

Ernest Farino

Biography & Résumé



Ernest Farino

Director, Writer
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ERNEST FARINO

Director (DGA) / Writer



Ernest Farino has directed three feature films, 7 hours of television, and extensive 2nd Unit (including not only action sequences but full scenes with principal actors). His most recent assignment was an episode of the SyFy/Netflix series *Superstition* starring Mario Van Peebles and Robinne Lee.

His episode of the syndicated series *Monsters*, "Mannikins of Horror," based on a story by Robert (*Psycho*) Bloch, was touted as the top episode of the premiere season. Farino then directed the premiere episode of the second season with Lydia Cornell and Marc McClure, as well as episodes starring Orson Bean, Ed Marinaro and Tina Louise.

The *Monsters* episodes lead Farino to directing the feature film, *Steel and Lace* (Fries Entertainment) starring Bruce Davison (Oscar® nominee for *Longtime Companion*), Clare Wren (*The Young Riders*), David Naughton (*An American Werewolf in London*) and Michael Cerveris (Tony nominee as Tommy in *The Who's Tommy* on Broadway and recent co-star of *The Good Wife*) and written by Emmy® winner Joseph Dougherty. Following its theatrical release, *Steel and Lace* recouped over \$1 million in foreign sales on its first offering, had an initial pre-buy of 20,000 video units, was released on laserdisc, and has played extensively on Pay-Per-View, HBO, Cinemax, The Movie Channel and Showtime.

"Steel and Lace is a cool, inventive take on the revenge thriller ... the Pulp Fiction of its time. New concepts and turns of fate abound, integrating a lot of genres into a well crafted/shot/edited film. An excellent example of good direction and control of the production."
— Online review

Farino directed seven episodes of ABC's top-rated *Land of the Lost* starring Timothy Bottoms, including the premiere episodes for both seasons. He directed the comedy play *Dub* by Henry Slesar, voted "Best-of-the-Fest" in the Attic Theater's One Act Play Festival. Farino directed *Planet of the Dino-Knights* and *Journey to the Magic Cavern*, two features for Kushner-Locke/Paramount, and filmed in Bucharest, Romania.

Farino has also directed extensive 2nd Unit, including action sequences and dramatic scenes with principal actors, for the Tom Hanks/HBO miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon*, major sequences for NBC's *Noah's Ark* in Australia starring Jon Voight ("The Destruction of Sodom" and "The Big Flood"), Sci-Fi Channel's *Dune* (a total of over one hour of that miniseries), and *Supernova* for Hallmark starring Luke Perry and Tia Carrere.

His produced screenplays include *Terminal Force*, *Beverly Hills Vamp* and *Demonsword*. His action/thriller *First Strike* placed in the Top 10 out of 1,000+ entries in the annual *Writer's Digest* magazine national screenwriting competition. He recently completed two screenwriting assignments, *Lost Vegas* and *The Ingenious Adventure of Benjamin Gale*, and his spec screenplays include an adaptation of Don Robertson's highly regarded coming-of-age novel *The Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread*, and a family film *Christmas Castaways*. His Hitchcock-style mystery suspense thriller, *Blood White*, was recently voted First Finalist in the Las Vegas International Screenplay Competition.

As a director, Farino brings considerable production expertise to every project as a result of his extensive work as a visual effects designer/supervisor/producer for films such as James Cameron's *The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, and *Terminator II*, HBO's *Citizen Cohn* starring James Woods, Brian DePalma's *Raising Cain*, *Snow White—A Tale of Terror* starring Sigourney Weaver, *Screamers* with Peter Weller, and *From the Earth to the Moon*, for which he was nominated for an Emmy®. Farino won consecutive Emmys® for his work on the miniseries *Dune* and *Children of Dune*.

Ernest Farino

Director (DGA)

- Features **STEEL AND LACE** (Fries Entertainment)
with Bruce Davison, David Naughton, Clare Wren,
Stacy Haiduk, Michael Cerveris
- JOSH KIRBY-TIME WARRIOR!** (Kushner-Locke/Paramount)
PLANET OF THE DINO-KNIGHTS
JOURNEY TO THE MAGIC CAVERN
Filmed in Bucharest, Romania
with Corbin Allred, Jennifer Burns, Barrie Ingham, Derek Webster



- Television **SUPERSTITION** (SyFy/Netflix)
with Mario Van Peebles, Robinne Lee, Brad James
Episode *You're Not My Momma*
- LAND OF THE LOST** (ABC/Krofft Entertainment)
with Timothy Bottoms, Jennifer Drugan, Robert Gavin
Seven episodes over two seasons, including both season premieres
- MONSTERS** (Laurel Entertainment/Tribune)
Mannikins of Horror with Glynis Barber, William Prince
A Bond of Silk with Lydia Cornell, Marc McClure
The Offering with Orson Bean, Robert Krantz
Talk Nice to Me with Ed Marinaro, Tina Louise
- 2nd Unit Director **FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON** (HBO/Imagine Entertainment)
FRANK HERBERT'S DUNE (New Amsterdam/Sci-Fi Channel; filmed in Prague)
SUPERNOVA (Hallmark; filmed in Cape Town)
NOAH'S ARK (NBC/Hallmark Entertainment; filmed in Melbourne)
SCREAMERS (Columbia/Fries Entertainment; filmed in Montreal)
LADY IN WHITE (Virgin Vision; partly filmed in Kauai)
- Theater **DUB** (Attic Theater Ensemble, Hollywood)
Comedy farce by Henry Slesar; *Winner*: "Best of Festival."

Writer

- Produced Screenplays **TERMINAL FORCE** (New World)
BEVERLY HILLS VAMP (Vidmark)
DEMONSWORD (Co-writer) (American Independent)
- Commissioned Screenplays **THE INGENIOUS ADVENTURE OF BENJAMIN GALE** (family)
LOST VEGAS (comedy)
- Spec Screenplays **CHRISTMAS CASTAWAYS** (family)
BLOOD WHITE (suspense/thriller)
THE GREATEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD (drama, from the novel)
DEATH GUN (action/police thriller)
FIRST STRIKE (political action/thriller)

Education

- ACTING FOR DIRECTORS** (Judith Weston)
WRITING GREAT DIALOG (David Freeman)
DIRECTOR'S TOOLS FOR FILM AND TELEVISION (AFI)
DIRECTOR'S TRAINING PROGRAM (Film Industry Workshops)
STORY STRUCTURE IN THE SCREENPLAY (John Truby, 8 weeks)
BUSINESS ASPECTS OF MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION (Martin Jurow)
UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS (Dallas and Rome, Italy)

Visual Effects Designer / Supervisor

Emmy® Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Special Visual Effects

WINNER - *Frank Herbert's Children of Dune*

WINNER - *Frank Herbert's Dune*

NOMINATED - *From the Earth to the Moon*



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Over 50 features as Designer/Creator of Visual Effects and Main Titles, over 150 trailers, and over 75 commercials. Worked on location for extended periods in Bucharest, Cape Town, Kauai, Melbourne, Montreal, and Prague.

Visual Effects Overall Job Duties: Set up VFX shot database and VFX budget, negotiate VFX vendor contracts, supervise design and storyboarding, coordinate VFX with art department, mechanical effects, and other departments, direct 2nd Unit action/VFX sequences including VFX plates and green/blue screen elements.

Supernova (Hallmark Entertainment; Directed by John Harrison)

200+ visual effects shots for 4-hour mini-series, filmed in Cape Town, South Africa. Also: Selected local CG vendors, certain CG visual effects for playback on set.

Frank Herbert's Children of Dune (Sci Fi Channel; Directed by Greg Yaitanes)

600+ visual effects shots for 6-hour mini-series filmed in Prague, Czech Republic.

Frank Herbert's Dune (Sci Fi Channel; Directed by John Harrison)

600+ visual effects shots for 6-hour mini-series filmed in in Prague, Czech Republic.

Noah's Ark (NBC/Hallmark Entertainment; Directed by John Irvin)

Over 250 visual effects shots, filmed in Melbourne, Australia.

From the Earth to the Moon (HBO/Imagine; Directed by Tom Hanks, Frank Marshall, Lili Fini Zanuck, Sally Field, et al.)

400+ visual effects for 12-hour miniseries, Directed 2nd Unit and VFX plates in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and Southern California; set up motion control stage, supervised model construction and photography.

Starship Troopers (Tri-Star; Directed by Paul Verhoeven)

VFX Producer for spaceship sequences: 126+ shots with motion control 4-perf and VistaVision photography of miniatures including pyro and high-speed; liason between Sony Pictures ImageWorks and producers, director, and Tri-Star.

Snow White – A Tale of Terror (Interscope/Showtime; Directed by Michael Cohn)

125+ visual effects shots, filmed in Prague, Czech Republic.

Screamers (Columbia; Directed by Christian Duguay)

125+ visual effects shots, filmed in Montreal. Also: Liason with local VFX supplier, directed 2nd Unit inserts, plates, blue screen, miniatures & makeup effects, multiple cameras during action/pyro effects sequences, stop motion sequence.

Terminator 2: Judgment Day (Carolco; Directed by James Cameron)

On-set supervision of VistaVision plates for "Arnold's Arrival" sequence; designed laser effects; Main Title sequence.

Against the Wall (HBO; Directed by John Frankenheimer)

Composited opticals, including binocular mattes, gunsight effects, and two 3-way split screen composites.

Cast a Deadly Spell (HBO; Directed by Martin Campbell)

Directed miniatures/creatures & multi-plane glass paintings, personally executed 15 VFX opticals, designed Main Title.

Lady in White (Virgin Vision; Directed by Frank La Loggia)

120 visual effects shots, plus picture opticals and Main Title. Supervised aerial & background plates (Kauai).

The Abyss (20th Century Fox; Directed by James Cameron)

Designed and created Main Title, liason with DreamQuest, and personally supervised VFX at Pacific Title (combining 35mm, Super-35, VistaVision and 65mm elements).

The Terminator (Orion/Hemdale; Directed by James Cameron)

Also: Designed/created Main Title, organized and supervised full scale process projection, designed, photographed, and composited Tesla coil electricity sequences, laser effects for Future War sequences.

Other Select Visual Effects work and Main Title Sequences (Design/Production)

I Love Trouble, Mother's Boys, The Invisible Kid, Tales From the Darkside: The Movie, Creepshow, Galaxy of Terror, The Winds of War, Spacehunter (3-D), *Metalstorm* (3-D), *Frank Herbert's Dune, Terminator 2: Judgment Day, The Abyss, The Terminator, Cast a Deadly Spell, Truman, Citizen Cohn, TAG-The Assassination Game* [Main Title winner at 25th International Film & TV Festival of New York].