

After three years, the Predator is ready for a rematch.

Francis Lawrence, and Francis ended up getting the job. We'd go into those meetings and they'd ask, 'What are your favorite movies?' The first way we'd always start our pitches was, 'We always loved *Predator* and *Alien*. Those are some of our favorite films.' "

Greg interjects, "We're huge

warmth and laugh congenially with one another, their voices quivering as their teeth chatter. Aylesworth smiles widely and says, "I've done action—bits and pieces on a TV show—but nothing on this scale." The others nod as water drips from their hair. Just as they begin to warm up, the call comes in that they're ready for a fresh take.

Back at the monitor, the two directors look at the last take and make minor adjustments to

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"ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2"

The war comes to our home



Everybody's moving to the suburbs these days—even the battling extraterrestrials.

It's a bitterly cold night in Port Moody, BC when Fango visits the set of 20th Century Fox's *Alien vs. Predator* sequel (opening December 25, with the final title to be announced; variations have included *Alien vs. Predator: Survival of the Fittest* and *Aliens vs. Predator*). The temperature dips below freezing as workmen line up the rain towers which dangle from cranes far overhead. Soon, the apparatus will spill large amounts of water down onto the deserted street in a simulated cloud-burst which will give the boulevard a mysterious and ominous aspect.

Beneath a tent, the film's directors, Greg and Colin Strause, busy themselves making the host of decisions necessary to bring the latest chapter of this much-loved franchise to the big screen. Nearby, a group of actors including Reiko (24) Aylesworth, Steven (Rescue Me) Pasquale, Johnny (One Missed Call) Lewis, Kristen Hager and young Ariel (Dark Water) Gade huddle around an industrial heater as they await the deluge soon to be dumped down upon their heads.

While this is technically the Strause brothers' debut feature, they and their Hydraulx visual FX company have been working in film for quite a long time. With movies such as *Titanic*, *Galaxy Quest* and *The Day After Tomorrow* (for which they won a BAFTA award) on their résumé, this is hardly their first time at the rodeo. "We actually pitched on the original *AVP*," Greg explains. "That was something we thought would have originally come out when we were in high school, and nobody had ever made the film. We were like, 'Man, how come no one's done this?' So we approached the producers and the studio and said, 'This movie has to be made. Kids will love it,' except our idea was probably a little too big."

"Yeah, a little large," agrees Colin; as brothers often do, the men tend to finish one another's thoughts. "Anyway, we had gone into Fox last year with a pitch that was really atmospheric, moody and horror-based."

When it comes to their feelings about the two original series, the guys are both frank and well-informed. "I don't think it has been scary since *Alien 3*," Colin says. "At one point, we were up for *Constantine* against our buddy

James Cameron and John McTiernan fans."

Colin completes the thought by saying, "Both of those films rank up there as two of the best 'mission' movies I can think of."

Fox ultimately decided to go in another direction, but the brothers remained on a list of people to be called on should the need arise. After the successful release of the first *AVP* (with a worldwide box-office take of \$171 million, it's the most monetarily successful of either series), the decision was made to produce a follow-up. Enter the Brothers Strause.

The storyline this time out (scripted by Shane Salerno) involves an accident that sets the Aliens loose on an unsuspecting small town here on Earth. As the body count rises, a lone, battle-hardened Predator is dispatched to clean up the mess and minimize the fallout. Caught between the deadly Alien horde and the bad-ass creature come to exterminate them are a small group of human survivors who must either join the fight or be wiped out in the exchange.

Plotwise, it all sounds good so far.

Back on set, every little detail having been addressed, the call for rain is given and a torrent of water comes cascading down, soaking man and machine alike. The actors step out and are immediately drenched to the skin. Blocking instructions are given and "Action" is called. The actors run toward an abandoned military vehicle and scavenge some eagerly sought firepower. The scene ends and the group makes a hasty retreat back to the much-needed heat.

Shivering against the cold, they huddle for

their game plan. A comment is made about how cold the actors must be. With a smile and a wink, Colin says, "We told them, 'You guys wanted to be movie stars!'"

Before leaving the set for the night, Fango asks how much more of this grueling environment the cast and crew can look forward to. "We've got a week on the street in the rain," Greg says. "Then we have a week on the rooftop set. A lot of the stuff is going to be inside locations or stages after that, but we've got a few weeks of freezing our asses off." He laughs and waves his hand in mock dismissal. "It'll be fine."

—Carnell

WEEKEND OF HORRORS CONVENTION CALENDAR

JANUARY 18-20, 2008:
Austin, TX; Renaissance Austin Hotel

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008:
Chicago, IL; Wyndham Chicago
O'Hare

APRIL 25-27, 2008:
Los Angeles, CA; LA Convention Center

JUNE 20-22, 2008:
Secaucus, NJ; Crowne Plaza
Meadowlands

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