



WEEK

- classified
- personals
- news
- culture
- music
- headout
- screen
- food & drink
- performance
- books
- visual arts
- contact us
- find a paper

- recent
Screen
stories/
reviews:
- 6/25/2003
[Wings and a Prayer](#)
 - 6/25/2003
[View from the Couch](#)
 - 6/25/2003
[That Guy!](#)
 - 6/18/2003
[HULK SMASH!](#)
 - 6/18/2003
[View from the Couch](#)
 - 6/11/2003
[Four of Hearts](#)
 - 6/4/2003
[Letter Rip](#)
 - 6/4/2003
[Gus Van Sant Scores](#)

screen

View from the Couch

Home Video Treasure--*Frazetta: Painting with Fire*

BY DAVID WALKER
dwalker@wweek.com
(503) 243-2122

E-MAIL PRINT

The name Frank Frazetta is seldom mentioned along with the likes of Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock or Andy Warhol. But when it comes to artists whose work resonates with unbridled passion and whose influence can be tracked in nearly every facet of pop culture, no one can hold a candle to Frazetta. He is arguably the most influential artist of the past half-century, blurring the line between fine and commercial art.

Even those who don't know who Frazetta is have no doubt either seen his work or seen something directly influenced by him. Born in New York City in 1928, Frazetta began painting as a child and soon emerged as a prodigy. By the time he was 16, he was working professionally as an illustrator, mostly drawing comic books. Frazetta moved on to commercial illustrations in the early '60s, when he ventured to Hollywood and began producing art for movie posters. But his greatest fame would come when he began turning out highly detailed paintings that would grace the covers of fantasy and science-fiction books and magazines. Horror magazines like *Creepy* frequently were graced with haunting images from the mind of Frazetta, as were the covers to Tarzan books. But what Frazetta is best known for are his depictions of Robert E. Howard's character Conan the Barbarian.

Filmmaker Lance Laspina's wonderful documentary *Painting with Fire* profiles Frazetta's life and career, interviewing friends, family and fans. Laspina follows the still-vital Frazetta back to his old Brooklyn stomping grounds, where the fantasy-art icon, along with his childhood friends, recalls his youth. Throughout the film Laspina weaves in images of Frazetta's artwork, making his paintings and drawings living characters in this engrossing film.

The thing that works best about Laspina's film is that it will appeal to people who've never heard of Frazetta or seen his art. *Painting with Fire* is, above all, a finely realized portrait of an interesting man.

Search
WWeek.com

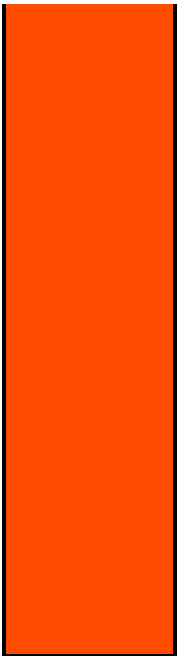
Search

search our
database for
the best
restaurants
in town



FREE WILL
ASTROLOGY
BY ROB BRZESNY





If you have trouble finding *Frazetta: Painting with Fire* at local video stores, go to www.cinemachine.net.

Originally published
Wednesday, July 02, 2003

Respond to this story

[View current posts](#)



there are currently 0 posts.

Message Subject

Message

Your Name

Your email address

