

# Series Scares Up Fame for Its Stars

The success of the "Scream" trilogy has reinvented the horror genre and brought notoriety to its contributors.

By JIM MARTIN  
Senior Writer

"Do you like scary movies?" It all started with what seemed like a prank call. Then, quicker than any film analyst could say phenomenon, Dimension Film's "Scream" raked in more than \$100 million at the box office and breathed new life into the horror genre.

While initial reviews were mixed, the public snatched up writer Kevin Williamson's satirical look at teen horror films, derogatorily called "slasher" films.

Because of Williamson, director Wes Craven ("The Nightmare on Elm Street" series) made a comeback, and throngs of teenage actors and actresses became household names.

After making \$174.8 million in box offices worldwide, Williamson and his cronies launched a barrage of sequels and copycats. Three years later, witness the carnage of their pens:

"I Know What You Did Last Summer," "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer," "The Faculty," "Teaching Mrs. Tingle," "Carrie 2: The Rage," "Disturbing Behavior" and "The Bride of Chucky." Not to mention "Scream 2" and "Scream 3."

What makes the "Scream" series so different than other films — especially its copycats — seems to be its satirical quality, originality and Williamson's ability to make the story relevant to his audience, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of L.A.-based Exhibitor Relations.

That audience is undeniably teens and college students. The "Scream" series took relatively unknown actors and actresses from established teen-oriented shows and launched them into superstardom.

Neve Campbell, who plays Sidney Prescott in the trilogy, got her start on

Fox's teen soap opera "Party of Five." In 1996, "Party of Five" was huge, and three of its stars have jumped to the big screen: Campbell, Jennifer Love Hewitt and Scott Wolf. Now in 2000, the WB network has the hot teen show, "Felicity." In form, Scott Foley, who plays Noel on the WB's teen soap "Felicity" finds himself in "Scream 3."

"What (the makers of 'Scream') did is plug the hot young stars from television and that brought in an audience," Dergarabedian said. "These TV stars had their loyal teen audiences follow them (to the big screen)."

Foley told Diversions that being on established television shows and taking teen-specific roles were the path to silver-screen success.

"There is already a built-in audience and these movies have a real high profile," Foley said. "The movies out there for younger actors are these suspense thrillers."

But with Campbell and Courtney Cox Arquette reportedly showing signs of "Scream" fatigue, could there be a possible hindrance to an actor jumping away from his known persona on a television screen and into movies?

Foley said he hoped to expand into different roles and characters, and he said today's teen audiences could handle their actors doing new things.

As for Williamson, he is doing new things. After juggling several scripts and projects and having his ABC series "Wasteland" canceled, Williamson was forced to hand over the writing reins of "Scream 3" to Ehren Kruger ("Arlington Road"). Williamson has now focused his attention back to his WB teen series "Dawson's Creek." Four of the show's principal actors have leapt into movies.

With the trilogy coming to an end and the retiring of that now infamous white mask, Williamson and Co. have carved their way into film history.

Dergarabedian said, "The lasting relevance is you can take a genre that is seemingly dead and reinvent it."

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# 'Scream' Finale Lives Up to Expectations

Even without screenwriter Kevin Williamson, "Scream 3" offers as much wit and fright as the original.

By JIM MARTIN  
Senior Writer

Three years since the first film's inception, "Scream 3" finishes off the trilogy with a bloody bang, not a whimper. This final chapter in the much-imitated "Scream" series retains most of the satirical bite and bloody scenes evident in its predecessors.

## MOVIE REVIEW

"Scream 3"



In 1996, Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) lived quietly in Woodsboro until horrible memories of her mother's death began resurfacing. Then, the now-familiar masked man turned her life upside down and cut short the lives of her high school friends.

That was writer Kevin Williamson's "Scream." Packed with spoofy lines commenting on the slasher genre, Williamson and Director Wes Craven reinvented horror films for '90s audiences.

The rest is history.

In essence, "Scream 3" chronicles that history. Williamson wrote about murder in high school ("Scream") then in college ("Scream 2"). But in the new film, screenwriter Ehren Kruger uses the past events as the primary mover of the plot, complete with the ghost of Sidney's mother.

Set in Hollywood with the filming of "Stab 3," Craven and Kruger use the "film-within-a-film" technique for interesting plot twists and dramatic set-ups. For instance, a chase scene occurring on the set of "Stab 3" re-enacts Sidney's initial encounter with the killer from the first "Scream."

Scenes like the one above show how Kruger's writing appears more concise than Williamson's. Gone are the rushed motions and random dialogue that marked "Scream 2." And even the expected jabs at Hollywood and the slasher genre seem more focused in



COURTESY OF DIMENSION FILMS

Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) and Deputy Dewey (David Arquette) live to see yet another round of slasher-style horror in the long-awaited finale to Wes Craven's "Scream" trilogy.

"Scream 3."

In a series where all of the principal actors (Campbell, Courtney Cox Arquette and David Arquette) have grown, Kruger manages to show their respective character arcs and relationships with each other.

Yes, in "Scream 3" attention is given to the characters — albeit between jabs of the killer's knife.

As with the previous films, "Scream 3" brings in new faces to replace the

ones already dispatched by the killer. Taking time off from indie films, Parker Posey turns in a great over-the-top performance as the actress playing Gale Weathers in "Stab 3."

Scenes pairing the "real" Weathers (Courtney Cox Arquette reprising her fiery role as a journalist) with Posey's are rather amusing. And Scott Foley (television's "Felicity") makes a name for himself as the frustrated director of "Stab 3." Miramax Studios holds this film up as

the way to tidy up loose ends and finish off the series. Kruger's attention to the main characters helps drive this movie to its brilliant, although convoluted finale.

"Scream 3" thankfully brings the series full circle, giving audiences one more adventure and the masked killer his final cut.

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# SCREAM 3

DAVID ARQUETTE	NEVE CAMPBELL	COURTNEY COX ARQUETTE	PATRICK DEMPSEY	SCOTT FOLEY	JENNY MCCARTHY	PARKER POSEY	DEON RICHMOND
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