

The BLUE DEVIL



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Series Proposal
THE BLUE DEVIL
(for Steve Ditko)

Dan Cassidy and Dave Kaufman are a team of young, independent film-makers, Hollywood whiz kids. Cassidy is a stunt man/special effects wizard, while his long-time friend, Kaufman, is producer/director, a master at getting the best out of the least. Both still in their mid-twenties, they have developed a reputation for remarkable fantasy-film work at cut-rate prices.

Now the pair is on location with their first completely independent production, a project shrouded in secrecy, entitled, THE BLUE DEVIL. The plot of the film involves an archaeological expedition exploring the ruins of an ancient temple, found on an island in the midst of the Bermuda Triangle. The island and the temple are real, an eerie locale rumored to be the locus of bizarre supernatural phenomena. The ruins have, of course, been thoroughly examined by genuine archaeologists, and the government of the small island group of which this one is a part has seen the promotional benefits of allowing the island to be used for a film project.

The central action of the film involves an attack on the members of the expedition by a demon, THE BLUE DEVIL, a malevolent being left over from prehistoric contact with nether realms by the builders of the edifice.

Cassidy, the special effects man, has created a unique approach to the spfx problems of the project--rather than create each effect separately, he has incorporated them all into the BLUE DEVIL costume. This has been done both for economy and realism, since all of the wild action in the film is generated by the demon.

Somehow down the line he wanted to make the real demon to try to make the real demon free him from the costume.

DAVE'S IDEA = The Real Demon Traps Cassidy in the Costume-- it's grafted to his skin (under clothing his "organs" are freed-- he can perform all normal bodily functions-- eat, excrete, piss, screw.)

The BLUE DEVIL costume is Cassidy's greatest achievement. Within it is an amazing exo-skeleton which braces and supports and reinforces his own skeletal structure; this provides a solid base for the hundreds of tiny servo-motors, silent little devices of Cassidy's design, powered by his own body, which increase his physical strength ten-fold. Micro-circuitry throughout the costume quickens his reaction time dramatically improving his already impressive balance and agility to allow him to perform feats of superhuman acrobatic and gymnastic skill.

To protect both the man within the suit and the elaborate machinery of the costume itself, it is densely padded, armored and reinforced and cushioned: in costume, he can withstand the most dangerous and seemingly lethal of stunts.

The film script calls for a variety of pyrotechnic feats, and these are also built into the costume. A compressed-air launcher built into one glove fires a stream of marble-sized, glowing globules containing high-explosive charges. The costume itself can be wreathed with a corona of crackling blue light, produced via electrical charge.

Night scenes requiring the BLUE DEVIL to move unimpeded by darkness called for infra-red vision built into the eyes, which can also be made to glow eerily in the dark. All this in a costume with latex exterior construction malleable and flexible enough to follow all the muscular actions and facial expressions of the man within, designed to appear to be a living being's face and body.

Cassidy is a superbly conditioned athlete, built like a light-heavy-weight boxer (which he was as an amateur in his younger days). In costume he appears several inches taller than his own six-feet, and ~~sixty~~ ^{forty} or ~~seventy~~ ^{fifty} pounds heavier than his one-eighty.

The final feature of the costume is the Trident, the Devil's weapon. This one is rocket-powered, developing enormous thrust that can hurl Cassidy, in costume, hundreds of feet through the air (note: the costume ~~was~~ incorporates extensible "bat-wings" to add controllability and gliding capabilities when he uses the trident to get airborne).

The tines of the trident generate a potent electrical charge, accompanied by impressive lights and sounds. The device is also a light projector, producing dazzling effects, bursting bubbles of light and sound and multi-colored smoke, thin streams of intense flame, and a "hellfire and brimstone" smokescreen. The trident is balanced for flight, and can also be thrown accurately, and is sturdy enough to be an effective quarterstaff.

The identity of the man in the BLUE DEVIL suit is a closely guarded secret, known only to several members of the film crew. The intent is to release the film and never admit that there is a man in a suit, implying, rather, that the BLUE DEVIL is a genuine demon.

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(1)

The story opens with Cassidy suiting up. He emerges from a dressing room trailer. The day's filming is in an open meadow some distance from the ancient ruins, and does not involve either the leading man or lady, Karen Douglas, a lovely actress several years older than Cassidy, the object of his unrequited love. On the lot are two island policemen, ostensibly present to safeguard the national treasures, but really there to gawk.

While the scene is being shot, the leading man and lady wander off together. They have been carrying on a flirtation, although he is a twit, and holds no real interest for Karen.

*P₂
2+3*

These two explore the ancient temple, examining its secrets. Although this has been thoroughly examined by teams of archaeologists, somehow an intricately carved stone block that Karen finds was overlooked, and no one noticed the correlation between the block and an oddly shaped niche in the Temple's inner wall--but Karen does. She insists that the stone will fit the niche exactly. The leading man scoffs at the idea, and so, to prove it to him, she picks up the heavy object and shoves it into the hole.

*P₄
4+5*

With a rumble and a roar, a hidden doorway irises open in the wall. A seeming curtain of energy behind it parts, and suddenly they see, beyond the doorway, a weird and terrible place, an alien landscape, some sort of occult nether-realm! And then, filling the doorway, bellowing, is a true demon, far more monstrous in appearance and demeanor than Cassidy in his costume. This being, fully twelve feet tall, is elated at finally having access to our plane, denied it for six thousand years, returned anew. It will rule the earth again, and these two mortals will be the first of many sacrificed to its demonic lusts!

P₆

The two actors flee frantically, the demon in hot pursuit. They interrupt the filming of the scene, and the two island cops shoot at the monster. It dispatches them effortlessly, declaring its joy to see so many morsels of human flesh.

7 The film crew is panic-stricken, but Kaufman and Cassidy keep their heads and, in quick consultation, realize that Cassidy, in his BLUE DEVIL costume, is their only defense, however meager, against this true demon.

8,
9 With grave misgivings, Cassidy attacks the supernatural horror, challenging it in the raspy, stentorian voice produced by his costume. The monster assumes that Cassidy is another demon like itself, the new ruler of this plane. Cassidy does not do a "spook act", ala The Creeper, but the monster has no conception of technology or human progress in the six thousand years he's been banished from this plane, and he takes Cassidy, THE BLUE DEVIL at face value. The battle is joined.

10,
11 Cassidy is terribly overmatched, but by pluck, luck, persistence and trickery, utilizing the full range of capabilities built into his amazing suit and trident, he succeeds in driving the demon back to the temple and through the portal to the nether region. Kaufman pulls the carved stone from the niche, smashing it, and the doorway between dimensions closes.

Rough Dialog Sample:

Cassidy: I've got to try to stop that thing!

Kaufman: But how!?

Cassidy: With the effects built into this costume!

Kaufman: But that stuff's nothing more than glorified fireworks!

Cassidy: We know that, but the demon doesn't! Let's not tell him!

12
Kaufman has had the film crews film the entire battle, and announce that the film will be plotted differently: The BLUE DEVIL will be portrayed as misunderstood until the advent of the real demon, whereupon he will be seen as a hero, who has come from a grim netherworld to protect mankind from evil and to exact retribution from evildoers. It can be, he says, the first of a series...!

Cassidy isn't so sure. He's pretty proud of himself, and realizes that he can be (and maybe should be) a real superhero! Karen reinforces this, telling him that she once saw one of the JLA in action, and was very impressed--she thinks he'd be a wonderful superhero.

Kaufman declares that some sort of compromise can be arrived at--maybe Cassidy can do both...

The few crew members who know THE BLUE DEVIL's true identity are sworn to secrecy. They are well aware that he has saved their lives, and are more than willing to protect his identity.

And so a new hero is born, another force for good in a world that can use all the help it can get.

Pg. 13

Struck!