

# MONSTER INVASION

THE FANGORIA FRIGHT FILE OF UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWSBREAKS AND OTHER HORRIBLE HAPPENINGS

Stan Winston likes to hype things. And he is cooking on all cylinders as he describes the star of *Jurassic Park III*: a 40-foot flesheater with a crocodile snout that munches T. rexes for an appetizer.

"If you can imagine anything bigger and badder than the T. rex, that's what we will bring to the screen with this film," Winston offers during a recent tour of the Universal sets of this third in the *Jurassic* saga, due in theaters July 18. "The Spinosaurus we're creating for this movie is much bigger than the T. rex, moves faster and is much more powerful."

*Jurassic Park III*, the first in the franchise done without the direct input of original author Michael Crichton, begins four years after the conclusion of the events in *The Lost World*. Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill, returning from the first film), who is suffering the aftermath of his last bout with dino madness, discovers that a second island, Isla Sorna, was also a living laboratory for the DNA-cloned creatures. He somewhat reluctantly agrees to lead another expedition to the site, and as one can imagine, it's not long before all dino hell breaks loose. The new potential dinosaur show includes William H. (Fargo) Macy, Téa (Deep Impact) Leoni, Alessandro (Face/Off) Nivola, Michael (The Gift)

## "JURASSIC PARK III"

They've got the spine for it

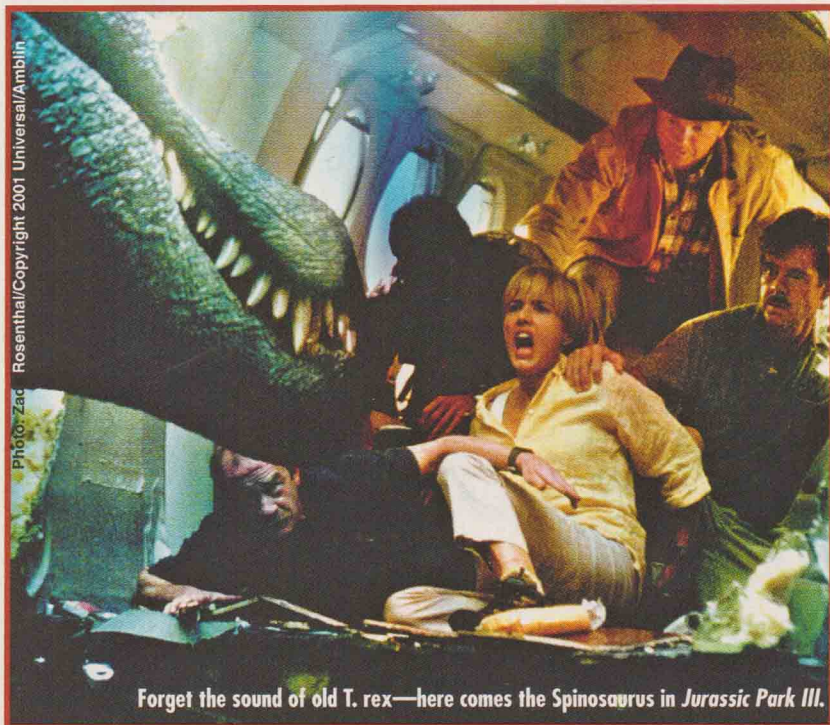


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Forget the sound of old T. rex—here comes the Spinosaurus in *Jurassic Park III*.

Jeter, Trevor Morgan, Bruce Young, John (*Lost Souls*) Diehl and Mark Harelik; Laura Dern also returns from the original *Jurassic* for a cameo.

Steven Spielberg opted not to direct this installment, with the reins handed over to *Jumanji*'s Joe Johnston. Among the writers who worked on the script were Craig Rosenberg, Peter Buchman, John (*Charlie's Angels*) August and the *Election* team of Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor; Kathleen Kennedy and Larry Franco are the producers and Jim Mitchell and Michael Lantieri teamed with Winston to create the creature FX.

Like its predecessors, *Jurassic Park III* began filming

in various Hawaiian locations before relocating to the Southern California soundstages of Universal Studios. While showing off the set-bound jungles, canyons and waterways, as well as a massive outdoor lake location on the furthest reaches of the Universal backlot, veteran *Jurassic Park* production designer Ed Verreaux promises that the third film will have much to offer even the most jaded moviegoers.

"Joe Johnston had some very specific ideas about the look of the film," explains Verreaux as he points to realistic sky-high trees and 50-foot mountainous walls. "He wanted a bit more of a pri-

mordial look to our jungle, a bit more swampy and decomposed."

With no pretense of secrecy, Verreaux echoes

Winston's excitement at the "new dinosaurs we haven't seen before," hinting at spectacular stunts and chases involving heretofore unseen flying reptiles and, inevitably, coming around to the mysterious new carnivore. "The Spinosaurus is bigger, faster and meaner than the T. rex, if you can imagine that."

Later in the tour, Winston ushers Fargo into a cavernous soundstage filled with various bits and pieces of familiar dinosaurs, including a near full-sized mockup of the T. rex. But he quickly points out that *Jurassic Park III* will not find him or his crew

resting on their laurels. "This one will have a different feeling than either *Jurassic Park* or *Lost World*," he promises. "We are not just repeating what we did on those films. We have new dinosaurs and new technology. This movie will be something to see."

Winston maneuvers this reporter toward a canvas-covered something in the center of the warehouse, and good-naturedly suggests that Fargo duck underneath and take a look. Winston lifts the tarp ever so slightly and your intrepid correspondent slips underneath...

And comes face to fang with the Spinosaurus.

—Marc Shapiro