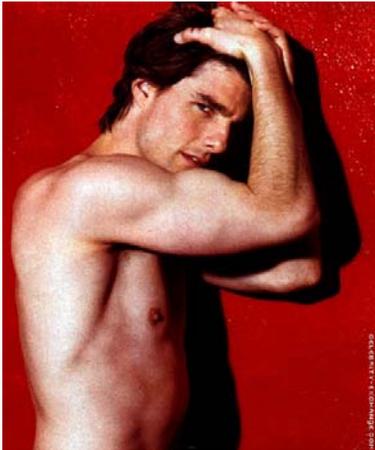


Watchmen Casting Shakeup

--Vancouver, 09-08-07 *Watchmen* will be a 2009 film adaptation of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' twelve-issue Hugo Award-winning comic book limited series *Watchmen*, directed by Zack Snyder. The film began shooting in Vancouver in this week. The film takes us back to an alternate 1985 where superheroes exist, and tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union are at an all time high. Apparently the superpowers aren't the only thing in conflict on the set—super-egos have also flared. Snyder watched in stunned disbelief as his entire cast stormed off the set on Tuesday. And they abandoned the project altogether.



"The crew is picking up the pieces the best that we can. We've worked too hard to make this project happen; we're not going to give up now. We talked briefly about trying to do an entirely CG cast, but that was insane. So we scrambled and now we have a much better cast in place," a harried Snyder told reporters on Thursday.

This time around, Snyder appears to have gone with more seasoned actors who might be a more stable force on the set. "I said just get me somebody sane and stable," Snyder recounts. The casting department made a few phone calls and by Friday, Tom Cruise was in Vancouver wearing a sign-board that read "The end is nigh."



Jeffrey Dean Morgan was the first to explode over artistic differences with his director. Casting was quick to roll out the red carpet for a new candidate for the position of vigilante superhero who is commissioned by the U.S. government to do its dirty work. "I am thrilled to report that William Shatner took us up on the invitation to become the new face of The Comedian, Edward Blake" Snyder announced on Wednesday.



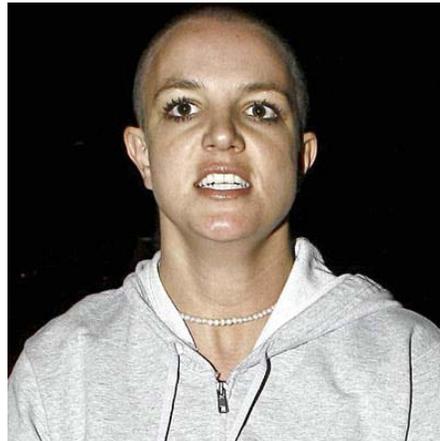
Patrick Wilson was the second to stomp off the New-York-looking back-lot on Tuesday. But Snyder was not deterred by the antics. "I am not going to say anything negative about the crew that abandoned this project. But I will suggest that they get treatment for their alcoholism." Snyder has been trying to remain faithful to the nitty-gritty real world flavor, so he was a bit reluctant to fill the roles with typical "super hero" types. Tuesday casting shake-up was enough to make him change his tune. By Thursday, Adam West was on the set filling the boots of Daniel Dreierberg. Snyder recalls, "I said, okay, we need a washed-up, paunchy guy that used to dress up like Batman—who can we get? Then everything just fell into place. It is such a natural fit. I really think Adam will connect with fans on a lot of different levels."



Continuing the trend to seek out experienced actors who have vast experience working with ensemble teams, Snyder persuaded Carol Burnett to sport her “Eunice” hairdo one more time.

“The original Minutemen were a real team. We need real team players to fill out our roster, especially when it comes to the Minutemen.” Snyder sounded a bit jaded at the loss of his original first-string cast members and launched into a string of expletives. “But Carol, she’s a real team player” he concluded.

“We really needed someone with a real conciliatory spirit to embody the character of Laurie Juspezyk. This character needs to exude responsibility, loyalty, self-sacrifice, and most of all humility. We also need someone at the top of their physical game to pull off all of the tough action scenes that the young Silk Spectre sees. Juspezyk is almost maternal in the way she cares for Dr. Manhattan. We needed someone who could supply that kind of compassionate and other-centered personality that Laurie brings to the team. Then it hit me—Britney Spears is a mother now: perfect!” Snyder has been so busy that he hasn’t been following the headlines, but when Spears arrived on set this week, there was no doubt that she could pass for the child of Carol Burnett and William Shatner.



“I think I am most proud of the fact that we could land a professional bounty hunter for the role of Adrian Veidt,” Snyder said of the quick casting of the artist currently known as “Dog” for the role of Ozymandias. “We had to have someone who could really make the audience believe that they were the most intelligent human being the world has ever known. But we picked Dog. We had to get started filming, and hey, he’s blonde.”

In the ultimate casting coup, Snyder netted veteran star Gary Coleman for the role of Jon Osterman. “Dr. Manhattan was going to require a great deal of computer-generated goodness anyway, so I said early on—‘don’t worry at all about how tall an actor is, just get one that looks good bald.’ And they brought in Gary, and he’s a real pro. He’s thirty nine years old now; that’s just perfect for the role of Dr. Manahattan.” The day we were on set we only heard a few bits of the new dialogue that was punched up by Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, but it appears as though the script is now even more nuanced and layered with Easter eggs than before. We were on set for the filming of the scene where Captain Metropolis is attempting to corral the masks into a crimebusters brigade. I literally got goose bumps during the scene. At one point during the schene: Osterman turns to Kovacks and says “What’chu talkin’ ‘bout, Rorschach?”

