

ACCESS ALL AREAS

THE WEEK'S BEST MEDIA AND STUFF
PLUS THE WORLD'S GREATEST GIG GUIDE

Acting editor: Priya Elan

SLAYING THE FIELD

Constantine

Warners, out March 18, (15)

John Constantine's a badass. A chain-smoking, antihero with lung cancer and one suicide under his belt, he patrols the Earth slamming demons back into Hell in an attempt to ward off an apocalyptic LA showdown with the son of Satan.

Adapted from the DC/Vertigo graphic novel *Hellblazer*, there's none of your pansy spider-pants or ridiculous red *Hellboy* get-up here. It's a twisted vision from first-time movie director Francis Lawrence. Although he's got a long list of big-cheese pop videos behind him including Aerosmith and Britney, Lawrence does a mean turn at keeping Rachel Weisz and Keanu Reeves in check. OK, Keanu's in full Neo mode, firing clichés, but it's dark enough to keep you glued to the screen.

"We were in Spain," explains Lawrence about initial responses. "One lady stood up and said, 'We thought you guys had made it really light for a horror film, it almost seemed like a family film.' Keanu just leaned up and said, 'So I slit my wrists and I put my cig out in my own blood – a family film...' People have weird responses."

"Favourite scene?" he muses. "Satan walking through all the broken glass in slow-mo – it's a showstopper!"

What about the soldier demons, Satan's little helpers in the film? "You have to come up with new visions," says Lawrence. "They were people in Hell once. Now, they're tortured and skinny with messed-up spines. They're just cursed. They sniff and eat and torment."

Maybe LA's not the city of angels after all. **Piers Townley**



Keanu gives Rachel Weisz a pep talk after a lacklustre first round in the wet T-shirt contest



DO GRAPHIC NOVELS MAKE GOOD MOVIES?

Kapow! Two hits

From Hell (2001)

Alan Moore's cult graphic novel paints a supernatural slant on Jack The Ripper. Despite being lighter in imagery, Johnny Depp's crap mockney accent and Heather Graham as the cleanest strumpet in history, it rocks.

Sin City (2005)



Revenge, murder and mayhem on the streets of author, Frank Miller's famous city. Robert Rodriguez co-directs Bruce Willis, Benicio Del Toro and Michael Madsen through a stylised, sleazy and eye splitting ride.

Kaplunk! Two misses

Daredevil (2003)

Ben Affleck. Red leather. 'Nuff said. Not even Colin Farrell, in full-on Oirish baddie mode as Bullseye, could save this stinker.

Hellboy (2004)



If there was ever a costume in search of a movie then Dark Horse comics' *Hellboy* takes the facepaint too far. Launching with a rain-spattered, WWII Nazi experiment, it jumps ship in favour of a crap script, familiar sidekicks and not enough scraps. **Piers Townley**