well, I think I saw on here that you said that the soundtrack would be 70% i almost has a Tom Waits feel to it, and the track "Shoot me Again" has the dirty-rock-and-roll feel that screams "working man's music." I also feel that "Shoot me Again" would be cool because it sort of choice in any soundtrack suggestions.

I love the Metallica symphonic album. I know Dirty Window" Lemme think.

41) Also, are you in favor of adding lots of features on a DVD? My decision to buy a DVD usually depends on the quality of the special features.

You bet. It will be SUPERLOADED.

Stay in Touch

G del T  
PRAGUE 2003

PD Typhoon24 is here!

Hello from Prague:

1) Have you pursued FRANKENSTEIN any? the part about the movie, not the self-mutilation...Steve Sommers probably has first dibs on Frankensteins monster right now, but I'm sure you might get you

I have, many times in the past, but there's always a "new" adaptation on the way -right now is Hallmark's. If they do the book right a big weight will lift of my obese shoulders.

2) I had a conversation with Jim Jacks (producer of "The Mummy", etc) and at one point he wanted GdT to direct a new version of "Bride Of Frankenstein" at Universal. I never asked GdT if this ever wen

3) You start the day with a shot list, or a thumbnail storyboard of compositions you want to get on film. Do you have similar notes of what you want to get out of the actors or is that innate in this case

I start with the storyboard but then watch the performer in make up or even the animatronic puppet. If they need to be pushed, then you push. If not, you just enjoy it. Every character in this movie is p

4)Do you prepare the actors before the first take or do just go over the physical blocking and see what they do?

I empty the set and rehearse with the actors -if the scene is dramatic- but I already have a storyboard and a blocking in mind. If anything better pops out, I embrace it right there. If the scene is action,

5) Do you have to work with your actors differently or is everyone on the same wavelength? For instance, does Ron prepare differently than Selma?

Totally. Some actors don't like rehearsals, some do. Some are more "Academic" and some are more "Method". Some of them get it on the very first take, some need 5 takes to start "finding it" so the d has a measure of input and patience. Different needs. Find their pulse.

6) Is it harder to get the subtleties you want from Ron (or anyone) in heavy make up compared to working with him without?

Yes, absolutely. SOmetimes I have to push or push back the performer in prosthetics until he/she finds the right wavelenght. But with Ron? no need. The man is a master in make up.

7) Abe's eyes are mechanical, his body is human, gils mechanical, face (a combination?) - I'm guessing several people are working together to give a performance. How do you direct them? Can you ta

Not exactly. Abe is a very "controlled" character. He -like most fishes- expresses through his body movement. A lot of his body language becomes the performance. A bit like silent cinema.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Romantic scenes between monster and human? Are there any challenges for you as a director when filming the

Make the monster as human as possible. Show his most vulnerable, open side.

9) What did you shoot today?

Saturday? Hellboy fighting Sammael.

10) GDT? You've mentioned that a Hellboy cartoon/anime could be planned for the future. Have you had a chance to see "Animatrix" yet? Great stuff. You also mentioned that you had been watching "Monster, Inc." from Pixar/Disney. Over at the CBR Hellboy.com board we've been kick'n the idea around that a Pixar-Hellboy toon would be interesting. What do you think?

Pixar is pure genius. Pure and simple. And now they have Brad Bird, Jeez, are they unstoppable or what?? BUt I don't know if they would embrace something with links to any studio other than Disney.

11) Oh, and that Werewolf butt kicking epilogue? That would make for a great 2-3 minute mini-movie after the credits.

I know-

12) So? Just how big a check ya need?

Mmmh, lemme see (checks his wallet) A little over 500 thousand??

13) One of the "trademarks" of (comic) Hellboys fightingskills, is the abblity to jump way, way high in the air, with the stonehand lifted above his head looking really mean (you all know the scen!) ...

He does it once in a major fight. How? You'll see...

14) May 26, 2004 or May 28, 2004?

Hi Paul. Miss ya. May 28 I believe.

15) How the heck are you? Just Dandy. Getting enough rest? Never. Can't wait to see you come August. Me too. Let's get together with Sapien. BTW tell him I recommended him for Bill with Goyer. He s

16) I don't know if you remember me but I contacted you a few years ago, right after that first "teaser" poster for Hellboy ( the one with the Summer 2000 date on it) was posted on AICN.

Yes I do. Very talented fela.

17) Anyway I just wanted to let you know how utterly cool it is that you are doing this, just like how cool you were answering my e-mails a couple of years ago. Not many people in your possition do tha

Missionary position?

18) My question is: Is there going to be a Nazi Gorilla in this film.

Not on this one. Pray for a next one.

19) I just bought The Nevermen sunday. What did you think? I haven't gotten to reading it, but it looked awesome.

You and me oh, powerful monk. I looove the images.

20) What color will the monster blood be, presuming that there is any. I'm pulling for red, personally.

Tough luck, yellow. Hellboy's? Red.

21) You mentioned a possible werewolf fight, would this be the one from the "Wolves of Saint August" story? That's definitely one of my fave HB fights, with the best one liners ever. "I hope that HURT."

The line we have in the movie. The fight?? We'll see.

22) Speaking of one liners, are most of them taken from the books, or are most of them original?

23) Does Broom have his Akira hair in this?

You bet. Crazy-ass hair.

24) Who's the designer behind the new Comicon posters (GvsE)?

They are photographic posters.

25) I thought you hated visitors to the set How many journalists besides Nick and David are up there?

I do hate visits -although my daughters and wife visit me and I enjoy that- but this week we have some press. I can handle that type of visit very well. They're there to work, liek all of us.

26) just wondering, besides the scene involving Professor B and a young HellBoy, will there be any other scenes or flashbacks showing HB growing up and stuff?

Just a couple of pics form his childhood in NM.

27) btw: any other comicbook stories/characters that interest you?

Read my other posts.

28) Say, how are you working the whole "young" Bruttholm thing? Do you have a different actor, or are you going with makeup?

Ever since Dick Smith retired I find that old/young age make up -except for Rick Baker- looks extra cheesy. We went for another actor to play young Broom. A very good match.

29) I was wondering since Hellboy the comic has mini stories and kind of one shots, is there a chance we'll see some form of these in movie form? Maybe as a promo or short or something?

Would love that. But not right now, I don't think.

30) And I was also wondering how you got started, I know that's not an easy question to answer. But a lot of directors make an indie feature and expand, just wondering how you got your big break?

I've been working my butt off in cinema for more than 20 years in "pro" movie positions. I've been doing little movies since I was 8. Every break along the line is as lucky as the next. But you attract luck. I won the Best of Week prize at Cannes.

That kinda changed it all.

31) You mentioned that you like Fritz Leiber's stories.

My favorite is CONJURE WIFE.

32) Have you ever considered making a Fafhrd and Gray Mouser film? You would be the perfect director for the project. And Mike Mignola could be on the design team. I love his cover art for the White

I love Mike's take on the characters. But I don't feel kinship with them to that degree.

33) The press release from Revolution refers to "telepathic "Mer-Man" Abe Sapien." Why did you make Abe telepathic?

Please permit me to -before answering your question- share a few thoughts with you. Please be patient: When you watch the movie, imagine that you are reading an "elseworld" version of SEED OF DE

If that's the experience you seek, the graphic novel will provide it. In the movie I had to invent/change/intensify some of the roles and relationships that are hinted at -or not developed in- the comics. M

I felt that EVERY member of the BPRD except the human agents should have a strength to bring to the table. Abe, being sort of half fish-half mammal, possesses a unique frontal lobe. Much like a dolphin

But Abe is also the character with most knowledge and sort of the egghead of the group in terms of occult knowledge. You'll see how and why this is presented.

Abe is so cool in the comics. He deserved something cool to do in the movie.

34) By now you've (probably) seen Harry's pics and movie that were put up on Wednesday. Did you expect images of Sammael to get out this soon, if at all? Or was it inevitable?

It is our nature as fans to be impatient. And it is, and has always been the nature of the net to feed us information. Media has become a two-way street. Sometimes a little too much. But not in this case.

35) I've been a good boy and didn't look at the Sammael pics. But apparently you have a statue of him on your desk in the ten second video and, well. . . I kinda watched it a few (several) times. So how

Take two aspirins and write me in the morning.

36) And are you going to give Mr. Knowles a dutch rub?

Nope. Harry made it clear when we first met, that our friendship would not deter him from posting stuff that he acquired. I respect that in him. He knows how to separate the two worlds. I love the fat

37) I read somewhere that the head in the jar baddie is not the one we all know and love. What's the deal?

There is NO HEAD IN THE JAR in this movie. If there is a sequel.

IF...

Then there will be one. And it may not be the one you expect. But until then-

38) Who would you cast as Lobster Johnson? Someone in another thread suggested Bruce Campbell. Thanks.

Perfect casting. If I need him, that will be my first call. You have my word.

39) How are you holding up?

Cool as a fat cucumber.

40) You're filming the entire picture, no second unit. You're editing the picture as you go (we hear there's already a rough cut). You're now hosting internet and mainstream press. You're writing pages daughter The Corpse!

So what's a typical 24 hour period like for you these days?

Wake up 3 hours before call (usually 9.00) storyboard a bit of doodles, watch a piece of a movie. Get ready and leave for a scout before call. USually the next location.

12 hours of shooting and meetings at lunchtime. Then wrap and come back hom. Fall asleep. Start over again 8 hours later.

41) Would you start your own production company? Seems like everyone and their granny does that these days, although Revolution seem to have been pretty good support-wise with HB. Or maybe you

I have a production company that dedicates itself to promote movies in MEXICO and SOUTH AMERICA. We have co-produced or produced: THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE, STREET 54 (great documentary about movies in places where making movies needs to be supported.

As far as a company in English. I don't really have interest in amassing money and power. I just want to do my movies, as much in my terms as possible and just enjoy my life as much as I can. So, no.

42) You made a comment last week about the Bean(e) family of Galloway here in Scotland. Sawney Bean and his murderous clan would make a great subject for a movie ... medieval mayhem, murder,

Not really, but I would love to see one. Gruesome stuff. Did you know that Wes Craven was inspired in the true story for HILLS HAVE EYES??

43) Oh, and one last thing - how is Wind in the Willows coming on? I must say this is a real departure for you from your previous work. Can you tell us anything about it, and do you have any ideas on c

Once again, it will be a very different version than the ones you are used to- There's no date yet and yes, Ron will play a part.

44) Although none of the characters have mentioned it specifically, there are times when the physical plane of the Mignola universe is affected by the presence of the supernatural. I can think of two ex

Did you use any indirect ways like these to suggest the presence of evil in the film?

Not really. NOT in this movie. But check out DEVILS BACKBONE. You might dig it.

45) If things move according to schedule....

When will music composition start?

Next week.

Where do you think the score will be recorded?

London, San Francissco or Los Angeles.

How much talking do you do with your composer before letting him get to work?

Marco and I met yesterday afternoon. Usually I give him much more notes. This time I vowed to give him but a few. The main one?? One word: EPIC.

While you're editing, do you lay in a temp music track at any point?

Yes, from the scond pass on. Usually Marco's.

46) Any chance you will make a video greeting for the fans at Comic Con? Giant Guillermo on video screen behind little Mike below... that's a fun image.

We will hold no Q&A or show footage. Only a booth, heavy graphic prescence and TWO exclusive posters. We are still a year away and is important to pace the unveiling of footage.

47) Of the two images we've seen of Kronen, one is sort-of glowy and the other not glowy. How much glowing will Kronen be doing?

He doesn't glow. He was backlit for the pic.

48) What made you decide to make Kronen a combatant? In the comics he seems like a harmless geek. Except for that whole Nazi thing. And creating undead robot armies to destoy all human life. Ok

Kroenen in the comics is quite civilized -in spite of his taste in attire- and actually semi-normal. In the movie he is a master engineer, an undead swordsman and a loyal lapdog to rasputin. He has no lin

49) How much of a presence will Mike himself have in promotion/DVD extras? Commentary/interviews etc.? Don't let him wiggle out of it!

He's atricky one to pin down. But I'll try my best.



50) As always, you rock. Don't drink TOO much Red Bull, though!

Only 3 a day.

51) In responding to my inquiries, you declared Hellboy to be of a PG-13 nature, stating that the primary violence in the film occurred against monsters. I agree that your film should be in keeping with the action in Hellboy will be quite different from Blade. But, remember LOTR was PG-13... I think that you'll find it quite entertaining.

52) About Sammael, I'm curious to know if he will be achieved completely by the Spectral Motion costume or if parts of him will be enhanced with CG. Is the animatronic head mobile and lifelike enough any Reaper-like surprises in store for us?

Oh , yes, his body hold many surprises. He will be 80% live 20% CG enhanced.

Until next week

G del Toro  
PRAHA

Quick answer:  
All movies I've shot are in 1.85:1. aspect ratio. I tend to favor this one. I find it very unassuming and wonderful for composition. It is closer to the "golden measure". Maybe if I shot a western I would ch

Hi guys:

1) Before filming began, before you wrote the script and before "Hellboy" was greenlighted: What was the first step for you to get this film on it's feet?

"Pitching" myself to the producers. The process includes your slant on the material, the way you would execute the piece visually, thematically, etc and sometimes even has a bit with your knowledge of the material. I am, by being a fan more than anything and by getting in there with my heart on my sleeve.

2) Hey Mr. del Torro (del Toro) , just a quick question for ya. I am a big comic book and Hellboy fan, but more than anything have a love for cinema and have always admired your work. With you answering my questions about writing/directing and film (I totally understand how busy production is, so I understand if you are unable to)? I have just graduated high school and am going on (hopefully) to a career in film-- I am trying to start a production company which I will produce, write, direct, and edit. If you ever get a moment, my email address is <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Nitewng428@attbi.com">Nitewng428@attbi.com</a><!-- e --> -- it would be an honor to hear from you.

Listen, I have no problem. contact me at <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com">Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com</a><!-- e -->  
When will I have the time. Jeez it may take a bit. But be patient I answer most letters in order.

3) I've heard through the grape vine that you are an avid Miyazaki fan. If so, have you read his graphic novel, "Nausicaa: Of the valley of the wind"

Yes I have.

I think in the near future, you need to take on this epic story. It could be the greatest thing since sliced bread. You could make it all in one shot like LOTR, all you need to do is pimp someone into backing it.

I wouldn't touch it. Miyazaki-San's anime version is the one and only version I want to see of it.

Unless you're chicken.

Cluck-cluck??

I'd do it myself but I'm not a world famous director with clout.....yet!

I myself am working on that too, Bud-

4) I have the Tartan Video VHS of Cronos. on the inside cover it says that there is this book called "La Invencion de Cronos" screenplay with stills on the motion picture. -Is this still available?where can I find it?  
It's available IN SPANISH. IT's published by "Ediciones el Milagro" in Mexico city.

-Where will the Cronos dvd with the replica of the device be available at?and the ultra limited Devil's Backbone(100 pieces)? can i preorder?

The Devil's backbone is open to pre-order at sideshow toys. The CRONOS DVD -which I just checked this morning will be available in big outlets (VIRGIN, TOWER)

-Are you planing on working again with Federico Lupi in the near future?

I am trying to write a piece for him again. I hope.

5) Will there be any other countries/agencies involved in the film? as the BPRD is american I thought it might be funny if HellBoy scared the crap out of MI5 or something ("gimme a beer, don't care about the law")

Funny line. But HB doesn't go "INterpol" on this one.

6) if its pg-13 then I'm guessing 12A over here in the uk?

I Imagine so.

7) well someone else was pimping themselves so its my turn; if you need a concept/character artist then email me: <!-- e --><a href="mailto:spokk786@hotmail.com">spokk786@hotmail.com</a><!--

I usually take time to view samples at conventions or things like that. Where are you located??

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> oh p.s. what do you think of the Hulk movie and the cg-question that keeps bugging the fans ?

I think that you CANNOT judge a movie until you see it. The rest is nervous gossip. When I was seeing stills of both X-MEN and X@ I kept feeling fidgety about them. ANd I like them both very much. An  
doi his movie.

9) I am a huge fan of your work. I was just wondering how much of "The Corpse" storyline actually made it into the film, we all saw the awesome photos of the prop corpse torso..... Any stuff with the l

None of it. Only a corpse chatting with HB. The Corpse is SO self-contained and perfect as it is. All I am trying to do in the movie is to do a couple of nudges here and there that make the super-fan smile

10) By any chance, will we see Hellboy get rid of the horns? So the general public doesnt think he has corks or goggles on his head? Imagine that.

No. They're there. I think that is important to KEEP the quirky elements that make Mignola's sense of character UNIQUE. A giant stone hand, a couple of goggle-cork-looking horn stumps, etc, etc and n

11) What is the budget for Hellboy? how much did you have for your other movies so far?

Cronos - 2,000,000 us  
Mimic - 30,000,000 us  
Devil's Backbone - 4,500,000 us  
Blade II - 54, 000,000 us  
Hellboy - 60,000,000 us

12) I just saw at imdb.com that they have three more movies added to your list. Geometria (1987) , "Hora Marcada" (1986) TV Series (3 episodes) and Do?a Lupe (1985). What are these about and are

They are shorts and TV programs. They are not available. Most of them are crappy "learning curve" shorts. But, anyhow- if you wanna peek at how uber-crappy my short films were you'll get 2 (TWO) in

13) How much L cam should we expect to see, as compared to Blade 2? How will it be used?

It will be used very different, sometimes more for comedic effect. We have about 15 L-cam shots.

14) when will we get to see a teaser for Hellboy?

Possibly attached to MATRIX REVOLUTIONS.

15) I have one more question.

Will we get a full size replica of Hellboy's gun?

Yup- write to Sideshow toys.

16) Hi again, anaother couple of questionsfor you:

What kind of merchandise are we looking at for this movie? More specifically: Will there be a scale model of the RHoD?

Just the Hand on a stand(tee hee, I rhyme!) would be REALLY COOL!!!!

I suggested that to Sideshow toys. Write 'em too and bug the heck out of 'em for one!!!

17) Regarding 'At The Mountains of Madness' - any word on where you stand with the project? Have you scouted locations or anything like that? How much preparation do you do on a project before ta

No scout yet. But that lil' adventure -IF it happens- will probably take me about 2-3 years of prep.

18) And an HB question (comment really). Please, please PLEASE release the movie in Europe on the same day as the States!!!! You have no idea how frustrating it is hearing all of our colonial brethren

Dear Helen. I will try. And I will try to be there when it happens.

Gotta go back and make sure HN beats Sammael a lil' more and then romances Llz a lil' more... See ya next Sunday guys. Get yer Q's ready for the Fat Man.

Yours from Prague

G del Toro

Hi all:

I apologize beforehand for answering the Q's this early... but this Sunday I will be busy editing -as always- and in rehearsals for a fight choreography, so... as the Ramones would say: let's go!!

BTW dear "Progress" YES, you will see Hellboy "Grooming" his horns with an electrical steel sander tool.

1) A real off topic question, but one I think kinda follows on from MaDroxide's. My Pal Val - who is too chicken and wussy to come on here and ask her own darn questions - wants to know if you have any

I think that the 80's British directors like Adrian Lyne, Alan Parker and , towering above all, Ridley Scott have been a major example of how the lens can become a clean, sharp instrument to dissect the

Going back a bit I love Powell, Ken Russell, Nicolas Roeg, Carol Reed and my two favorites of them all David Lean and Alfred Hitchcock.

2) Has there ever been one film that just knocked you right back on your heels and made you say 'I wanna do THAT!'

Many of them, Every day, every morning.

3) I had also heard a rumour that you were interested in doing a live action feature of Otomo's Domu. Now this rumour could be worth less than the weight of air it was carried on, but if true, how come the alley.

We are stalled in negotiations with Mr Otomo's lawyers and has been in a legal "back and forth" for more than 4 years, so... I don't know if it'll ever happen.

4) One of the many facets of Mignola's genius is his superb and individual style of storytelling. Can we expect to see certain Mignola trademarks of storytelling (such as brief cut-aways to a statue, a skull

No. not in the exact same way. There are a few scenes where I integrate a piece of statuary or two, but there is no cinematic equivalent to the MIGNOLA YUXTAPOSITION. That neat trick he does in the

Allow me to expand. The HELLBOY movie is NOT the Hellboy comic (s). Those are in your shelves and will remain unchanged for as long as the mylar bag God allows them to be. The movie is capturing

Comics and film are APPARENTLY very close but upon close inspection they are faaaar apart. Consider this: on the comic an element of punctuation or composition takes the value that the READER dec

Film is timed by the NARRATOR and as a continuously flowing medium requires a different modulation and sense of rythm.

So, there. Those cute, fascinating, enigmatic Mignola vignettes have no equivalent in the movie.

5) One of Mignola's other trademarks is his brillaint sense of lighting and it amazed me to see how closely you guys were able to emulate it in the two official Hellboy photos . I mean, if you traced the b Mignola's work. Can we expect the same 'look' in terms of extreme contrast in the actual film? Do you think you'll Bleach bypass the footage at all?

I don't favor Blach bypass just for the sake of doing it. We will, however tiem the movie digitally a 100%.

The deep, rich blacks in the movie will be there in the screen when appropriate. Once again, Mike does nice little "cheats" in his shadowing that have NO equivalent in the 3-D world.

6)just wanted to say : THANKS ALLOTTA FOR ANSWERING !!! I'm drunk as ^^ ^^ and i'm just happy knowing ,that you handle hellboy ! but cronos is still my all time favourite!!! tell us more about your

My next project right now is to finish Hellboy. I would loooove to shoot again with Ron and F. Luppi together.

7) will there be any cameos from smaller characters from the comics in the movie? Like, say, I dunno.....the Torch Of Liberty?

Read past posts.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Adapting for motion pictures, how will you balance the relationship between character and environment that is

The movie will succeed or fail in its own terms. Not on the coattails of what Mike does right as a storyteller in the page. It is a movie directed with its own rules and universe in mind. Mike is an asociate

I have my own way to deal with character and enviroment. Hope you dig it.

This is my version of the Hellboy mythos. Retold, organized and weaved in a different way than in the comics. But every one of my decisions have been a creative one. NOT a commercial one. As Mike

If you obsess about the tiny differences, let me tell you that along the way, in the five years (5) that this baby has been in my hands, it has been suggested that:

A) Hellboy was a teenager that whispers a magic word an TURNS into the red Giant.

B) We should make Hellboy flesh-toned.

C) The Rock should play him.

D) He should have a hellboy-cycle and a hellboy-mobil.

E) He should have a pet helldog.  
F) We should call him Heckboy.

etc, etc...

9) I really hope Tom Waits is on the soundtrack-- I think also that if there is a second "music of Hellboy" album with songs actually included in the movie, perhaps, (if I might share an idea), the songs will be a real help in the movie's plight?

I hope we can get Waits. As for your musical ideas, and all those other that are detailed in later posts -I love Rob Z and The Pixies, let me say this: I don't think that Heavy Metal will be the featured music.

Mike Mignola and I both feel that Heavy Metal is the "usual" music that would go with, say, SPAWN, not Hellboy. Mike has always favored Waits, and I wrote the script while listening to "Burma Shave" and "The Highway" by Waits.

10) Un abrazo, Javier. Toren, tell Scott to send that sucker, pronto.

11) I'm curious to know the degree to which the cinematography reflects the darkness of the Hellboy comic, for I enjoy how the settings depicted reflect Hellboy himself, his shadowed past, and his shrouded future.

See above, but fear not. Many times a day you hear Mignola on the set say: "If you freeze that frame and ink it, that's something I would've drawn" And he ain't easy to please...

12) Abe sapien, revised.

What's with the particular fringed striping pattern along A.S.'s chest? Awesome photos - I was wondering if you had any shots of his torso, front, back? Who does the creature effects work?

Check earlier answers. The pattern -as well as all the redesign- was based on fish/amphibian coloring patterns, while trying to retain those 'zippy' Mignola lines on Abe's head and body.

13) After watching the Hulk Trailer and seeing how the Hulk was visible from day one and didn't spoil the impact of the movie at all. Will HellBoy be shown in all his glory (not nekked obviously) in the trailer?

I have no ideas, we're still shooting. But Hellboy actually SHOULD become more familiar to audiences. It's his PERSONALITY that will win people over, not his "secret" appearance.

14) Another Hulk related question, any plans on a RHoD glove similar to the boxing glove style toys of the Hulks fists? I would definitely buy one.

I would too.

15) Just a thought on how to get Lobster Johnson in the film. Any plans on having a TV in the background showing Lobster Johnson? like a special treat for those that are watching.

We may shoot a surprise tidbit for the DVD...

16) Any plans of putting the Ectoplasm guy in the film? Having not read Seed of Destruction (It will spoil the movie ) I'm not sure if he is in there.

Nope. Not on this movie.

17) will you use any stop motion in hellboy ? if, what for?

No. Although as late as BLADE II I was trying to find some Stop Motion to do. Love the stuff. We are using miniatures, forced perspectives, matte paintings, CGI, etc, etc

18) What did you have to do to keep a 2nd unit director off of the film?

Is that an option to you or did you have to persuade the studio? Can you explain the process?

The ONLY movie where I was under obligation to use 2nd unit was MIMIC.

I don't think 2nd unit is always bad. Some directors use it brilliantly...

But in my case I hate it.

I am very direct with the studio about it. No second unit.

If we don't agree, I don't do the movie.

19) The movie will be 120-130 minutes long.

And that is it for the week, Folks. I must tell you, I am enjoying the process of this Q & A enormously. First of all I have bought a crapload of cd's you guys have recommended and second I find myself listening to them all the time.

Until next week.

All the best

Guillermo del Toro  
Praha 2003

Hi again!!!

We are 3 weeks away from finishing the shoot and we are all exhausted, but this weekend ritual actually is like a vitamin to me. Love the feedback I read in the forums (good, bad, any kind) and these

1) If you dont like the trailer, would you be aloud to release some HellBoy footage in a similar way you released the HellBoy pictures?

Maybe. Revolution is quite a unique studio. A place where they consult the filmmaker on how to market the movie. But -I gotta say- I trust them so much and they DO get the movie so much that we are

2) Any reference to Abe dreaming about fish?

I wish. THAT is one of my favorite couple of vignettes of ALL TIMES. I told Mignola so and I think so. But, no, not in the movie.

3) Are you gonna show HellBoys daddy? and if so does he look badass like in the comic?

HB's Dad won't show up in this one. He's just mentioned.

4) How fast can Abe swim exactly?

Pretty fast when in danger, but we haven't timed the sucker.

5) How have the other comic book adaptions impacted on the way your tackling HellBoy, any neat little camera shots you saw on The Hulk, X-Men, Spider-Man etc that your planning on using in HellB

No. HB is HB. I would say that Terence Fisher, Mario Bava and other Gothic masters are more present than any Superhero movie. I think Mignola's universe and mine are very very Gothic-influenced. No

In the movie there are actually a couple of moments where high-tech gadgets prove useless -much like the rocket packs in the comic.

6) So far which has been your favorite Comic Book adaption apart from HellBoy?

I would say ROBOCOP even if no specific comic gave it birth. BLADE RUNNER, sma ething. As far as adaptations??? X-MEN.

7) Been wanting to ask a question here for some time now, but I didn?t want to just think of a question just to be able to ask something here. So i waited until the day I actually had something I wanted

One thing that I found interesting with Mignola's hellboy was that all these paranormal things is known to the world, hellboy being on Times magazine for example. Thats one thing you have changed fo

A. So I?m wondering how u will handla that no one actually knows about hellboy, will he really be able to go out into the world without scaring the crap out of some civilian?

Oh, he does. And there are plenty of photos and footage of him but the good ole goverment keeps it all blurred.

B. I have seen on some photos that Abe has this kind of inverted scuba-gear, something over his gills and goggles over his eyes.

Will Abe be wearing that all the time when he?s not in water, and is it filled with water?

Out of the water, and yes, they are filled with Oxigen-loaded water. Abe can remain amphibian for up to an hour or so -much like a mudskipper, but then he needs to hydratate and breathe. His "Wet su

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Are there any films that are influencing the way you are shooting Hellboy visually even in a small way. Just curi

I watch a bit of Hammer every other day, then some Bava, SOme Universal classic monster movies -my daughter loves BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN and CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON above all ot  
choices managed to remain. I think that when you need a "model" to construct a movie (like when I did BLADEII) you're kinda asking for "permission" to join a category, a club and show a bit of innovat

BTW Mike is back on the set -has been for about 10 days- and we spen our days together by the monitor planning great stuff for the future -should there be one- and just chatting about our favorite bo

9) do you know of any plans for an animated series of HellBoy?

I would love that but I have not heard much about it.

10) Not to get too psychological on you, but I was curious to know what drives you to make a movie like Hellboy...

Do you think you did it to realize the cinematic artistic potential of the concept (for art and creativity?s sake), to introduce Hellboy to a larger audience (so that as many people as possible could possib  
(though obviously still faithful to the comic?s spirit) spin on something you love, or to (as PJ?s said about LOTR) want to see a good Hellboy movie but nobody else was as up for it (and who better to be

It's OBVIOUSLY a combination of all of the above PLUS the fact that I think the movie creates its own universe. Mike says some days as we watch dailies "That -or that other- is your invention, but it fits

Through the years Mike and I have realized how much alike we are in our taste for pulp, comics, horror movies, etc, etc and we also agree that a point-by-point translation of the movie would be a bure

I wanted to riff freely in the Hellboy mythology and see if a cohesive feature-length story could come out that had my soul in it but remained faithful to its origins. I hope it does. We are almost done with me and HELLBOY.

At one point -about 3 years ago- I said to Lloyd Levin, one of the producers of the film: "If I manage to do "Devil's Backbone" and "Hellboy" the way I want them, they way they NEED to be, I will die a hero."

11) When you see your own work on the screen, you are able to forget all the other takes shot and tough editing decisions and choreography problems and set difficulties, and just slip into the world of the movie.

A movie is a living thing. You prepare, you plan, you storyboard, etc, BUT much like our real children, there is a part of their personality that ONLY becomes revealed as they grow. And you have to be quick on your feet and trust your instinct above all. You have to be made within a finite space and time. To survive in this environment you have to be quick on your feet and trust your instinct above all.

When I write, I write in a void, everything is perfect. Much like a blueprint or a conceptual sketch of a house. Shooting is like making bricks and windows, etc, etc. VERY concerned with time and money. Editing is where the movie is finally shaped. No more blueprints, no more dealing with an army of workers. Just you and your 450 bricks alone for a few weeks. Go nail it.

In that environment, decisions are quick too. As a director you often look at the pages and disregard something that you wrote as the writer, and in your editing mode you are equally cruel with the "nice" stuff.

12) Will there be any fetuses in Hellboy?

YES!!! Most definitely!!! I like what I like, what can I do?? Look carefully though-

13) Hi, Mr. del Toro! I've already emailed you, but I thought I'd do it here as well. I'd really like to send some questions through email as an "interview" for my site. Do you think that would be possible?

Oh, my email's <!-- e --><a href="mailto:averagejoes@theaveragejoes.net">averagejoes@theaveragejoes.net</a><!-- e -->

Let's do the interview in August, when I am back in Los Angeles. It will be my pleasure.

14) I'd love to take this opportunity to ask you about a report by Harry Knowles (Ain't it Cool News) back in April, 1998, about a Spanish-language remake of the Val Lewton/Jacques Tourneur classic *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Dear Pat: It was an April's fool joke Harry pulled off. No such remake exist -or SHOULD exist.

15) Alex. Ojala y se pueda en el futuro.

16) If at all you can convince the guys from CINNOVATION to plug into the hb message board, or anyone else involved in the creating, modeling, and superimposing of Mignola's characters onto these sets.

I promise I'll mention it Monday.

17) Do you foresee any of the art behind the movie - character designs - being marketed or made available, perhaps post-release?

With the exception of very few pieces that I purposefully pre-bought myself, Revolution owns ALL the art. If it was up to me it should be GIVEN AWAY to fans in these pages through contests. I will try to do that.

18) Do you, yourself, ever spend time experimenting on paper with how you imagine your creatures? For any of your films?

I have read some commentary on your interplay with and feedback to the artists.

I am an ok illustrator. Self-taught and not very impressive. But the tools help me communicate with my guys in a VERY quick way. My "diaries" for BLADE II are on the DVD and so will the ones for HELLBOY.

19) How often do you stick to your storyboards, and how often instead do you find yourself changing step completely, once on set? I know from experience that the reality of the setting may defy the plan.

Storyboards are there to be a back up and a communication tool. Depends on what kind of filmmaker you are, you use them or you let them dictate your day. I draw them months away and then again on set.

20) Guillermo, is there any chance we will get to see a cameo from the legendary Santiago Segura in Hellboy? If not, do you have any plans to work with him in the future (possibly in HB sequels or any other projects)?

Santiago and I are friends since 1992. I am a huge fan of his brilliant mind. He IS in HELLBOY. Actually he has a scene where he hits Hellboy. Mitico!!! How can SS hit the Big Red and not be killed?????!!

BTW guys, I was thinking of talking to the studio about doing 2 screenings (one in the West coast, one on the East coast) ONLY for those that were in this forums early enough and that reached a certain point.

There. Wish me luck this week . See you guys next Sunday

Guillermo  
PRAHA  
2003

Hi guys!!

Let's go-

1) I think you should have a special screening in Iceland. The local comic book store had a special screening of the NC-17 version of Blade 2 and it went great. I'm only saying this so I can see it earlier.

enthusiastic two thumbs up.

Iceland\, uh? I would love it!! How is the film industry there??? Good crews??? Think I should explore it for Mountains of Madness??

2) have you ever considered writing graphic novels as a means of getting some ideas of your out there that may not have as much of a future in film?

Yes, I am talking to DARK HORSE about it. Hopefully one with Mignola and one with my compatriot/compadre Francisco Ruiz Velasco (LONE WOLF 2100)

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3) I needed to get in touch with you to confirm a project we talked about during the last Catalunya International Film Festival (Sitges 2002).

write to: <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Abe\_Sapient@hotmail.com">Abe\_Sapient@hotmail.com</a><!-- e -->

4) I'm not sure whom to ask, but it'd be frickin awesome to hear from the guys at spectral concerning any of the efforts toward the creature effects in this film.

Damn!! I have to remember to ask them!!

5) I've heard rumors going both ways but I just would like to know for sure, is this movie going to be rated R or is it going to be PG-13, I know you don't know for sure but what do you think it'll get?

I am hoping for PG-13.

6) Just a little curious why this movie is coming out Summer 2004 if you've already finished shooting in July 2003, is that just what the studios want or is it going to take that long to finish up?

I'll be done by March. So the first few screenings (aside from testing) will be done around April.

7) You spoke earlier of an "ultra-limited edition of "The Devil's Backbone" is there a remote chance of someone like me ever being able to own this?

You have to contact SIDESHOW TOYS through the web and put your name on their list. Drop them an e-mail...

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Enough with the teasing! The hinting! The grudging release of the tiniest information. For once just be straight  
"Where IS the best guacamole in LA?"

Aside from my house, there is very good one in Zumaya on Melrose and the freshest, best one, the one Benicio showed me... I'll look the name of the place, but is in Brentwood. Just let me finish shoot

9) Is Ron right handed or left handed? Has the hand produced any special difficulties for him or you?

Not really. It's been very good. He is LEFT HANDED.

10) Should we be waiting until San Diego for our next round of Hellboy media? Do you expect it to be released before or after?

San Diego will screen only the "Sizzle Reel" that was screened in Amsterdam and subsequently covered on AICN. NOthing major. Footage from the first quarter of the shoot mostly. But the GOOD and E

11) Regarding a potential sequel, who/what characters/villains would you be quickest to bring to the forefront and, if you could swing it, who would you like to have playing these characters?

Oh, Jeez, that's truly premature. I should be so lucky.

12) I've read about the film introducing the story and characters through the eyes of a new agent..how much of that influences the overall story narrative?

Well it makes that Agent the main character but Hellboy is still the starring role.

13) any frog monsters? Sammael has some characteristics of them, but no. No frogs in this one.

14) Whats the status of Wind in the Willows adaptation? I have some ideas/concepts for character designs if you're interested...

Oh, my. Well, we are writing pages, so it's a little early for that, but thank you.

15) There's a movie being made called Van Helsing that 're-imagines' old gothic monster movies like Frankenstein and Dracula...would do you think of new adaptations especially when they kind of mo

If only. I would love to do FRANKENSTEIN

16) How soon after the films principle shoot is over, do you then begin doing ADR work? Is this something that's done only after the film is in complete rough cut form or how does that work?

Spyda!! M' man, good to have you back. ADR usually happens when you have the cut almost done. The version you ADR has to be close to final in order not to waste efforts.

17) Alex: Going to film school in London IS time well spent, if only because the school allows you to "network" and acts as a foothold to possible production. That is IF you can afford it. If you only have

18) Have you done any experimenting at all with filming features in digital? As many FX as seem to get yourself involved with, it might make your process slightly smoother....or not?

There are pros and cons about digital at this stage. If you are Lucas and have ALL the hardware already invested in, fine I'll go with that. For me is a format still in progress. A very interesting one and a

19) I know that you've mentioned Sideshow possibly doing some things, but was wondering if you planned on trying to branch out to something more readily available to the mass market?

MEZCO is doing the action figures, SIDESHOW some collectables.

20) Do you think you'll ever use the Crown of the Apocolypse in a Hellboy film? I love Mike's semi 2d illuminated manuscript style crown just slaped into his comic. You think that could work on film, or v

We will experiment with it, but it might not make it to the final stages.

21) First off, Ive seen the pics and a short film clip online of Abe, and he's looking great, though I have a hard time visualizing him speaking. Im wondering how Strong of a character he comes off as in just wondering if he is a more passive character in the film, less talkative or more alien/inhuman seeming?

He's not passsive at all and actually has a lengthy underwater scene. And he talks. A LOT.

22) Second, any chance of any faeries or any reference to the "little people" in the film? They are one of my favourite background characters in the comic, providing a sort of folklorish balance or count

I originally had a scene in mind but now you will only spot a jar with PICKLED fairies "in passing" in the BPRD hallways.

23) Also, Ive heard several times that one of the main baddies in the film is a demonic/elder god like fellow called Sammael, which in classic angelic lore is a high-ranking demon or devil, sometimes equ upon a lot of classic occult lore for the Hellboy comic, and Ive heard he has drawn up an entire heirarchy of Hell, based at least partly on the descriptions in the Goetia, or The Lesser Key of Solomon the Im just wondering if any of this makes it into the film, or how closely the mythology of the Hellboy filmworld is based on real world mythology? Is the Sammael in the film similiar only in namesake?

Only in namesake. The Babylonian/Hebrew nomenclatures that we draw upon differ from what we do. Sammy-L is just a big bad hell hound.

24) Lastly, any Baba Yaga? It would seem weird to have Rasputin with no nods to his "mother"

Sequel. Rasputin is confusing enough in the '40's and Today to introduce the "one-eyed wonder" right now.

25) Is there going to be a HELLBoY movie game? Like an rpg, and if so would you play it?

We will ONLY approve it if I LOVE IT and Mike LOVES IT, therefore yes, we would play it. But we have made it clear that the game has to develop with enough time to make it cool and not just a slap-job

26) What decade will this movie mainly take place, besides the birth of HELLBoY?

Present day.

27) If, since this is all still unsure, If we do get to have special screenings of the HB movie as you suggested earlier. Would it be possible for you folks to bring some actual props from the film for those

If they happen, you'll get the woiks my friend, THE WOIKS.

28) Ron seems to be happy to suggest ideas (as he did during B2) as you film - how rigidly have you kept to the script, or do you sometimes like to 'make it up as you go along'? As a director how much

If the idea is good I'm veery flexible. If it is not, well, not that much-

29) I know you said you were listening to The Pixies, but I just wanted to second that emotion for the lead singer, Frank Black . He's got the skills when it comes to painting bleak lonely sci-fi landscapes but maybe you should check him out.

At this stage I have already purchased a looooot of your suggestion guys, and will be minding them ( PD CELTIC FIDDLER, the Alasdair Fraser record is great but TOO ethnic for the movie. Maybe for Bro

30) Ever read Gene Wolfe's Book of the New Sun? I think you'd love it. It's really dense and erudite far future science fantasy. It's got cosmic gothic spiritual decay. The main character belongs to a guil

Sound bitchin' Off to Amazon I go!!!

31) Hey Guillermo, what do you think of this idea ?



Very intriguing. Will explore it when I go back to California. Very smart too.

32) do you plan to make an appearance at the san diego Comic Con this week or next?  
Give us the heads up.

Next for sure. This year Master mignola will be there.

33) Would you ever consider directing the sequel to The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen? (Given it gets made)

I would've loved to do the first one. I haven't seen it yet, but I love the comic and think Alan Moore is a f!@#ing genius. As for a sequel. No, not really.

Have a hell of a week, guys.

ALL THE BEST

G del Toro

PRAHA

Hi guys!

In past Q&A's including this forum I have mentioned Harryhausen, Terence Fisher and Mario Bava as some of the filmmakers Mignola and I admire and have discussed as influences in the movie -w  
would love for you guys to suggest movies you love, novels we should read, etc. I have found a few great musical choices in the stuff you've been recommending. SO, how about a "You're gonna love t

Now, on to the brief Q&A:

1) concerning the Mountains of Madness, I always thought it would work as a mini-series more than a movie.....

The novel is actually pretty brief and easily condensed in 120 minutes. Perhaps a 2 part mini-mini but with a maxi-maxi budget for the Elder ones and friends.

2) i was wondering if there are any large format prints available of any of your hellboy covers (especially the limited edition watercolour works). i'd love to buy some.

Dear God, MY prints??? You should better buy Mignola's... Try e-bay. Now and then you'll get lucky.

3) I have a legitimate concern. With all these proposed "advance screenings" of yours, would Mike Mignola and yourself find time to attend them? It would seem unfitting to preview the film, bereft of it

I'll be there and will try to get MM and R Perlman to come.... As for the sketch- go ahead, I have weaseled a couple m'self.

4) Mignola doing an adaptation of one of your films (CRONOS). Have you thought about it?

It's up to him. I would love to work with him in comics.

5) Have you ever heard of a band called "In Flames"?

The same from "Reroute to Remain"?? If so, I like them. Or is it another band?? The lyrics are dead on.

Well, that's it, guys. until next week...

All the best

G del Toro

PRAHA

Hi guys:

Only 4 days more to go and we'll wrap the shoot... Then I'll be gone for a period of 4 weeks in which I'll try to reorganize my life and rest while the editing room is shipped to LA. I will probably not be in

In the meantime:

1) I have a request. Would it be possible, as part of your weekly posts, to include sort of a weekly update of what you're doing each month on the film?

Sound good Spyda. But time is quite limited during the shoot. Maybe in post we can get it going... will you remind me??

2) We've just seen the new poster for the villains. Kronen kinda looks like a power ranger. What up with that?

LOL!!! Yes, I agree with you wholeheartedly. The photo makes him shiny as hell and hides his armour. I didn't like these posters much: wrong size, cheap paper, etc. Unfortunately (Mignola and I) were  
From now, until th release of the movie there will be many a promotional material -I'm sure- that Mike and I don't supervise personally. You will agree and maybe even disagree with them and the movi  
Only the latter is really our doing.

Don't pay too much attention to a poster where Rasputin is in the background sez I.

3) Guillermo... completely forgot to ask this, but how was Smurfit's performance or was it Bidy in the role of Ilsa. I keep forgetting.  
My question is, does she get into some of the action? If not, I hope you don't kill her off before she gets her day in the spotlight...

Smurfit's performance was not in this movie. Bidy is doing quite great. She's not half as active as in the comics but her devotion to Grigori is quite touching.

4) Do you consider Hellboy to be a superhero? (Unconventional or no)

NO. I personally don't. It's more a fusion of pulp, gothic and comics.

5) Do you have a favorite villian from any of the films you've done? (Or a few that might be tied? j/w)

JAcinto in DEVIL'S BACKBONE and Nomak in BLADE II, both had enough contradictory moments and screen power to make them interesting to me.

6) Will there be any cameos by some of the other BPRD agents (Bud Waller, Sidney Leach etc)? If so, who are playing them?

Nope.

7) Besides Santiago Segura's cameo in Hellboy, will there be any other cameos?

Nope. Sorry.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Is there any hint to Herman von Klempt? - so that him and Kriegaffe may be used in a future movie

Nope again. Though day.

9) How would you best describe the direction in which you have taken the Kroenen character?

Kroenen in the movie is a character that loves machines and knives. Nothing more. He's essentially a killing machine that has -through repeated surgery- mutilated his body into a hardened mass of sc

10) How tall is Behemoth, approximately?

He is one of the small kids, probably uh- 50 feet tall.

11)Seeing that there's a good response about the screenings and seems like the fans have spoken about where the most logical location for a screening would be, what is the situation regarding guest

We will snap up a date and place around January 04. No Sooner. We will ALL be there.

12)Any Thoughts about '03 Movies? I think Van Helsing looks really badass, there's also Spiderman 2, Big Fish, Excorcist Prequel and Maybe even Fantastic Four....Anything you are looking forward to?

Me? Hellboy, Spiderman 2 and Big Fish.

13)I'm sure this has been mentioned numerous times...and is greedy but would rock...would you put the most loyal hellboy fans (you know who we are) in the credits as did LOTR?

I am 99% sure we will. BUt only a handful of the ones that have posted up to NOW.

14)Who would win in a fight...James Bond or Superman?

Er- Sups would. Unless the UK has some Kryptonite stashed.

15) And bands to put on the soundtrack...OINGO BOINGO!! THEY WOULD BE PERFECT!!

Yup. But, alas it might not be. A complete list of the bands will be popping out in 2-3 months.

16) How tall is Sammael??

7 feet tall when standing up.

17) If HellBoy read comics (does he? anyway) what ones would he read?

Golden age Marvels. Concrete.

18) I know you're a fan of HP Lovecraft but I think you'd be the best choice for any film versions of Kafka-based stories also, I was thinking Metamorphosis specifically...

I adore Kafka but the power of his images is best left alone in the page. Although Orson Welles' THE TRIAL is quite a fave of mine.

19) concerning the romance in the movie, is there gonna be any sexual considerations regarding HB? I remember studio execs having serious concerns about it when the idea of sex between a human

Well, no, not really. Because is more of a romance than an affair. No torrid sex on this one, I'm afraid.

20) Are there any filmmakers that you show your work to for a fresh eye? I mean friends whose opinions you enjoy whether you take them or not, peers who get excited sharing their work.

Yes. I rather keep their names private, but yes. A handful of the brightest and the best that I trust. We have a mutual society of "advice" to each other and -even although I'm the least deserving mem

21) Do you have any ideas on whether I, er, Rasputin would be included in a Hellboy 2 (ghost or no). I know it is early to say anything definite, but at the moment do you think you'd like him in or not?

I would love to expand upon his role, much as Mike does in the series.

Answers for Sunday. pt 2

22) I asked a similar question earlier, but do you have a favorite character or hero from any of you're movies? Do you have a fav movie that you've done?

It's looking like HELLBOY and DEVIL'S BACKBONE.

23) How is the marketing going to work for this film? Are there going to be many individual posters for the characters, will there be lots of trailers teasers and tv spots, will there be any contests, etc. A

Too early. Keep an eye open.

24 ) Has the, relatively, modest budget for HELLBOY given you the kind of creative freedom you need to, really, thrive artistically? I'm thinking, here, of what you went through on MIMIC (which came o

Any and all mistakes up there on the screen will be mine only. I have been left in freedom and what is on the screen is what I consider a nice, firm first stone in the re-interpretation of HELLBOY for the

25) Are you absolutely certain about the October release date for the CRONOS DVD? I can't find mention of it on any DVD website. I've never seen CRONOS in anything but a crappy, dubbed (ugh!) and

Canada as well as the states.

It WILL come out in the fall. 100% sure. As for Canada, mmmh- I'll ask.

26) This isn't a question, but I have to take this opportunity to thank you for THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE. It's a wonderful film and your pride in it is completely justified.

Thank you very, very, very much. I love that movie and love it every time someone likes it. You make me very happy.

27) Have the designs for the "official" movie posters been decided? If not, you could try convincing Revolutions to let the fans pick the final design... just a thought. (They did something similar for Resi

No poster yet, But I don't think that one will fly. Resident Evil did a contest and published a "limited" fan poster but the "main" one was designed way ahead.

28) Have you hever thought of using Red Right Hand by Nick Cave and the Badseeds for the Hellboy movie? I think it's a perfect fit, even though it's been used all over the place. I can even see a cool t

Yeah, we are using it in the movie.

29) ) Is there any fundamental advice that you think young directors should know, or aspects of the filmmaking process that you think are important but often get overlooked when folks discuss the pro

Focus in what you are doing and only do it if you are in love with the material.

30) Are there any personal stylistic tricks or touches with your direction that you enjoy and that you feel are uniquely yours?

Not as such. I notice now and then things that reappear from movie to movie, but I don't do it "in purpose". The only exception is that I try an "in-joke" on every movie as a reference to the movies bef

see references to CRONOS in Damaskinos and his lair, in HELLBOY there is a moment where you will see the foetus from DEVIL'S BACKBONE make a cameo, etc

31) Are there any other director commentaries on DVD that you've listened to which you think are really informative and offer solid advice?

Not a commentary track, but the disk of T2 was like a filmmaking class. Cameron is a genius.

32) I was wondering what kind of pressures you're put under to make your bigger budget films "commercial".

Each film is different. So far HELLBOY has been the best experience. As enjoyable and free as shooting DEVIL'S BACKBONE but at a bigger scale. No politics, no backstabbing, no crap. There's still post

33) Mimic was shown on the BBC a couple of weeks ago.. How different was the release version from the one you had envisioned at the beginning?

Read a couple of Q&A before this one to find a useful link. The answer is: VERY DIFFERENT. Shooting that movie was not a pleasant experience at all.

24) Also, I hope Ron Perlman gets a lot more recognition after Hellboy, because he's been in so many great films and yet he still doesn't seem to have received any widespread acclaim. By the way.. He did a foreign film before then..

I agree about Ron. His parts in teh Annaud films are superbly delivered as are in other less well-known films like THE LAST SUPPER or CITY OF LOST CHILDREN.

Funny enough, it was CRONOS that got him the part in that movie. I cast him because I am a fan. I always approach my decisions from the truest point I can: the GEEK VIEW. I try to work only with people

As a result I enrich my life and the way I view my movies and the world. NOT to mention thyat I live some pretty cool "after dinner" chit chats with these characters.

25) What was your first time working on a professional film set and what was your role? How was the experience?

I was an uncredited PA in a movie call IN THE HEART OF THE NIGHT (CORAZON DE LA NOCHE) I did a bit of everything: get food, drive cars, do a stunt or two, a cameo, dug an open grave for a scene, etc. It was a blast. I learned so much about film being in a "real" set. I met one of my all-time idols, DP Gabriel Figueroa, who worked with John Ford and Luis Bunuel . He gave me countless anecdotes and s

See you in a few weeks my friends.

G del T

PRAHA

Hi guys:

I spent a week and a half just sleeping. I was exhausted from the shoot. But I am back. And I am glad to be back. I missed chatting with you all. So-

Let's get going-

1) I thought I'd comment on the Comic Con, which Ran the weekend of the 20th.

"The esteemed Mignola" drew quite a crowd to his booth, those seeking signatures and illustrations. Sadly enough, the line was capped rather abruptly.

-Jeez, I hate it when they do that. I do stay until the LAST signature and the LAST fan is taken care of. Why?? Cuz I've been on line m'self damn it!!

2) it was unknown to me that CGI is gradually usurping and replacing creature effects in film. A dying art, as it were. Is this why, perhaps, you were able to enlist some of the most prominent people in

The deman is still big enough to keep the major FX houses open. I attributre it all to the fact that HELLBOY is a MONSTER movie and such a cool comic that WE are all fans of it. EVERYBODY we got was

3) In other parts of the movie will we be seeing Rasputin in more traditional monk garb rather than the Chinease robe he has on for the summoning? Have you been advised or pressured to tone down

It's not chinese actually, it's copied from a Russian robe, complete with black bear fur etc, we just thought he should wear it open to make him a bit wilder.

All his wardrobe (including his suits and scarfs,etc) ius patterned after ecclesiastical clothes. He ALSO wears a second robe, much more REGAL but again patterned after a CZAR's crowning robe.

And- No. I have all the swastikas I needed.

4) Spyda, M'man- the DVD will include as many ALTERNATIVE posters as we can cram in it. You'll get your fill.

5) for me , Guillermo is the best director of fantastic movies !!! i have seen all of his movies ( all of those who he directed ) : Mimic ( great ) ; Blade 2 ( super great ) ; Cronos ( waouh !!! ) ; Devil's Back

so i have questions : will it be an album with rock band titles ????

do you know the release date in France ????

do you know if it will be a preview- section in the French magazine "Mad Movies " ?????

thank you and carry on to make us dream !!!!

"Cronos" and " el espinazo del diablo" are ( for the moment ) your best movies !!!!! the others are good too !!!

a french fan of Guillermo

Thank you, very, very, very, very, very, very much. I am so flattered I love MAD MOVIES and L'ECRAN FANTASTIQUE, both great French Magazines dedicated to the fantastic cinema.

I agree with you in that CRONOS and BACKBONE are -if not the "best"- at least my favorite movies. I love BLADE II but it was a bit thin in story and characters, though a lot of fun and a privilege to play secret that I don't love the last quarter at all.

Please receive my salutations to the land of MOEBIUS, BILAL, CAZA, JEAN ROLLIN, COCTEAU, SCHWOB and so many others.

6) About the score, you mentioned an "epic" score. Have you got any specific ideas in that direction?  
Are you going for an old-fashioned horror-sound or something more up-to-date, perhaps including percussion and some eerie synth?

-Very heavy on percussions for the action but in a KODO kind of style and eerie for atmospheres "ala" Penderecki or Ligetti.

Also, will there be themes for the main characters or themes representing the good side and the bad side?

Of course.

To what extent are you including Tom Waits? Will he be featured on the soundtrack?

-I want to use "Cinny's waltz" and "Burma SHave" and maybe a cover of "Red Right Hand" if he will do it.

7) How have you rendered Mignola's ghostly characters and apparitions, such as the dead Nazis, vampires, soldiers, Lobster Johnson? the corpses or creatures that murmur doom at Hellboy?

i have not. There are none of those creastures on the first movie but will be featured heavily in the sequel -should there be one.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Have you written movies that you did not then direct?

Only one, but it's still "in development" at Dimension Films.

9) Have you been offered a job to rewrite/cleanup any hollywood screenplays that we might know?

Yes, but I have not taken them.

10) I'm not sure if you remember me, but I'm Andrew Hein. I was on set in March.

-Yes Andy I do remember you well.

I just wanted to say thank you for an amazing time. It really was one of the great experences of my life.

-Oh, well, thank you too. I hope you enjoyed the souvenir.

I saw Mike in San Diego and he and I talked a little bit more about things. I still talk to Doug Jones about once or twice a week.  
I just wanted to say thanks so much.

You are very welcome.

11) There is currently a debate raging on these boards about the quality of the "Spider-Man" movie. Seeing as everyone respects your opinion, I thought I'd let you settle it.

Did you like the Spider-Man movie? If not, why not? If so, what did you like? Was the movie, in your opinion, well made/written/directed/etc.?

Arguments cannot be settled because there is no Universal truth when taste is involved. We argue violently about movies the way we argue about politics or religion. In a way they all form our "World c

I, personally, thought SPIDERMAN was a crapload of fun. I loved it. Do I like the Goblin suit??? No, but Raimi made a choice that didn't distracted me from enjoying it.

I am sure that the sequel will be better. How?? Well I did a sequel to a movie I loved (BLADE) and I just did the FIRST movie on a character I love (HELLBOY) and I know that SETTING UP the world is har

12) Any news about weither or not Doug will get to voice Abe? I mean what I heard of him he really works.

Doug will give it a shot in the next 2 weeks. If it doesn't work we'll move on to my first choice: David Hyde-Pierce.

PD: I am a huge FRAZIER fan.

13) Y is it that when something gets to be adapted to screen, they turn the logos more shiny and more 3d? Im not sure I preffer that but thats the case with all! Spiderman, Hulk, Xmen and even your B simple look. Y not keep the text as is?!

I believe that marketing departments feel that "fleshing out" a 2-D logo makes separates the two worlds: Comic and Movie. But about the HB logo, don't worry, the one seen in the pullouts- oops... "pos

14) Have ya heard of the movie "28 Days Later" by Danny Boyle (I'm sure you have)? If you've seen it yet, what did you think? Me? One of (possibly the best) movie I've seen this year!!!! Everything fro

I agree. Ib own it on DVD (multizone players, baby!!!)

15) I will be getting a BS degree in marketing. Do you have any "words of wisdom" as to pointing me in the right direction? I'm not looking for favors by any means, and I'm not looking for any free brea

I was also taken back a little to read that you like/have a In Flames CD. If I can make a few suggestions? Maybe look into two bands: Stone Sour and Slipknot (the former being hard rock and the latter k

I like SLIPKNOT. BTW What do you guys think of AUDIOSLAVE?? Just curious.

About the marketing career, Jeez. You caught me off there. I know little if anything 'bout that. Sorry-

16) Check out a movie called Cabin Fever coming out, directed by Eli Roth. Very cool. Saw it last week before everyone else for once. Hooray for me!

I saw it and laughed my ass off with joy. I also met Eli in a film festival. Nice guy, nasty little gem.

17). Which stage is your favorite? (shooting; pre-production; etc)

100% Post. Particularly the editing process. It's like writing with images and it's tehre that the movie is REALLY born. No more bullshit, no more problem. You are there alone with your images and soun

18). Who did the makeup and animatromic effects in Blade 2, and how can i forget Hellboy? I think some studios need to learn a few lessons from them. lol.

Bll was done by STEVE JHONSON's XFX. Steve is quite a genius and one of the best in the world. HELLBOY was done by the Rick Baker guys CINNOVATION and a new company called SPECTRAL MOTION

19) . You probably wont give it away, but how does The Corpse scene relate with the plot? If not, just tell me to wait and see.

Well, let me give you guys a couple of nuggets about the plot. The movie starts close to SOD's origin story but taking a couple of departures, then the story is basically brand new from that point on. No storyline in the comics. It's a wink-nod to the hardcore fans.

The whole movie is.

You will see a paralel universe story of Hellboy. True to its mythology and rules but changed and new. With enough nods, winks and pieces of dialogue to be enjoyed. But essentially different in the sam

20). Will there be any references to comic art forms in Hellboy as in Blade 2? Or will it be all Mignola?

There are visual hommages to JACK Klrby peppered throughhout.

21). Have any of the question from all the users inspired you?

They all do. Trust me. I know you guys are hardcore and I read your postings carefully. My CD and DVD collection -and a few books- have been enriched by your recommendations and I feel quite close

21). Which comic book property would you direct if given the offer? even the one's that have been done.

BATMAN YEAR ONE, COFFIN, JONAH HEX, SWAMP THING.

22) Did you have any part whatsoever in the decision to move the release date of Hellboy up to April 2nd? If so, why? If not, does this show lack of faith from the studio, or is there another reason? I rea

I was consulted, yes. I actually had ORIGINALLY requested to open April 2nd and was delighted by the move. DELIGHTED.

23). Also, does this move affect the current filming schedule or reshoot schedule, or will it maily affect the post-production schedule? On a side note, since the whole movie was shot first unit, will there

So far, so good. I actually NEVER moved the schedule from my April desired date because I was hoping against hope. I feel that the movie has a better chance to find its audience as oppossed to just pi movie is going for these days.

24) Being a big Tom Waits fan myself, I was wondering if it would be previously released waits stuff or will Tom be writing tracks for the movie? I think the latter would be great and think tom would cap

We will meet next week with REVOLUTION to discuss the soundtrack of the mopvie. More news after that.

25) Is Hellboy going to have a strong horror movie feel to it? I mean I love Hellboy comics and to me they seem predominantly horror with a touch of sci fi and lovecratian influences..... can you just l

No SCI-FI but yes to horror and pinch of Lovecraft.

26) Do you have any control over the official movie site? Do you know when it will be updated, it seems they havn't updated it in a few months.

Agreed. We will start a lot of activity comes SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER. Get ready!!!

27 ) Any idea when the first Hellboy trailer(s) are due to hit theatres and which movies they will be attached to?

OCTOBER. To a BIG movie.

28) What films influenced you as a kid to gain an interest in film and film-making?

Big question. I will say UNIVERSAL monster movies, HAMMER films, ITALIAN horror films, JAPANESE monster movies and horror films MEXICAN horror movies and ANIME, which was popular in Mexico since

29) What have you got planned for after HellBoy?

Jeez, I dunno yet-

30) I heard they pushed forward the release date?.Do you know about what date Hellboy will come out in Australia?

I'll find out.

31) Did the devils backbone or Crono's do well box office wise or I guess dvd sales wise? I live in a whole in the wall and neither came to our town, a lot of movies dont, so I was wondering if it did well?

They did remarkably well for their COST-PROFIT ratio and remain consistent sellers on DVD. DEVIL'S BACKBONE was released TOO limited in theatres in America but thanks to DVD it has done better and

32) And also if a movie doesnt do well at the box office do the dvd sales make up for its box office statistics? Does a studio give the director another shot?

Studios may not, but YOU give yourself a shot. Studio movies are not the ONLY movies produced. I actually like independant cinema and world cinema much more.

33)Do you know if your shorts will ever be available to watch or rent?

The CRONOS dvd will have pieces of them. But be forewarned: They are pure CRAP.

34) What was the transition/what did you go through from directing an independent movie(Cronos) to being the director of hollywood blockbusters. After you made Cronos and you were done with it, the

The movie won 9 academy awards in Mexico, then the Grand Prize at CANNES' week of the critics and about 15 awards more world wide. It was impeccably reviewed Worldwide and me -being 100% br

35) hi, right now im in japan, its one of the coolest things ive ever seen, recently i saw the blade 2 poster, great..

Oh, man. the JAPANESE BLADE II poster is THE BEST!!!! IT'S SOOOOOOOO COOL.

34) is the Torch of Liberty going to make an appearance/mention in the film? I figured that might explain HB's gun and coat alittle to the audience.....

Nope, Sorry.

35) whats happening with the titles/opening credits? is it gonna be the standard superhero cg stuff or do you have other ideas?

It's somewhat more Gothic than the DNA credits from SPIDEY and X-MEN. Imaginary Forces is doing them They did the MIMIC credits and the BLADE II Credits. Oh, and the credits on a small movie calle

36) Does Abe get to put on silly disguises when outdoors like the fake beard and glasses?

At one point he did but we transport them both (HB and HIM) in a way that they don't need to be disguised.

37) will the intellectual side of HB be shown, seeing him sitting in a library with reading glasses would be pretty cool..

That side is used by Mike in single panels and covers etc but NEVER dramatized in comic form, so ABe and Broom are really the holders of knowledge on this one.

38) Curious to know and understand....

What rights exactly has Revolutions purchased with regards to Hellboy...does your agreement specify sequels? If so, are you part of the package if they decide they want a sequel?

-I would hope so Sypda, I would hope so.

39) I ask this because I had heard that Miramax and the Wayan clan had a falling out (probably not quite the case) of sorts and Miramax were still able to do a Scary Movie sequel without them. Could a longer than they wanted to, would they be able to take control of the franchise and higher your replacement?

My relationship with REVOLUTION has been a dream. Seriously, a damn dream. They are what studios all over the world should be. They don't behave like that. At all. I expect only the best from this. C

40) Your favourite Terence Hill and Bud Spencer teamup??

MY NAME IS TRINITY, THEY STILL CALL ME TRINITY and what was known in Mexico as the DUNE BOOGIE MOVIE. Masterpieces.

41) Im not sure if this has already been asked, but whats your favorite hellboy story?

THE CORPSE. NO doubt.

42) Oh, oh... I was supposed to remind you GDT, about doing the weekly diary for us during post-production. I hope you'll be able to do it.

Sigh- Ill try Spyda. No weekend for me. uh?

43) How much has Ron Perlman changed/grown in acting style, ability and taking direction since the two of you first worked together in Cronos?? Do you find it any more or less difficult when working w

EVERY time I work with Ron I see him mature and become technically and artistically better and better. Some of the stuff he did on HELLBOY is -and will always be- magic in my eyes. It's so cliched to s

44) This is kind of off topic, but are there any young and new up and coming directors/writers that you think are going to become the next big thing?

I love a guy called Mike Prosser and his movie THE DIVIDING HOUR. I loved CABIN FEVER, so ELi Roth is a talent to watch and in Europe -particularly Spain and France- and Asia there are better and bet

45) Well, on to my question, and I?m not asking this so that you stop answering our questions. I?m just wondering if you?re not afraid of telling a liiittle too much about this movie while answering our c

Nothing I've said in this forum will sway your opinion or your enjoyment of the film. I am very careful about that -I hope.

46) ever thought of making a small short-film with the corpse-story that you can put on the dvd-extras? (hmm, this question may have been asked before, sorry if that is the case)

This is a very ineteresting question. In a roundabout way. Allow me to disgress...

I chose SEED OF DESTRUCTION as the model for the movie because in a strange way is the most "perfectable" of all the HELLBOY adventures. I could change it, tweak it, retell it and it will still be a GRE you can tell THE CORPSE story any better than Mike Mignola did on the page. Why screw with that masterpiece??

47) How advanced are works on "Mountain of Madness" adaptation? Is it your next (after HB) project? Any ideas on cast?

First draft. Startinga rewrite soon. All I can tell you is: I want Adrian Brody to play a character called "Howard".

48) Whoa, whoa, whoa GDT... You were an actor (credited?) So, there's some acting chops there somewhere? Anything we've seen?

I studied theatre and pantomime and did my share of independant theatre. A few cameos on film and I pleyed 4 monsters on a TV series where my company created the make up FX. I'm not Olivier but

49) Bullboy... lol. This I gotta see!

where can I get a copy Guillermo??!

I hev no idea. It's just a mini-cameo. The movie BULLFIGHTER is the strangest movie I have ever seen. It's a post-apocalptyc western about the rebirth of the Messiah, with Willem Dafoe playing a blind me to a TUMMY WAR with his armour on.

I beat the crap out of him. LOL.

50) Will Mike Mignola do a alternative cover for the DVD version. If not for some Special Edition then one where us fans might be able to download here on this site? That would be funky fresh indeed.

Mignola willing I'll make it happen.

51) Is there any more filming to be done Stateside or is it straight on to post production and editing? The reason I'm curious is that Ron hasn't grown the 'tache back yet and that only tends to come off

So far no additional footage is needed except for miniatures and pyro elements to be shot in OCT

The reasons for my unhappines with MIMIC were due to the tampering that was doen with it. Not a change of mind. The original project and script could have been really great if left alone. Oh, well DVD

And that's it for now my fiends. See you next Sunday.



All the best

GUILLERMO  
Sherman Oaks  
CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 5th The AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE will hold a screening of CRONOS, both to celebrate its 10th anniversary and to launch the DVD. I will be there and will do an intro and a Q&A. If any o

All the best

G del Toro  
HI GUYS!!!

HERE WE GO-

1) I forgot to ask who helped you with the Blade tattoo design?? Did you have a professional sort something out or did you have one of the effects artists plot it??

YES, but the basic design was created on BLADE, the first movie, we just augmented it a touch to show his addition of more tribal markings as he completes his warrior evolution. THE "TATTOO" was ap

2) Will the DVD contain any paranormal bloopers or mysterious hidden extras?

We will have paranormal POP UP factoids.

3) More on the soundtrack: Will Tom Waits' music be the only non-symphonic music on the soundtrack? If not, who else then?

CINNY's WALTZ, BURMA SHAVE, maybe RED RIGHT HAND and maybe one o tune more. NOT much. Oh, and some Vera Lynn tunes from the 1940's

4) Who puts the soundtrack together?

We do. But Hellboy will have very, very few songs in it. it will be mostly score. About 100 minutes of it, full orchestra, upwards 100 musicians, plus choral and percussion groups.

5) And finally, what does one have to do to be featured on such a soundtrack?... hehehe...

There's very little room in the movie, but let me see about this: What would you guys think of a "fan CD" that we create right here and is "downloadable" from this website??? I, for one, would love to h and we form our own album.

6) You ever been to Australia? Any chance of visiting to promote Hellboy? You can crash on my couch if you're ever heading down.

It better be a BIG ASS couch. Oh, and I snore like a mutha-

7) Considering you seem to have a strong interest in music, are you yourself a musician in any way?

I can belt out a Sinatra tune or two, but that's if the karaoke bnar is pouring me enough vodka.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> I write for a mildly successful internet magazine, is there a chance of doing an interview with you? If so, what a

Hey, just post your Q's right here, bud.

9) I don't know if it was asked before but anyways here it is:

I've always wondered how HB in comics is perceived by all ordinary people. They always seemed to handle with his appearance like he was regular human. No shock, shouts and point outs. That was st

He is an urban myth. BUT when people see him, they freak out a bit.

10) I'm a big fan. Loved Devil's Backbone, Blade 2, and Mimic, in that order.

-Me too.

Have not seen Cronos, so can't wait for the DVD. Am also a Ron Perlman fan ever since Quest for Fire. As for Mignola, here's a funny (kinda) story.

Right after Seed of Destruction came out, Lou Bank, a friend of mine who was at the time Director of Sales and Marketing for Dark Horse, asked me to try out for the scripting chores on Hellboy. Not in opportunity!

Thank God that never happened, as Hellboy is one of my absolutely favorite books, and the only one that I actually seek out at comic shops. You can well imagine that the combination of you, Ron, Mik

You can write me to <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com">Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com</a><!-- e -->

11) It was cool to see that you mentioned Mike Prosser in your post. Mike is a buddy of mine and we were planing to do a Dividing hour comic that was supposed to go with the DVD buuut costs cut tha  
I spoke to MP on the weekened and wished him plenty of luck.

12)Just wanted to add my voice to the admirers of what you (and all the rest of the crew) have been putting together - so far it all looks stunning and I can't wait till next summer to see it...

-THANK YOU

Two small questions (one hellboy related, one general):

In the film - why the romance beween Liz and Hellboy? It always seemed like they were little more than good friends (if anything Abe seemed more emotionally attached to her) - having read the comic

- HELLBOY is both. If you remember in ALMOST COLOSSUS he freaks out when Liz is apparently dead. I loved that moment and thought it a great contrast between the guy that can pound a monster or

Secondly - Lovecraft. I've always found it weird how when his name gets mentioned people tend to say 'Oh yeah - tentacles'. Weird simply because most of his stories focused on that whole cold alien h  
universe... So I was wondering how you planned to visualise the shuggoths, etc in the Mountains of Madness...

-First and foremost Lovecraft is about the horror of putting human existance in PERSPECTIVE. How tiny we are. Ants in the Cosmic picnic. Then about the atrocious biology that our heroes face, a cryno  
of artists before we can lock on a look for the creatures.

And lastly I'm an artist at a Games Developer in the Uk (making an RPG called Fable at the mo) - we're all huge Hellboy fans so if ever you want someone to pitch for the game...

We are millimeters away from anouncing a deal with a developer here in the USA, but, keep in touch.

13) Hi, Big fan of yur work, especially Blade2. Lookin forward to Hellboy. I'm trying hard to think of a question regarding Hellboy, but everything i can think of has allready bin asked. So i'll ask for your c  
question, who would win in a fight, Blade or Hellboy?

I loved POC and Identity. Haven't seen the others yet. Hellboy and Blade?? Jeez, I'd pay to se that fight.

Who would win??? Both would be sore in the morning.

14) Excellent to have you back. I hope post-production goes as well as principle photography. Anyway, questions:

What is there (if anything) about HELLBOY, that makes it a more substantial film than BLADE 2? Obviously, you're more passionate about this character, but I'm referring more to emotional or thematic  
enjoyed the hell out of BLADE 2 and I'm sure HELLBOY will kick ass.)

-They are different beasts. BLADE II had minimal plot and minimal character development. It was almost like a musical comedy where the fight coreography took the place of the musical numbers. Kind

Hellboy, I think is a great comic because it has great characters, so the movie concerns itself with them and the plot but has action scenes peppering the mix along with horror atmosphere and a health

15) You mentioned adapting JONAH HEX in a previous reply. Although, I doubt that would ever happen, I would love to see you and Guillermo Navarro make a western. Any interest? On that subject, I ju

-I love THE GREAT SILENCE and feel proud that you know it. You are a cinephile. Check also the DJANGO movies...

Have you ever read Ray Bradbury's story THE JAR? I'm guessing you have.

-I have read most everything Bradbury wrote until the 1980's, then his NEW novels and stories started to lose interest for me

16) Hmm, audioslave, well I love Rage Against the Machine, and Soundgarden is good, so the combination of the Soundgarden singer and the RAAtM-band with the fact that i prefer singing over rap sho

I think that AUdioslave, RAM and Tool are bands that interest me because they seem to be really exploring the music with intelligence and purpose. I think that if any of this bands wanted to do a cover

17) Are there any plans of doing a comic-adaption of the Hellboy movie? This may seem weird considering the movie is based on the SotD-album, but there seems to be enough changes to the actual s

Mike and I agreed from the start that there would be NO adaptation of the movie. We want to keep HELLBOY separate in both mediums. I think is a better choice than starting to meddle with the mytho

On the other hand Mike is going to incorporate a few ideas and images from the movie to his future stories. I guess he likes the movie!!

18) Will the screening be held at The Egyptian Theatre, or at the Aero Theatre? It makes a significant difference.

I believe the Egyptian.

19) Have you made a director's cut? I was wondering if the Cinematheque will be screening this version or the standard cut.

They are both one and the same.

20) what else can you tell us about post-production? Who else is doing voice tests? What have you seen of the CGI or modeling?

We are barely into 5% of the CGI being delivered but we have finished most the modelling and paint jobs. They look extremely sweet. No other voices will be replaced. Doug goes to the booth next week.

21) having spent so much quality time with the various crews that have contributed to the film: spectral, and so on, who would you consult again for future projects?

I love SPECTRAL MOTION, DDT, the Spanish company that did DEVIL'S BACKBONE and that is in charge of all things Kroenen. I would work with them every time. As of Rick Baker's?? Right now they are

22) Just noticed when checking the boards a while ago you mentioned that you're polishing off the final draft to your mountains of madness script. Am really intrigued to hear about exactly how you're

We actually are doing a FRAMING sequence where one of the survivors IS in an insane asylum, so go figure.

The movie will follow the book beats but will also add a lot of time-space distortions to play with the "rational" frame of the characters and add a "black hole" feeling to the zone where the ruins are discovered.

23) Whoa! Penderecki's "Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima" is freaky!

Penderecki and Ligetti were extensively used by Kubrick in THE SHINING as was Berlioz's overture to Fantastic Symphonie. I love their works. Similarly, you should check the work of ARVO PART a contemporary

24) HEY I ASKED THIS QUESTION LAST TIME BUT I DIDNT GET A RESPONSE. JUST CURIOUS, BUT WILL SANTIAGO SEGURA BE MAKING ANY CAMEOS IN HELLBOY? I FIGURED IT WOULD BE LIKELY SINCE HE

I did answer that, didn't I??? Santiago Appears in a crucial scene with Hellboy and his cameo is very, very funny.

25) What can you tell us about the upcoming sideshow merchandise (have you seen any of it, what are you most looking forward to)?

I just saw the sculpts for their ABE and HELLBOY figures and busts and they are astounding!!!!

26) Will Mike Mignola, Ron, and yourself be making any appearances at SDCC 2004?

No plans yet.

27) Is it possible to do a small interview for Outcross Magazine with you? I am writing for this Miami, FL based Mag but we are globally distributed through Diamond and have interviewed Brian Michael Smith. I have  
you like 7 or 8 questions for the piece. Thanks for any help you can offer.

Yeah, Peter post your Q's right here. Along with an e-mail to return 'em.

28) As involved as you are in the special effects procedure of your films, do you ever imagine reviving Necropia? To take a more proactive role?

NOT really. I feel that it would only complicate things more.

29) I've learned a few things about your background study for "Cronos"; what sort of research went into making Hellboy? I refer to study of the paranormal, outstanding myths and legends, Nazi science fiction, etc.  
Or is Mignola knowledgeable enough in these fields?

Mike and I have a very similar reference library. We research mostly to use as a springboard to the imagination, but yes, we do quite a bit of research. After the movie comes out you can ask me more

30) What kind of stuff have you dug up about forgotten German science - you know, like the secret German arctic base, German experiments with psychics and mind control, any aspects of their space program?  
I mean, you can't deny there's a whole lot of creepy information that's surfaced in recent years...

Well, yes- the WACKY NAZI SCIENCE/PARANORMAL research programs were incredibly active and gained more importance than people give them credit for. Nazis were ruthless in their race for power and they  
most of the high-ranking guys and what they did is both laughable and horrifying. But you should read more for yourself about this and the mad quest for the Death Ray and all Judeo-Christian Holy relics.

Unholy Alliance: History of the Nazi Involvement With the Occult -- by Peter Levenda

The Occult Roots of Nazism: Secret Aryan Cults and Their Influence on Nazi Ideology: The Ariosophists of Austria and Germany, 1890-1935  
by Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke

31) After you are through with the movie and place your stamp of approval on it, will that be enough for you? In other words, will it make a real difference to you if the movie is or is not successful?

There are levels of success that are more enduring than others. The first level is loving the movie yourself... CRONOS did a little over a million dollars at the box office in 1992 and yet it was infinitely more successful than most.

Of course I would love if Hellboy is successful. First with me and Mike, then with you guys, the family and then, finally, with the rest of the world.

But some of my favorite movies were flops when released, BLADE RUNNER, SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION, PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE, etc, etc

A movie finds a place in your heart, a promotional campaign find a place in your wallet.

32) I'm looking to expand my DVD collection to include more independent or lesser known great movies. I just read a little blurb about you and Prosser concerning "The Dividing Hour". So I'm gonna pic

Wow!!! If you guys want this---- I'll gather about 100 of my favorites on a list and post them next week or so.

33) I'm curious about the role of Professor Broom in the movie. In the comics, though he is often mentioned as Hellboy's surrogate father, and it is clear that Big Red definitely loved him (Awww!), but Hurt's Broom has a much larger role in the movie; is that the case?

-Yes, absolutely. The movie explores this further than the comic ever did.

34) On a non-Hellboy, winged, nocturnal rodent note, would you consider teaming up with Mr. Goyer again on his Scarecrow (rumor-aided assumption, no details yet) Bats script? I know it's not a Year potential! Even though you haven't read the treatment yet, would you even contemplate undertaking the project, provided you like the story? Sure you have a lot of projects on the horizon, and curren

The only BATMAN story that I think needs to be told is YEAR ONE, the rest might be fun, but will not lend any insights on the character, I think....

Nevertheless Chris Nolan -a great and smart filmmaker- is on the case so-

35) Are there any scary moments in Hellboy, anything intentionally surprising in its darkness. Horror surely isn't the tone of the entire movie, but maybe there will be a few SPOOKY bits we might enjoy?

There are PLENTY of creepy moments in the movie.

36) Will there be any internal monologue from Hellboy?

Not at all.

37) I'm not sure how to ask this without sounding non-pc, but anyways I was just wondering if you're worried about any members of religious affiliations on how they might perceive the movie? Any worry

I think that a true Catholic or a true Christian -those whose faith is really strong- have plenty more to get offended by in the state the world is today than the title of a movie. One which, by the way pre

38) okay and also was wondering are there any pictures, maybe you could post, of devils backbone merchandise or hellboy movie merchandise? I looked at sideshow and they don't have anything about

Soon, very soon...

39) And audioslave is good, but I like queens of the stone age(great music videos too) and black rebel motor cycle club better. Also are you a fan of Gorillaz?

Yeah, I love Gorillaz and their whole image.

40) Now...we assume that you've gotten a peek at some of Mignola's future Hellboy stuff.

Can we expect props or characters or just winks in the film to stuff that we have yet to see ourselves?

Yes, you will see that but not in the immediate THEE ISLAND, at least not that I'm aware.

39) We've started a thread for asking Ron Perlman questions on the boards. Do you know if Ron might start answering these the way you do, or should we leave him alone?

I will ask Ron, but I'll do it respecting his privacy and the right to say "no"

40) Was there anything from the comics in terms of ideas/concepts that you dropped due to budget or 'un-filmable' reasons?

-Scenes were dropped but they were not COMIC-based, so I guess the answer is "no".

41) I remember hearing that red would play a big part in making HB stand out in the film..how much if that will be post-production, e.g. film-treatment,filtering..?

We will digitally process chunks of the movie to take advantage of HB being red -specially when he's a baby. Red is the most aggressive color in the spectrum and one that "bleeds" a lot electronically. I

42) Do you think the HellBoy universe could be in some way suitable to a television series format? Just wondering as there's rumours of a Blade tv series idea.....

I don't think so, except an animated series...

43) After seeing Hulk, I'm curious as to what kind of creative touches you might be thinking of in terms of scene-wipes or shots?

I have not seen the Hulk. I've seen trailers and some "behind the scenes" and stuff. No swipes. We were already shooting when it opened. Although we both have some footage of an industrial ELEVATOR.

44) Are there any of Lovecraft's novels that have particularly shaped your creation of "Hellboy"?

All "Lovecraftian-ness" in the film is mainly from Mignola's comic. That is peripheral.

45) Any reference to Hellboy's mom or his half-human nature in the film? Do you think that beautiful Chained Coffin scene might see celluloid at any point in the future, animated or in a sequel?

There will be a lot to do about that in the sequel because Hellboy's nature will be put to trial one more time.

46) Just how Goth is Liz in the movie? Will she look anything like the badass in the latest issue of Weird Tales?

She is very different in the movie. The Goth aspect gave way to a different look that I found more "natural" in the movie. She is almost "uniformed" in the comics in that little purple/black number just below the movie. Not the snappy Goth-chic that she is in the comics.

47) GDT, are familiar with the work of Douglas Tennapel? Have you seen anything of his "Mothman" movie?

- he just posted a trailer on his site.

-I'll look into it right now-

48) It's Dave How's things? Welcome back, dude! Hope your break was relaxing. I ran across this image earlier today, and it kind of reminded me of something; Spyda and I thought you might appreciate it.

Not intentional at all. I haven't seen this "version" of THE GODFATHER. Funny-

49) Maybe you could give everybody here an insight into your editing process? Walk us through the average day - from when you walk into the editing suite until they turn off the lights...I think everybody would love to hear that.

Well, on Sundays, during the shoot, is mostly about seeing different ways that the same material can be approached from. BUT as the edit gets refined you start questioning the place the scene is within the movie.

Editing is the most liberating of the stages in which a movie is made. Not only is it the most fun but is the most rewarding creatively. You can experiment and be free and be amazed at the infinity of creative possibilities.

50) I hear you'll be at Wizard World TX in November. Plan on bringing anything special to your panel?

Well, yes, since the OCT trailer may move to NOV (Teaser poster on theaters in OCTOBER) WIZARD WORLD may be the place to debut the full-size trailer. We'll see.

Maybe I'll bring Ronny-boy.

Hey, BTW. Ron's here, He says YES he'll answer your Q's.

Here's Ron:

RON: see ya over the weekend... be ready!!!

51) Have you given any thought to the opening titles of the movie yet. Cause I was thinking (well it came to me a dream really). And I was thinking of as the opening credits roll there would be different titles for each scene.

The title sequence has -since the first draft of the script- been designed to include footage and blurry photos and newspaper clippings, etc, etc...

52) I want to emphasise a question asked by somebody else cause I was wondering it myself. How was Doug Jones in the voice test? Does he have a chance to be in the film?

Next week-

53) As Stan Lee makes cameo's in his comic book adaptations, will Mike be making a cameo?

Mike did. It was cut off already. It will be on the DVD.

54) Wizard World announced a new venue in Los Angeles (actually Long Beach) for March. Since that's right before the movie release, might we expect a major display of costumes, props, truck, and panel?

-Good idea. I'll look into it.

55) I was just wondering how you did the sound effect in Devil's Backbone after the explosion where it goes subjective and becomes muffled due to Casares' pulverised eardrums.. I'm guessing it was done in post.

Yes, we designed the scene to start in absolute silence with just a "deaf" tone in it and then -one by one- we edited in each sound and distorted it digitally. Yes, all this in post.

56) Jan Sverak did a question and answer session while I was in Prague and revealed that after he won an Oscar for Kolya he got sent so many scripts - mostly bad - that he stopped reading them and a

-Not really. I've passed on BIG HIT movies but they were not for me. Why do them???

57) There was a crazy end credit in Blade II - 'No real reapers were hurt during the making of this film'. Any hint on whether we'll get something similar in the Hellboy end credits, just for fun?  
One or two will be wacky enough.

58) I thought I'd let you read this linked review of the latest Mimic sequel. I'd like to get your reflection on the work done by this director [ J.T. Petty ]

Apparently J.T. is a newfound gem of a director and this sequel is supposed to be the best of the three films. Sort of a Rear Window take.

-The "Rear Window" take is actually very similar to the original short story. I am glad the sequel is that good. I hope he enjoyed making it. The first one was a pain in the %9( to do.

59) I was just wondering if you were p\*ssed off at the news that the upcoming Aliens Vs. Predator movie is ripping off the premise to ATMOM? I know I am. The ancient city frozen in Antarctica, the alien  
I didn't know. NOW I'm PISSED OFF!!! This might just screw the projct up.

60) Whilst on the subject, I was wondering who you had in mind for big Ron P to play in the movie? Professor Dyer? He's the only character in the book who has much to do.

Nope, different character,

61) And what about the ending? PLEASE tell me those three magical words will still aply - Giant Albino Penguins!

100% guaranteed. G.A.P.'s will be in the flick. If it gets done.

See ya next week!

GDT  
Sherman Oaks  
CA

Hi guys and goils:

I am rushing through the last weeks Q&A but I cannot wait to tell you a tidbit. We are so lucky. At this very moment Drew Strewzan is working on the final rendering of the HELLBOY poster coming

I just thought you may like to know...

GDT

62)

I saw the poster already. Its pure drew, 100%.

It took a long time to get the go ahead. Lots of discussion and I didn't want you guys to be dissapointed if we didn't get it.

I have known for a long time now that he was going to do it, but I had to wait for it to be REAL-REAL before making it known publicly. Some factions were in favor of a diferent campaign but reason and

As for the CD soundtrack we are still in talks. Very delicate territory, but looking good.

Doug's voice session was good but we basically just emulated production. It's still in the air until I get to play with the sound and add some elements to his consonants and bowels (not VOICE ALTERING

We are prepping the campaign from OCT-APRIL starting with the re-launch of the site which will include dozens of new prepro illustrations and new photos and a whole new look and bag of goodies.

In my experience, a 6 month campaign is real good. BLADE II was promoted much closer to the release date, almost down to the wire and we did good. HELLBOY is a more delicate sell, but we are being

Talk to you soon.

G del T

Hi guys:

Sorry 'bout the delay. I got the FLU last week (consider THAT your production diary Spyda!!)

First of all. GOOD NEWS: WE have prevailed. At this very moment Drew S. is working on the HELLBOY poster. To be released in to thetres this fall/ Winter!!! Howsdatt???

On to the Q's

1) GDT, don't tell me we gotta wait another month for the trailer! oh, the agony of the wait.

Trailer will probably be attached to LAST SAMURAI.

2) Finally ... regarding the FAN CD idea. Sounds great! I think there's already a thread with suggestions. Please try if you can at all to make this happen. I am at least trying for a space in this website w

I had a meeting with SONY legal and music. They are studying the ramifications and /or liability issues -sigh- big companies, y'know... They were not as thrilled as I was, lemme say that. But we press o

3) Did you just say something you shouldn't have on a possible hellboy sequel.?Does this mean that a Hellboy sequel is more than a possibility? You sounded more than sure that there was definatly go

Well, the studio loves the stuff they've seen, but the final say will always be the numbers at the BOX OFFICE when it opens.

4) So, Guillermo, did you only want music written and performed by fans, or is just 'performed by fans' okay?

Soon as the legal eagles tell me, I'll tell you guys.

5). Since Hellboy will be PG-13, its understandable that the violence is on monsters. But will the rating effect the Atmosphere/Creepiness in the film? I remember The Devil's Backbone so I know what y

There will be plenty of atmosphere.

That said, allow me a bref, brief lesson in horror filmmaking.

The atmosphere factor always depend s on your empathy with the "witness" character that you submerge in said atmosphere. If it is a 12 year old kid well. shivers will be more abundant than with say

6) It's a shame your not doing Creature from the Black Lagoon. Is it possible if we could see Art or a Treatment on a site one day?

I didn't think that it should be remade unless the idea was soooooooo irresistible that you couldn't avoid giving birth to it. No there will be no treatment.

7) Will there be a book forthcoming detailing the concept art, maquette sculptures, etc. on the making of the movie?

YES.

I love these areas of DVD special features (and it sounds from one of your answer sessions that these will be accompaning the Hellboy DVD) but there is nothing like being able to hold a book in your h

AGREED. I am a book man myself. I live surrounded by thousands of volumes of dark lore, magic, horror tales, novels, etc, comics, dvd's etc And -to this day- the most pleasurable "discovery" experien

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Why weren't orange/red/yellow contacts used to complete the look of hellboy? o

Uh?? We did use GOLDEN/SIENNA/YELLOW scleral lenses.

9) Does Mr. Waits know of Hellboy?

Not yet, we are still evaluating soundtrack ideas But we are already in the process of acquiring BURMA SHAVE and CINNY's WALTZ, that's for sure.

9) I was wondering about Hellboys size in the film. In the comics he is a huge motha. Are you going to resize Ron in post?

No. Ron will be human size, just BIG, but no more than 7 feet tall.

10) Would you ever consider writing a filmmaking/art of/behind the scenes book. You put your journals on your dvds and Im sure if you printed them a lot of fans would consider buying them. Maybe lik book or something?

The journals on the dvd are cool, but paper would be cooler.

THIS time the journal pages -along with craploads of art and even a DREW S step by step poster development section- will be available in print (on the ART OF HELLBOY - THE MOVIE book) and on DVD

11) Is a date locked in on the unveiling of the HB trailer?

Not yet, but presumably soon. Late Oct/early Nov.

+ Is the plan to show it both in theaters and have it for download through an Apple.com? Cause you know we don't want our first online viewing to be in streaming WMV on Yahoo. bleh.

Both formats it will be here soon enough.

+ Sorry for the illness in the family. I hope all is well.

Thank you. My wife's uncle passed away after several weeks of struggle and pain. Great Guy too...

12) What can the world expect from Hellboy, the movie?

Their first glimpse at one of the most endearing, engaging comci characters ever created. A movie that mixes action/horror imagery and humor.

13) Who would win in a fight, you or Robert Rodriguez?

Hard to say. I -for one- wouldn't want to find out.

14) Who were your biggest influences growing up (film, books, music, etc.)?

Films: Hitchcock (at age 21 I wrote a book about him) Bunuel, Sturges, Chaolin, Terence Fisher, Bava, Argento, Whale, Anime (in Mexico anime was popular iin the 60's) Jpaanese monster movies, MEXI

Books: LOvecraft, Bloch, Matheson, Bradbury, Ellison, Lord Dunsany, Arthur Machen, William Hope Hodgson, MR James, Sheridan LeFanu, Marcel Schwob, Jorge Luis Borges, Juan Rulfo, Agustin Yanez, C

Music: My first 50 albums or so where only MOVIE MUSIC (My first two were JAWS and THE GODFATHER LP's) but then I discover Genesis, pink Floyd, Zeppelin, etc To this day 80% of my music CD's are

15) What were some of the worst suggestions you received from the executives about producing Hellboy?

A) THat he should be played by a certain wrestler.

B) that he should look normal and ONLY turn into Hellboy when he is angry.

C) That he should be flesh-color and have no horns or tail.

16) How will the Hellboy film differ from the comics?

The best way I can answer is by using an analogy: Ron Perlman in Hellboy Makeup is equal parts Ron and Hellboy. The prosthetics covering his face are sculpted to drastically differ from him or his face hand in hand with Mike Mignola and preserving the soul of the comic. Its an alternate universe, but the comic is there. The best compliment I have ever received is that Mike said that he wish he had t

17) What kind of input has Hellboy creator Mike Mignola had on the film?

He's been there from the start and will be there as we approach the end. All through pre-production, proiduction and post-production. I wouldn't imagine doing this film without him. I actually petitioned

18) What other projects do you have lined up after Hellboy?

MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS, WIND IN THE WILLOWS, COFFIN (producd by Lightstorm) and a little ghost story for Revolution. Which will come to pass?? As if I knew-

19) If you could have any superpower, which one would you have?

To Fly.

Why?

I have dreamt about it so many times. That and being able to breathe underwater.

20) when the trailer comes our is it gonna be a teaser or a full on action packed 3 min long trailer

2 minutes. give or take. No teaser.

21) do you have any plans brewing in your mind for a sequel and if u do is their anything u could share with us

All I can say at this point is that it would be co-written with Mike Mignola and would be quite extravagant.

HI GUYS:

I am a bit overwhelmed by the workload these past few weeks, so, with much sadness I must announce that the Q&A will become bi-weekly. Some of you will be contacted for a bit of ?behind the

And now-

1) This is my first time posting here. I have to admit i never knew nothing about Hellboy until i found out that my fav director was on board and loved the comic.

-Thanks a million- GdT



What do you think of north american movie companies cutting up and screwing with foreign films to "make them more interesting"?

-I loathe when this happens. I am a great admirer of Stephen Chow (Chiau) and think American audiences are discerning enough to savor a good movie with/without subtitles.

Also, did you get to see the small 3d animation of Hellboy?

-I saw it. Is quite spectacular. I truly hope the movie succeeds and we can get a cartoon series off the ground. Obviously this is the guy to go to-

2) Do you think HellBoy would work in an anime (manga-style) format? kind of like adult feature animation?

Absolutely. That is the perfect way to emulate Mignola's style and be able to deal with the disparate lengths of the stories. A half-hour show every week, sometimes it would be on chapter in an ongoing

Anything you're REALLY pleased about during this stage of the movie? doesn't have to be anything spoiler-wise...

- I love the movie. What can I say??

are you using any virtual environments/sets? what kinda balance is there between physical sets and digital..for example, the ice caves?

-We have built the largest sets I've ever done in this movie. Some of them (about 20%) are digitally enhanced but MOST of them are just humongous!!

Its a little early to ask, but will there be just one release of the movie or if there's considerable editing, a Directors cut?

- You're right - too early.

Has Ron had any problems with the cigar-smoking? that'd have to be one strong nicotine patch to get through HB's skin....

- Ron has -at least that's what he reported to me last- quit smoking as of this moment.

3) uhh I'm not entirely sure if this is correct but happy birthday Mr. Del Toro.

Thank you very much. 39...

4) if Hellboy drove a vehicle what vehicle would that be?

He would crash. Remember his right hand???

5) I was wondering if there was any update on the devils backbone special edition or the BOMB sculpture or Cronos DVD with the pendent???

The DEVIL'S BACKBONE dvd will be released a little earlier than Hellboy. The new edition will have ALL the storyboards and will also boast a brand new, superior transfer to DVD along with some extra and numbered. It will be available at the same time.

Sadly, the CRONOS scarab-like device won't be available until next year as a collectable.

6) For a day, if you could be anyone, AAAANYONE (alive, dead, or fictitious), who would you be? Why, and what would you do?

I wish my free time was more abundant to be able to ponder this more carefully. Sadly, it isn't so the best I can think of is: LUIS BUNUEL, HITCHCOCK or ORSON WELLES. Funny enough I would be much

7) You have a Delorian, Flux Capacitor, Mr. Fusion, and more garbage than Staten Island. What single past event do you undo?

9/11, Twin Towers. No doubt. It changed the way the game of politics is played in our world.

<!-- s8 --><!-- s8 --> Speaking of the future, let's go back to it for three (or five, I guess) seconds. Don't answer these if you don't c

THREE, to do justice to all graphic novels.

I know Mike himself isn't even finished, but could you make an ideal guesstimation?

ABSOLUTELY. I KNOW HERE MIKE IS HEADING WITH IT.

I know, ?too far away?/?too soon to say,? but I have to ask anyway?ok (sad third grade poetic touch there)? Will elements of Almost Colossus make it into Hellboy 2 ( ?: HellMAN!?- just kidding!!), partic

YES.

I know that Rodger is a MUST for you, but hopefully you don't find his written origin too intricate or time-consuming to be told in its majority. I think (much more important than the remarkable visual or megalomaniacal monstrosity?)

WHY NOT, INDEED.

Again, jumping the gun (or Samaritan as it is), I know, I know, but any ideas on how to bring him to the screen? Costume and compositing, complete CG? Conceptualized Von Klempt's ape minion yet?

TOO EARLY.

9) Anyway, sorry to harp on and on and on about this, but regarding the trailer and its December release following THE LAST SAMURAI. The film doesn't get released here in the UK until 9th January (admittedly a bit late).

-No. It will be online as soon as possible.

I see also that the release date for HB in the UK is 23rd April. Darn and tarnation! Still, any chance you guys could do a UK premiere and come over here to say Hi? I can grovel extremely well if need be.

- My two favorite cities in the world are MADRID and LONDON, so, trust me, I'll try.

10) In defense of Kate Corrigan!

There no need to defend her, my friend. Seriously, the choices I made with this movie. The changes some characters have gone through and the limited screen time may not please EVERYBODY.

Kate is not by any means a "bad" character. I had to narrow my choices and focus on storylines barely hinted at in the comics and a couple of new ones. Once again I reiterate with the utmost candor: that Ilsa is a much smaller character in this movie, but -hopefully- will resurrect to have her day in further HB exploits. A 120 minute movie can only encompass part of the mythology of a long-running comic book.

Hope you'll enjoy this version of the tale. Fans of Kate are VERY welcome.

11) Do you know the comic Savage Dragon by Erik Larsen (Image Comics) and what do you think about it?

Mike Mignola introduce me to it. I love it!!

12) Cronos hits DVD tomorrow October 14th, but in amazon it isn't listed as a Special Edition, is that the DVD you mentioned in an early post or is this just a barebones edition?

It's a special edition alright. It has quite a bit of goodies even if it is not the TREASURE TROVE that BLADE II or HELLBOY will be. I'm proud of that DVD.

13) Regarding the Cronos DVD, the shorts in the extras are from Hora Marcada? my guess is not because of Televisa, do you believe that Televisa will ever let those shorts out (or if they still have them?)

Yes, HELLBOY WILL -hopefully- have 2 of them and 2 more will be included in the new DEVIL'S BACKBONE dvd.

14) Regarding the Soundtrack, I think you should give a call to Caf? Tacvba, those guys kick major ass, listen to their double CD Rev's/Yo Soy, Rev's is almost totally instrumental and has a great mood.

You may not believe this but I'm already in possession of said CD and I'm listening to it RIGHT NOW. We'll see what come out of this.

15) You said you'll ask Mignola about a DVD Cover, I don't know what the studio will think about it (They'll probably will go the stupid way they always go, put the movie title mixed with a bunch of pictures and asking too much?)

Count on something of the sort. Maybe it will become available in this website and WE can download and print it.

16) Just in case... If you do happen to decide to go with someone other than Doug for the voice of Abe.. can you try to include his test voice sessions on the DVD? I've not heard this guy and would love to hear it.

Unfortunately we may be contractually and legally binded not to do so IF we go another way...

And THAT'S THAT for now. See you guys in a coupla!!

All the best

Del Toro

Hi guys!!

It's already been two weeks. We are still in the cutting room. First off, some news: We re-launch the site -this site- in Halloween night. Be sure to check in, there will be a handful of tasty goodies to be had. THE LAST SAMURAI, yes, but it could also debut with Ron Howard's THE MISSING, time permitting... AS soon as the trailer is up in theatres we will post the much-seen "sizzle reel" that was shown at the licentia.

Now, on to the Q & A:

1) Some time ago I sent you a letter regarding a screening in Iceland and if you would be interested in attending, I'm just here to tell you that the offer is very serious and if you are willing it's on.

Jeez- Iceland is tempting as a touristic destination -and scouting location fro MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS- but it's a touch early to know where we might go. Let's talk again in Feb or so. By then we will have

2) What lighting, filming, post-production techniques are you gonna use to try to emulate the SLAB-BLACK shadows seen in the comics?

The SLAB BLACK tones are present in the comics about 70% of the time. IN the movie, Hellboy interacts with other types of lighting (fluorescent, office lights, etc) so we use it about 40-50% of the time. We try to use direct light and model the area and the actor carefully. You DO NOT use bounce light or diffuse light when doing this -OBVIOUSLY.

3) Growing up, I was reading exclusively Image comics (Spawn, Pitt, Maxx, Savage Dragon, Gen13) and my best friend was exclusively into Marvel comics (X-Men, Wolvie, Cable, etc...) were you even into

I was ADDICTED to comic books and -living with my grandmother for long periods of time - spoiled me. She would buy me EVERY new comic in the newsstands every MONDAY. My favorites were: SWAMP THING COMICS, namely: FANTOMAS and TRADICIONES Y LEYENDAS DE LA COLONIA -as graphic as a Lucio Fulci film and loaded with gratuitous rotting corpses.

About HB fighting style, Expect a progression in the movie. Every fight scene is different -oh, and... he doesn't win all of them.

4) GDT, I'm wondering if you, as a now-seasoned comic-adaptor, are privvy to any information regarding the status of a Hard Boiled (Miller/Darrow) adaptation. I have heard mention of people like David

I apologize, I have no info on that one...

5) When studio execs (or whoever) suggested that Hellboy be "flesh-colored" what was their reasoning? Of all the "helpful" suggests you've mentioned, this is the one I find the most strange. (Did they

I didn't luagh. Neither would you. It's funny ONLY in retrospect. God bless REVOLUTION STUDIOS Man...

6) Are "Mexican wrestler movies" specifically about wrestling? Or are the wrestlers all-purpose heroes? (Solving crimes and fighting evil etc.) Most importantly, how can I get my hands on some of these

Wrestler movies tsarted at the height of the LUCHA LIBRE popularity (imagine the WWF but gorier) and they were meant to cross-pollinate the wrestling scenes with ultra "Z" budget plots about spies or aliens. Wrestling photo-comics had already been popular for many years -I own a complete 4 year run of SANTO comic starting at #1- and in them, EL SANTO (The Silver masked wrestler) would battle cyborgs and mutants. I particularly recommend SANTO CONTRA EL HACHA DIABOLICA, a sublimely ridiculous horror film containing a priceless WIDE SHOT that last a few minutes and in which we observe as SANTO

I LOVE this movies. There is something hypnotic about them and if you combine them with a 6-pack (if you're legal age) and a pizza. You will choke and expel chunk of cheese through your nose in sv

7) Are your travels(promotional or otherwise) going to be taking you to Canada anytime soon?

I WISH. Toronoto is one of my favorite places in the world. Actually, had my wife not vetoed me, I would be a citizen right now.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> I read that one of your vices is that you love to collect comic book art. What artist? Also what would you say are

Isnot an enormous collection, but I do have about 10 pieces by CORBEN including one of my favorite covers of all times "Into the Deep" from Warren's CREEPY, 3 plates of Wrightson's FRANKENSTEIN, a few original Barlowe HELLBOY paintings and more Mignola art than you can shake your fist at -including some key draings, Abe's first apperance, Liz's first explosion and the original drang used for the San I. I also have a few CONCRETE cover a few IAN MILLER, One EDWARD GOREY original and a couple ngravings of his, Several FROM HELL pages, including the endiing of GULL CATCHERS, A BILL STOUT dinosuar,, a few MW pieces rm NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS and a crapload of originals from the children books SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK, etc, etc, etc

9) One more thing too. Is Kevin Nowlan going to have a credit in the film for coming up with title logo like he does in the comics?

You know hwat?? I will investigate. He should.

10) If there isn't already one, can you try to see about having a PLAY ALL option when watching the special features. I never realized how helpful such a small feature was until tonight.

YOU GOT IT.

11) but are we likely to see any talk with Mike Elizade (Spectral) on the DVD?

Yes, AND you will get a COMPLETE gallery of 3-d ROTATING model of the actual maquettes from diifferent angles, howsthat?? 2.5 disks baby!!

12) I realize how ridiculously early it is to be asking this, but have you had any thoughts towards commentaries on the DVD? I'd love to hear one with you, Mike and Ron all talking about the film.

There will be all of that...

13) I just re-read your intro to Conqueror Worm last night, and I saw how you said that Mignola's "hyper-expressionistic lighting is - I've found out - almost impossible to reproduce in a 3-D world." Have

Not at all, but Mike cheats and he knows it. We cannot do EXACTLY his lighting ALL the time that without spending 40 million in digital retouching every frame. We have aproximated it quite, quite close

14) Are the digital effects added to a shot before or after the color-enhancing gets done?

When an FX-heavy sequence will be digitally timed you have to set the timing parameters WITH the digital FX house and THEY do the timing from the start.

15) What are your thoughts on shooting high-definition video as opposed to normal film, ie the ease of digital processing vs the "look" of film? Have you ever tried high-def video? Should George Lucas

Digital is the wave of the future. I have NO doubt about it. But as long as there is film available I will stick to it out of Romantic love.

16) I build and paint resin "garage kit" models as a hobby. Any chance that we might see a licensed Hellboy kit or bust produced, sculpted by one of the movie's artists? If not, could I talk you into getting

Spectral Motion WILL release a whole line of busts and FULL maquettes through SIDESHOW TOYS so you can enjoy them at home...

17) What would I have to do to work in the art department of Hellboy 2? What kind of samples would you need to see?

Samples of character/set design/ concept pieces, storyboards. At least 40-80 pieces in all techniques (half-tone, color, b&w, etc)

I really long to be able to do a second Hellboy. So much stays on the plate in a first movie trying to represent Mignola's Universe. IN the meantime, I hope you enjoy this installment...

See you in 2 weeks!!

GDT

Fiery California

(the fires are on the other side of the hill!!)

Hi guys!!:

This past few days have been very crazy, what with the TEASER POPSTER about to be on theatres this week (WITH MATRIX) and the trailer getting ready (will debut with THE MISSING and then LAST SA

Let's get into the q&a, shall we?

1) Thanks for the answer to the lighting question. In retrospect, the answer seems kinda obvious, but I had no idea that digital re-touching was so expensive.

It isn't until you "retouch" every shot in the movie. That goes BEYOND digital "finish, which is still accesible (\$5000 k or so for the whole film).

2) Have you heard of Robert Randolph and the Family Band? If you haven't, you really should check 'em out. "Live at the Wetlands" is probably the most danceable album I own.

Will check it out although -don't be dissapointed- we don't have that many "songs" in our soundtrack. Is mostly score.

3) What do you think of DC/Vertigo's "Y: The Last Man." Personally, I think that it's one of the best monthlies available right now. Plus, the cliffhangers are always top notch.

I like it. It feels a bit like a mini series sometimes but it is really addictive.

4) What do you think of Waid and Wieringo's current run on FF?

I don't follow FF. Never had.

5) Did you ever play that PS1 game, "Vagrant Story?" Do you think it would be a good flick?

I'll check it out. My daughter and I love to play together PS and GAME CUBE and X-box.

6) What do you think of Christian Bale as Batman? After seeing him in "Equilibrium," I can't imagine anyone else in the role...

He is perfect for the young, gnarly Batman. But it all depends on the material.

7) If the corpse in the hellboy movie is a tribute to the corpse storyline, please tell me the corpse loses his arm only for Mr. Boy to wonder what a dead guy needs with his arm.

He is a wink to the fans BUT he doesn't loose his arm. His cameo is brief but delightful.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> Firstly - how on earth do you manage to stay focussed and organised when trying to get post-production finished

Much Bigger than that and more complex. At the same time I am a bit of a workaholic. I think I have spent more time with movies than with real human beings. I live in fear of not doing enough work a

9) Secondly I had a suggestion for the Mountains of Madness locations - how about the Black Cuillin Mountains on the Isle of Skye? -

I shall write it down my friend.... I SHALL.

10) I am a huge fan and love your work. (embarassed) still trying to get a copy of the Devil's Backbone on dvd in Canada and meeting with little success..

Order one from Amazon.com -unles you're a different zone.

11) Have you seen Kill Bill yet? Whadja think? I was pretty amazed, but then, my knowledge of the films QT was drawing from is pretty limited. At any rate I thought it was a pretty amazing combination was.

I have been trying to spend the weekeneds with my wife and daughters. As a result I am current with BROTHER BEAR or SCHOOL OF ROCK, etc, but promise to catch up soon.

12) Have you been to the FanTasia festival in Montreal? I think that you would both love and be loved by the festival. I hope you can make it next year. It's gonna be between July 8 and July 31. There's also tons of asian, horror, and generally WEIRD cinema. Dude, you'd love it.

I have been invited repeatedly by Tony Timpone. I promise to go in the next year or so.

13) I love Santiago Segura, he?s the funniest man in the world. Loved "Torrente, El Brazo Tonto de la Ley" and "Torrente 2: Misi?n Marbella", and his cameo in Blade 2. How long is gonna be his cameo

Yes. There is a scene where Torrente fights Hellboy. Not exactly what you might think, but very funny.

14) Is Hellboy gonna have a worldwide realise or what?

Absolutely. Nos vemos en Espana.

15) Did you see "La Gran Aventura de Mortadelo y Filem?n"?

I am a big fan of Fesser (the director) but the movie has not been available in the US to my knowledge.. P. TINTO (his prior movie) was truly inspired and touching.

16) Is Mike Mignola going to have a cameo or something in the movie? We appear together briefly dressed as a knight and a dragon (fat dragon) in a Halloween pumpkin patch costume party.

18) Has the studio given you freedom enough to make exactly the kind of movie you wanna do?

100% freedom.

19) I'm kind of concerned that the technology to make Hellboy something really huge or powerful and make it look real isn't there yet. You came really close in Blade 2 and they've almost got it in the

Gee, George. I would hope so. I mean, remember that HB will be Ron Perlma-size. I feel -much like you - that in order to make him 8 feet tall technology would end up faking things too much -think Mig

20) I was wondering if the "Art Of Hellboy" movie book is going to be released before or after the movie?

A few weeks before.

21) Theres also been some videos online of I guess a trade show where it shows clips and the costumes and such. And was wondering if that will be on the dvd or could you post a better copy on the site

The "Sizzle Reel" will be FULLY available in an UPDATED stage in the next 3 weeks. HERE in this site.

22) What are your thoughts on Quentin Tarantino in general?

I admire QT. Greatly. A true visionary.

23) In your opinion, what is the best film of the year thus far?

It WILL BE ROTK, no doubt.

24) What do you think about the chance of seeing Watchmen very soon? (What about Hayter helming it?)

It's a movie I look forward to very much. VERY much.

25) Guillermo, I am wondering if you're planning to work with Ron Perlman on any other films, besides a possible HB2. Might we see him in Mountains of Madness? What's the status of Mountains, by the

Ron has a part in it. We are currently on re-writes, so- still in limbo.

26) what do you think about on-line films? and would you ever make any films/shorts specifically for the web?

Not yet. I believe that the medium is yet to show a film that uses its "limitations" and characteristics as an advantage like Blair Witch did with VIDEO.

27) any featurettes or behind the scenes footage coming?

Read above.

28) If you ever did make Frankenstein, would you consider Mike (Mignola) as he's done Dracula vs Frankenstein in comic form, atleast I've seen something like that done by him awhile back....

I don't think I'll ever get to do FRANKENSTEIN. My dream was to use Luke Goss (Nomak in Blade II) and now he is playing the creature in a Hallmark mini series adaptation that seems quite faithful to the original.

And that's that for now. Go see MATRIX, check out the teaser poster. Check our trailer. Await for the Drew S poster in spring and meet me here to chat again in 2 weeks.

All the best

Guillermo  
The hills of california

(BarbarPappa: Aaaw, my questions didn't get answered... ;( aw, well...guess he's too busy...keep up the great work Guillermo!)

Sorry Babbar...

Posts: 203

1) I've been going through some of the questions and answers here, I read that 80% of your cd's are soundtracks. And I hope this haven't been asked before, but what is your favourite movie soundtrack? Personally I think the Pulp Fiction soundtrack is excellent, and Donnie Darko's soundtrack is very good too!

As far as composers: Badalamenti, Beltrami, Elfman, Cooder, Goldsmith, Kylar, Preisner, Bingem Mendizabal, Xavier Navarrete, Herrmann, John Barry, Alan silvestri, Randy Newmann etc

I love the song soundtracks of the Farrelly Brothers movies, Get shorty, BLUES BROTHERS (one of the best), Reservoir dogs, Pulp Fiction, Six-string Samurai and the soundtrack for BLUES BROTHERS 20

2) What other director do you think would do a good Hellboy movie? And what actor do you think would fit to the role of Hellboy.

I can't think of any other director or actor for the jobs...

No other actor would be as perfect, though Bruce Campbell would get the sardonic side and Vin Diesel the physical. As for directors, Terry Gilliam would get my vote in a second.

By for now

GDT  
Hi guys:

A lil' free time on Sunday, so, let's catch up-

1) I was trying to refer to fight scenes concerning super powered or CGI characters. In Blade 2, a lot of that final battle was done with CGI characters in their super battle. It was cool, don't get me wrong, but I was looking for more of REALLY big guys, and characters who would need to be CG. What I wanted to know is, is the technology there to make a scene fighting a CG baddie convincing? Maybe I'm just incredibly picky about it.

Let me say this George, the technology IS catching up. BLADE II was the first movie out with THAT extensive CGI stunt work and it was HARD. The look of the characters was NOT CGI "friendly" (Spider-Man). There was a LOT of work beyond our wildest dreams. I betcha some of it is still fooling people about what is CG and what is not. With HB we have far more "friendly" characters and a wider "reality" to work with.

The fights on HB are VERY different to BII, VERY different but I believe you won't be disappointed.

2) I am a great admirer of your work, and I LOVE Hellboy. I am impatient to see the film.

I wish to ask you:

Will we see Liz Sherman in all her "splendor"?

-YES. A COUPLE OF TIMES.

What you can advance to us on Crimson Peak aside from which it is a Victorian story of ghosts?

-THAT'S ALL THERE IS FOR NOW.

Thanks to make reality the dream to see one of my favorite characters in the great screen.

-MY PLEASURE

3) Will the Drew Struzan poster be available for sale after its release?

I would think so...

4) So what's the deal with this BPRD flyer promotional campaign? I found a stack of 'em here on campus yesterday, I was friggin' floored! Where else are you guys putting these things? Can't wait for the  
The campaign was the brainchild of Revolution. I think it is really cute and smart. I fully endorse it and hope we get many new members for our incoming Yeti Hunting expedition -joking.

5) this may sound like a 'd'oh' question but why horror? It seems to be the main genre you dabble in so I had to ask...

Whatever I have succeeded or not in any measure, I chose Horror because it is the genre that allows me to make the metaphor flesh. It is the ONLY genre that can make tangible what other call poetry.  
I also have strived to show the world the seemingly unlimited range this genre has. DEVIL'S BACKBONE couldn't be more different than BLADE II or MIMIC or even CRONOS. Think of Takeshi Miike, Roman Polanski, etc.

6) Are you planning to write for comics? Maybe Weird Tales or B.P.R.D.? (wow, haven't asked a question that short before)

I was talking to Mike Richardson about writing a couple mini-series for DARK HORSE, but nothing that already exists. Starting from scratch.

7) Since you're a fan of asian animated movie, I wanted to ask you if you have planned to make an animated movie in a "Ghost in the shell" or "Akira" style.

Not really. But I'll watch it!!!

And do you accept stories submission for movie ?

Unfortunately not. Unless they are done via the regular machinery... my agents, etc I have no legal freedom to do otherwise.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> where and when will be the first "premiere" of the movie in the world ?

I would think it would be hollywood.

Will Ron Perlman appear in a cameo without his make up ?

I would love that!!! I'll ask him.

9) But now a serious question of GDT

You like comic books right?

If right, do you know of any good ones?

I need a new book to read the only ones i have so far are HellBoy(of course), Spawn, The league of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Johnny the Homicidal Maniac, And little Gloomy

So if you or anybody reading this have any suggestions i would gladly appreciate it.

- Well, my recommendations might prove too exotic. I love Chester Brown, Jim Woodring, Ben Katchor Scott Morse and other "independent" cartoonists. Check 'em out if you would...

10) I was listening to the blade II commentary and you mentioned something about when blade's hand grabs, i think it was his sword, and how no one noticed, what was it that you were talking about?

Give me more reference and I'll answer.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!!!

GDT

CA

Q&A and a lil' sumptin' else... PT 1

Hi guys:

I have been receiving quite a few letters asking the progress of certain projects and wonder how they may affect each other etc, etc. Also, a lot of you guys also ask about Hollywood famous "development"

First of all, let me thank each and everyone one that has written and allow me to apologize not being able to write back individually.

For those few who care enough, here's a brief update on where things stand today . Those who don't care (99 % of creatures with opposable thumbs) please be patient....answers will follow this brief for

The future can never be accurately predicted -I thought that MEPHISTO's BRIDGE would be the movie after CRONOS and, consequently I thought that DEVIL'S BACKBONE would be my debut film.... That MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS -being re-written until early spring, right now it is in the hands of my writing partner Matthew Robbins (SUGARLAND EXPRESS, DRAGONSLAYER, MIMIC,etc) so, there, we won't WIND IN THE WILLOWS Written. As of now, I am no longer attached to the project. I turned in my draft -co-written with MR- and the approach I planned proved to be very expensive and -probably weird weird...

CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON I have never been in development with this property. I just pitched a possible idea to do a Jules Verne sort of adaptation of the premise. I am now part of the man is- Oh, Julie!

MONTECRISTO Written. Still looking for a way of making it happen.

MEPHISTO'S BRIDGE Written. It's been 10 years since I wrote this one... I need to rewrite it someday. It is a little dated. Many movies have done the Faustian Doppelganger bit since the script was written

DOMU Still in Lawyer Limbo after 5 years of negotiations.

LIST OF 7 Written by Mark Frost. Also in it's 10th anniversary... It has become a tradition to talk to Mark Frost every year and plan new ways of have this baby financed. When we wrote it, Steampunk h it was when we adapted the novel. K.W. Jeeter, Tim Powers, Mark Frost, brilliant mind in search for a movie, somewhere in the future.

COFFIN Outlined. There is a storyline written by Tim McCanlies (IRON GIANT, SECONDHAND LIONS) but we have not "nailed" it -no pun intended, sorry. Thankfully, Lightstorm is being very patient and I

CRIMSON PEAK I am in talks about that one. I would love to be able to make a Gothic Romance much in the Bronte/ DuMarier mold but really creepy. I will start outlining the story and work on the outline

BTW: i didn't recall "the f#@\*ing scariest movie" quote i've been attributed. But, what the heck!! I'll give it a try...

Oh, and the inevitable HBII. Well, I hate to speculate at all, it will all depnd on the world embracing the first one. So, keep you eyes peeled.

There, as you can see -I hope- I am actively developing MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS but it's in MR's hands and I have to ground CRIMSON PEAK and -hopefully- COFFIN. Not at all an overloaded development or -in the past- HELL HOUSE I cannot hold onto a project because it belongs to a particular studio's "library" and won't be released to me. Those make me feel quite down...

So, there. I hope this answered your questions.

Now, back to our regular programming-

1) If you will be able to make Hellboy 2 would you choose Prague again (In other words how were you happy working there)

I consider Prague a second home and admire the Czech crews and embrace their spirit. I could live there. My wife and daughters feel sooo at home downtown. Prague is full of life and heart ! I will shoot

2) Is there a chance there might be an e-comics on Hellboy DV D (like those on playboy.com)

We are doing something different. Mike Mignola is creating some really cool stuff for the DVD.

3) (Just a personal one) Did the studio allow you to change the Columbia logo? For example Hellboy hand instead of the torch <!-- s:-) --><!-- s:-) -->

-LOL- I DO remember although both Smoker and I had a beer or two in the system... I wouldn't do anything to harm the Columbia lady, seriously-

4) Would u be interested in directing steve niles comic book 30 days of night??

I think Steve Niles is a brilliant creator. I admire 30 days -I told him so... I would love to work with him in creating an original script or adapting one together. I think 30 days is already way in progress...

5) how do u feel about the new alien vs predator movie since its pretty much ripping off the mountain of madness story

I thought about it quite a bit.. Let me say this in their defense: The first ALIEN movie was already using that novel as a start -that and Bava's PLANET OF THE VAMPIRES, and many other movies- what v "Master" (the navigator) and the ormant shape-shifting monsters....

I can never surpass the genius of Ridley SCott and those suits and that planet and the Giger explosion unto an unsuspecting world. But I can try.

So can anyone.

I wish A vs P the best of luck. I, for one enjoyed RESIDENT EVIL.

BTW Carpenter's THE THING -that damn masterpiece - is more worrisky to me than A vs P. Lovecraft's resonance and importance as a writer goes way beyond tentacles and slime. He conveys the C



A vs P, on the other hand may be more concerned with ass-kicking of galactic proportions. Let 'em bring it on, Baby!!

6) About the film aspect ratio: is it in Scope, or 1.85? Couldn't find that anywhere. I see all your films are 1.85, is it your preferred ratio? did the film ratio issue got through a lot of discussion between you

I have discussed this before. I will only use a "widescreen" if I shoot an epic eg: MONTECRISTO, MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS.

7) will it be set during the time setting hellboy is set in? around the 40's-60's??

Ahem, Hellboy -both the movie AND the comic- start in the 40's and moves to the present.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> whats up with the feet?? no hoof feet eh?

Yes... there will be visible in one scene, but he hides them /protects them with boots. Wouldn't you??? After all he SHAVES his horns...

9) How long 'till we start hearing more rumors about an advance screening? Any word yet?

We are still juggling VFX scheduling and such, so it's too early.

10) If Abraham Van Helsing and Hellboy went head to head, who would win?

Hellboy knows as much about fighting AND the dark arts, but he has 5 times the muscle mass. Me thinks the result is clear...

11) - have you talked to Mr. H-P about this role any? Did he take some convincing?

He ALREADY did the VOICE session for the movie. He was delighted with the script and the character and wanted to meet the writer. I informed him it was me, the chubby Mexicano. He was quite in lo  
-doing that made me realize how much body fat I have...

12) Do You know Dan Brereton and his series Nocturnals?

Darn, I don't but I may check it out.

Q&A PT 2

13) Do you have any idea where the hellboy action figures will be sold as far as big retailers? I know comic stores will have them but how about stores like Gamestop?

We are dealing with all the major chains, so I would say, much everywhere...

14) When scoring a film, does the composer watch the movie first, and score it based on that, or does he just score and mix and match to fit the movie? Also, do you work really closely with that fellow

The answers are: YES, the composer scores MOSTLY to a very polished EDIT of the film. Although some times you may ask the composition of a theme in advance to jazz a particular scene -very rare-

I work VERY closely with the composer at all stages. SPOTTING (First view of the film, commented -takes about 2-3 afternoons at least) then checking the LISTENING PROGRESS (tri-weekly sessions or e  
we even use "temp" music to give the composer and idea. I don't like doing this, but it happens.

15) Why isn't Hellboy called Hellman? Or perhaps should it be something more like Helldemon? I had never heard of the comic before I heard about this movie, and I've been interested since this. But o

Part of the wonderful thing about Mignola is that he creates these crazy names "Lobster J" , "Amazing Screw-on head" and "Hellboy" which both celebrates the supenatural origin of the character ad so

Part of being cool is being sure enough of yourself... NOT to embark in a serious ego-trip. Mignola is a genius precisely because he can self-mock his mythos, as oposed to being juvenile and trying to q

Hellboy, by any other name would still kick any monster's ass.

16) What are your feelings about the Mimic sequels? I thought Mimic 2 was incredibly lame, though I quite liked Mimic 3. I even think Mimic 3 surpassed the first one in many ways, although the genera

I really enjoyed the 3rd one quite a bit. Very smart filmmaker. very, very smart and full of ideas. A guy to keep in the radar.

17) I'm trying to get a job at a local video store, can I use you as a reference?

Only if you don't want the job.

18) Who's been hired to do the sound fx design?

We are basically repeating the MIMIC team. I love 'em all and I like mixiung in LUCAS RANCH, where the squirrels have infrared cameras poking out of their lil' butts -WHIRR-ZOOM-WHIRR!!!

19) What specific portion of the fx work is being handled by Tippett Studios? I'm assuming the creature effects (Behemoth etc) -- how's their work on this so far?

TIPPET is handling about 50% of the VFX, the second biggest vendor is ORPHANAGE, out of the bay area. Love 'em. Brilliant guys. The work, so far, is top-notch. Sammael and Behemoth are in Tippets hands.

20 ) How do you decide how to divide up the work between disparaging fx houses?

You try and play to their strenght, Some houses have great animation but lousy composites, aome have the oposite. Some are starting and you can rely on them for cleanup work (wires, harnesses, etc) and some have great intellect.

21) On your current schedule. How soon before the April release do you think you'll have the film completed?

It's tight, let me say that much.

22) Just have to say an awesome poster! very moody....is it me tho or was HB's chest trimmed abit ? anyway, waiting for the trailer now....

Is his chest trimmed??? Mine should be.

23) Do you worry about continuity alot when filming or does someone else do all the worrying? not like anyone's counting the hairs on HB's chin but you never know.....

Continuity is important ONLY if it affects the FLOW of the CUT or the MOVEMENT from one frame to the next.

24) How would you describe the film to anyone who isn't familair with the character or comics? I've tried myself and tend to be long-winded....

Don't even try... Just tell 'em to see it.

Alright guys... see ya soon. Now my weekend is free and I plan to write and watch crazy DVD's. Miss ya all and I hope to chat next week or so. Pile 'em up high and interesting. NO OLD QUESTIONS.

Also, for those of you that enjoyed the BIOS, Rick Geary will render them into comic form for THE ART OF HELLBOY THE MOVIE book. I wrote the Kroenen one as a bonus...

Yours in the Mountains of Madness (Agoura)

G del T

Hi guys!

Anticipated apologies. I will be in the Texas convention this weekend, so my Q&A has to be done today and won't resume until about 10-12 days from now . I will be brief since we are in the mixing phase.

At the Texas convention we will have a small but really nice prop from the movie with us and it will be raffled amongst the audience.

Be there...

1) I have noticed in Mimic and The Devil's Backbone that you do not shy away from taking out kids, having them killed by giant mutant kockroaches or smelly and sweaty men and I'm sure DOMU has a problem with that. I don't know exactly what my question is but I admire it when the filmmaker has the balls to do the unexpected and the un PC.

Thank you. I don't think you can make horror movies AND be PC at the same time. The death of innocents in DEVIL'S BACKBONE was dramatically needed to show that war is not about numbers in the indifference the insect feels for the humans. The autistic child is spared because he does NOT smell of fear (sweat) and sound like an insect (the spoon playing) so it intrigues the insect.

2) I found the following @ Corey Johnson's official site: "Playing Hellboy's guardian agent, a follicularly-challenged man by the name of Clay. The co-agents are named Moss, Stone, Quarry, and Lime." I don't know exactly what part do these five agents play in the movie?

The only agent that has real weight in the life of HB is Clay. He has been his nany for years and they have a good rapport. Clay is a bit like his human brother.

3) I recently saw this picture of you with a corpse. Is this a soldiers from Kroenen and Leopold Kurtz' (BTW, is he in the movie?) army of 666 soldiers?

Wrong on both counts. I won't ruin it for you. If you REALLY needed the answer you would find it in the pages of this message boards... But I won't tell you where.

4) Lastly, I'd like to hear your reaction to the newly released Troy-trailer? Also what are your expectations for this movie?

I'll be there opening weekend. I am a sucker for big Epic movies.

5) I'd just like to say that I think you are doing a great job "calaborating" with the fans on this site, ensuring them that they will get the Hellboy that they love. You are making us fans feel like we are riding with you and I feel it makes me more excited to see the final product feeling that we, the fans, may have had a hand in it. I really haven't felt this good about a movie in a very long time. Thank you GDT. I think you are doing a great job.

You are welcome.

6) Have you heard of a Clive Barker??

-Of course. I read Clive's books back when they were available only as UK editions. There was this great British bookstore in my hometown in Mexico and I was an asiduous visitor. I think DAMNATION G paper cut territory.

Michael Slade is a group of lawyers who write together and are also along the lines of Stephen King...although a bit more historically based and..ummm...gruesome in terms of violence...if you were loo

-I have read a Michael Slade novel and was not hooked by it. Just my opinion.

Also, have you listened to many of the artists coming out of Canada like: The Tragically Hip, Crash Test Dummies, Barenaked Ladies, Blue Rodeo (although they have now disbanded), Matthew Good Ba

-Yes, to several of them, Erin. Love the Tragically Hip and Barenaked Ladies, that's for sure.

7) What did you think of ICHI THE KILLER?

-I found it incredibly amusing and disturbing at the same time. Miike is a powerful filmmaker.

Do you have a favorite Miike film?

-Audition and Ichi.

I find myself frustrated every time I see one of his films because so much of his films don't really convey any tangible message to me and instead just seems gratuitous. I'm sure this is a common beef

-I don't think Miike is into "messaging" anything. He's into showing you a peek into his deranged view of the world. In that he operates right up there withe the best iconoclast filmmakers like Lynch or L

I think that you've said before that you don't have a problem watching "disturbing" movies with your daughter as long as you have a sensible discussion about the film with her afterwards. Would you v

- I do not watch "disturbing" films with my daughter in any sytematic way. I do use my criteria as to what she can watch or not. We enjoy the UNIVERSAL MONSTER movies. A far cry from Miike's abrasiv movies, like Lynch, Bunuel and others WILL scar you for life if viewed at the wrong age.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> How about THE EYE? Did you think that it was scary? I thought it was scary as hell, but that's just because EVE

I enjoyed it. It was, nevertheless, a very American-style film, lacking the extravagant, quirky touches that make other Korean and/or Japanese horror films sooo enjoyable.

9) It's great to hear that you have all theis plans for movies like Mountain of Madness aso ... but I was wondering, if (or rather WHEN) Hellboy hits the movies and it becomes a big hit, and the studio de

I would love to do another HB movie.

10) But since Domu is sailing on troubled waters, I'm curious as to wether you've thought about other Asian properties. If so have you ever read or watched Yuzu Takada's "3X3 Eyes"

I am familiar -and enjoyed- with 3X3 -both the manga and the anim. I bought the VHS tapes of the series back when I was really hooked into LUM (mmmh.... Lum....) but i don't see it as a live action film

11) About re-making Miyazaki:

Wind in the Willows was very Miyazaki in that it celebrated the purity of nature and innocence and reviled sophistication and modernity as instruments of corruption. All this while being fascinated by V

I would NEVER dare re-make or re-interpret Miyazaki's work. His movies are perfect and his ensibility is something I can admire but cannot equal. I can only presume to work on HELLBOY because so m to do it ONLY because I wanted to ADD something very personal to this universe. I felt that i could do a movie that would be mine but that I could share with the characters and mythos that Mike create

12) What do you think of Jean-Pierre Jeunets work? Such as City of lost children, and Delicatessen? I understand Ron worked with Jean-Pierre on two occasions.

I enjoy the richness of the visuals in his movies. My favorite being Amelie.

13) Have you ever watched "Below" directed by David Twohy. I think it's a great film that has that same heart felt feel as Devils Backbone, both films deal with ghosts, But instead of being force fed the

It was quite scary and original. A shame that it was poorly promoted and poorly released.

14 ) I'm an aspiring film maker who has directed a few short films, all budgeted at around 150 bucks each. As the years go by I find myself trying to challenge myself, but as I head into more of a profes until finally landing the 2 million dollars to direct Cronos? Could you tell me a bit of the process, or is it all left to chance?

Every funding story is unique in independant cinema. I mortgaged my home, sold my van, Rodriguez sold his body to science, others use a credit card and max it out, others hit a group of Mormon dens books about inependant film financing and -if you are young, a bachelor and truly ambitious- you will get what you want in one way or another as long as you apply enough time at getting it. CRONO

15 ) My latest short (horror) is only ten pages long, it deals with one location, and 4 characters. I'd be absolutely thrilled if you could give my ten page script a quick read and review, unless you're far t accepting my proposal could lead to hundreds of people wanting you to read their feature screenplays so I understand if you decline.)

I cannot read scripts that I'm not involve with out of silly legal liability rules that my company has. But if we ever run into each other at a convention and you have a video I'll gladly take a look.

16) Along with Comic Cons, will you be making the rounds on the talk show circuit? You know, Letterman, Leno, Oprah, Springer. One show that you would enjoy would be "The Daily Show" with Jon St

Funny enough, they normally DON'T book directors in any talk show. Mostly actors...

17) Will there be a "Making of..." on MTV or VH1 before the movie opens? Seems like most movies get this treatment now adays.

Yes, there will be much more than that. Expect some neat surprises and documentaries to pop up around FEB/MARCH.

18) What is MONTECRISTO? Is it another version of THE COUNT OF... I'm a big Dumas fan, so I'd be down with that. If you've mentioned it before, I'm sorry. I checked Erin's, very useful, "All about Guille

It is a re-telling of the Dumas novel, but it is set against the background of MEXICO in the mid-nineteenth century when the French had overtaken the land and it was reigned over by Maximilian. I was t  
story of a man that killed his accusers after being released from prison...

19) With a cast including David Hyde-Pierce and Jeffrey Tambour, I'm guessing that, on top of everything else. HELLBOY, is going to be really funny. Am I right? Has Tambour's character, in particular, l

I think that the humor is there, much in the way that the comics have it. A bit of dry, self-deprecating humor...

20) I ordered SANTO CONTRA LA HACHA DIABOLICA from amazon and it was hilarious and kinda wonderful. Thanks for the recommendation.

My pleasure.

21) How many fight scenes are there in the movie. What is your favorite scene??

There are about 6-7 big action sequences in the movie. Some are fights some are chases or big stunts. But don't be misguided by a number. Some of them are pretty long and elaborate and cover a lot

My favorite scenes??? I can only say that it involves Hellboy and a rooftop. You'll see it.

22) Have you read any of Manly Wade Wellman's books? I think they'd make great films -- sort of O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU? meets EVIL DEAD.

I enjoyed some of his WEIRD TALES short stories, but I have never read him in long form novels. Recommend one???

23) FIREWORKS (HANA-BI), directed by Takeshi Kitano.

I love Hana-bi and all other Kitano movies. Even BROTHER. My favorite non-Yakuza one?? Kikojuro's summer.

Take care.

24) Short Ruminations: I noticed in one of your posts you called "The Thing" a masterpiece. Now, assuming that this is Carpenter's version (I still love the fifties version to pieces), I would just like to say  
would kill to see this on the big screen, seeing how the theatrical release was about the same time I was ripped screaming and gasping for air from my mother's womb. There's always DVD, though. C'es

I saw it in a theatre packed with screaming men and women in Mexico. What a joy. I stayed to see it several times in the same afternoon.

25) Have you checked out the (sort of) new DVD release of "Day of the Dead?" Good times, no?

Yes I have. I love that movie and I love this new presentation. To me it is the best of the living dead films. Mature, scary and socially relevant.

26) Being the horror fan that you are, you must read the occasional Stephen King book. Do you keep up with his Dark Tower series at all?

I must say I have read EVERY SK book but NOT that series. I hate "to Be continued..." thing. God knows I agonized during GREEN MILE days waiting to know what happened next.

27) Have you ever played the board game "Zombies!!!"? If not, call Mike over and have yourselves a grand ol' time. This game does a really good job of putting you in the shoes of the butthead who's a

I'll check it out.

28) We've seen the newest poster on ebay and various sites. Any chance they'll show up here at the movie site? What about foreign versions of the poster? Usually, the Japanese versions vary the most from the US styles.

We don't sell merchandise yet, but if we do, it will show up. Speaking of Japanese posters I can tell any and all BLADE II lovers out there that the Japanese poster for the movie was a f#\$\*ing masterpiece

29) have you used any different techniques for the '40's sequences? I mean any kind of differentiation between HellBoy's arrival and the present day.....

All the colors in the 40's palette are very desaturated, almost like a B&W film tinted blue.

30) Hi Memo! Vicco here again. I was wondering if you already know of release dates for Mexico and Latinoamerica. I don't wanna wait that long to see it (maybe Sony can release the movie the same time). I believe HB will open in Mexico in August 04.

31) Oh and another question just popped in my head, do you have plans to shoot something in Mexico? I dunno... maybe some scenes for your projects, would love to see you work here again!

Yes, Cuaron, Inarritu and I are planning to do an anthology film with a short film by each of us.

32) What did you think of Collera's Batman: Dead End? When those aliens materialized out of the shadows behind Batman at the end of the short, my first thought was "Classic Mignola"

The short was very refreshing to see and visually quite beautiful. I hope Collora does a feature soon enough.

33) Another question: What did you think of "Tesis"? That movie still haunts me. (I'm easily haunted, tho) I'll just be sitting somewhere and a VERY detailed image from the movie will pop into my head.

I like all of Amenabar's films. I wish TESIS was more sleek (like OPEN YOUR EYES) but even as it is is a powerful -and disturbing- film about film.

34) Which books should I read to get caught up on the general backstory, as well as any particular stories that just kick ass?

Basics: SEED OF DESTRUCTION. Kick ass: The Corpse.

35) I read on Superherohype.com that the trailer will be posted on thursday on yahoo. Is this True?

I've been on yahoo a few times and they dont have the option to save the trailers, are you gonna let us have this trailer (Which everyone gave a grand review of) on our desktop or are you going to tea

I'll find out more, but if you want glorious QUICKTIME it will be available here on MONDAY.

That's it for now guys...

ALL THE BEST

G del Toro

Hi guys:

There 's been an overwhelming number of posting here and in the other forums this week. Due to theis I decided to take a whack at some of the Answers today and -in exchange- I won't be back to the

1) Have you read the Mort Cinder comics by the great, late Alberto Breccia from Argentina?

I always thought that you'd be the best director to adapt the best Mort Cinder episode "The eyes of lead" (sorry I don't know the Spanish title) to the big screen. Such a cult comic classic. Suffocating at

I am familiar with the great Breccia but I have never had the chance to read all Mort Cinder adventures. In Mexico his LOVECRAFT stories were published in a single paperback volume...

2) Hello Guillermo... I read somewhere that Alfonso Cuar?n used some mexican sugar "calaveritas" in a scene in Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban. I was wondering if you hint somewhere to any

MMM... NOPE.

3) Regarding Manly Wade Wellman, the only novel of his that I've read is THE OLD GODS WAKEN. It's good, but fairly short. If you'd like more Wellman recommendations, you should ask Mike Mignola -

I'll check the availability of his novel. But I AM familiar with a ton of his hort stories, mind you.

4) Another question / recommendation: have you ever read Thomas Ligotti? In my opinion (and I am not alone), he's the most important horror writer since Lovecraft. He doesn't write pulp but incredibly obviously love and understand the genre, you really should try him.

I am very familiar with Ligotti and I believe I own -and have read- all of his published work. I agree with you. He is the best new voice in horror today (new being relative... he's been around for years) a

5) It seems alot of ppl are asking for your opinion on films, so here's one from me. What do you think of all 3 matrix movies, Do you think they were good or just over hyped piles of crap?Personally i lov

Jeez... I'm not the guy to ask this question. I never really got into the MATRIZ universe. Weird, uh?? All I know is that the W brothers did a remarkable work in terms of scope and visual landscape. I am

6) Waaaait a second.. Is this movie going to be PG-13 or R? I've seen R mentioned a few times, but PG-13 mentioned way more then a few times. How can a movie called "Hellboy" about a demon who

Yup. PG -13. I think that the comics are PG-13-like No zex, no cursing, no gore -except for monster mayhem, etc. BTW an "R" was never intended...

7) I looked SO good! Great job! Can you tell me anything more about the actor that played me, along the lines of how he did? (Forgive me zeal, Oh GDT.)

His name is Karel Roden and he was the psycho in 15 MINUTES and the Vampire's lawyer in BLADE II. H's the most famous Czech movie star.

<!-- s8) --><!-- s8) --> I noticed that Hellboy seems to have torn off his horns at some point. How long will we be seeing the on him? (If

It is a spoiler. Sorta... but here we go... he grows the "long" horns towards the last 10 minutes of the film. Then breaks them.

9) How much does Ron dominate this movie? I only ask because the narrative of the trailer seemed to be about Myers, while Hellboy has all of the cool parts. (Forgive my wording, as this was the best

There is a dramatic conceit in which your main character is your "guide" into the movie's world and the star remains another character. HELLBOY is the star of the movie and as such he dominates all

10) is there a date for an Australian HB release yet? or a "near enough estimate"?  
- do you think you would be coming down for a premiere or something like that?

In the next months we will make available one and all the opening dates world wide.

11) I want to join the ranks of those who want to thank you for a great trailer. The trailer captures all of the things about the early Hellboy stories that made us all fans; humor, science, horror, nazi bad trailer rather than make him a secret surprise that is only revealed in the last seconds (think early Hulk trailers).

Thank you. There is a small -very small- number of posters that have taken exception with some elements on the trailer. Allow me a few words about that...

To paraphrase Stephen King -who in turn was quoting Raymond Chandler: " Worry not about the books being changed by the movies made out of them. Look on your shelves. They are still there. Unto

Sometimes it amazes me when every shred of visual information is scrutinized as if it was an exhibit to be analyzed in the investigation of a murder foretold. I take offense on the LXG, MIB, X-MEN comic part of it and -mind you- that aesthetic has been in vogue since Dr. Strangelove. And used in many a BOND film. X2 actually came out way deep into our shoot in Prague, so, sorry, look elsewhere. And

Given the history that Hollywood has with comic properties, you may choose to celebrate even the very fact that the movie is called HELLBOY, that they decided to greenlight it based on an almost unknown old mentor, etc

If I wanted to do a "safe bet" of a movie and just become a millionaire I would have pursued HARRY POTTER when I had the chance. But I chose to make HELLBOY for all the right reasons. Hate it or love

Where is the magic? where is the darkness? Where the outlandish places? Well, there's some of that in the trailer. There's a lot of it in the movie. A lot more. That said, once again, in the movie there will

In the trailer, however, the studio chose to highlight the more high-tech stuff -but, see, even the eye scanner will be different and more funky when viewed in context, folks- because that may attract those who are perusing this page. A lot more than ever before. BECAUSE of that trailer.

Check it again on Monday, in quicktime, but let me tell you guys , the movie IS unlike LXG, MIB or X-2. It is very different from all of them. As a matter of fact it is unlike any movie I've ever seen or -ce

And it is also different from the comics too. if you are going to write in agony every time something shows up as a trailer or as a TV spot etc then you should cut your losses now and wait for the release

12) On another topic, I posted under another thread about books, music, movies that we love and would recommend to you. I wanted to know have you read Arturo Perez Reverte? There have been two. The Club Dumas, Polanski spoiled it.

I love Perez-Reverte. Some of his novels have been fortunate in their movie translation (eg: EL MAESTRO DE ESGRIMA) others have suffered (THE NINTH GATE) but his writing never fails to entertain and

13) Love the trailer. Just wondering: any chance of a more Anung Un Rama centric and/or effects heavy theatrical trailer being released closer to the release date? From what I've absorbed so far, this t

I'll give you more than that. I'll give you an entire movie devoted to the character. The trailers and TV spots are meant for the uninitiated...

14) By the way, how's the video game progressing? Is it going to emulate the comic or the movie?

There was not enough time to develop a good game in time for the movie release so, we will hopefully develop a game that will kick butt but that will be released at its own time and pace.

15) Are you even considering such a chance (of failure at the box office) , are you really 100% sure everything is gonna work out, the studio is gonna be happy, the audience will be happy, the critics will bring as many friends to the cinema as possible. Because if this movie succeeds and Mr. Director succeeds, then we have played our part just right. It is our duty  
And btw you might submit your picture to imdb.com, because Spielberg, Lucas and Tarantino have one there

I hope the movie is successful. We live in strange times when success is only measured in monetary terms. It is my belief that this movie will endure. It is my belief that the people that will fall in love with it will do so and not just for the wallet.

16) I love the new trailer! It's an absolute blast. I was just wondering if YOU edited that trailer, or did someone at Revolution do it? I remember you talked earlier about not being able to use the trailer you

I saw a good 30-35 trailers they tried AND tested at Revolution. This is a hard, hard movie to sell to Jhon Q public. Anyone that thinks different is deeply deluded. Out of the many trailers this was the one

17) I had some very serious second thoughts about this movie when I saw the "teaser"-posters from the convention earlier this year ... but after seeing the trailer... WOW!!! Can't wait for the final movie

Some trailers and teaser and posters may sway you one way or the other but the movie exists independant of them. Nevertheless I have to agree with you about the "teasers" in San Diego -sheeeesh-

18 ) does hellboy say "jeez!" anywhere in the film? like preferably while being sent through a wall or something?

As of now, yes, it may be cut eventually...

19) just out of curocity: if you were doing, say, a Conqueror Worm film, who would you cast as Roger and who would you cast as Lobster Johnson?

Roger? lemme think about that. Lobsrter??? Bruce Campbell, baby... Oner of the most underrated actors around.

20) I was reading previous questions, and I came across one that struck me as very interesting...

The question was about the soundtrack, and you answered with some bands you dug, and you mentioned my favorite band, Tool.

I was perhaps wondering if you have approached Maynard James Keenan about a song for the movie, even though Tool isn't exactly a band that has their songs on soundtracks. I could see some songs

Maynard has a very melodic voice, and they have a great many songs with a creepy 'feel' to them that, I think, might add to the atmosphere of certain scenes that're meant to feel a, well, Tool way... T

-As of now the soundtrack is in flux. Even Tom Waits is not a sure bet yet. This whole music bussines is a bit crazy. My only warranty??? NO F#\$%ING TECHNO. All other bets are off.

21) Il am in Love witht the trailer!!! I've been watching it over and over but i thought Im spoiling myself now. I loved the music too. Is that the music you're going to incorporate with the film?? If not, is Ron ddnt seem like he was moving his mouth freely under the makeup. Or is that just me??

-I love the music from the trailer and throroughly approved it. It;s an European band called Dimmu Borgir. I found it to be very unconventional and hope you guys enjoyed it... They may end in the sound

Ron was able to express even the most minute things through the make up, wait and see... He tried, and achieved the HELLBOY jutting jaw that may be what you are noticing.

22) Hey Guillermo! awesome trailer man! I had the pleasure of meeting you at Wizard World today, you may remember me as the hyper kid who won the Mignola sketch of the Apocalypse Clock ^\_^.

Now on to the real question. Toward the end of the trailer, the very end in fact, when Hellboy asks "how big can it be?" his horns are much larger and seem to look broken. One of my fav moments in H

YUP-

23) What was it about Hellboy that made it stand out from other comics for you?

-The character and his blue collar attitude towards life and his "job"

And a more loaded question: Is Hellboy going to be a comic-book movie? What I mean is, Blade II was definately a comic-book movie, as you say yourself in the commentary in it. It's something that co

movie in my opinion. It's based on a comic, but it doesn't have the same "feel" as described before. I'd also say the first Batman movie didn't feel too much like a comic-book movie. League of Extraord

and the sounds and sights looked over-exaggerated and distracted you from the movie instead of drawing you in.

So I guess the question is: Is Hellboy a comic-book movie, or a movie based on a comic-book?

Most certainly a COMIC BOOK MOVIE.

24) a lot of questions this time :  
will hellboy music score include any classical music pieces for epic scenes or battle ? what kind of music is Kroenen listening to in the photo ?

he is listening to Wagner's TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

25) mayre already ask : what do you think about the story of "Blade 3" ?

I like the idea. A lot.

26) will Rick Baker appear in Hellboy as he made in a lot of movies ?

Not at all, my man.

27 ) what different language are speaking in the movie ?  
will you make another movie in the kind of "el espinazo del diablo" ? ( for me , it's one of the best ghost movie I've ever seen , it's a poignant film )  
and thank you very much for all emotions you give to us !!!! you're a magical man and thank you very much !!!!

There is some Russian here and there (subtitled) and yes, someday I want to do another movie in Spain that will be very much in the vein of DEVIL'S BACKBONE. It is tentatively called PAN'S GARDEN and

28) Don't know if this has been asked, but how would you describe HELLBOY using different movie characters?  
I once heard someone say something like "he's a one liner machine like arnold and has the funny overconfidence of Jack Burton."

I think he's a bit like Bruce Willis in the first die-hard but since he is UNBREAKABLE...

29) What is, or rather, what will your reaction be to the almost inevitable "uproar" to be caused by various religious groups that are sure to scream about a demon being the hero of a movie?

Most of this groups react to a title or a perception rather than the content of the movie. I can only say that the movie has two surprises in store: how much heart it has and how big the scope of it is. I can

And that's that my fellow Hellboys and girls.

Happy thanksgiving!!

GDT  
back in CA

Hi guys and gails:

I am rushing through the last weeks Q&A but I cannot wait to tell you a tidbit. We are so lucky. At this very moment Drew Strewzan is working on the final rendering of the HELLBOY poster coming

I just thought you may like to know...

GDT

Follow-up

Drew  
Hi:

I saw the poster already. Its pure drew, 100%.

It took a long time to get the go ahead. Lots of discussion and I didn't want you guys to be dissapointed if we didn't get it.

I have known for a long time now that he was going to do it, but I had to wait for it to be REAL-REAL before making it known publicly. Some factions were in favor of a different campaign but reason and

As for the CD soundtrack we are still in talks. Very delicate territory, but looking good.

Doug's voice session was good but we basically just emulated production. It's still in the air until I get to play with the sound and add some elements to his consonants and bowels (not VOICE ALTERING)

We are prepping the campaign from OCT-APRIL starting with the re-launch of the site which will include dozens of new prepro illustrations and new photos and a whole new look and bag of goodies.

Hey, spyda, drop me a line to my Abe adress at hotmail, willya?? You too Typhon, gotta talk.

In my experience, a 6 month campaign is real good. BLADE II was promoted much closer to the release date, almost down to the wire and we did good. HELLBOY is a more delicate sell, but we are being

Talk to you soon.

G del T

And Again on October 4

Just some news:

Tad: Yes, we have ALREADY arranged to film Drew from sketch to finished product BOTH on video and as a time lapse still show. You will get that on the DVD.



Spyda: You're right the original is already mine. -Laughs like a maniac- along with a Drew Frankenstein/Colin Clive portrait. But then again Drabont beat me to an exquisite BLADE RUNNER color piece...

Peace

GDT

PD see y'all Sunday at the Egyptian -those that can go.

ABE's VOICE

As of this morning, Abe's performance is being voiced by Mr. David Hyde-Pierce.

All the best

GDT

Follow up on November 12, 2003

On that note...

Allow me to clarify a bit. Doug Jones was offered ONLY the physical part of Abe and, as any good actor, he requested, and was given a chance to toss his hat in the ring for the voice. That said, I intended a slender and perfect, David HP.

When I saw the first 15" maquette of Abe, there was no doubt in my mind that -if we didn't go with Doug- DHP would be the man. The choice is NOT a change of mind and in no way reflects on Doug's v notches to go through with this decision. It's Prowser/Jones thingie indeed.

All the best

GDT

CA

"teen" HB

Guys, guys... If you are thinking that HB is going to go around sulking while listening to Oasis and uttering "teenage" phrases , please stop right there. We are just talking about E.I. (Emotional intelligence) gonna be "Bill & Ted-ized" in the movie. He is as hard-boiled, dry-funny, ill-temperd as in the comics. In the movie though, dealing with his infatuation with Liz, he's not able to make complex analy

BTW The Q&A proved enormous and the time I have has become more and more limited. I'll answer ASAP but it's getting tighter and tighter (both in my stomach and the schedule) so be patient.

GDT

Hi Poppa!

Your questions will be like a mini Q & A for my delayed "catching up"on the main one... Her we go...

1) Is there a new trailer, or maybe a clip from the movie out?

We are RIGHT NOW testing trailers/ads and the like to get a grip on our ad campaign and trailer campaign. We have been fiddling around with MANY permutations and it keep being frustrating how tric

2) Is there a release date for the premiere in europe?

If all goes as planned, the movie should open very, very close to the USA opening date

3) Any interesting sites to check out?

Just the usual...

4) Is there a thread I just have to read?

Plenty.

5) Anything really interesting that guillermo have written?

Only this and "Teenage Thread"

6) And how is he doing btw, I've heard he?s been to surgery?

I am real good. The doctors were astounded when they found Jackal genes in my blood though-

GDT  
Skywalker Ranch  
Mix stage

A Winter message from LONDON and update by GDT

Hi guys:

It's 15 minutes past midnight in London and even inside my hotel room I can feel the chill of the night outside. The streets are covered in snow and my "day" is barely half way done. While in Europe I h

I start ADR (automatic Dialogue Replacement) with the actors around 9.00 and finish that around 5-6 p.m. Immediatly after that i get going on with the California "morning" telephone round. Somedays I h

Sigh- there no rest for the Wicked...

And now alone at night, I realize every so often, movie after movie that the directors job, my chosen path, is one that one must walk alone most of the time.

So, that brought me to think of this Message Board one more time. Allow me once and for all to apologize in advance. From now until April 2nd, I have not a single day free. Not Sundays, not holidays, n

My meager attempts at answering the "Questions for Guillermo" has proven futile and superficial.

From now until the movie opens, I will not be able to update it. Instead I will be doing sporadic contributions to the threads. I hope this will suffice. Please receive my apologies beforehand.

We are preparing that BEST BUY free DVD and a new trailer and a series of "long form" (60 second) spots to debut on cable and TV earlier than planned. We all felt this was money better spent than a J

Gigantic STANDEES will be in theatres VERY SOON and they are quite cool and beautiful.

We have decided to keep the street campaign with its current look and preserve and issue the Drew poster into all comic book shops and speciality retail stores, use it in printed media (papers, etc) an

We are -tentatively- talking about a double disc release on DVD by Aug and a Triple disc, extended version in and around Christmas. A SIDESHOW boxed/bust/3dvd is likely to become available then.

We should start popping up in covers and magazines here and there starting now and the ART OF THE MOVIE book -which I had in my hands- is quite a beautiful and lust-inducing object.

We are in the last quarter of VFX delivery. We have shot the miniatures and have basically 3 big sequences to "fill in" with the missing digital shots.

We start recording the score in a couple of weeks and I will be doing the final mix at Skywalker this month.

We hope to have our sneak previews by the end of March. You are sure to hear about them here.

Anyway. Let me say this: I miss you all, you little geniuses of evil and I think of you often. I will peek in the forum now and then just to say hi.

I am very proud of the community we have created. Even in the toughest diagreements or at the peak of the excitment we have remained a cohesive, civilized little community.

A true joy to belong here.

If only the world followed suit.,.,,

I remain,

YOURS TRULY

Guillermo del Toro  
LONDON

Hi guys:

I'm here at Skywalker recording the music for the film. Typhon is here.

About all reactions. Well, trust me. The first trailer was mainly to get the basic "what the f\$%k??" factor out of the regular audience. You may have been at a theatre with a bad reaction or just the cont

Our exit polls actually indicate a very positive reaction to the piece. But, listen, you cannot please everyone all the time. we always knew that big huevos were needed to face this homogenized world v  
and may be suffering a post X-MEN, post LXG reaction but we know that the BPRD in this movie was in place since 1998 (before comic book movies were "cool" again) and its an original Mignola creatio

Whatever the reactions (some hardcore or non-hardcore ) the movie can walk into a thetre with its horned head held high. I love it and hope the world gets the message. But even if they don't I'll die a

GDT

Marin County  
CA

The WHOLE rationale for Sony's delay of the pic overseas is the following: When DAREDEIL opened abroad the film did extremely poor because of a general "ignorance" of the property by the general declared to know or have known DAREDEVIL the comic book. Only 6% had that to say about Hellboy. Arguably Sony is afraid of losing to lack of recognition as much money as they would loose in the h opening has a high profile. You and I may agree with this or not... but the fact is that the Sony guys are really jazzed about the movie and want time to do a "pre-opening" campaign to bring the charact about (release and distribution) and hope that something good happens that enables them to pull the date up closer to summer -even with the competition of huge profile stuff like TROY or VAN HELSIM

In other news, prepare for a WEST COAST board screening in March guys, we'll let you know soon.

All the best

GDT  
CA

Hi guys:

I'm back at Skywalker mixing the film. A lot is going on. The next few weeks will be quite crazy... 60 second spots start March 3rd. Expect an onslaught of spots after that. Standees should be in thetress weeks. We are on the cover of STARLOG, MAKE UP ARTIST and -in March- CINEFEX, etc HELLBOY will saturate the waves in the next 4 weeks. Hopefully that'll help.

I MAY have some good news for UK and Australian folks soon. We'll see. For all the enthusiasm we have, there's still a majority of people that still haven't heard about us. We have had a great and in-d I thank you all. The mainstream press in the meantime has been slow to catch on. We don't have stars, we are not a high-profile comic book, etc, etc... What will our fate be. sometimes I wonder -mostl speaks to each of us in our inner voice. We each have a Hellboy movie that is different from the next guy. All I know is that of the movies I've made this is the one that i still enjoy watching this late into as a calling card to finance HELLBOY. Five years of ups and downs and politics and rejection by many a studio until we found a home at Revolution. It is my hope that you -whoever you might be and in camcorder in quicktime but on a theatre or even on a region 1 DVD darn it) and spread the word if you like it. We are still the Dark Horse. We are still the 60 million dollar movie in a 200 million dollar f process, someone in the crew is wearing HELLBOY T-shirts or reading a paperback just 'cause they were already fans before the project came in. I know. I am still one. Soon I'll get to meet several of yo of you guys in here. I have enjoyed seeing the bonds being formed in our little community. I have followed your troubles and tribulations (migrations to another country, girlfriend leaving you, lack of fu then,

All the best

GDT  
Marin County

A bit of a warning IF you are planning to read either of them BEFORE seeing the film. The novel reflects the whole script PLUS my bio notes and Yvonne's take on things. SEVERAL sub-plots were reduce lines and scenes will be fully restored in the DVD to come out in the Winter but some of them won't. I think yvonne did a bang-up job. I think that both reading material will provide excellent and really

GREETINGS

GDT

Hi guys:

I?ve been receiving a few anxious letters to my hotmail address (BTW <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com">Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com</a><!-- e --> As the release grows near I have message board here?

A) Several of you are concerned about WHEN will we START promoting the film on TV. Well, although I cannot go into marketing details, let me answer plainly: Next week it will start? and it will grow in

B) Yes, the TV spot that is posted now is a shorter version of the trailer for DAWN. If and when you go to the theatre you will see MORE.

C) Relax. I too have heard the X2, LXG MIB comparisons. And I am not worried at all. The ads may underline those aspects but the movie is a more complete beast. Also, the simple fact is that Mike Mig parallels, well, the BPRD DOES recruit um, freakish characters that dedicate their powers to fight Evil. That originates in the comic and it?s in the movie too. We are not a comic book movie that woke u comic) and not even MATRIX were in sight. Since then, our screenplay and its main storyline have remained unchanged. Was MIB an X-files GHOSTBUSTERS?? DO we have any tonal similarities or chara topic, but don?t frustrate yourselves. Every movie is the same: some get the joke, some don?t. Don?t strain over it.

D) I have said it before and I will say it one last time. This is not BLADE II. Not in any way. The story, the characters, the tone and even the style of the action and fights are uniquely HELLBOY. There is

E) So, in closing, for all your letters trying asking what HELLBOY the movie is or isn?t I can only say this: It is its own little beast. And I love it.

As always, I welcome your letters, one and all, but I would greatly appreciate if these subjects are put to rest in our email exchanges.

KEEP A COOL HEAD and mark your calendars?

Yours truly,

GDT  
CA

I paid for the painting. It was back in the days at Universal -around 97-98 and they were saying that Hellboy's face could not exist in 3-D. I commissioned Barlowe to do the left/right switch as part of that a Hellboy portrait to BASIL GOGOS. Both paintings now hang in my house along my other treasured HB images (a Mignola watercolor of HB, the FIRST Abe Sapien appearance page aty, the FIRST Liz ex the thrill of seeing my favorite character interpreted by 2 different artists.

GDT  
Skywalker

Hi guys:

A few quick pointers:

- A) The foetus in the jar IS the one featured in DEVIL'S BACKBONE, just an inside joke.
- B) That homunculus in the back is our wink wink stand-in for Roger, But he won't be in till the sequel.
- C) The transfer and color correction on the DVD are all provisional. The final film is MUCH darker and the look is actually quite a bit different -for those of you that care about such things...
- D) The green on Sammael's chest IS NOT a laser nor is it an unfinished green element for CGI. You'll have to wait and see what it is.
- E) As you can tell by my return to the boards things are winding down here at the mix. In fact today is our last day at the stage. Next week: final color timing and print checking. And then off we go...

Hope you like the DVD from BB and hope you'll love the movie.

See ya soon

GDT

Hi guys!

We got some complaints of HB copies that were screening without 45 seconds at the end of reel 5.

We have been able to spot AND stop concretely one in Oregon. You see AFTER Liz explodes there is a FADE OUT to absolute black and some projectionists are taking it as a cue for the reel being OVER.

In Oregon for example they had plattered the film incorrectly on Thursday night and cut off the last scene of reel 5. Complaints came in on Friday and Saturday and the print was corrected on Saturday.

Now all copies are printed CORRECTLY but may be screened w/ that 45 seconds missing by omission in the "assembly" of the platter.

The copy you view need to have the following scenes:

- A) HB is attacked (SPOILERS FROM NOW ON) Liz explodes. A rock hits the lens!!
- B) DARKNESS. Voices. The water has evaporated, burnt Sammael carcasses are seen. Myers wakes up, dizzy. He sees Rasputin/Ilsa. She approaches him and thanks him for the grenade belts. CUT TO
- C) ANOTHER space in the complex. She's slamming the belts and everybody has been manacled.

The copies are being projected without "B" in some theatres. Please write me at <!-- e --><a href="mailto:Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com">Abe\_Sapien@hotmail.com</a><!-- e --> if this happens to you.

Thanks a million...

GDT  
(theatre manager now)

Hi guys!!

We are in our 3rd weekend at the Box Office and we are holding real well. We opened in several Asian territories and all box office reports are excellent. I am meeting this week with Sony to firm up the publishers -Spyda you are a genius- and possible engines. Mike Mignola and I will be involved in the plotting of it to make sure that it flows with the mythology of the movie (s) anime, comic, etc, etc

Mezco Toys is prepping a SECOND WAVE Hellboy Toys. I know that they're planning a bitchin' NAZI KROENEN and a full-blown PRINCE OF DARKNESS HELLBOY standing over the city rubble. I would like

And, yes, we are talking about a second movie. The B.O. numbers make perfect sense since we were a relatively "inexpensive" movie at under \$70 million and we will make enough domestically. Mike the plotting will have hints of ALMOST COLOSSUS and C. WORM...

These days I am finishing MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS and will turn it in to Dreamworks in about a week or so... I miss you guys and would love to stay in touch. My "Abe" address at hotmail is swamped and

Yours in Heck

G del Toro

hi guys:

Long time no talk. I am going to europe to cast PAN's LABYRINTGH and I just finished the director's cut of Hellboy, which wil be released in November on DVD. It's been fun and hectic and great. That is HELLBOY. I visited him yesterday and I am happy to reopr he is keeping his spirit up. That said I am making a call to arms. All of you should be watchful of Rick's art auctions on ebay. He will be selling his personal collection to Rick in about 3 weeks time (upon my return from Europe) and I consider them both to be quite great pieces. This is a chance to show our solidarity to a fellow Hellboy fan and a pi

Be cool

Guillermo

I'm in London for a quick trip to check the ADR (dubbing) for the new DIRECTOR'S CUT DVD to be released in November.

I am EXTREMELY happy about the new footage and have been checking some minor -but creepy- VFX and the color timing etc.

Yesterday, however, was a day of mourning. I left my personal notebook (you've all seen pages of it in the BLADE II dvd and the ART OF THE MOVIE book) in a TAXI CAB here in London. It contained ide

I've filed a report at a police station. I was going back to the states today but I've exttended my stay for an extra 2 days so I can give it a try.

After losing the notebook, I rethreaded my steps through the 2 places I visited and -believe it or not- the same damn cab drives by a few hundred meters away. I ran like a mad fat man. But my chubby pursu

my pursuit. I ran another 3 blocks but it proved useless.

Now I can only hope that this book turns out.

Anyway, just in case... its an antique venetian leather book. Brown, full of ink & pen drawings and some color marker ones. I would lavish a couple hundred pounds AND a big HB dinner to anyone

In other, nicer news. HB 2 will get going (story-wise) probably next week or so, when I return to the states and meet with Mike Mignola. We are full of ideas and energy and hope we can do it soon. We' Spanish-language pet projects- yes, PAN'S LABYRINTH- and hope to get shooting it in the winter for release late summer or so. I am making 10 times less that I would in any Hollywood project but I feel

Projects that I can answer for 100% mine if you like them , mine if you do not.

Hey, guys (you knwo who you are) the Hellboy scrapbook you put together for me, was tremendous. you'll be happy to know that it sits at my Library right alogside the original HB coat and the original

Some people comment on how active these message boards are and how much we interact. Some ask me about it and wonder why... That book is a perfect reminder of "why" we should do it.

Upon my return to LA I will visit Rick Cortez and (Spyda) take care of any outstanding stuff. In the meantime, you know where to write me. These days I get too much mail, but , even if I don't answer a

LOST IN LONDON

GDT

IT HAS APPEARED!!!!

The cabbie -God bless his soul!!!!- showed up early this morning at my hotel. He REMEMBERED a tiny bit, a tiny hint of information about where I was staying. Nothing much. This is a real intelligent gu

guy!!!! God, I'll never part with this silly book if I can help it!!!

To all of you, thanks for the words of hope (and shared depair, Spyda) they helped me through the day.

Now, on to the London walks!!!

Big, Fat hugs

GDT

Hi guys!!

Briefly -since I'm in preproduction on Pan's Labyrinth- some updates:

Director's cut: I was hoping to have it released in Europe and Japan. As it turns out it will be released theatrically only in France...

DVD (Director's cut): Comes out in November (3 discs) all the same extras (minus commentary track original) but with an extra disc full of features. The special box edition will have a SIDESHOW HELLBO

very happy with.

DEVIL'S BACKBONE DVD: for those of you that love this movie as much as I do, this one will have a better transfer, more extras than any international edition, including a unique and really useful doodl

TOYS: SIDESHOW is coming out with a 2nd wave as is MEZCO.

SEQUEL: More on this later, but lemme say this: The storyline for it has been approved by Revolution and we are now clear to start the script.

I miss ya guys and would love to see soem of you in San Diego.

All the best

Guillermo del Toro