

'300' star, director interview

David Stark

The Clackamas Print

On March 9, 2007, *300*, the film adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel about the battle of Thermopylae, will hit theaters in the U.S. The film is directed by Zack Snyder (*Dawn of the Dead*) and stars Gerard Butler (*Phantom of the Opera*). Recently, *The Clackamas Print* had a chance to interview Snyder and Butler.

Here are a few excerpts from those interviews:

Interview with Zack Snyder:

How involved was Frank Miller in the film's production?

"Frank was involved to different degrees than *Sin City* ... He was worried about me screwing up his book."

What were the challenges in writing the screenplay?

"I think the biggest challenge in writing the screenplay, and the reason I wanted to write it, is that I didn't want it turned into a movie ... I didn't want to Hollywoodize it."

"When I made *Dawn*, I just wanted to make a film that looked cool ... really just a film to satisfy my own sensibilities."

What do you feel about the parallels with current events?

"We didn't really think about it ... My intent was really just to get at the Spartan aesthetic and the Spartan frame of mind."

Do you have any word for aspiring directors?

"Make sure you chase down and try and do the thing you feel passionate

about."

How does *300* compare with other historical epics, such as *Troy* and *Alexander*?

"I think ... about *300*, [that it is] a movie that tries to reinvent the genre and experience. I hope we've created something that the sword and sandals genres will be rocked [by]."

Were you intimidated about working with Frank Miller and the massive undertaking of the film?

"I would say that I was probably more intimidated by working with Frank than by the massive undertaking that making the movie was."

How do you cast something like this?

"It's hard, but I'm of the mind that in a graphic novel, that people should look like the drawings."

How did it work with a film that was entirely green screen shooting?

"Only, look, by not shooting the movie outside, what basically happened was that we got closer to the look Frank had in the book."

How much historical research did you do for this movie?

"I would do arduous research and then not use any of it."

***Sin City* had big names, and none in *300*?**

"I think, to some extent, we wanted the movie to be the star ... On the other hand, I don't think there's a movie without Gerry Butler; he is Leonidas."

Were there difficulties making the film?

"The truth is, making a movie's hard. And making a movie entirely on green screen with lots of fighting in it: fricking



Director Zack Snyder (center) speaks with Gerard Butler (right) on the set of their latest film, *300*. The film, which is based on a Frank Miller graphic novel, opens March 9.

hard ... The truth is I just want to make something cool ... Strangely, I didn't have to cut anything for the MPAA ... It's pretty much my cut."

Interview with Gerard Butler:

How did you feel about shooting entirely on green screen?

"All in all, it wasn't too bad."

How did you prepare for the part of King Leonidas?

"First and foremost is the physicality ... For me, I was training for six hours a day for a lot of the time ... pumping between shots."

What was different about this role?

"In this role, I was very focused on the graphic novel. The tone and feel and strength of these men is ... massive; it's almost animal-like ... They taste of the villains sometimes, they're so brutal ...

completely unapologetic for their way of living."

How did *300* compare with other films you'd been in?

"It was all filmed in one big bloody warehouse, and that was weird ... There was something about this film that was in some ways epic."

What was the appeal of Leonidas?

"When I first read the script, well, there was a class and elegance to the script ... a guy who, without doing a thing, you can just tell has the complete [loyalty of his men] ... Fierce to say the least. Fearless to say more. We kick ass and kick ass and kick ass."

Fan of comics?

"I take each project as it comes ... In the middle of this film, I felt so superhero man. I felt like I could take on a million people. I'm not saying I could; I just feel like it."

MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY

B.A. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES
with focus study areas in:

- MEDIA & FILM STUDIES
- GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
- SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY
- HISTORY

YEAR-ROUND ADMISSION

- Flexible scheduling
- Small seminar-style classes
- Free parking
- Scholarships for adults

To meet with an advisor, call 503.699.6268 or e-mail studentinfo@marylhurst.edu.

★US News & World Report **BEST COLLEGES 2007**
"Number one in the Northwest for small classes"

MARYLHURST UNIVERSITY
JUST 10 MINUTES SOUTH OF PORTLAND
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredited
17600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY (HWY. 43) MARYLHURST, OREGON -
Serving students since 1893. www.marylhurst.edu 800.634.9982

'Chatterley's Lover' still brilliant

Lela Dickerson

The Clackamas Print

I had never read a previously-banned book until I read David Herbert Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

When I opened *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, I wasn't certain what to expect.

The novel begins by introducing upper-middle-class Connie Reid, who has had sexual encounters since she was a teenager. She marries Clifford Chatterley, who is the son and heir of a rich aristocratic line. After their brief honeymoon, Clifford is sent to war, only to return paralyzed from the waist down and impotent.

Connie has a brief affair with Michaelis, a successful Irish playwright. This affair proves to be unsatisfying for Connie, who begins to fall into a depression as she and Clifford slowly drift away from one another.

Clifford hires a gamekeeper for his estate, Oliver Mellors, to whom Connie is attracted. The two have several chance encounters in the forest, before they meet in a hut and have sex. After many meetings, Connie believes she is pregnant with Mellor's child.

While Connie is on vacation in Venice, Mellor's estranged

wife returns, which causes a huge scandal. Connie arrives home to find that her husband has fired Mellors, and she then admits that she is pregnant with Mellors' child.

While there is a fair amount of solid text in the

novel, there is enough dialogue to break up the text and make the pages easy on the eye. As for the language, there is a fair amount of cursing and a few "big words" — but don't be discouraged; there's not too many. There are just a handful of main characters; however, they are all well-developed and have personalities with which the reader can easily relate. Their relationships to each other are also clear.

Overall, this book is easy to follow. I found it to be enjoyable and a quick read. Although it is not a lighthearted and happy-go-lucky story, it is a story about changes of heart.

LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER

LAWRENCE