

BIOGRAPHIES

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COUNTDOWN TO WEDNESDAY DVD FEATURES **TOP NAMES IN COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY**

Stan Lee, Founder, Marvel

Known to millions as the man whose Super Heroes propelled Marvel Comics to its preeminent position in the comic book industry, Stan Lee's co-creations include Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, X-Men, The Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Daredevil, The Avengers, Silver Surfer and Dr. Strange among many others. Lee first became publisher of Marvel Comics in 1972 and is presently the Chairman Emeritus of Marvel Enterprises, Inc. and a member of the Editorial Board of Marvel Comics.

In 1977, he introduced Spider-Man as a syndicated newspaper strip that went on to become the most successful of all syndicated adventure strips. Spider-Man now appears in more than 500 newspapers worldwide, still written by Stan -- making it the longest running of all Super Hero strips.

Without question, Stan 'the Man' Lee has exerted more influence over the comic book industry than anyone in history. He created or co-created 90 percent of Marvel's recognized characters, which have been successfully licensed and marketed since 1965. The numbers are staggering -- more than 2 billion of his comic books have been published in 75 countries and in 25 languages.

In 1981 Stan Lee transformed his Spider-Man and Hulk creations into Saturday morning and syndicated television cartoons. And in 1986, Stan's horizons expanded even further, when he became more deeply involved in the creation and development of filmed projects for both the big and small screen.

Stan formed POW! Entertainment in 2001 and began several new projects that are now in various stages of development including the development of three feature film projects. Stan's book "Excelsior! The Amazing Life of Stan Lee," is available in bookstores. In the book, he tells the story of his life from his impoverished childhood, his trials and tribulations, and of his many plans for the future.

Marc Silvestri, CEO, Top Cow Comics

Marc Silvestri, a twenty-year comic book veteran, has been involved with content development since his start at Marvel Comics. As an artist, Silvestri was instrumental in the success of such popular Marvel comic book properties as X-Men and Wolverine, and went on to build a fan following unmatched by few other creators.

In 1992 Silvestri left Marvel with five other artists to form Image Comics, of which Top Cow is one of the four autonomous studios. With Silvestri's lead, Image Comics quickly grew to capture over 25% of the comic book market and helped Image soar to become the third largest publisher.

Currently, Silvestri has created some of the most popular comic book properties today, including Cyberforce, Witchblade, Weapon Zero, and The Darkness. The launch of Cyberforce posted sales in excess of 850,000 copies, and the past few years have seen Witchblade and The Darkness rise to become firmly positioned as top ten best selling titles in the country.

COUNTDOWN TO WEDNESDAY BIOS

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Mark Waid, Freelance Writer

Born 1962 in Hueytown, Alabama, Mark Waid bought his first comic, BATMAN #180, at age four. In his early twenties, Waid began freelance reporting for the comic book trade publications Amazing Heroes and Comic Buyer's Guide. This led to a brief staff position in the mid-1980s as editor of Amazing Heroes, followed by an editorial tenure at DC Comics, where he edited Legion of Super-Heroes, Secret Origins, Doom Patrol, and a host of one-shot titles.

Waid left DC Comics in 1989 to pursue a full-time freelance career. Since then, he has written stories for every major comics publisher, including Marvel Comics, Archie (where he served briefly as their cover-gag editor), Dark Horse, Image and DC Comics. Waid's credits include X-Men, Flash, JLA, Captain America, the best-seller Kingdom Come, and currently Superman, Fantastic Four, and his creator-owned series Empire.

Though he can name only nine presidents, Waid possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of comics' history and trivia and also serves as DC Comics' unofficial historian. Each working day, he routinely fields phone calls from DC's other writers and editors, all of whom ask questions as diverse as "What's the date on the giant penny in the Batcave?" (1947) and "What's Clark Kent's phone number?" (555-0162).

Jim McLauchlin, Editor In Chief, Top Cow Comics

Jim McLauchlin has been a professional writer for 14 years, having gotten his start as a sportswriter. He's been working in the comics field for 10 years at Wizard Entertainment, where he's served in every capacity from Promotions and Publicity Manager to Contributing Editor to third baseman on the company softball team. McLauchlin is also a frequent contributor to FHM magazine, and the president of the non-profit organization ACTOR, A Commitment To Our Roots, which provides financial assistance to elderly comic creators in need.

Paul Dini, Freelance Writer

Paul Dini did not start off in the comic industry. In fact, he tried his hand as a child commercial actor, ranch hand, ocelot feeder, theatre usher, sporting goods salesperson, bartender and radio station flunky and on-air goof before he began writing for comic books. Since then he has worked on such projects as The Batman Adventures, Superman - Peace On Earth, Everyday Magic and Zatanna for DC Comics; Jingle Belle, Mutant, and Texas -Tales of Sheriff Ida Red for Oni Press; and Witchblade Animated for Top Cow.

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