Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



An Interview with artist, Terry Wolfinger.

Terry Wolfinger has been drawing, sketching, painting and creating unique pieces of art work that have caught the attention of prominent figures in the entertainment industry. His talent and experience cover a variety of genres that enable him to explore different avenues for engaging audiences.

"I have been drawing ever since I can remember," said Terry. "My parents saved a drawing that I



Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses)

made when I was two years old. I drew a little man that was made from a bunch of circles. He had arms, legs and a face. My mom was very creative. She was always working on craft projects and made beautiful stained-glass windows. My dad enjoyed drawing different models of cars. I was always fascinated by their art work."

"I was a big fan of the Godzilla movies. I started drawing monsters when I was eight years old," remembers Terry. "I was also a fan of Mad Magazine. I gravitated towards the art work of Mort Drucker and Angelo Torres because they made it look so easy. They both had different styles and were very dynamic. I tried to emulate that in my own work. As a kid, I loved drawing cars, monsters and superheroes."

"I have worked with great teachers who inspired me and artists who took me under their wing," he said. "Although I never actually worked for Disney, I was involved in a few Disney-related projects such as doing special animation on movie trailers for Beauty & The Beast, Aladdin and Pinocchio."

Terry had the opportunity to work for Stan Winston who was a special effects makeup artist



Val Kilmer as Doc Holliday

for film and television. "He hired me on the spot after I showed him a portfolio of my work. I felt extremely fortunate. Through this experience, I was able to work on some exciting projects such as Jurassic Park II."

Eventually, Terry started creating incredible artwork through celebrity photographs. "One day, I decided to join a Facebook group that focused on artist caricature work. Every two weeks they would post a picture of a celebrity such as Al Pacino or Jim Carrey and the artists would create their own interpretative sketch of the photo and members would vote. Eventually people would start messaging me and ask if they could buy a print of my work. So, I put up a website and it started gaining momentum."

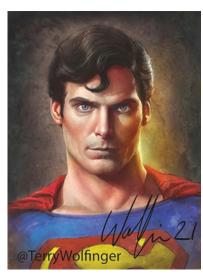
Terry has been fortunate that one opportunity has segued into another. "I did a portrait of Joaquin Phoenix as the JOKER (2019). The trailer had just been released and I had watched it several times and decided to make a drawing of him. I drew the picture for fun and posted it online. At that point, it was my most popular piece. A few months later, a representative from a company contacted me as they were looking for portrait artists with my style and asked if I would be interested in creating a portrait of Robert Downey Jr. as DOLITTLE (2020). Robert approved it right away and then more things started unfolding."

"HelMel Studios (Los Angeles) is owned by actor, Val Kilmer. Tom Stratton, who is the Director of HelMel Studios reached out to me. He said that Val really liked my work and suggested I put an exhibit together for the gallery. It was very flattering, but I wasn't sure if I was ready. My family

and friends encouraged me to take the opportunity so I went to the gallery to check it out. I remembered I had a sketch of Val as Doc Holliday from the movie, TOMBSTONE (1993) and sent

it to Tom to show Val. I think Val Kilmer's role as Doc Holliday is solid. He plays the role amazingly well. He steals every scene. It's one of my favorite movies. Whenever Tombstone is on HBO, I will stop what I am doing until I have watched all of Val's scenes."

Terry has many exciting projects in the works which include his upcoming exhibit at HelMel Studios and creating artwork for movies, magazines and books. "There is something about putting pen to paper and after making a series of lines and scratches, an image starts to appear. It's the transformative and transportive nature of art that really does it for me. Inspiration is all around. It may come from a piece of music or a song and a whole story unfolds in my head. Or it could simply come from a great movie where I want to capture the essence of a scene or a specific character. Lack of inspiration is not a



Christopher Reeve as Superman

problem. It's the lack of time that becomes the real issue. I have so many ideas of what I want to create, draw or paint and new ones pop up all the time."

www.wolfinger.bigcartel.com · www.valkilmer.com · www.helenrosemarketti.com



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