Written by Tony Timpone Friday, 28 January 2011 12:52



Movie tie-in books usually come out day and date with the films they promote, but the THE ART OF DISTRICT 9 (Collins Design; Hardcover; \$34.99) has emerged more than 18 months after the Peter Jackson-produced movie's debut. See below the jump for the reason this lavish coffee table book just debuted now, check out a few exclusive pics and read about what's going on at Jackson's Weta Workshop, the Oscar nominees behind the 2009 alien assimilation hit.

As Weta designer and ART OF DISTRICT 9 author Daniel Falconer reveals, the New Zealand shop created the makeup FX, physical characteristics, alien weaponry, props, armor, custom vehicles and spaceships for the Neill Blomkamp-directed film. The book illuminates the creative design process, detailing two years of interaction between Weta's artists and Blomkamp in the form of hundreds of concept art images from both the designers and filmmaker, amazing photographs of the props and sculptures and insightful comments from the artists themselves. Many of the shots included in ART OF DISTRICT 9 have never been seen before, including work edited out of or barely glimpsed in the final film. The book includes a foreword by Blomkamp and introduction by Jackson FX chief Richard Taylor. Falconer previously penned Weta's first two books: THE WORLD OF KONG and THE CRAFTING OF NARNIA.

FANGORIA: What is it about DISTRICT 9 that lead to this overflowing, deluxe coffee table book?

DANIEL FALCONER: Firstly, thank you for the compliment. That's what we at Weta set out to create with this book, so it's very rewarding to hear it has fulfilled that hope. To answer your question, we really felt it had to be made. DISTRICT 9 was an amazing achievement as a film, and all of us at Weta Workshop were so proud to have been involved, however small a part we each played, so there was a sense of wanting to continue enjoying the project even after we were done on the film itself. Also, the journey to the finished film had taken our design team into so many interesting places. There were so many stories that deserved to be told, so much material that otherwise would never be seen, that it demanded we at least try and find a format to share all that art and all those ideas.

Exclusive look: "ART OF DISTRICT 9"; Weta update

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