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An interview with Scott Brick!

Hello everyone, we here at a.fischer.news.site are proud to present you an interview with screenwriter Scott Brick!

- You first worked for Wizard magazine, why the switch to movies?

They pay better. Heh heh, sorry, couldn't resist. I did write for Wizard and maybe a dozen other publications for about three years, but as much as I enjoyed it, I never lost track that what I was doing was writing about other people's stories, but what I really wanted to do was write my own.

- How did you get attached to the adaptation Rendezvous With Rama?

Well, Lori McCreary, who runs Revelations Entertainment, and I have been friends for many, many years. When her partner, Morgan Freeman, came to her and said he wanted to do this science fiction epic, she naturally assembled a group of people around her that she trusted, people who knew the genre. I was one of those people, I was essentially a consultant on the project for about three years. Then came the day when they needed a draft to get David Fincher attached, and they weren't happy with their initial draft. I stepped up at that point and said, "Why not let me try? I've been intimately familiar with this project for three years, so let me give it a shot." Lori had read various screenplays I'd written and liked them, so she agreed.

- How did you handle the task to write the adaptation of RWR?

By trying desperately to keep things as similar to the book as possible, something made much easier by Revelations' desire to do the same thing. They really put a premium on being faithful to the source material. Basically, in the book, there are a number of small climaxes, spread out across several chapters, which is natural for a book, they're structured differently. My job became streamlining all of them into one cohesive whole, trying to link them together into one longer sequence. I basically just tightened the timeline, so things happen closer together. We do only have two hours to deal with in film, after all. Sometimes longer, but then you're pushing it.

- How was your experience to write the adaptation of such a classic science fiction novel?

It was phenomenal, every second of it. Stressful, of course, because I knew I'd be measured against a titan in Arthur C. Clarke. His work has amazed me for so many years, and suddenly, I was adapting his work for film! I've been a science fiction fan since birth, essentially, my mother used to set me in front of the television when the original Star Trek was still on network television. When I learned to read, I discovered the masters like Clarke,

Asimov and Matheson. Being able to translate one of my favorite books of all time for the screen was a blessing, a huge one, in my life.

- How much is Mr. Clarke involved with the Rama project?

Clarke is actually very much involved in the project, he's been giving us advice and providing clarification for quite a while now. Several times during the writing process I was trying to streamline the action so it'd fit into a two hour film, and I guess I was trying to fudge the physics of Rama a little bit. I'd send off a query, something along the lines of, "Would it be possible for them to do this particular thing a little quicker," or "Does it really have to take eight hours for this to happen...?" The answer was always, the way it is in the book is the way it happens in real life. His physics are impeccable. The technical advisors for the film just marvel at how precise the man is. So yes, he's very involved, and we're thrilled by that. He loves this story, and is ecstatic that we're bringing it to the screen.

- Wasn't Andrew Kevin Walker supposed to write the adaptation?

No, that's a rumor that's been going for quite awhile, but here's how that all went down. Three years before I wrote my draft, Revelations' first idea was to get Kevin to write Rama. Made perfect sense, he'd written Seven for Fincher, as well as production drafts of at least one other of his films, I believe, so they obviously had a good working relationship. From what I heard, they approached him about writing it, but he had to decline, he was too busy, but he offered to rewrite it later, do a production draft after someone else had done the initial draft. That's what I've been told, anyway, so I think that's where this rumor began. So no, he was never officially attached to this project. Will he ever be? Possibly, but who knows? Kevin actually paid me a very nice compliment, when asked at last year's San Diego Comic-Con International why he wasn't writing Rama, Kevin said he'd read my version of the script and said he didn't need to rewrite it, he enjoyed my draft very much. What a guy. Kevin, if we ever run into one another, the first beer's on me.

- Is Rendezvous with Rama the first script you wrote?

No, I've done a number of others, but it was my first sale. And it was the first time I'd been hired to adapt someone else's work, which is something I very much enjoy.

- How is it to work with director David Fincher?

I've got nothing but praise for David Fincher, that man is a genius. Seriously, you all know this, you've seen his work, you can recognize his genius yourselves. The images he crafts onscreen are nothing less than brilliant. And to have had the chance to work with him, however peripherally, was wonderful. He paid me some nice compliments through the producers, which was great for a guy trying to make a name in the industry like myself. And everyone in town had warned me that Hollywood directors always give notes, tons of them, ad nauseum, but David wasn't like that. He only had two notes for me, and they were both right on the money. I tell my screenwriting buddies that and their jaws drop.

- What was the reaction of Revelations Entertainment after Patrick Sauriol (from Coming Attractions), had reviewed your script of Rama?

I was off skiing that day, and when I got off the slopes, there were all these voicemail and email messages waiting for me, telling me to read the review, and one of those was from Lori. She had been in Canada shooting a movie and flew down for one day, just to meet with David Fincher about Rama. Well, the review came out the morning of their meeting, and by the time it started they had already read it. From what Lori tells me, they were thrilled with the coverage the project received, and Lori was especially happy that they'd singled me out the way they did. But then, Lori's an awesome person, as anyone who's ever worked with her can tell you.

- Do you know anything by the script rewrite by Bruce McKenna?

No, not really. I've been offered the chance to read his version over, but passed, just because anything I said about it would seem like I'm sitting in judgment on his work, and that wouldn't be appropriate. He called me when he got the gig and said he was hoping to do justice to the book, and assured me that he wasn't going to try to cut out my contributions to it, I believe he made a reference to not washing away my footprints from the script, something like that, which was a very nice call for him to make. I'm sure he's doing a great job, and given that my first priority is to see Rama make it to the screen, my hope is that he does a fabulous job on it.

- Are you still attached to the project?

Yes, there's been talk all along about writing various other Rama projects, everything from the Making Of book to the sequel films, should there be any. I know they're also interested in doing a series of articles, interviews with David, with Morgan Freeman and with Arthur C. Clarke, and because my background is in magazines, they'd like me to do them. But as for direct input on the script, no, that's Bruce's gig at the moment, so I'm just encouraging him to run with the ball.

- How are your feelings towards the fans that complain that the development of this project takes too long?

Complete empathy, I'm right there with you all in terms of being frustrated, but as someone who's seen how long projects can take in Hollywood, I temper that frustration with the knowledge that we may be moving slow, but only so that we'll get it right. Look at Lord of the Rings, people waited decades for that first film, and because they waited they were rewarded, amply. It'll be the same with Rama. Technology is finally catching up with what we want to do on this film, so bear with us a little more, and you won't believe your eyes.

- What is next for you?

Well, I've been working on another project for Revelations, a biblical epic, that we're trying to get set up at the moment, and while I wait on that I've been writing two other scripts, both science fiction to a certain degree. One's a time travel romance, the other's a supernatural romance. That last one we're actually going to be filming in just a few months, I'm hammering out the production draft this week. I'll be starring in it as well, which is a thrill, obviously. I've been an actor for longer than I've been a writer, so I can't wait 'til the cameras start rolling.

[We would like to thank Scott Brick for taking his time to do the interview with us]

posted by **J. Wijnsma** at **2:44 AM**

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