Nicolas Cage’s many fans rejoiced when word came down that the actor would be taking another whack at Marvel Comics’ flame-headed antihero in GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (opening tomorrow from Columbia). But just as exciting to another cadre of cult cineastes was the news that the new film would be directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor, the daredevil duo behind the adrenalized Jason Statham vehicles CRANK and CRANK: HIGH VOLTAGE. Fango sat down with the filmmakers to find out how they applied their anything-goes style to the Ghost Rider’s latest adventure.

Scripted by Scott M. Gimple, Seth Hoffman and David S. Goyer, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE opens with Johnny Blaze (Cage) trying to keep his hotheaded alter ego at bay. But it can’t help but flare up when he agrees to protect a young boy (Fergus Riordan) and his mother (Violante Placido) from evil forces—namely Roarke (Ciarán Hinds), a.k.a. the devil himself, who’s responsible for Johnny’s fiery dual nature, and his minion Carrigan (Johnny Whitworth). The pursuit stretches across Europe, encompassing gear-grinding chases, fiery confrontations and lots of odd and amusing camera angles.

FANGORIA: This is the first film you’ve directed that you didn’t also write; how was it working with material you didn’t originate?

MARK NEVELDINE: It’s not a big deal to us whether we write something or not. It’s more about, do we like the material, do we want to do a movie like this? And GHOST RIDER was kind of the perfect thing for me and Brian to do.

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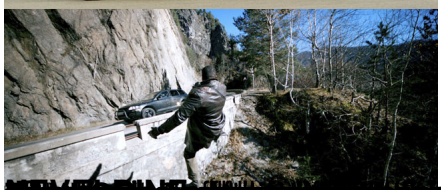

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