

"PREDATOR 2": Jim and John Thomas had barely typed "Fade Out" on the original *Predator* script when they were bombarded by sequel-minded studio executives with the question of, "What's next?"

"The fantasy I always had was to put the Predator in another kind of jungle," says Jim Thomas. "An urban jungle." Thomas' fantasy has become 20th Century Fox's reality in the form of the long-awaited sequel *Predator 2*, which recently completed filming and is set for a Christmas release.

Predator 2, directed by Stephen (Nightmare 5) Hopkins, opens in a war-torn, environmentally unsound, late 1990s Los Angeles. Amidst a drug war over who will own Los Angeles strides Danny (Lethal Weapon) Glover. While attempting to keep law and order from totally unraveling, Glover stumbles upon a series of grisly murders that he believes to be narcotics-related. He soon discovers that more Predators have landed, and the drug lords have become the hunted.

Predator 2 also stars Ruben Blades, Bill Paxton, Gary Busey, Maria Conchita Alonso and Kent McCord. The sequel once again features the special makeup FX of Stan Winston.

According to John Thomas, *Predator 2* was a much easier script to write than the first "because we were so familiar with the story elements. The first film was built more in terms of mythos and grand scale. Those elements will be around in this one, but instead of being in the jungle, we're faced with the challenge of mixing those elements with the technology of the future."

"Because of the nature of the first film, we had a lot of detail and backstory about the Predator that we had to leave out," brother Jim adds. "But we're including all those missing elements in this one. This story is essentially the base for what may come in future films."

When Kevin Peter Hall

suit for the last time on the original film, he didn't expect to ever jump back in.

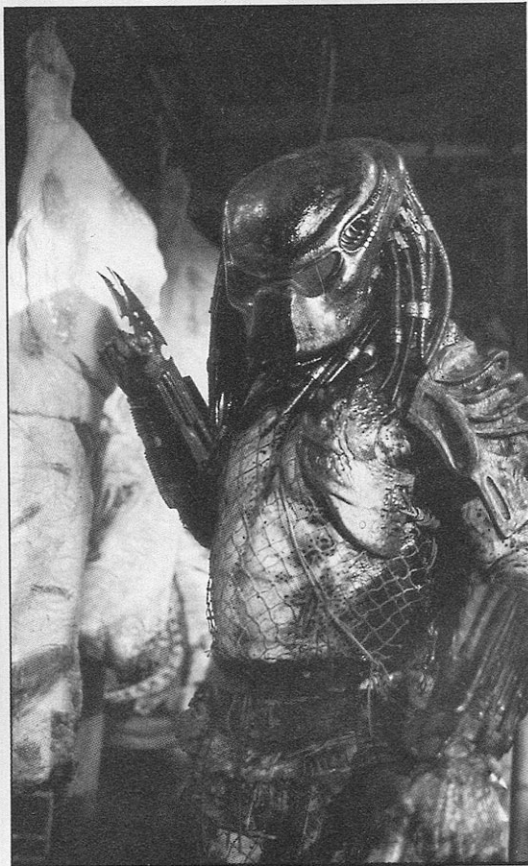
"I never thought they'd make another one," he says. "When I first heard they were planning a sequel, I thought, 'Oh no.' But then they sent me the script, and it was such a great story I was hooked. I said I'd never do this again, but here I am," he laughs.

"This is a different creature," Hall adds. "He's younger, a bit more undisciplined and a lot more athletic. And of course, Danny is about six inches taller than [original star] Arnold [Schwarzenegger], which is making this much more of a physical challenge.

"But acting in this costume is still pretty basic stuff. When Stephen asks for hurt, angry or triumphant, that's the look I give him. Without dialogue, I'm finding myself basically being a pose artist."

Hall, however, claims that there is more to the story than blood and guts. "Sure, this is a chase, a hunt and an action picture. But the bottom line is that *Predator 2* is really a battle of wits."

And, claims Jim Thomas, it is also a deeper look into the Predator's character. "What we see is that the creature is not a psychopathic monster. He's pure in what he does. There is a scene in which he comes upon a little boy with a toy gun. He scans the gun,

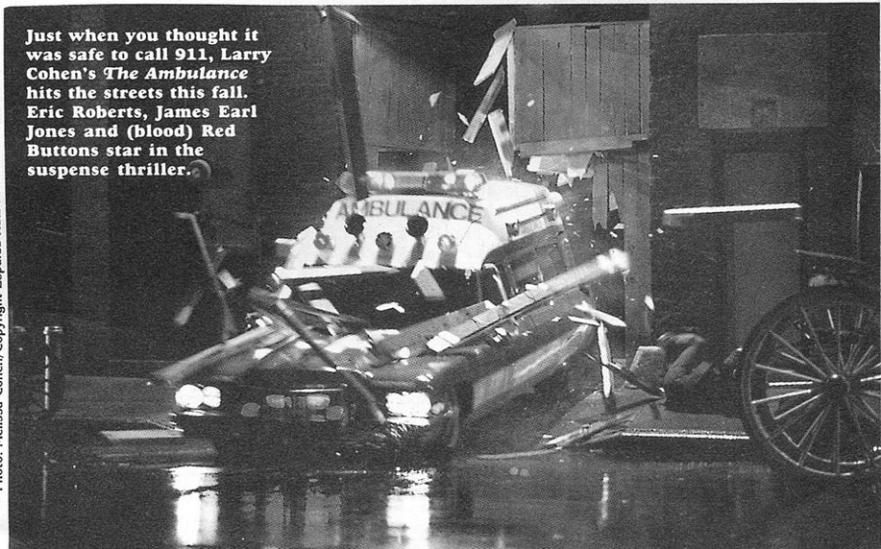


He's a mean green mother from outer space, and he's back in *Predator 2*.

sees the boy is not a threat and leaves him alone. His aim is a challenging hunt. And in the drug dealers he finds that challenge." —Marc Shapiro

Just when you thought it was safe to call 911, Larry Cohen's *The Ambulance* hits the streets this fall. Eric Roberts, James Earl Jones and (blood) Red Buttons star in the suspense thriller.

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