

# ELEKTRA

From the pages of Marvel Comics, creator of “X-Men” and “Spider-Man,” comes ELEKTRA, the first action event movie of the year. In the ultimate battle between good and evil stands a warrior who makes the choice that tips the balance.

Jennifer Garner stars in the title role as a strong, mysterious and sexy action heroine – a lethal synthesis of grace and power. Not long after recovering from seemingly mortal wounds, Elektra has severed all ties with the world, living only for her next assignment. But in an unexpected turn of events, she is forced to make a decision that can take her life in a new direction – or destroy her.

Key players in Elektra’s journey are Stick, a blind martial arts master responsible for Elektra’s “resurrection,” and Mark Miller and Abby Miller, a father and daughter on the run from The Hand, a powerful syndicate whose members practice the dark martial art of *ninjitsu*.

After Jennifer Garner made a brief, tantalizing appearance as Elektra in the 2003 Fox / Regency picture “Daredevil,” executives at both companies were eager to have Garner reprise the role, but this time in her own motion picture.

Garner trained long and hard to do justice to the character portrayed in the famed Marvel comics: a warrior without limits. Already physically fit and skilled in various fighting techniques from her work on the television series “Alias,” Garner took her martial arts training to a new level under the guidance of ELEKTRA’s Stunt Coordinators and Fighting Choreographers. A bonus for Garner – and the comic’s multitude of fans – was that this time Elektra would don a red costume that stays true to the colors worn by the character in the Marvel stories.

Zak Penn (“X2”) and the screenwriting partners Stuart Zicherman & Raven Metzner wrote the screenplay that took ELEKTRA from the comics to the big screen.

With Garner aboard and the script taking shape, Rob Bowman joined the production as director. Bowman’s credentials as a genre film helmer are impeccable: he

won three Golden Globes® for producing and directing “The X-Files” television series, helmed the successful “The X-Files” feature film, and directed the science fiction adventure “Reign of Fire.” ELEKTRA is produced by Arnon Milchan (“Man on Fire”), Gary Foster (“Daredevil”) and Marvel’s Avi Arad (“Spider-Man 2”).

The filmmakers made the most out of Elektra’s special qualities within the comic book universe. Unlike most comic book heroes, Elektra possesses no super-human physical powers. Instead, she makes maximum use of her incredible physical prowess and martial arts skills. In addition, she has the ability to see into the future, a skill known as *Kimagure*, which she has honed through countless hours of deep meditation.

Elektra learned the art of *Kimagure* from her mentor, Stick, who has the composure of a monk and the raw smarts of a street fighter. Elektra once was Stick’s star pupil, but her inability to reach beyond her dark impulses led to her expulsion from Stick’s training compound.

Stick literally gave Elektra her life back. So when he later insists that she leave the fold, Elektra feels abandoned. All earthly bonds now broken, she assumes the mantle of an assassin. Alone, in the service of death, she finds a place dark enough to hide.

“In our story,” says Producer Avi Arad, “Stick lets Elektra go and then he puts her through a test. It’s a do or die situation. Elektra has a contract to fulfill – to terminate a father and her daughter who are on the run from a group of ninja assassins known as The Hand – but that same father and daughter help Elektra remember the brighter days of her own life, when she and her father were together. Her mission derails her personal agenda, forces her out of her cynical attitude, and sets her on the road to redemption.”

Rob Bowman wanted ELEKTRA to be a different kind of comics-to-film adaptation. To be sure, the film has the spectacular heroics, action, state-of-the-art special and visual effects, incredible stunts and martial arts mastery. But Bowman also wanted ELEKTRA to be a character-driven piece. “I think the difference between this film and other big comic book movies is that we spend some time inside Elektra’s head; the true story is really inside of her,” says Bowman. “There’s so much unspoken reality in her. Sure, I want audiences to experience a big action movie and give them the thrills of watching the character kick some butt. But I also wanted them to root for Elektra to triumph over her own inner darkness”

“She’s fighting the inevitability of her own humanity,” adds Jennifer Garner. “It’s a fantastic story to play, one that I think people can relate to.”

Indeed, ELEKTRA gave Garner the opportunity to explore a character she had created on screen a year earlier. “At the end of ‘Daredevil’ we left Elektra at the beginning of her real darkness,” says Garner. “When we pick her up in this movie, there’s a wall of ice around her. She’s so isolated from the outside world that she doesn’t even know she’s isolated anymore.”

Mark and Abby Miller, played by “E.R.’s” Goran Visnjic and young Canadian actress Kirsten Prout, are also experiencing a form of isolation – the kind that comes from being on the run, always looking over your shoulder, and trusting no one. “When we first meet her, Elektra is a professional killer, and her latest targets are the characters played by Kirsten Prout and me!” notes Visnjic. “Obviously, Elektra has a change of heart and spares their lives, but it becomes much more than that: Elektra begins to care for Mark and Abby. But it’s hard for Mark to watch the budding relationship between Elektra and his daughter Abby. He’s afraid that Elektra might become a role model for her.”

But Elektra has no desire for Abby to follow in her footsteps. Elektra and Abby have a natural affinity, as both deeply feel the loss of their mothers who died much too young. “If there’s one thing Elektra’s not going to give up on, it’s Abby,” says Garner. “She’s determined to protect this girl from becoming like her, and she will give up her own life in order for Abby to have a chance.”

For Visnjic, jumping from the life-and-death world of a fictional emergency room to the universe of a legendary comics character, was more than welcome. The actor, who also recently starred in the title role of the mini-series “Spartacus,” read a lot of comics as a young person growing up in Croatia. “It’s exciting to be portraying someone from that world,” says Visnjic. “Because it’s not the real world, we can push the boundaries a little further. It’s an opportunity to be more imaginative.”

Esteemed actor Terence Stamp already had strong ties to the world of big event, comics-to-film adaptations, having played the super-villainous General Zod in “Superman” and “Superman II.” At first reluctant to work on another genre project, Stamp ultimately gave in after he was relentlessly pursued by the filmmakers. “We were determined to get Terence,” says Producer Gary Foster. “General Zod is still one of the

great characters in comic book movie history, and we knew Terence could bring that kind of magic to ELEKTRA, as Stick”

The role held a special challenge for Stamp, since Stick is clinically blind but professes to have the ability to “see” better than most sighted people. “Originally I intended to convey the blindness by having my eyes closed,” Stamp recalls. “It’s something rarely done by an actor, and I like to do original things if I can.” In the end Stamp played the role with his blind eyes open. “It still entails a different spatial sense,” he explains. “You can obviously see if your eyes are open, but if you’re playing blind you’re not necessarily looking at where you’re going or who you’re talking to. So there’s a kind of side vision that comes into play.”

The relationship between Stick and Elektra, sensei and pupil, is central to the story. Stick is the puppet-master, setting events in motion and then intervening only when necessary to guide his student’s progress. “Elektra wants Stick to be her sensei, but she doesn’t want to do what he tells her to do,” says Stamp. “Although he often appears to be giving up on her, he has a kind of overview, a way of getting her to do what he wants by hook or by crook, so to speak. In the East they say that the guru needs the great pupil even more that the great pupil needs the guru. So I think there’s a kind of symbiosis in their relationship.”

Once Elektra decides to help Mark and Abby, she too becomes a target for The Hand, a team of *ninjas* whose members each possess a specific black magic skill. Foremost among them is Kirigi, played by Will Yun Lee (“Die Another Day”). Kirigi is a master swordsman and an adept of *Kimagure*. And Will Yun Lee is a long-time adept of martial arts. “My father was one of the first Tai Kwan Do masters to come to the United States,” says Lee. “So I’ve been studying martial arts since I was a child.”

Kirigi’s team is comprised of Tattoo, Typhoid, Stone and Kinkou. Tattoo, played by Chris Ackerman, derives his magical powers, as his name implies, from the animals engraved on his skin. He can command these animals to leave his body, take form in the real world, and do his bidding. The behind-the-scenes tattoo process, which involved transfers, ink drawing and airbrushed coloration, took the ELEKTRA Special Makeup Effects team about six hours to apply.

Typhoid, played by Canadian Natassia Malthe, is the ultimate femme fatale: Whatever she touches dies. Bob Sapp, who portrays Stone, is a veritable mountain of a man, standing 6'3" tall and weighing 374 pounds. Stone's body is rock hard, so hard that Elektra's weapon of choice, her sais (a pair of three-pronged daggers), break against him. Kinkou, played by Edson T. Ribeiro, is the man who can't be knocked down. His sense of balance is super-human. Ribeiro, a native of Brazil, is a master of that country's martial art form, Capoeira, a combination of dance and martial art.

ELEKTRA was filmed in and around Vancouver, British Columbia. The decision to shoot a major portion of the movie in natural settings was a departure from the gritty, urban landscapes of other comics-to-film adaptations. "The forest surrounding Vancouver is spectacular," says Rob Bowman. "There is something fresh to invite into the comic book world with these colors and this light."

"We've tried to keep the backgrounds as smooth and unobtrusive as possible, so that the characters kind of pop out," adds Production Designer Graeme Murray. "It's designed very much in a comic book style in that sense."

Another key theme brought out by the production design involves the opposing forces of light and dark as represented by The Chaste (the heroic band of *ninjas* led by Stick) and The Hand. The Hand's conference room, where we first meet Kirigi and his team, is slick, urban and modern, with lots of hard, reflective surfaces. It is located in downtown Tokyo, atop a skyscraper. In contrast, Stick's mountain retreat, a simple encampment, is nestled in a clearing in the forest that affords a view of majestic mountain peaks.

A key element of the film's overall look is its costume design. Fans and filmmakers alike were delighted that the big screen Elektra's costume is the comics character's signature red. "It was very important to me, to Jennifer, and, I know, to the fans, that this time the costume be red," says Costume Designer Lisa Tomczeszyn. "In addition, we've incorporated a lot of fashion elements like corset lacing, low-rise pants, and high fashion boots into her costume. Bearing in mind that Elektra Natchios is one of the wealthiest women in the world, she wears every important designer label."

In designing the costumes, Tomczeszyn had to take into account practical considerations, like the film's many action and fight sequences. "Originally I wanted her costume to be a bit more sports-oriented, but it turned out that the fabrics I wanted to use were just too flat on film," says Tomczeszyn. "So I had to build in stretch panels down the legs of the pants. The bodice is rigged so that it doesn't inhibit any shoulder or arm movement, which is critical to Jennifer's work with her sais. Unfortunately, there was no place to hide stunt pads."

Stunt pads or not, Jennifer Garner trained hard before and during shooting. Her days often started before dawn, when she'd squeeze in a 4:00 a.m. training session before getting set-ready. "Elektra is a consummate martial artist, and I've poured by heart, body and soul into my training," says Garner. "Luckily I had 'Daredevil' and three years of 'Alias' under my belt."

Some visual effects were incorporated into the fight sequences, but most of the stunts were accomplished using practical effects. Stunt Coordinator and Fight Choreographer Mike Gunther created ELEKTRA's many fight sequences, each drawing on various martial arts techniques that are unique in both conception and execution. "Jennifer did a little bit of boxing, some Wu Shu, a bit of hard style martial arts like Shodukan," says Gunther. "It's a little bit of everything mixed together."

"We trained differently for every fight," says Garner. For a 'Bo Stick' fight, for example, I spent a couple of months training. When we shot that scene I had these big fans on me and my hair was blowing in my eyes. Basically I was fighting blind against five guys, but I was so rehearsed that I knew if I put my stick where it was supposed to be, the fight would go right. I couldn't see anything but I the heard the 'click, click, click' of my stick hitting theirs and it was exhilarating. That's why I train so hard...so that on filming day I'm not worried. They could have blindfolded me and hung me upside down and I could have done that fight!"

Elektra uses her weapon of choice – a pair of three-pronged daggers known as sais, in all but the Bo Stick fight. Cast and crew marveled at Garner's skills with the sais, as she made them appear almost like extensions of her arms. "It's about being comfortable with the weapon, being able to spin it in any direction, and look like you've

had them in your hands since you were a kid,” says Gunther. “Jennifer had definitely mastered that.”

Garner’s excitement about bringing to cinematic life a beloved comic character is palpable. “I think the audience will be carried along on Elektra’s emotional ride,” she says. “You’re going to see why she is the way she is and why it isn’t working anymore. You’re going to see a friendship forged and a little bit of romance. You’re going to see some great action. I know I worked on this role as hard as I could. I promise...it’ll be a ride!”

### **ABOUT THE CAST**

**JENNIFER GARNER** stars as Elektra Natchios, a fearless warrior whose grace and skill are legendary. The Charleston, West Virginia native is a Golden Globe-winning actress for her performance in the highly acclaimed television series “Alias.” Garner was nominated for three Emmy® Awards for her portrayal of a double agent, Sydney Bristow. Her role in “Alias” has also garnered her three Golden Globe nominations and a Screen Actors Guild® nomination. “Alias” was awarded the People’s Choice Award for Best New Drama Series.

Garner originated the role of Elektra Natchios in the hit Twentieth Century Fox / Regency Enterprises movie “Daredevil” based on the Marvel comic. Garner co-starred opposite Ben Affleck in the film, which also featured Colin Farrell, Michael Clarke Duncan and Jon Favreau.

Last year, Garner starred in Revolution Studios’ smash hit “13 Going On 30,” co-starring Mark Ruffalo, in which she portrayed Jenna Rink, a 13 year old who finds herself trapped in the body of a 30 year old executive.

Garner had a featured role opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in “Catch Me If You Can,” directed by Steven Spielberg. Previously, Garner appeared in “Pearl Harbor,” with Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett, and in the Twentieth Century Fox comedy “Dude, Where’s My Car?” Her additional feature film credits include “Mr. Magoo,” “Deconstructing Harry,” “1999” and “Washington Square.”

Garner’s television credits include a series regular role on both the Jennifer Love Hewitt drama “Time of Your Life” and “Significant Others” as well as a recurring role on

“Felicity.” She has guest starred on “Spin City” and “Law and Order,” and has been featured in the television films “Rose Hill,” “Dead Man’s Walk,” “Zoya” and “Harvest Fire.”

**GORAN VISNJIC** plays Mark, a man on the run trying to protect his young daughter. Visnjic captured Hollywood’s attention when he made his American debut in the critically acclaimed motion picture “Welcome to Sarajevo,” directed by Michael Winterbottom. He stars as Dr. Luka Kovac in NBC’s long running drama “E.R.” Visnjic recently starred as the title role in USA Film’s “Spartacus.”

Visnjic received rave reviews for his performance in Fox Searchlight’s “The Deep End,” opposite Tilda Swinton. His other film credits include the psychological thriller “Close Your Eyes,” the voice of Soto in Fox’s animated hit “Ice Age,” Miramax’s “Committed” opposite Heather Graham, “Practical Magic” with Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock, and “The Peacemaker” alongside George Clooney.

Visnjic grew up in Croatia, on the coast of the Adriatic Sea. He decided to become an actor at an early age, and later attended the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. There he won three national Best Actor awards, including the Orlando (the Croatian equivalent of a Tony Award®), for his portrayal of “Hamlet” at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. Other theatre credits include “Les Fourberies de Scapin,” “Le Ecole Des Femmes,” “Miss Julie,” “Ivanov,” “The Brothers Karamazov” and “Le Baruffe Chizotte.”

**WILL YUN LEE** plays Kirigi, a radical member of The Hand, and Elektra’s nemesis. He was featured as Colonel Moon in the James Bond film “Die Another Day.” Lee recently starred opposite Bai Ling in the Sundance hit “Face.” His other feature credits include “Torque” and “What’s Cooking.” Lee recently filmed the FX pilot “Thief,” starring opposite Andre Braugher. His television credits also include the role of Danny Woo in the TNT series “Witchblade.”

**CARY-HIROYUKI TAGAWA** plays Roshi, the leader of The Hand. Tagawa got his first big break when cast in Bernardo Bertolucci’s feature film “The Last

Emperor.” He later played featured roles in “Planet of the Apes,” “Rising Sun,” “Mortal Kombat” and “The Phantom.” Tagawa’s numerous feature film credits also include “Pearl Harbor,” “Speedball,” “The Ghost,” “The Art of War” and “Snow Falling on Cedars.”

Tagawa starred in the CBS television series “Nash Bridges” and played a recurring role in the series “Space Rangers.”

He has made guest starring appearances on “Babylon 5” and “Star Trek TNG,” and he was featured in the television movies “Baywatch: Hawaiian Wedding,” “NetForce” and “Johnny Tsunami.”

**TERENCE STAMP** plays Stick, Elektra’s mentor. Stamp made his motion picture debut in Peter Ustinov’s 1962 film adaptation of Herman Melville’s “Billy Budd.” Stamp’s portrayal of the title character brought him an Academy Award® nomination, and a Golden Globe for best newcomer and international attention.

Stamp starred in “The Limey” for director Steven Soderbergh, for which Stamp earned a nomination for Best Male Lead at the 2000 Independent Spirit Awards, as well as a nomination for Best Actor at the London Film Critics Circle (ALFS) Awards.

Stamp starred in William Wyler’s adaptation of John Fowles’ “The Collector” for which he won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival, Joseph Losey’s “Modesty Blaise,” John Schlesinger’s adaptation of Thomas Hardy’s “Far From the Madding Crowd,” and Ken Loach’s first feature film, “Poor Cow.” One of Stamp’s splashiest choices was the comedy “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert,” for which he received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor.

Stamp’s remarkable and lengthy career has included starring roles in Federico Fellini’s “Toby Admit,” Pier Paolo Pasolini’s “Teorama,” Alan Cooke’s “The Mind of Mr. Soames,” Richard Donner’s “Superman,” and Richard Lester’s “Superman II.” Some of his other feature film credits are “Meetings With Remarkable Men,” “The Hit,” “Link,” “Legal Eagles,” “The Sicilian,” “Wall Street,” “Prince of Shadows” and Frank Oz’s “Bowfinger.”

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**ROB BOWMAN** (Director) is an award-winning director who has helmed several of the most commercially and critically successful TV series of the past two decades.

Bowman produced and directed numerous episodes of “The X-Files,” for which he received three Golden Globe Awards and three Emmy Award nominations. In 1998 he brought “The X-Files” characters to the big screen as the director of “The X-Files” feature film.

Most recently Bowman directed the feature film “Reign of Fire,” starring Matthew McConaughey and Christian Bale, for Spyglass Entertainment and Touchstone Pictures.

Bowman’s other credits include more than 20 hit series including, “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” “Alien Nation,” “The Hat Squad,” “21 Jump Street” and “MacGyver.” He directed the feature film “Airborne.”

**ZAK PENN** (Writer) has written screenplays for numerous feature films including “X2,” “Behind Enemy Lines,” “PCU” and “Last Action Hero.”

Penn’s directorial debut, “Incident at Loch Ness,” chronicles renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog’s quest to find the elusive Loch Ness monster. “Incident” won the New America Cinema Award at the 2004 Seattle International Film Festival.

Upcoming Penn-written films include “Spy Hunter” starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, as well as “Suspect Zero,” starring Sir Ben Kingsley and Carrie-Anne Moss.

**STUART ZICHERMAN & RAVEN METZNER** (Writers) began their collaboration in 1998 with the pitch sale of the Jackie Chan vehicle “Nosebleed.” Since then, they have written 12 feature projects including “A Cool Breeze on the Underground” for New Line Cinema, and “Deathlok” for Paramount Pictures. In addition, they have done several script re-writes and “punch-ups.

Zicherman & Metzner recently moved into the world of television, adapting the book *Naked Pictures of My Ex-Girlfriend* for director Brett Ratner. They have just

signed a two-show deal with Touchstone Television to develop two one-hour series, one for ABC, the other for the WB network.

**ARNON MILCHAN** (Producer) is widely renowned as one of the most prolific and successful independent film producers of the past 25 years, with over 70 feature films to his credit. Born in Israel, Milchan was educated at the University of Geneva. His first business venture was transforming his father's modest business into one of his country's largest agro-chemical companies. This early achievement was a harbinger of Milchan's now-legendary reputation in the international marketplace as a keen businessman.

Soon, Milchan began to underwrite projects in areas that had always held a special interest for him – film, television and theater. Early projects include Roman Polanski's theater production of "Amadeus," "Dizengoff 99," "La Menace," "The Medusa Touch" and the mini-series "Masada." By the end of the 1980s, Milchan had produced such films as Martin Scorsese's "The King of Comedy," Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in America" and Terry Gilliam's "Brazil."

After the huge successes of "Pretty Woman" and "The War of the Roses," Milchan founded New Regency Productions and went on to produce a string of successful films including "J.F.K.," "Sommersby," "A Time to Kill," "Free Willy," "The Client," "Tin Cup," "Under Siege," "L.A. Confidential," "The Devil's Advocate," "The Negotiator," "City of Angels," "Entrapment," "Fight Club," "Don't Say a Word," "Daredevil" and "Man on Fire."

Upcoming projects include: "Guess Who", a comedy starring Ashton Kutcher and Bernie Mac, directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan; "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," a sexy action adventure starring Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, directed by Doug Liman; "Stay", a reality-bending thriller starring Ewan McGregor, Naomi Watts and Ryan Gossling, directed by Marc Forster; "The Onion Movie," a sketch comedy directed by Mike Maguire and Tom Kuntz; "The Bee Season," a drama starring Richard Gere and Juliette Binoche, directed by Dave Siegel and Scott McGehee; "Little Manhattan," a romantic comedy starring Bradley Whitford, Cynthia Nixon, and Josh Hutcherson, and directed by Jennifer Flackett and Mark Levin; "The Untitled Lindsay Lohan 'Lucky' Project," a comedy starring Lindsay Lohan and Chris Pine and directed by Donald Petrie; and "The

Fountain,” a sci-fi fantasy starring Hugh Jackman and Rachel Wiesz and directed by Darren Aronofsky.

Along the way, Milchan brought on board two powerful investors and partners who share his vision: Australian businessman Kerry Packer’s Nine Network and Twentieth Century Fox. Fox distributes Regency movies in all media worldwide (excluding an output arrangement Regency has in Germany), U.S. pay television, and international pay and free television.

Milchan also successfully diversified his company’s activities within the sphere of entertainment, most specifically in the realm of television through Regency Television (“Malcolm in the Middle,” “The Bernie Mac Show,” “Listen Up” and the upcoming “Shacking Up”) and sports through a strategic alliance with PUMA, the worldwide athletic apparel and shoe conglomerate based in Germany. In addition, Regency has worldwide television rights to Women’s Tennis Association events from 1999 through 2007.

**GARY FOSTER** (Producer) produced the Oscar® and Golden Globe nominated hit “Sleepless in Seattle,” which grossed more than \$300 million worldwide.

In 1997, Foster partnered with writer/director Mark Steven Johnson to form Horseshoe Bay Productions, a full-service company to develop, write, produce and direct motion pictures. In 2002 Foster produced “Daredevil,” written and directed by Johnson.

Foster produced “The Score,” starring Robert De Niro, Edward Norton and Marlon Brando. His feature credits also include “Tin Cup,” “Gloria,” “Desperate Measures,” “Big Bully,” “Short Circuit,” “Short Circuit 2,” “The Amazing Panda Adventure,” and “Just Cause.”

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Foster worked as an agent’s assistant at the William Morris Agency in New York before beginning his producing career as an associate at the Turman-Foster Company. At Turman-Foster, he worked on “Running Scared,” “The Mean Season” and the television drama, “News at Eleven.”

A second-generation Hollywood filmmaker, Foster is the son of noted producer David Foster.

**AVI ARAD** (Producer) is President and CEO of Marvel Studios, and the chief creative force responsible for bringing Marvel Comics' characters to life on the big screen. He has worked with many of Hollywood's most prestigious directors, writers, producers and studio executives to supervise the transition of Marvel characters to live-action and animated feature films.

Arad served as executive producer for "Spider-Man," the record-breaking, worldwide phenomenon starring Tobey Maguire as the beloved webslinging Marvel superhero. Directed by Sam Raimi and starring Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Willem Dafoe and James Franco, "Spider-Man" became the fifth highest grossing movie in U.S. history.

The highly anticipated sequel, "Spider-Man 2," reunited director Raimi with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco, and also starred Alfred Molina as Doc Ock. Like the first film, "Spider-Man 2" was a huge box-office success, and "Spider-Man 3" is now in development.

Next up for Arad is "Fantastic Four," which Twentieth Century Fox releases July 2, 2005.

Arad produced "The Hulk," based on the renowned Marvel comic series, and directed by Oscar winner Ang Lee. "The Hulk" starred Eric Bana as the brilliant and troubled scientist Bruce Banner, and Oscar® winner Jennifer Connelly as his girlfriend, researcher Betty Ross.

Arad produced the box-office smash "X2," which reunited director Bryan Singer with stars Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen and Halle Berry from the film's predecessor, the boxoffice hit "X-Men," for which Arad was Executive Producer. Arad's slate of recent box-office successes also includes the smash hit "Daredevil," starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner and Colin Farrell, for which Arad served as a producer. Currently, Arad's live-action feature slate includes "Ghost Rider," "Namor," "Iron Man," and "Werewolf by Night." He began the Marvel movie franchises with Wesley Snipes in the films "Blade" and "Blade II", with New Line Cinema.

Arad executive produced Marvel's full slate of animated television series, including "Spider-Man" and "X-Men," two of the highest rated kids' shows appearing on Fox Kids Network, as well as "Incredible Hulk," "Fantastic Four," "Iron Man" and "Silver Surfer." Before joining Marvel, Arad's credits in animation included "Conan the

Adventurer,” “King Arthur & the Knights of Justice,” “Double Dragon” and “Bot Master.”

For live action television, Arad created and executive produced the high rated “Mutant X.” For live television, Arad executive produced the telefilm “Generation X” and “Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.”

Arad is a long established expert in youth entertainment. He is one of the world’s premiere toy designers and producers of children’s programming and the primary creative force responsible for bringing Marvel Comics’ characters to life in toys, film and television. He has been involved in the creation and development of dozens of entertainment products, including action figurines and playsets, dolls, vehicles, electronic products, educational software and video games. Arad has also developed TV animation properties designed to combine entertainment and toys with companies such as Toy Biz, Hasbro, Mattel, Nintendo, Tiger and Sega.

When Marvel Entertainment Group acquired an interest in Toy Biz in April 1993, Arad entered into an arrangement with the New York City-based entertainment conglomerate to devote his time exclusively to Toy Biz and Marvel Studios. As a Director and Principal of Toy Biz and President of Marvel Studios, Arad continues to oversee the design, development and approval of Toy Biz products from initial concepts through final packaging, advertising and merchandising strategies, and he has been instrumental in the company’s expanding presence as a major force in the licensing arena, acquiring the master toy rights to brand names and properties outside the Marvel universe. As of October 1, 1998, Toy Biz acquired Marvel Entertainment and united the companies under the name Marvel Enterprises.

**STAN LEE** (Executive Producer), the Chairman Emeritus of Marvel Comics, is known to millions as the man whose Super Heroes propelled Marvel to its preeminent position in the comic book industry. Hundreds of legendary characters, including Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, The X-Men, The Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Daredevil, The Avengers, Thor and Dr. Strange, all grew out of his fertile imagination.

Lee was Executive Producer for Columbia’s worldwide blockbuster “Spider-Man,” directed by Sam Raimi and starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and Willem

Dafoe. “Spider-Man” earned \$114.8 million in its first weekend, the largest domestic opening of all time. To date, the film has surpassed \$820 million in worldwide box office gross.

Lee was Executive Producer on Ang Lee’s “The Hulk” starring Eric Bana and Jennifer Connelly. The film debuted in first place at the box office, grossing \$62.1 million and setting a record for the biggest June opening ever.

It was in the early 1960s that Lee ushered in what has come to be known as “The Marvel Age of Comics,” creating major new Super Heroes while breathing life and style into such old favorites as Captain America, The Human Torch and The Sub Mariner.

During his first 25 years at Marvel, as editor, art director and head writer, Lee scripted no fewer than two and as many as five complete comic books per week. His prodigious output may comprise the largest body of published work by any single writer. Additionally, he wrote newspaper features, radio and television scripts and screenplays. By the time he was named publisher of Marvel Comics in 1972, Lee’s comics were the nation’s biggest sellers. In 1977, he brought the Spider-Man character to newspapers in the form of a syndicated strip. This seven-days-a-week feature, which he has written and edited since its inception, is the most successful of all syndicated adventure strips, appearing in more than 500 newspapers worldwide.

In 1981, Marvel launched an animation studio on the West Coast and Lee moved to Los Angeles to become creative head of Marvel’s cinematic adventures. He began to transform his Spider-Man and Hulk creations into Saturday morning television and paved the way for Marvel’s entry into live-action feature films.

Lee has served as executive producer on a growing list of major films such as the recent blockbuster hits “Spider-Man,” “X-Men,” “X2” and “Daredevil.”

His television credits include serving as Co-Producer and Creator of “Stripperella” on the Spike Cable Channel and as Executive Producer on “Nick Fury” Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.,” “The Incredible Hulk,” “Generation X,” “Spider-Man” and “X-Men.”

Lee has written more than a dozen best-selling books, including *The Origins of Marvel Comics*, *The Best of the Worst*, *The Silver Surfer*, *How to Draw Comics the*

*Marvel Way, The Alien Factor, Bring on the Bad Guys, Riftworld, The Superhero Women* and his recent biography *Excelsior! The Amazing Life of Stan Lee*.

**MARK STEVEN JOHNSON** (Executive Producer) wrote and directed “Daredevil,” starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Colin Farrell and Michael Clarke Duncan. He has written and is set to direct “Ghost Rider,” based on another Marvel comic, and starring Nicholas Cage.

Johnson is best known for scripting the hit pictures “Grumpy Old Men” and the sequel, “Grumpier Old Men,” both starring screen legends Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

In 1997, Johnson joined forces with veteran producer Gary Foster to found Horseshoe Bay Productions, a full service production company to develop, write, produce and direct motion pictures.

Johnson made his directorial debut in 1998 with “Simon Birch,” which he also scripted, based on the John Irving novel *A Prayer for Owen Meany*.

**BRENT O’CONNOR** (Executive Producer) was executive producer of “Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed.” O’Connor’s co-producing credits include “Bulletproof Monk,” starring Chow Yun Fat and Sean William Scott, and “K-19: The Widowmaker,” starring Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson.

O’Connor served as Production Manager on the Arnold Schwarzenegger thriller “The Sixth Day,” the comedic romp “Rat Race,” starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Whoopi Goldberg, John Cleese and Rowan Atkinson, the Academy Award winning “Good Will Hunting,” starring Robin Williams, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, and “Seven Years in Tibet” with Brad Pitt. Other credits as Production Manager include “Eye See You,” “Jumanji,” “Deep Rising,” “Disturbing Behavior” and “Andre.”

**BILL ROE, ASC** (Director of Photography) served as Director of Photography on the long running, acclaimed TV series “The X-Files.” Roe was Second Unit Director of Photography on the features “Seabiscuit” and “Terminal Velocity,” for which he also served as Camera Operator.

Roe's credits as camera operator include "Toys," "Space Jam," "Primal Fear," "Indian in the Cupboard," "Junior" and "Dave."

**GRAEME MURRAY** (Production Designer) served as Production Designer on "Knight Moves," "Never Cry Wolf," "Malone" and "My Five Wives."

Murray was Art Director on Twentieth Century Fox's "The Boy Who Could Fly," and on "Look Who's Talking." His other credits as Art Director include "Iceman" and "Ladies and Gentlemen, The Fabulous Stains."

**KEVIN STITT, A.C.E.** (Editor) worked with director John Woo on "Paycheck." Stitt edited "The Order" for Twentieth Century Fox and "A Knight's Tale" for Columbia Pictures; both pictures were directed by Brian Helgeland. Stitt also worked on the feature "Payback."

Stitt was Co-Editor on the features "X-Men," "Deep Blue Sea," "The Last Castle," "Another Stakeout" and on Richard Donner's "Conspiracy Theory" and "Lethal Weapon 4."

**KEVIN FEIGE** (Co-Producer) is Executive Vice President of Marvel Studios. Feige was most recently Executive Producer on the blockbuster "Spider-Man 2," directed by Sam Raimi, starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, and Alfred Molina. Feige was Executive Producer on "The Punisher" starring Tom Jane and John Travolta, and on "The Hulk," directed by Ang Lee.

He co-produced the critically acclaimed smash "X2," directed by Bryan Singer, starring Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen and Halle Berry. Before that he co-produced the 2003 hit "Daredevil" starring Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner. Feige was Executive in Charge of Production on 2002's top-grossing film "Spider-Man," directed by Sam Raimi, starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and Willem Dafoe.

After graduating from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television, Feige worked for Lauren Shuler Donner and Richard Donner at their Warner Bros.-based Donners' Company. There he worked on the films "Volcano," starring Tommy Lee Jones, and the hit romantic comedy "You've Got Mail," directed by Nora

Ephron, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. He then become an Associate Producer on the film that revamped the comic book genre: “X-Men.”

**CHRISTOPHE BECK** (Composer) has scored numerous films in virtually every genre, from the now classic teen comedy “Bring It On” to “Under the Tuscan Sun,” the film adaptation of the best-selling novel.

Beck began his scoring career on the Canadian television series “White Fang,” and from there went on to score the television series “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” in seasons two through four. Beck received an Emmy, for Outstanding Music Composition, for his work on “Buffy,” in season three (1998) and after completing one more season on the show, decided to move into film scoring.

Beck’s film credits include “A Cinderella Story,” “Garfield,” “Cheaper by the Dozen,” “Just Married,” “Confidence,” “Without a Paddle” and “American Wedding.”

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