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HOLLYWOOD MAVERICK TERRY GILLIAM

THE MAKING OF
"TWELVE MONKEYS"

A CAREER PROFILE
FROM MONTY PYTHON
TO GENRE AUTEUR

Bruce Willis and
Madeleine Stowe,
amid the apocalyptic
virus of Gilliam's
TWELVE MONKEYS

FILMING "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" LIVE!

Volume 27 Number 6



D. Voigt

Obituaries

by Alan Jones & Jay Stevenson

Derek Meddings

One of the pioneers of special visual effects met an untimely death in September. Derek Meddings was admitted to hospital with a cancer-related problem, and he never recovered from complications that arose during routine surgery. The 64-year-old technician began his prestigious career studying the world of cinema and visual effects, which led to his first major assignment as "Director of Crafts and Miniature Supervisor" for Gerry Anderson's Century 21 operation. There, he provided the extensive miniature effects work for Anderson's Super Marionation TV puppet fantasy series THUNDERBIRDS, in 1966.

Meddings' vast experience soon led to the cinema screen. After supervising miniature effects on numerous features (including THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT, SUPERGIRL, SANTA CLAUS—THE MOVIE, SUPERMAN—THE MOVIE



The lavish visuals of the X-FILES TV show are a natural for making the leap to the big screen. That rather than increased gore, will be the reason for the film.

[for which he won both American and British Academy Awards], and SUPERMAN II), he graduated to visual effects supervisor on HIGH SPIRITS, THE NEVERENDING STORY II & III, HUDSON HAWK, CAPE FEAR, and BATMAN. Because Meddings often helmed the second unit photographing his effects work, he was able to move into directing commercials, the most recent being for Shell and Fiat. He also set up "The Magic Camera Company" at Shepperton Studios, a one-stop special effects facility used by many productions.

But it will be for his sterling miniature work on the James Bond series that Meddings will most fondly be remembered. He literally had to force Cubby Broccoli into using miniatures on LIVE AND LET DIE. However, once the producer realized how effective they looked, and how relatively inexpensive they were, Meddings added a new excitement level to the 007 action adventures. He subsequently worked on THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN, THE SPY WHO LOVED ME, MOONRAKER, and FOR YOUR EYES ONLY. He returned to the Bond fold in 1995 with GOLDENEYE, which bears an 'In Memoriam' dedication to Meddings' miniature genius. Bill Pearson, a miniature effects colleague, said, "Derek's death signals the end of an era. We were all so shocked when we heard the news. He was a brilliant craftsman who changed the face of the special effects industry, and he'll be sorely missed."

X-FILES: THE MOVIE

Series creator Chris Carter promises big things for the big screen.

by Paula Vitaris

X-FILES creator and executive producer Chris Carter likes to describe each episode of his Fox Network hit series as a "mini-feature," but he'll soon be able to drop the "mini," because a theatrical movie version is headed toward a cinema near you. The question is: when? Although February 1997 has been reported in the press as a tentative release date, Carter says he doesn't know when the movie will shoot. "They're waiting for me to do a script," he explained. "It's just a matter of when we would actually find the time to do it." He added the plan is to release the film while the series is still in first-run, but "whether or not that happens, I don't know." He is secretive concerning the storyline, except to say that it will be "something really good."

Carter is looking forward to translating television's most luscious visuals into feature format, but that doesn't necessarily mean he plans to make the X-FILES movie more graphic or more violent than a regular episode. "I'm sure we would take advantage of the format to do a lot of things; but be more graphic, I'm not sure. We're definitely going to do great, big things, using the lenses and the 1.85 aspect ratio."

The X-FILES noir cinematography and actors David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson should all look terrific on the big screen, but the thought of a 200-inch tall Flukeman or exploding boiler inspired more than a few shivers—without a doubt, precisely the effect for which scaremeister Carter is aiming.

Michael Ende

The German author died of stomach cancer in August 28, at the age of 65. His self-reflexive children's book *The NeverEnding Story* was adapted into a big-budget fantasy film by director Wolfgang Petersen in 1979; its success led to two cinematic sequels, the latter of which has yet to be released domestically.

Viveca Lindfors

The 74-year-old Swedish actress died in October of complications from rheumatoid arthritis. Though hardly a genre name, the Emmy-winner was last seen in STARGATE; she also gave memorable performances in George Romero's CREEPSHOW and in Joseph Losey's THE DAMNED (US: THESE ARE THE DAMNED). The later was one of Hammer's most high-brow efforts, a brilliant piece of bleak and chilling nihilism. □

Production Starts

CROSSROADS

Rutger Hauer (BLADE RUNNER) toplines the cast of this low-budget science-fiction effort from Trimark Pictures.

THE DENTIST

L.A. LAW's Corbin Bernsen stars in this horror film directed by Brian Yuzna, from a script by his REANIMATOR collaborators Dennis Paoli and Stuart Gordon (along with an assist from Charles Finch). This narrowly beats a rival project of the same title, still in development, which was to have been directed by Tobe Hooper before Mark Borde took over.

THE PHANTOM

Simon Wincer directs this \$40 million comic book adaptation, with a cast featuring Billy Zane (as the title character), Treat Williams, Kristy Swanson, and Patrick McGoohan. The script is by Jeffrey Boam (THE DEAD ZONE).

THE RELIC

Stan Winston and CGI experts VFX combine forces to create a creature in this thriller starring Penelope Anne Miller (THE SHADOW) and Tom Sizemore (STRANGE DAYS) as a biologist and a police lieutenant on the trail of a murderous, mythological monster let loose in a natural history museum. Peter Hyams directs from a script by Amy Holden Jones.

SHOCKWAVE

Charlie Sheen, Ron Silver, and Lindsay Crouse star in this science-fiction effort scripted by WATERWORLD's David Twohy, who also directs.

The Sci-Fi Universe Awards

Last October's first *Sci-Fi Universe Readers' Choice Awards* turned out to be an entertaining event that restored a certain measure of dignity sadly lacking in other genre awards ceremonies (e.g., those notoriously lame shows by the Academy of Science-Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Films). It was nice to see Ernie Hudson receive recognition for his supporting role in CONGO (he is after all the only good thing in the movie). But any doubts about the validity of a readers' poll were certainly confirmed when Danny Cannon won best director for JUDGE DREDD. The nominations also left something to be desired, with obvious titles like DEMON KNIGHT and TALES FROM THE HOOD omitted from the horror category in favor of VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED, which was left out of the science-fiction category to make room for JOHNNY MNEMONIC! Still, the event redeemed itself with two career awards thoughtfully selected by the editors of *Sci-Fi Universe*: the Gene L. Coon Award for Excellence in Science Fiction Writing (given to Michael Piller) and the Award for Lifetime Achievement in the genre (delivered to Leonard Nimoy amidst a standing ovation).