

Alex Proyas and "THE DROWNING CITY"

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The latest from Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden comes to life via Alex Proyas.

[Deadline](#) reports that Alex Proyas, the man behind the absolutely stellar DARK CITY, is heading to a metropolis of a different sort. The filmmaker will be helming an adaptation of JOE GOLEM AND THE DROWNING CITY, the second illustrated novel from HELLBOY creator Mike Mignola and author Christopher Golden.

A supernatural steampunk vision that reimagines New York City as one underwater, the story sees a rising sea level that's left Lower Manhattan submerged, so that its residents began to call it the Drowning City. Those unwilling to abandon their homes created a new life on streets turned to canals and in buildings whose first three stories were underwater. Fifty years have passed since then, and the Drowning City is full of scavengers and water rats, poor people trying to eke out an existence, and those too proud or stubborn to be defeated by circumstance.

Among them are fourteen-year-old Molly McHugh and her friend and employer, Felix Orlov. Once upon a time Orlov the Conjuror was a celebrated stage magician, but now he is an old man, a psychic medium, contacting the spirits of the departed for the grieving loved ones left behind. When a seance goes horribly wrong, Felix Orlov is abducted by strange men wearing gas masks and rubber suits, and Molly soon finds herself on the run.

Her flight will lead her into the company of a mysterious man, and his stalwart sidekick, Joe Golem, whose own past is a mystery to him, but who walks his own dreams as a man of stone and clay, brought to life for the sole purpose of hunting witches.

I haven't finished Joe Golem just yet, but Mignola and Golden's first collaboration, BALTIMORE is simply incredible and much like JOE GOLEM, just begs to be told through a visual medium. Proyas will both write and direct.