



NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

# JONAH HEX

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JIMMY PALMIOTTI & JUSTIN GRAY Writers PHIL WINSLADE Artist

# MORE THAN ENOUGH

ROB SCHWAGER Colorist ROB LEIGH Letterer DARWYN COOKE Cover Artist WIL MOSS Editor



MR. HEX?

WHATEVER YER  
SELLIN', AH AIN'T  
BUYIN'.

MY NAME IS PORNO.  
I WAS TOLD YOU WERE  
SOMEONE WHO MIGHT  
BE ABLE TO HELP ME.  
MAY I SIT?

WHY  
NOT?

HE TOLD ME YOU HAVE NEED OF A HORSE.  
I WOULD BE WILLING TO PART WITH ONE  
OF MINE IN EXCHANGE FOR AN EVENING'S  
WORTH OF SERVICES.

GO ON...

I HAVE A DELICATE  
SITUATION WITH MY  
NEIGHBORS AND WOULD HAVE  
NEED OF A MAN WITH YOUR  
PARTICULAR SKILLS...  
BEFORE YOU GO  
SUGGESTING THE LOCAL  
CONSTABLE, IT'S A KNOWN  
FACT THAT HE HATES  
MY KIND.

WELL...  
AH NO NEED  
A HORSE.

WHAT IS IT  
EXACTLY THAT  
YA WOULD NEED  
ME FOR?

MR. EARL SIMON  
AND HIS TWO SONS ARE  
COMING BY TO MAKE ME ANOTHER  
OFFER ON MY PROPERTY. THIS WILL  
BE THE THIRD TIME I WOULD BE  
SAYING NO... BUT AFTER OUR LAST  
MEETING... WELL... SEEMS TO ME  
THERE'S A CHANCE IT MIGHT  
GET UNPLEASANT.

I AM OVER  
90 YEARS OLD.  
MR. HEX, AND LIVE  
BY MY LONESOME  
UNDERSTAND?

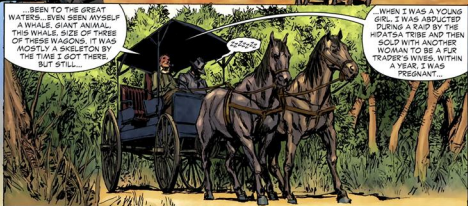


IT'S A BIT OF A RIDE BACK... I SURE HOPE YOU DON'T MIND AN OLD WOMAN BENDIN' YOUR EAR SOME. I DON'T GET AROUND PEOPLE MUCH.

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN--MANY, MANY YEARS AGO--I WAS SOMEONE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, HELPED A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS... THEY EVEN NAMED A RIVER AFTER ME FOR MY CONTRIBUTIONS...

THAT SO...?

...SEEN TO THE GREAT WATERS... EVEN SEEN MYSELF A WHALE, GIANT ANIMAL, THIS WHALE, SIZE OF THREE OF THESE WAGONS, IT WAS MOSTLY A SKELETON BY THE TIME I GOT THERE, BUT STILL...



...WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL, I WAS ABDUCTED DURING A RAID BY THE HIDATSA TRIBE AND THEN SOLD WITH ANOTHER WOMAN TO BE A FUR TRADER'S WIVES. WITHIN A YEAR, I WAS PREGNANT...

...I RETURNED WITH MY TRIBE FOR A WHILE ALONG THE WIND RIVER, BUT BEING BY MYSELF SO LONG TOOK ITS TOLL. I HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO PURCHASE SOME OF MY OWN LAND AND SETTLE IN. OVER 400 ACRES WERE PART OF THE PROPERTY, BUT HONEST, ALL I EVER USED IS AN ACRE AND A HALF... THE RIVER NEARBY FOR WASHING AND WATER...



Lhm-hmm.

...AND HERE WE ARE, MR. HEX, THANKS FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD LISTENER.

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE TO SETTLE IN WITH A MEAL BEFORE THEY GET HERE, THEIR RANCH IS HALF A DAY AWAY, I WAS TOLD TO EXPECT THEM AT SUNDOWN... SUN SAYS WE STILL HAVE ABOUT AN HOUR.





IT'S A RECIPE  
I PICKED UP FROM THE  
SHOSHONE TRIBE WHEN  
I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN.  
MY BROTHER WAS A  
CHIEF THERE.

IT'S VERY  
GOOD.

MR. SIMON WILL BE HERE ANY  
MINUTE. IF YOU COULD PLEASE  
GO INTO THE BEDROOM AND  
KEEP THE DOOR OPEN ONLY  
A TOUCH.

I WOULD  
LIKE YOU TO  
STAY THERE AND  
KEEP QUIET  
WHILE I SPEAK  
TO THEM.



WHATT YA WANT  
ME TA JUST  
LISTEN IN?



YES... LISTEN IN AND MAKE SURE  
THE CONVERSATION REMAINS CIVIL.  
IF THINGS BECOME HEATED, THEN  
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME OUT  
AND ANNOUNCE YOURSELF. IF NOT,  
REMAIN THERE TILL  
THEY LEAVE.



BUT--

NO...NOT  
ANOTHER  
WORD.

THIS IS WHAT I WANTED YOU  
FOR. DO AS I SAY, AND AS  
SOON AS THEY LEAVE, YOU  
CAN, TOO...WITH MY DEAD  
HUSBAND'S HORSE.







ME AND MY BOYS WOULD LIKE TO DOUBLE THE AMOUNT WE OFFERED FOR YOUR LAND LAST TIME WE SPOKE. NOW, BEFORE YOU SAY NO... IT WOULD ALSO BE OUR PLEASURE TO HELP YOU MOVE.

WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU WOULD HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE SOMEPLACE LESS... ISOLATED.

FACE IT: YOU'RE ALL ALONE OUT HERE. THE RESERVATION ISN'T FOR ANOTHER 60 MILES...




EARL... WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED THIS LAND FOR, GO AHEAD AND DO IT. LET YOUR CATTLE GRAZE, MAKE A ROAD THROUGH IT... BUILD A HOME OFF MY STREAM, FOR ALL I CARE.

BUT DON'T ASK ME TO MOVE AND STOP MAKING ME OFFERS.



THIS LAND WAS A GIFT TO ME FROM MY LATE HUSBAND, AND IN THAT RESPECT, IT HOLDS A VALUE TO ME THAT GOES BEYOND OTHERS' WANTS.

I AM A SENTIMENTAL WOMAN... AND A PROUD SHOSHONE. THIS LAND WILL REMAIN MINE TILL THE DAY I DIE.



YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT TIME IS COMING, NO DISRESPECT... BUT WOULDN'T YOU RATHER SELL IT NOW AND MAYBE MOVE NEAR THAT SON OF YOURS IN ST. LOUIS? HAVE FAMILY NEARBY...



JESUS, WOMAN, YOU ARE THICK. TAKE THE DEAL ALREADY! I SWEAR, IF YOU DON'T...

JAY! RESPECT!

RESPECT THIS REDSKIN? HELL NO...



GO OUTSIDE AND WAIT, JAY.

PLEASE EXCUSE HIM.

I DON'T TAKE KINDLY  
TO INSULTS AND THREATS.  
I MET WITH YOU, OFFERED  
YOU LAND PRIVILEGES, AND  
THAT'S AS GENEROUS  
AS I CAN BE.

YOUR OBSESSION  
WITH OWNING THIS  
LAND HAS BECOME  
EXASPERATING.

IT'S NOW  
TIME FOR YOU  
TO LEAVE.

YOU'RE MAKING A  
BIG MISTAKE HERE. WE  
HAVE BEEN GENEROUS AS  
WELL. I DIDN'T WANT IT  
TO END LIKE THIS...  
BUT END IT I WILL.

...AND NOW,  
ANOTHER THREAT  
FROM ONE WHO SETS  
THE EXAMPLE...  
SHAME ON YOU,  
EARL SIMON.



A THREAT THAT  
HAS TO BE TAKEN  
SERIOUSLY.

A GOOD NUMBER  
OF THREATS HAVE BEEN AIMED MY  
WAY, MR. HEX, I SLEEP A PEACEFUL  
SLEEP NONETHELESS. THE HORSE  
IS YOURS, AS IS THE SADDLE  
ON THE GATE.

YOUR SERVICES  
AREN'T NEEDED  
ANYMORE.



RIGHT.



SO THAT'S IT?  
WE GO BACK  
EMPTY-HANDED?

WE MADE HER  
AN OFFER AND SHE REFUSED.  
I'M DONE DEALING WITH THAT  
OLD WOMAN. RAILROAD'S  
GONNA MAKE HER AN OFFER  
IN A FEW WEEKS, AND WE'LL  
MISS OUT ON THE BIGGEST  
PAYDAY EVER...

WHY DIDN'T  
WE JUST SHOOT  
HER AND BURY  
THE HAG?



I'VE KILLED MEN...  
HUNG HORSE THIEVES...  
BUT SHOOTING AN OLD  
LADY? THAT'S MY  
TICKET TO ETERNAL  
DAMNATION.



THEN LET ME  
GO BACK AND BURN  
THE HOUSE DOWN  
WITH HER IN IT. NO  
ONE WILL THINK  
TWICE.

YEAH...  
WE CAN DO IT. HELL,  
I CAN KILL HER IN HER  
SLEEP IF THAT'S WHAT'S  
BOTHERING YA.



EXCUSE ME...  
AM I SEEN THE  
FIRE...





HAVE A SEAT,  
STRANGER...  
WHERE ARE YA  
HEADIN'?

AH'M ON  
MUH WAY TO  
CASPER...GOT  
HIRED FOR A  
JOB.



WHAT  
HAPPENED TO THE  
OTHER GUY?

OTHER  
GUY?

YEAH, IT  
LOOKS LIKE HE  
GOT YA GOOD...  
THE SCAR...



A RISK OF MAH  
PROFESSION.



YOU'RE A HIRED GUN...  
I CAN TELL THAT SORT  
OF THING.

YES.



WELL, THEN...  
I THINK MY BOYS  
AND I MAY HAVE  
SOME WORK FOR  
YOU, IF YOU'RE  
INTERESTED.



AH'M  
INTERESTED  
IF THE PAY IS  
RIGHT.



...THEN ONCE THE  
OLD WOMAN IS DEAD,  
BURN THE PLACE DOWN.  
SIMPLE AS THAT.

AH GET PAID  
IN ADVANCE.  
WHAT'RE YA  
OFFERIN'?



HOW DOES  
A THOUSAND  
SOUND?



A THOUSAND  
DOLLARS?



THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
FOR THREE  
KILLINGS.





JUSTIN GRAY & JIMMY PALMIOTTI Writers C.P. SMITH Artist

# FIRST TRUE LOVE

ROB LEIGH - Letterer WIL MOSS - Editor



# THE PECKING ORDER

ARIZONA, 1851.

**A**MONG THE MANY STRANGE TWISTS OF FATE THAT PLAGUED THE LIFE OF BOUNTY HUNTER JONAH HEX WAS HIS ENSLAVEMENT BY A TRIBE OF APACHE INDIANS.

IN ORDER TO PASS SAFELY THROUGH THEIR LAND ON HIS WAY TO CALIFORNIA IN PURSUIT OF THE GOLD RUSH, JONAH'S FATHER, WOODSON, OFFERED HIS SON TO THE APACHE AS COLLATERAL.

HE CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD RETURN FOR HIS SON AND REPAY THEM HANDSOMELY ONCE HE MADE HIS FORTUNE.

WOODSON NEVER RETURNED. IF HE HAD, HE WOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT JONAH HAD LONG SINCE MADE HIS WAY SOUTH TO JOIN THE CONFEDERACY DURING THE WAR OF THE STATES.

AS IT STANDS, JONAH'S ENSLAVEMENT WAS FILLED WITH CHALLENGES THAT MIGHT HAVE CRIPPLED THE COMMONPLACE MAN.

INSTEAD, IT FORGED HIS MIND AND INSTILLED IN HIM A SAGACITY OF RELENTLESS DETERMINATION FEW AMONG US POSSESS.

IT WOULD BE A YEAR OR MORE BEFORE HE MASTERED ENOUGH OF THE APACHE LANGUAGE TO COMPREHEND THE VERBAL ABUSE THEY HURLED AT HIM, BUT THEIR INTENTIONS WERE CLEAR.



THE CRUELTY HIS FATHER SUBJECTED HIM TO HAD GIVEN JONAH AN IRON CONSTITUTION TO WITHSTAND PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT.



BUT HIS SKILLS IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT WERE HARSHLY DEFICIENT. THE APACHE BOYS HAD SCARCELY BEGUN TO WALK WHEN THEY FIRST LEARNED HOW TO FIGHT.



THE CHIEF'S SON, NOH TANTE, WAS AMONG THE TRIBE'S MOST FEROCIOUS FIGHTERS, EVEN AT HIS YOUNG AGE.



THAT FIRST FIGHT MARKED YEARS OF RIVALRY AND LOATHING THAT WOULD CULMINATE IN NOT ONLY NOH TANTE'S DEATH, BUT ALSO THE VICIOUS DISFIGUREMENT HEX WOULD EVENTUALLY BEAR ON HIS FACE.



# THE TEST OF TIME

**T**HE CONTEST WAS AN ANNUAL AFFAIR, AND WHILE HEX'S BODY GREW STRONG WITH THE TASKS HE PERFORMED AS THEIR SLAVE, HE ALSO SPENT NIGHTS SECRETLY HONING HIS COMBAT SKILLS.



HIS SINGULAR FOCUS  
WAS ON DEFEATING  
NOH TANTE.



NO MEASURE OF PAIN  
WOULD PETER HIM.



NO AMOUNT OF ABUSE  
OR HUMILIATION WOULD  
BROKE HIS FOCUS.



AND STILL HE FAILED, BUT HE DID SO  
KNOWING THAT EACH FIGHT BROUGHT  
KNOWLEDGE OF NOH TANTE'S  
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

**H**IS GREATEST WEAKNESS WAS PRIDE. NOH TANTE SAW HEX AS THE EMBODIMENT OF EVERY INJUSTICE BROUGHT UPON HIS PEOPLE BY THE WHITE MAN.



FOR JONAH HEX, HIS OPPONENT REPRESENTED HIS HATRED OF HIS FATHER, THE SENSE OF HAVING BEEN ABANDONED INTO A LIFE OF CRUELTY AND SERVITUDE.



IT IS BELIEVED THAT HIS TIME AS A SLAVE HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE CIVIL WAR AND WHY HE SURRENDERED TO UNION FORCES ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS.



EVEN THIS BATTLE WITH NOH TANTE FORESHADOWED THEIR DESTINY. NO WEAPONS WERE ALLOWED IN THE COMBAT CIRCLE, BUT FACING THE PROSPECT OF LOSING TO HEX, NOH TANTE CHEATED.



YEARS LATER, HE WOULD AGAIN CHEAT BY BREAKING HEX'S TOMAHAWK BEFORE THE BATTLE THAT CLAIMED NOH TANTE'S LIFE, AND HEX WOULD FOREVER WEAR A MARK THAT WOULD REMIND HIM OF THE INJUSTICE AND CRUELTY OF LIFE.



THAT SMALL BLADE CHANGED EVERYTHING. IT BROUGHT A SHAME TO NOH TANTE THAT HE WOULD CONSTANTLY TRY TO ERASE.





**A**ND IT BROUGHT JONAH HEX  
CLOSER TO THE FIRST  
GIRL HE WOULD EVER  
LOVE.

YOU ARE  
LUCKY THE WOUND  
WAS NOT A  
DEEP ONE.



THANK YOU  
FOR THIS.

YOUR APACHE  
IS GETTING MUCH  
BETTER, JONAH. I AM  
PROUD TO HAVE  
TAUGHT YOU...



GET AWAY  
FROM THAT DOG,  
WHITE FAWN!

YOU DO NOT  
HAVE POWER TO  
ORDER ME AROUND,  
NOH TANTE.



PERHAPS IF I TOLD YOUR  
FATHER THAT YOU SPENT SO  
MUCH TIME WITH THIS WHITE  
ANIMAL, HE WOULD GRANT  
ME THAT POWER!

Y'RE A CHEATIN'  
COWARD...!



SOONER OR LATER,  
HEX, I WILL KILL YOU!  
REMEMBER THAT!



LEAVE HIM  
ALONE!

# KING OF THE HILL

ONE YEAR  
LATER.

**B**Y THE AGE OF 15, JONAH HEX HAD INHERITED THE HEIGHT AND STRENGTH OF HIS FATHER.

SHORTLY AFTER THIS DAY, HE WOULD SAVE NOH TANTE'S FATHER FROM A PUMA ATTACK AND BECOME THE CHIEF'S FOSTER SON.

HIS ADOPTION INTO THE TRIBE WOULD DRIVE NOH TANTE TO GREATER EXTREMES IN HIS HATRED.



NOT TODAY, MY SON.

THE WINDS HAVE CHANGED DIRECTION...



LET NO MAN IN THIS TRIBE HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST JONAH HEX.

HIS FATHER MAY HAVE BEEN A COWARD, BUT HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF A STRONG WARRIOR.



WHITE FAWN, THIS IS YOURS.

YOU KEEP IT, JONAH. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT YOU GOOD LUCK.





# The Men Behind

## JONAH HEX

on page  
and on screen

JONAH HEX director Jimmy Hayward discusses the film, JONAH HEX comics, his influences and more with JONAH HEX comic co-writers Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti

JOSH BROLIN as Jonah Hex in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' adventure thriller "Jonah Hex," released by Warner Bros. Pictures. Photo by Frank Masi. TM & © DC Comics.

It's not often that you have the creative force behind a major motion picture — based on a comic book character — on the phone with the writers of the current incarnation of said character. But that's exactly what happened not long ago, as JONAH HEX director Jimmy Hayward took a few moments from his busy schedule to chat with JONAH HEX comic book writers Justin Gray and Jimmy Palmiotti. The end result? A lengthy, candid, free-wheeling and entertaining conversation about the character of Jonah Hex, the upcoming film and how it relates to the source material, a crash course in the history of Westerns, and much more. So, kick back and enjoy the read. And if that's not enough, you can read the full transcript of the conversation on The Source, the daily news blog of the DC Universe: <http://dcublog.com>.

**DC COMICS:** What was it about the character that drew you as a director to the initial material?

**JIMMY HAYWARD:** I liked comic books like all kids like comic books, but I guess the whole capes and Spandex thing wore a little thin for me.

I liked Jonah Hex because he was an anti-hero and he had a sense of humor and he was a badass. And I liked that he got himself into jams and got out of 'em. I loved Spaghetti Westerns as a kid and this was a comic book version of that, so I was attracted to that.

**DC:** Another thing that's really exciting—just seeing the initial stuff about the film—is the casting, so I don't know if you'd want to talk about Josh Brolin as Jonah and what made him the perfect person for that role.

**HAYWARD:** I think Josh looks the part and he carries himself that way. His improvisational work on the picture was really great—the subtle tics, the little nuances that he does—he really created a cool version of Jonah Hex, and I can't even imagine anybody else doing it.

**JIMMY PALMIOTTI:** I have to agree. When Justin and I saw him on the set for the first time with you, Jimmy, we

were floored. I think you were setting up a shot when we got there, and he came in wearing full makeup and on horseback and we were like, "Oh my god"—he just so nailed it.

**HAYWARD:** Was that the day we were basing the shot on the cover of JONAH HEX #13 where he's attached to the big X?



**PALMIOTTI:** Yeah,

that was when he was tied to the cross. Again, it was exciting for us to see Jordi [Bernet]'s artwork come to life in that scene and the house set on fire behind him—it was a pretty cool scene. It's one of the key scenes in the movie, I think.

**HAYWARD:** It is. The scene from the cover of #13 is the opening of the modern image of Jonah in the movie, but before that sequence we do a prologue that's just over music, and it's just Jonah Hex before he was scarred, fighting in the Civil War, taking out Union troops in hand-to-hand combat, and bombs going off, and the badass Civil War imagery. And then we go to the image of the red clay with the coffin and the crow on it, and then everything goes to black, and it comes up and it's him waking up on that cross in front of his house being confronted by Turnbull [played by John Malkovich], and that's how we open the body of the picture.

**PALMIOTTI:** That's awesome. I guess the obvious question, since this is why we're doing this interview, is are there any other elements that you'd want to tell fans of the comic book about that they can look forward to seeing in the movie?



JOHN MALKOVICH as Turnbull in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' adventure thriller "Jonah Hex," released by Warner Bros. Pictures. Photo by Frank Masi.TM & © DC Comics.

**HAYWARD:** From an image standpoint, there's a ton of them. The #8 cover is kind of in there. I think a lot of the imagery you guys have created, a lot of the covers, we've tried to keep that stuff. They're all from different artists, but they all embody Hex and who Hex is. From a story standpoint, I think the way he carries himself ... it's more of the attitude and a lot of imagery that we tried to crib.



JONAH HEX #8 cover by David Michael Beck.

**JUSTIN GRAY:** I noticed something in the trailer that's almost directly like something we did—in a hardcover we're doing [JONAH HEX: NO WAY BACK], there's a part where Hex shoots the guy when he asks him about his face, just like in the movie.

**HAYWARD:** Absolutely. I think I stole so many things from you guys—images, little ideas ... For instance, there's an image when he talks to Turnbull where we took one of my favorite images from the new stuff—I think it's #36—where he's got one foot in this world, one in the next. We actually wrote dialogue based off that imagery from the covers. We actually have two moments in the movie where it's exactly like that—he's literally standing in the afterlife.



JONAH HEX #36 cover by Raita Garres.

**GRAY:** I remember Josh was showing us test shots—a lot of the poses he was in, it was almost identical to the comics.

**HAYWARD:** There were so many instances where we tried to emulate [Spaghetti Westerns], but rather than lifting off shots from [Western directors like Sergio] Corbucci or [Sergio] Leone or anything like that, we used that stuff as a jumping-off point—a lot of framing techniques and framing devices from those films. But a lot of the stuff in this movie we took from you guys.

**PALMIOTTI:** That's awesome. We know the HEX fans are going to run to see the movie in theaters, but let me ask you, why do you think people who aren't fans of the Western genre might want to give this a shot?

**HAYWARD:** Well, this isn't a Western on certain levels—it's also an action picture, it's a revenge picture—we did a lot of genre-bending on this picture. You see people writing online, "Oh, Hex has gotta be this way or that way!" Those guys are fans of certain different elements of the HEX universe, but Hex has traveled to so many different places in his career—he's been a Western character, he's been "The Road Warrior"! He's been all over the place. And obviously we don't have "Road Warrior" elements in this movie, but really, HEX has gone through so

many different iterations that it's not just a Western. I'm a huge fan of [the Western film] "Django," which we've obviously all talked about, or the "Man with No Name" series and "Outlaw Josey Wales"—you couldn't pace a picture like those in this day and age, at least not a studio picture. You could do it with a smaller picture, but you can't pace a movie of HEX's size like that and get away with it. So you can use the framing style and you can use a lot of the swagger of it and a lot of the essence of it, but essentially we've cut it a lot more like an action picture.

**PALMIOTTI:** I think that makes sense because I sat in a crowded theater for "Nightmare on Elm Street," and the trailer for HEX ran right before it.

**HAYWARD:** That's right, we were on every print of that.

**PALMIOTTI:** Yeah. The reaction was pretty damn good in the theater, and I know that half the people never heard—half? More like 90 percent—never heard of Jonah Hex, and on some level that's who you're aiming for: everybody. The trailer definitely had something that I think appealed on a lot of levels to a lot of different people. They said it just didn't look like a Western, it looks like an action movie, it looks like a summer blockbuster...

**HAYWARD:** You got Megan [Fox] running around shooting guns, you got stuff blowing up, you got Josh Brolin running around, you got Gatling guns and all kinds of stuff. And look, again, some fans of the hardcore Western version will have one viewpoint about that kind of stuff. But we're not just trying to pack in stuff for everybody, we're kind of touching upon different aspects of the HEX universe, and hopefully people will understand that. A lot of people forget that Westerns were so popular in the United States for so long. But a lot of the stuff,

particularly the Spaghetti Western, a lot of those things were about technology and the Old West clashing, or political viewpoints clashing, like the old and the new. Then when you get into the [Italian-filmed Westerns], you get into all this crazy communist stuff, like "A Bullet for Sandoval"...

**GRAY:** That's a great movie.

**HAYWARD:** Yeah, awesome movie—Ernest Borgnine! What we're doing with JONAH HEX is, Turnbull is like the first terrorist in America—it's kind of crazy. But we're dealing with these two universes colliding, and we're playing with that idea.

**GRAY:** You get a fun sense from Megan Fox. It's a different character for her. She seems a lot more edgy and sarcastic. We know she's beautiful, but it looks like she's trying to find something else in this character for her to show people. That's what I get from the trailer.



MEGAN FOX as Leila in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' adventure thriller "Jonah Hex," released by Warner Bros. Pictures.  
Photo by Jamie Trueblood.  
TM & © DC Comics.

**HAYWARD:** I gotta be honest with you—I called Jimmy up a couple of months ago and I said, "What do you think of the idea of Megan Fox being [JONAH HEX comic book castmember] Tallulah Black?"

**GRAY:** I'm doing cartwheels right now.

**HAYWARD:** And so we wrote a line in where she says, "Tallulah Black's mom didn't raise no fool." And Hex says, "Tallulah?" And she says, "Yeah, Leila's a nickname."

**PALMIOTTI:** I guess that leads into the next question—if this thing's a hit, and we all know it will be, and you would do a second one, would you continue threads that you introduce in the first one?

**HAYWARD:** Of course—you have to do that.

**PALMIOTTI:** With Tallulah? I mean, with Leila? I mean, with Megan Fox?

[laughter]

**HAYWARD:** I think we've left things open. There's no sequel-baiting in this movie at all. When Jonah rides off, Jonah rides off.

You know, I want to touch back on what you said earlier about why people who don't know anything about Jonah Hex should go see this, because I actually don't think that many people do know about Jonah Hex. I know people that are completely pop culture-literate and they ask, "What picture are you working on now?" You say, "JONAH HEX" and it's clear those two words have never come together in their heads before.

But that's what's so great about this, because you get to introduce this cool character to all these people who've never heard of him before. If it wasn't for the efforts of you guys and the other people at DC, Hex would languish in obscurity—which some people

might like, I don't know. People like to be in on a secret thing.

**PALMIOTTI:** It's the freedom you have, too. You can do almost anything you want with this, and I think that's the fun of the character. In the trailer it shows. There's this kinetic kind of energy where anything goes. And I think that's why it's fun.

**HAYWARD:** Brolin talks about the absurdist nature of stuff, and how tonally, you could draw a guy with Gatling guns on his horse, but when you actually go out to do it, you have to have a certain tone, or it won't fly. Some fans like different things, but just to have Jonah Hex riding around murdering people, it's easier to get away with that in a comic.

**PALMIOTTI:** And we try to mix it up in the comic all the time. There are fantastic elements in the comics as well, and people forget that. We do that as well at times.

**HAYWARD:** Which issue is it that has the kid that's in the pit fights?



JONAH HEX #1 interior art by Luke Ross.

**GRAY:** The first one.

**HAYWARD:** Yeah. In the movie, we have chicken fights and dog fights—that's where we introduce Jonah's dog—then they're fighting oddities from around the world. We borrowed on that. We couldn't have a little kid fighting, though. That's a pretty crazy, out-there idea you guys had for a Western, if you really think about it.



WILLIAM SPENCER as the Creature and TANOI REED as the Barbarian in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' adventure thriller "Jonah Hex," released by Warner Bros. Pictures. Photo by Jamie Trueblood. TM & © DC Comics.

**PALMIOTTI:** Oh yeah, definitely. For us, we have to pull people in every month, we have to keep it interesting for them—otherwise they won't buy the next issue.

**HAYWARD:** To me, that was a great jumping-off point for us. What a weird scene for a Western. You wouldn't see that in "The Outlaw Josey Wales."

**PALMIOTTI & GRAY:** No.

**HAYWARD:** I think people have seen four or five Clint Eastwood Spaghetti Westerns and they're thinking that's the scope and breadth of Spaghetti Westerns. But there're all these weird movies, and they haven't seen "Django," they haven't seen that film, they haven't seen all these other things. We're all borrowing more on the crazy edge of [the genre].

**PALMIOTTI:** I think the movie looks awesome. We can't wait to see it. Jimmy has been very generous with Justin and me in terms of including us and getting us an invite down to the set. So I wanted to thank you.

**HAYWARD:** Dude, you guys are awesome. I really appreciate you being so open with everything. I put in this sequence at the beginning of the movie that Eduardo Rizzo and Alex Sinclair did.

**PALMIOTTI:** Yeah, that's pretty awesome.

**HAYWARD:** I wanted to be pretty specific about getting some guys to interpret some HEX imagery.

**GRAY:** We're jealous. We've been trying to get Eduardo to do an issue forever.

**HAYWARD:** Maybe now he'll do it.

**PALMIOTTI:** I think you guys pay him more.

**HAYWARD:** We paid him more?

**PALMIOTTI:** Yeah, you guys definitely paid him more.

[laughter]

**HAYWARD:** Well listen, DC's been great. They've helped us out a ton, with the title sequence, and getting materials to all the actors and all the crew. Everybody has their opinion, but I feel like the comic book guys shouldn't be pushed aside, they should be part of the party, they should be reading the script, they should be involved.

**GRAY:** And we love you for that.

[laughter]



# REVENGE GETS UGLY



What's up, DC Nation? It's summer movie season, and for comics fans that means a chance to see some of our favorite characters come to life on the silver screen. On June 18th DC's resident badass of the Wild West, **Jonah Hex**, hits theaters everywhere. "Jonah Hex" is an epic adventure thriller about one man's personal quest for redemption against the vast canvas of the battle between good and evil. The film stars Academy Award® nominee **Josh Brolin** ("Milk"), two-time Academy Award® nominee **John Malkovich** ("In the Line of Fire," "Places in the Heart"), **Megan Fox** ("Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen"), **Michael Fassbender** ("Inglourious Basterds"), **Will Arnett** ("Blades of Glory") and Academy Award® nominee **Michael Shannon** ("Revolutionary Road"). Personally, I can't wait for all the shooting to start, but I need to contain my excitement long enough to tell you about some other cool Jonah Hex projects you can get your hands on.

In addition to our excellent monthly Jonah Hex series, this month also introduces the original graphic novel **Jonah Hex: No Way Back**. Written by acclaimed Hex scribes **Jimmy Palmiotti** & **Justin Gray** and featuring art by legendary Hex illustrator **Tony DeZuniga**, **No Way Back** features some surprising truths about Hex's family and his epic battle with El Papagayo. It's on sale now, and you should go pick it up.

Also arriving in time for the movie are several busts and a menacing 1:6 scale deluxe **Jonah Hex** figure from **DC Direct**. And if all this wasn't enough, you will also be able to pick up the new **Jonah Hex Motion Comics**. Three of his legendary tales have been brought to life, panel by panel, for the first time ever, featuring an original soundtrack and full cast of voice actors, and are available now.

We hope you enjoy **Jonah Hex**. Be sure to get back here next week for an exclusive preview of another all-new DC project!

Be seeing you,

**Ian Sattler**, Senior Story Editor DCU

# DC NATION



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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** DIANE NELSON, President; DAN BDO and JIM LEE, Co-Publishers; GEOFF JOHNS, Chief Creative Officer; PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP Finance & Administration; JOHN RIDD, Executive VP Sales, Marketing & Business Development; AMY GENTKINS, Senior VP Business & Legal Affairs; STEVE ROTTENDAM, Senior VP Sales & Marketing; JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP Marketing; TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP Managing Editor; ALISON GILL, VP Manufacturing; DAVID HYDE, VP Publicity; SUE POMHA, VP Book Trade Sales; ALYSSA SOUL, VP Advertising & Custom Publishing; BOB WAYNE, VP Sales; MARK CHARELO, Art Director.



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**JOHNA HEX** #58, August 2010. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **JOHNA HEX**, DC Comics, Subscriptions, P.O. Box 208, Canby, OR 97001. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$24.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # R12351012. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The names, characters and likenesses contained in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. Printed by World Color Press, Inc., Montreal, QC, Canada. 05/09/10.

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