

<http://www.newsarama.com/general/Hellion/Hellion01.html>

Regardless, the script is *great*, I'm having a ball, but wish it were two issues instead of one. "Can't we stretch it out? I'm not lazy, honest, I'm just intimidated. What would John Romita do? What would John Romita Jr. do?" Take it easy, sissy, remember, Jimmy, Justin, Mark, Nate, Joe Q and Dan Buckley all have faith in you, so you should too. Stop whining and get to it. So I do.

Page one is coming out like the worst piece of crap I've ever attempted in my life.

I recall Jimmy saying, "Dude, it's just comics." So I start over on these very naughty "Avatars of the Mandarin" and their violent jaunt through the streets of New York City. Now I've been reading up on a bunch of Marvel characters and past storylines (I actually thought of a very cool Psylocke vs. Mandarin story arc --another time) but never heard of these guys before... who the hell are the "Avatars of the Mandarin?" Justin adds a very helpful link to the script:
<http://www.marvunapp.com/Appendix/avatrz.htm>

I draw a pretty cool and detailed Q'wake and Deluge. Then I realize that these chaps are Chinese but in their past representation all were wearing Japanese armor. I call Justin (I always call Justin!) and explain the armor issue and that I'm going to change it. Being incredibly busy, he dismisses me with a casual "no problem" while typing away on another script.

Oh man, I'm going to like working with these boys. I go back in and redraw the two bastards and admire my work. Excellent! Q'wake is ready to throw a police cruiser, Deluge is streaking to the heavens, using a ruptured fire hydrant's -- wait, fire hydrant? Deluge? Son of a bitch, Deluge isn't in the friggin script! Dammit, my first page, my first panel and I've screwed it up THREE times already. More graphite chews up more paper before wha-la -- Ancestor has replaced Deluge, but more bloody damn time is wasted! C'mon, my first page has to be good, don't it?



Okay, that was easy page one out of the way. Day two. Page two and Jimmy and Justin's script reads:

PAGE 2 SPLASH

Misty, Colleen, Tarantula, Shang Chi, Black Cat and Humbug WALKING toward us-not posing dynamically, striding into the scene as cool and confident as can be. You can just imagine the totally funkadellic slow motion soundtrack that follows them around."

A few weeks ago, I did very tight breakdowns (please see the accompanying sketch). But it's more of a bird's eye view of our heroes entrance and not as interesting as Jimmy and Justin's script description. I do another rough more of a straight on angle and it's approved.

But Black Cat's a problem. She's a star and I feel she might get lost in this scene. After a group email go around we all agree it would be better to debut her later on in the book on page eleven.



Crusade's production manager Mike Renzine and I pose as the FBI dudes. I use my 21st Century Toy's SWAT cop for reference and that all goes onto the board pretty smoothly.

Now the important part and the grand "funkadelic" entrance of Heroes For Hire!

Oh man, I listen mostly to talk radio and the one thing it ain't, is funky, let alone "funkadelic!" William comes into the studio, (which is the top floor of my house) climbs onto my lap and takes a pencil and begins to draw - on the board! I quickly (but gently of course) snatch it from him.

While erasing my budding baby Picasso's lines, he asks "Draw trains, Daddy, draw trains?"

Now, how do you explain to a three year old that even though you draw all day long, you can't draw him a damn train?

"Dance, daddy, Dance?" Dance. Holy crap yes! My boy refers to music as "dance", and the one piece of music he loves to dance to is Tomoyasu Hotel's "Battle Without Honor Or Humanity." One of the first movies the two of us ever watched (*Fight Club* was the first when he was a new born) is *Kill Bill*. If you remember, "Battle..." was that banging music accompanying O-Ren Ishii and her Crazy 88's while they entered the House of Blue Leaves restaurant.

I find the CD, pop it in and CRANK it up! Now it's a warm evening the windows to my studio are wide open, and as the music is pounding across the streets of Bayport, NY (birthplace of inker Mark McKenna) my three-year old and I begin to jump up and down like maniacs. We replay the song. Each time, getting more and more hysterical and "funky". But I'm fine with it all because I'm spending time with my son, and thanks to him, have finally found the music that matches the script.

And feel my drawing will too. Funkadelic!

Well, back to the art table. This column is late. Even Matthew Vincent was a few days late.

Heroes For Hire won't be.



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See you next week!

P.S. Later on in the week, I found out that my neighbors were walking their dog past my house while "we" were dancing. Problem is, because William's only three, all they saw through the windows was the local cartoonist jumping up and down like the hysterical happy idiot they all suspected he was.

Discussion thread: <http://forum.newsarama.com/showthread.php?t=73088>

shady878

06-08-2006 11:00 AM

Wow...I mean WOW!! I definitely will be picking up the first ish just for the art. Billy Tucci is back on his game. Good Column and sorry to hear about your wife. Booyah! First post!

MShivers

06-08-2006 11:16 AM

This is going to be a fun column.

Sorry to hear about the ordeal with your wife, Bill. What a nightmare. I've spent a great deal of time being worried over my wife lately (emotional and health problems spawned by the recent loss of her mother), so I can totally relate. Glad she seems to be out of the woods.

Again, really enjoy the "peek behind the curtain" from the artists perspective, just as I've enjoyed the writer's perspective in JMS' column.

- Michael

Croaker

06-08-2006 11:35 AM

Great article. I'm really looking forward to this series.

Sorry to hear about your wife, but I'm glad she's getting better. Thoughts and prayers with your family.

starvenger

06-08-2006 11:43 AM

Sorry to hear about your wife Bill. It's always tough when a loved one has to spend time in the hospital. No excuses needed for being late, as far as I'm concerned.

Oh, and great column!

jasinmartin

06-08-2006 11:47 AM

Great column!
Some truly frank insights into the process.
Great art too!

I really enjoyed Daughters of the Dragon, so I'm even more anxious to check this out now!

Best of luck to your family.

The Bry

06-08-2006 11:47 AM

It's just great to have you back in the game man, I'm sorry to hear about your wife but I'm glad she's getting better best of luck to you and yours as you go through that

samnoir

06-08-2006 11:56 AM

Tucci certainly does draw gorgeous women.

khuxford

06-08-2006 11:58 AM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **shady878**

*Wow...I mean WOW!! I definitely will be picking up the first ish just for the art.
Billy Tucci is back on his game. Booyah! First post!*

Yeah...I gotta say...based on the art, I'll give it a shot. I don't necessarily like how the team is composed...but this gives Gray/Palmiotti a chance. :)

dchart1

06-08-2006 12:06 PM

Best to your wife Billy. Hope life gets better for both of you.

hiphophead

06-08-2006 12:21 PM

Take your time

It is great to read your wife is recovering. Welcome to the club (Mr. Mom), hate to compare my situation to yours, but trying being Mr. Mom for three girls (13, 9 and

4) for two and half months. My wife was out of town on business, but to the girls it was very traumatic.

This is one book that can be late anytime you feel like it, your family comes first.

Radiate

06-08-2006 12:23 PM

LMAO! I love the fact that Kill Bill, the most violent movie out there, was your first movie you watched with your 3 year old son lol!

I'm glad to hear your wife is recovering, and good luck with the job (and kids)!

RADIATE!

Crusader

06-08-2006 12:41 PM

Great column, great art, and great news that your wife is ok. I had the pleasure of meeting Billy and Deborah at the Pittsburgh Comicon over the years, and they're absolutely wonderful people. Best of luck to your family, and I'm looking forward to Heroes for Hire!

Billy Tucci

06-08-2006 12:51 PM

Thanks Guys!

Thank you everyone, it was rough and hoped I didn't sound like I was bitching. The book won't be late I assure you -- it can't , it's a Civil War tie-in!

Hiphophead -- TWO AND A HALF MONTHS?????!!!!!!

You're a better man than I.

Billy

jkarguth

06-08-2006 02:08 PM

Yeah, I am going with the majority. Great great column. I would buy H 4 H even if it was all drawn by William. You got some passion and dedication to go through getting proper references for one page. Glad to hear your wife is doing better, and I hope Heroes tops in the 20s at least.

krunchie

06-08-2006 02:14 PM

I'm digging the art, looks like it'll be a fun book.

But I have never seen a man more in need of a new haircut than Shang Chi, help a brother out!

tealfan

06-08-2006 03:24 PM

I still have my Shi #1 stashed somewhere. Best of luck! You and your son have great taste in music. :D

JohnnyONeal

06-08-2006 03:28 PM

Awesome article... I'll definitely be buying this book.

And glad to hear your wife's going to be okay!

hiphophead

06-08-2006 03:58 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Billy Tucci**

Thank you everyone, it was rough and hoped I didn't sound like I was bitching. The book won't be late I assure you -- it can't , it's a Civil War tie-in!

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You're a better man than I.

Billy

Bitching???? :eek: Are you serious? :confused: To paraphrase Chris Rock, we are doing what we are suppose to do. ;) I am not a better man than you, like you and every other father, brother, son and husband, we are MEN taking care of our responsibilities.

FYI, I met you at the inaugural WWLA in Long Beach, I believe you had cut your hand at the time. :D

BlackCatGuy

06-08-2006 04:22 PM

First off, I hope your wife is feeling a lot better!

Great column so far Billy! Thanks for the insight as to what goes through an artist's mind during the creative process! I look forward to reading more, and more importantly, I REALLY look forward to the Black Cat's stunning introduction into the series!

Oh, and I'm really glad you enjoyed the Kirin lager! Next time I'm bringing MY coin!: D

ziza9

06-08-2006 05:25 PM

Great Column

Glad your wife is doing better. Very entertaining column.

KyleV

06-08-2006 06:03 PM

I'm surprised no one's mentioned this yet, but:

Tucci gets all the credit in the world (aside from his Mr. Mom job) for the simple fact that he went back and corrected the armor. How many artists would have just drawn it the way it had always been? But he saw that it was incorrect and changed it.

I love that.

Hypestyle

06-08-2006 08:22 PM

say.. DC isn't gonna sue marvel for coming out with their own female Tarantula, are they?

:confused:

BlackCatGuy

06-08-2006 08:54 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **KyleV**

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You got that right! He is a "complete" artist! One that makes sure everything in the panel is correct, and going that extra mile to make it so!

<http://www.newsarama.com/general/Hellion/Hellion01.html>

I'm tellin ya', this is going to be one hell of a great book!:cool:

Billy Tucci

06-08-2006 10:24 PM

Y'all made my day...

Quote:

Originally Posted by **BlackCatGuy**

You got that right! He is a "complete" artist! One that makes sure everything in the panel is correct, and going that extra mile to make it so!

I'm tellin ya', this is going to be one hell of a great book!:cool:

Thank you all! BlackCatGuy -- it was great seeing you in Philly and next time, do bring your challenge coin! I just finished Cat's intro and think she shure is purrrrrtttyyyyy!

See you all next week with a look at 'Cat and my studio and hopefully I can rangle the great Tom Palmer for an interview!

MacrossJXS

06-08-2006 10:39 PM

Glad everything is working out okay for the Tucci family.

For Khari Evans fans [*penciler of Daughters of the Dragon*], there is now a Yahoo Club at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FansofKhariEvans/>

And its open to the public and has lots of great images to boot!

-Josh

dleif

06-08-2006 10:40 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Hypestyle**

say.. DC isn't gonna sue marvel for coming out with their own female Tarantula, are they?

:confused:

I Hope to God that DC doesnt even claim that horrendous so called hero that was

Devonized known as Tarantula: eek:

Jeremy Williams

06-09-2006 04:27 AM

Is it just me or his stuff looks a gazillion times better in black & white?

Bakema NL

06-09-2006 01:52 PM

Well, that's one example of reasons comics can be late.....bad stuff can happen to anyone. Glad to hear she's coming around Billy. And of course looking forward to the upcoming book.

BlackCatGuy

06-09-2006 05:28 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Billy Tucci**

Thank you all! BlackCatGuy -- it was great seeing you in Philly and next time, do bring your challenge coin! I just finished Cat's intro and think she shure is purrrrrtttttyyyyy!

See?! Now you got me all excited! I can't wait to see her intro! (maybe some preview pages in your column, perhaps!)

Oh, and don't forget.....I want (NEED!) that page!:D

beta-ray

06-09-2006 06:16 PM

Quote:

Originally Posted by **KyleV**

I'm surprised no one's mentioned this yet, but:

Tucci gets all the credit in the world (aside from his Mr. Mom job) for the simple fact that he went back and corrected the armor. How many artists would have just drawn it the way it had always been? But he saw that it was incorrect and changed it.

I love that.

Being Japanese, I applaud that as well (though I wish there were more Japanese heroes)!

<http://www.newsarama.com/general/Hellion/Hellion01.html>

Glad to hear your wife is better, give my best to her.

This column is great and that story about Tucci and son dancing made me smile!
Thanks!

sll01

06-10-2006 11:53 AM

Wow Billy Heroes for Hire looks Great.
This little tease is all it took to hook me.
This new Tarantula looks hot!
Will she have a big role?
Will we see her in the future?

Keep the Funkadelic coming.

All times are GMT -4. The time now is 07:50 PM.

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