



# MONSTER FUN

## INTERVIEW WITH: CHRIS GARBUTT

**B**RINGING US THE CHEEKIEST LITTLE DEVIL IN THE PAGES OF **MONSTER FUN**, WE SAT DOWN WITH **HELL'S ANGEL** WRITER AND ARTIST **CHRIS GARBUTT** TO DISCUSS HIS WORK, HIS INSPIRATION, AND HOW HE BEGAN HIS JOURNEY FROM A READER LIKE YOU TO WORKING IN THE EXCITING WORLD OF COMICS AND ANIMATION!

*HI CHRIS, AND WELCOME! SO, FIRST QUESTION, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HELL'S ANGEL IS ALL ABOUT?*

**CHRIS GARBUTT:** OF COURSE! **HELL'S ANGEL** IS ABOUT A YOUNG DEMON GIRL WHO HAS AN ANGELIC HEART OF GOLD. HER INNOCENT, 'DO-GOODING' APPROACH TO LIFE IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF BEWILDERMENT AND ANNOYANCE TO HER FELLOW DEMONS, WHO'S DASTARDLY DEEDS SHE IS CONSTANTLY, AND INADVERTENTLY, RUINING!



*WHEN WRITING HELL'S ANGEL FOR MONSTER FUN, DO YOU TEND TO SIMPLY THINK UP HILARIOUS ANTICS THAT WOULD FIT THE COMIC AND CREATE EACH COMIC STRIP FROM THERE, OR DO YOU READ LOTS OF OTHER COMIC STRIPS TO GET A FEEL OF WHAT YOU COULD DO?*

**CG:** I'M A HUGE FAN OF COMICS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, AND HAVE BEEN OBSESSED WITH BRITISH COMICS AND THEIR HISTORY EVER SINCE GROWING UP IN YORKSHIRE IN THE 70S AND 80S, READING ANY COMICS I COULD GET MY HANDS ON!

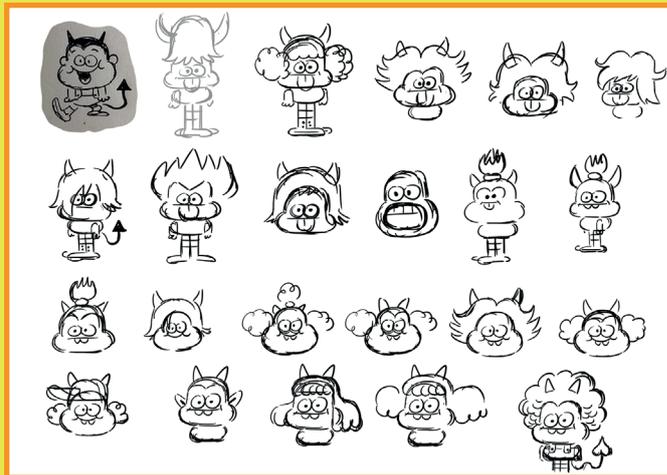
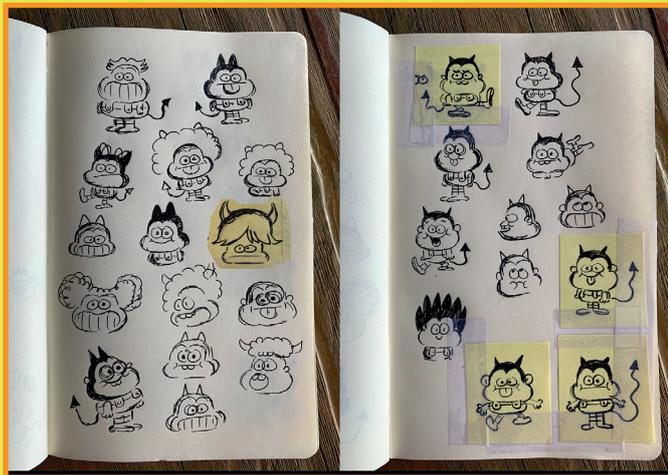
SAYING THAT THOUGH, I WASN'T TRYING TO CAPTURE OR RECREATE A SPECIFIC TONE. I FEEL IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO BE YOURSELF WHEN PRODUCING ANYTHING CREATIVE. WHAT I GET FROM REVISITING OLD COMICS IS A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF THE WORK THAT THE WRITERS AND ARTISTS PUT INTO EACH STRIP. THE LEVEL OF ARTISTRY AND ENERGY IN COMICS IS SO HIGH. IT'S A GREAT CREATIVE KICK IN THE BACKSIDE THAT MAKES YOU THINK, IF I'M GOING TO PRODUCE SOMETHING UNDER THE BANNER OF A GREAT TITLE LIKE **MONSTER FUN**, ALONGSIDE TOP COMIC TALENT, IN AN INDUSTRY WITH SUCH A RICH HISTORY, THEN I HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD AND PUT EVERYTHING I CAN INTO IT!

*WITH THAT IN MIND, HOW DO YOU CREATE THE HELL'S ANGEL STRIPS? WHAT'S YOUR PROCESS?*

**CG:** I MOSTLY WORK DIGITALLY, AND GENERALLY DO ALL MY WORK WITH DESIGN SOFTWARE ON MY LAPTOP. I HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH VARIOUS ONES, WHICH ALL GIVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FEEL, AND IT'S ALSO NICE TO HAVE SOMETHING A BIT MORE PORTABLE. I DO FIND THAT AS I TEND TO FUSS TOO MUCH OVER MY LINEWORK I'M WAY FASTER IF I DO EVERYTHING 100% DIGITALLY AND MORE EASILY REMOVE OR AMEND LINES.

BUT I WAS VERY MUCH INTO THE TRADITIONAL





APPROACH FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, AND STILL SKETCH A LOT TRADITIONALLY TOO, MAINLY WITH PENS ON POST-IT NOTES. IN FACT, I ACTUALLY PRODUCED THE BLACK AND WHITE ARTWORK FOR THE FIRST HELL'S ANGEL STRIP TRADITIONALLY BY SKETCHING IT OUT!

**WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS AFTER SEEING HELL'S ANGEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MONSTER FUN HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR?**

CG: IT WAS SUPER EXCITING TO SEE THE STRIP IN THE SPOOKTACULAR! ESPECIALLY SEEING IT ALONGSIDE ALL THE OTHER STRIPS FROM THE INCREDIBLE TALENT REBELLION HAD PUT TOGETHER.

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE TO HAVE A STRIP IN A BRITISH COMIC, SO IT WAS A REAL BUZZ! I'D ACTUALLY COME OVER FOR A TRIP TO THE UK JUST AROUND THE PUBLICATION DATE, SO IT WAS A THRILL TO WALK INTO A NEWSAGENT AND BUY A PHYSICAL ISSUE OF A COMIC WITH MY WORK IN THERE.

**WILL HELL'S ANGEL HAVE A REGULAR COMIC STRIP IN MONSTER FUN?**

CG: YES, INDEED! HELLY APPEARS IN ISSUE #1, AND HOPEFULLY FROM THEN

ONWARDS! I FEEL THERE'S PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR STORIES WITH HELLY AND HER DEMON PALS, SO EXPECT MORE MISHAPS AND MISCHIEF IN THE FUTURE!

**HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO COMICS - WHAT COMICS REALLY GRABBED YOU AS A KID?**

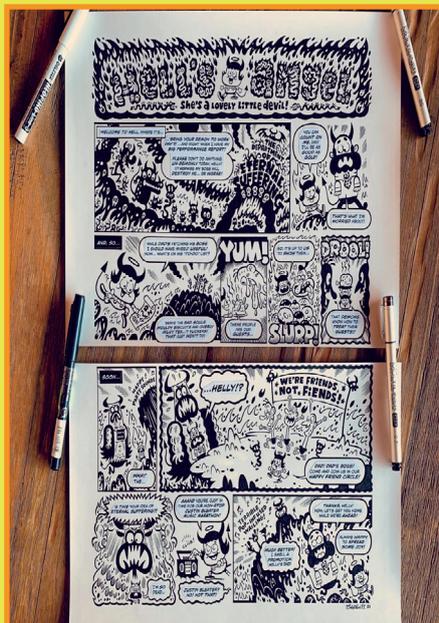
CG: MY INTRODUCTION TO COMICS AS A READER, AND PROBABLY ONE OF THE BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON ME BECOMING A CARTOONIST, WAS MY GRANDPARENTS BUYING ME AND MY BROTHER A NEW COMIC EVERY WEEK. WE'D READ EACH ISSUE INSIDE AND OUT, AND MADE SURE WE GOT COMIC ANNUALS EVERY CHRISTMAS!

FROM THAT I STARTED DRAWING COMICS, CREATING CHARACTERS AND STORIES WITH MY BROTHER, AND SCRIBBLING ALL OVER THE USED COMPUTER PAPER MY DAD WOULD BRING HOME FROM WORK. WHEN WE WERE 10 YEARS OLD, MY FRIEND AND I THEN DECIDED TO MAKE OUR OWN COMICS. WE CALLED OURSELVES DC COMICS (DAVE AND CHRIS COMICS), ALTHOUGH THANKFULLY OUR IMPACT ON THE COMICS INDUSTRY WAS SO TINY THAT OUR COMPANY NAME DIDN'T LEAD TO A HEFTY LAWSUIT! MYSELF AND DAVE KEPT PRODUCING COMICS FOR YEARS AND YEARS AFTER THAT.

WE ACTUALLY SENT OUT SOME OF THE LAST COMICS WE CREATED TO CREATORS AND PUBLISHERS WE ADMIRER, IN THE HOPE OF GETTING WORK OR FEEDBACK. ALTHOUGH IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE NARRATIVE IN OUR COMIC WAS RATHER CONFUSING, THE FEEDBACK WE GOT WAS STILL VERY ENCOURAGING. THAT THEN EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ME GETTING A JOB IN ANIMATION AND COMICS.

**NOW YOU WORK IN HOLLYWOOD, AS AN ANIMATOR IN THE WORLD**





OF TV! FROM BEING CREATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF THE NETFLIX/NICKELODEON ORIGINAL SERIES PINKY MALINKY AND NETFLIX'S WE LOST OUR HUMAN, PLUS WORK FOR DREAMWORKS, THE AMAZING WORLD OF GUMBALL, AND A LOT MORE!

BUT DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE AN ANIMATOR? OR DID YOU JUST WANT TO WORK IN COMICS?

CG: COMICS WERE ALWAYS MY FIRST LOVE, AND MY MAIN PASSION. WHEN I GREW UP LOVING AND WATCHING ALL THE CARTOONS I COULD GET MY HANDS ON, AND ALSO WANTING TO MAKE MY OWN CHARACTERS THAT JUMPED AND RAN AROUND LIKE THAT ON THE SCREEN, IT SEEMED LIKE A MAGICAL, OTHERWORLDLY THING THAT EXISTED INSIDE THE TV, AND WAS MADE IN SOME FAR AWAY LAND, USING A PROCESS THAT WAS COMPLETELY MYSTICAL AND UNKNOWN TO ME.

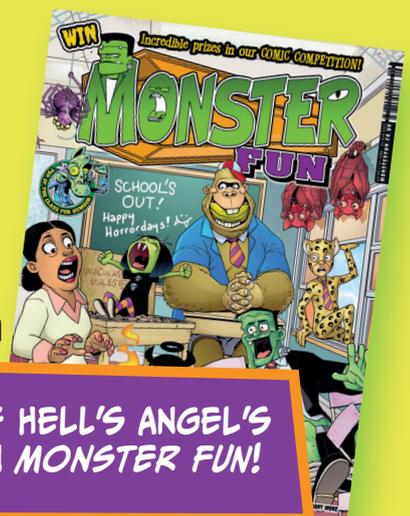
WHAT I LOVED IN BOTH CARTOONS AND COMICS WAS THE CREATION OF CHARACTERS AND WORLDS. COMICS MADE THE MOST SENSE, THOUGH, AS AN OUTLET, AS THEY WERE A VERY PHYSICAL THING THAT I HELD IN MY HANDS. I FOUND I COULD PICK UP A PEN AND PAPER AND VERY QUICKLY MAKE MY OWN. IT WAS ONLY LATER ON THAT MY MIND WAS OPENED UP TO THE WIDER WORLD AND THE ANIMATION INDUSTRY BEGAN TO SHOW ITSELF AS A POTENTIAL CAREER PATH.

IT CAN BE VERY HARD TO MAKE A LIVING WITH COMICS AS YOUR ONLY SOURCE OF MONEY. IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF COMIC JOBS DON'T PAY AS WELL AS THE MAJORITY OF ANIMATION JOBS. SO THE TRICK IS

TO TRY TO WORK ACROSS VARIOUS DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY; COMICS, ANIMATION, TV SERIES, ADVERTS, VIDEO GAMES, ILLUSTRATION, AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS. DRAWING, WRITING AND CREATING ARE SKILLS THAT HAVE VALUE ACROSS MANY PLATFORMS. I DEFINITELY FOUND THAT THE BEST WAY TO TURN MY PASSIONS INTO A CAREER THAT I LOVE DOING WAS TO UTILIZE MY SKILLS ACROSS ANIMATION, ILLUSTRATION, COMICS AND ANYWHERE ELSE I COULD EXCHANGE MY DRAWINGS FOR TEA AND BISCUITS! BUT, ALL THAT BEING SAID, I ALWAYS COME BACK TO WANTING TO MAKE COMICS.

FINALLY, WHAT'S NEXT FROM YOU?

CG: I'M HOPING TO KEEP CREATING MORE HELL'S ANGEL STORIES FOR A WHILE YET! BEYOND THAT, I'M IN THE EARLY STAGES OF WRITING AND DRAWING A BRAND-NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES WHICH HASN'T BEEN ANNOUNCED YET, SO EXCITING THINGS TO COME...



READ MORE OF HELL'S ANGEL'S ADVENTURES IN MONSTER FUN!