

RAMBO HOLY WAR



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RAMBO: HOLY WAR

PROLOGUE

*Action movies have become like the movie business's equivalent of
The Hunchback of Notre Dame.
Just as Quasimodo was the ugly duckling in literature,
action films have become the sore spot for critics.
In the old days, people talked about biblical scenarios of action films.
The Bible is action-packed.
The Koran is action-packed.
Even Buddha had a few moments of suspense in his life.
Yet, when we make action movies now, we're considering moneymaking
machines with no esoteric worth, and that's not true at all.
There's a lot of artistry that goes into what we do.
I tend to think of action movies as exuberant morality plays in which
good triumphs over evil.*

Sylvester Stallone,
Interview magazine, July 1995

The treatment represents a business marketing opportunity between Alpha1Media and the copyright holders of Rambo ®, with the company having no intention to infringe on the rights of the film trilogy and intellectual copyright holders of Rambo ®.

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RAMBO: HOLY WAR

CONCEPT

RAMBO: HOLY WAR is a twenty-first century action-adventure film, simultaneously a potent development in the RAMBO saga and an enhanced high-concept action-thriller, in the vein of *The Rock*, *Mission Impossible 2*, *The Die Hard* trilogy and *Mission Kashmir*. Vietnam vet John J. Rambo is now working as an environmentalist at the United Nations, New York, when the UN Assembly is hijacked by sadistic Islamist terrorists, who hold the world to ransom. Rambo tries to take the terrorists down, knowing that his Afghani-adopted son, Tomask, is part of the terrorist mission...

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

INTRODUCTION

Title: *Rambo: Holy War*
Genre: Action.
Studio: Miramax Films.
Project Phase: Treatment Stage.
Cast: Sylvester Stallone
Premise: Rambo and his Afghan-adopted son, Tomask, take on terrorists who capture the UN Assembly in New York, holding the world to ransom.
Release Date: 2004/2005

Theme:

The film is based on the notion that mankind is one, split into many different nations and peoples who must work together for peace and justice. Rambo is one of the world's most highly decorated soldiers, but what he values most is his family, spiritual truth, development issues such as global poverty and the natural environment, and working for the betterment of mankind as a whole. Moreover, Rambo will try to understand, as a Vietnam veteran, the results of the "arrogance of power" in US foreign policy warned by Former US Senator J. William Fulbright during the Vietnam period. The film will try to answer why, at the start of the 21st century, the USA's super-military machine has not prevented it from now feeling more vulnerable than ever to outside attack, and why its governments' foreign policy history is condemned around the world. In particular, the movie will educate the audience about Islam, a faith shared by 1.5 billion people on earth, and will show the importance of inter-faith tolerance.

Pitch:

As Bob Weinstein has said, the *Rambo* franchise is a potential billion dollar property. Our aim is to utilise iconic actors of the Western film industry such as Sylvester Stallone with iconic actors from the East such as the BBC Star of the Millennium, Amitabh Bachchan, to create a global-oriented, blockbuster action film with trans-market appeal. This is especially timely considering the casting of Indian film actor Naseeruddin Shah (*Monsoon Wedding*) opposite Sean Connery in *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. The topic of Islamist terrorism vs American unilateralism fought at the seat of world government will be highly educational and topical: neither can emerge the victor.

Immediate Potential:

- Domestic and international grosses; emphasis on international grosses.
- Critical acclaim, for creating an intelligent and topical blockbuster with trans-cultural appeal.
- Franchise Potential for Rambo and Rambo's son.

Treatment Production:

Alpha1Media is a media production company based in the United Kingdom with employees based worldwide.

BACKGROUND

On May 13 1997, Dimension Films purchased the prequel and sequel rights for the *Rambo* franchise at the Carolco bankruptcy sale for \$500,000. At the time, Miramax (the parent studio that distributes Dimension Films, and who are best known for 'independent' films instead of 'action' pictures) said that they would like to break new ground.

OTHER RAMBO TREATMENT IDEAS

- **American militias:** The idea was touted in 1997 in the wake of the Oklahoma bombings, but September 11th ensures the concept is no longer viable. Nonetheless, the example of Timothy McVeigh, a fundamentalist Christian and a self-confessed American patriot, blowing up a federal building in America's last worst terrorist outrage, will be pertinent in the treatment. McVeigh's causes included the government's assaults at Waco and Ruby Ridge and its contamination of its own soldiers in the Gulf War— in which McVeigh served. This is similar to Rambo's vigilantism in *Hope*, with Rambo a Vietnam Veteran and McVeigh a Gulf War veteran, and the US government's contamination of its own soldiers using Agent Orange in the Vietnam era, a despicable policy enhanced during the Gulf War.
- **Enemy from the Past:** In 1998, rumours abounded about a former comrade and double agent from Rambo's Vietnam era, Thomas Flannery, seeking revenge on the hero and his family. However, the concept is weak in terms of continuity of the saga, but the concept of wife and child was a positive development.
- **Jackie Chan, Crime/ Drugs:** Jackie Chan in 2000 said that he had been speaking to Stallone about Rambo 4, but the script and character were not felt to be right. The move to have stars from the Hong Kong industry, especially with the success of Jackie Chan (*Rush Hour 1 & 2*, *The Tuxedo*), Jet Li (*Lethal Weapon 4*, *Romeo must die*, *The One*) and Chow Yun Fat (*The Replacement Killers*) ensures that by introducing stars from the Indian film industry, a similar success can be repeated. The anti-drugs message does not have series continuity.
- **Rambo Vs the Taliban and UBL:** Certainly, the topic of Islamist terrorism would be highly relevant to the character. Post September 11th, there are rumours surfacing that in the new film Rambo would fight in Afghanistan during the U.S. attack against the Taliban regime. Rambo would play a major role in bringing down the Taliban and prove to be the brains behind bin Laden's downfall. There are huge problems with the concept, especially in terms of international marketing, plausibility, series continuity, morality, historical accuracy and more. It should be recognised that Rambo chose to leave America after his spell in a US penitentiary, and had found peace in a Buddhist monastery before his personal mission in Afghanistan. Indeed, there was a great deal of respect for the Afghan cause, the mujahideen depicted as gallant and brave freedom-fighters, and the film itself is dedicated to 'The Gallant People of Afghanistan'. Rambo himself understood the concept of a holy war when it was articulated to him. Moreover, when Ronald Reagan welcomed members of the Afghan Mujahideen to the White House in 1985, he said about them: "These are the moral equivalent of America's founding fathers." As a result, Rambo fighting the new breed of terrorists after September 11th is more plausible, and the treatment reflects that. Additionally, setting the film in the future as opposed to the historical past is better, as all prior films have done successfully. Afghanistan has been liberated, complete with a new regime and rebuilding its infrastructure, and therefore it would be both financially sound and ethical not to base the story there.

CHARACTERS FROM PREVIOUS RAMBO FILM RE-APPEARING

- **Colonel Trautman:** Following the bereavement of Richard Crenna (Colonel Trautman) on January 17, 2003, the character may be assumed to have passed away in the new film.
- **Brian Dennehy:** For Teasle from *First Blood* to re-appear in the new film would simply not work and be plausible, and may, in fact, be regressive.
- **Tomask:** The orphaned Afghani boy whom Rambo befriended in Rambo III (**See the Treatment**)

LATEST NEWS

Sylvester Stallone has been writing a script since Christmas 2002 for the next Rambo film.

MARKETING RAMBO: HOLY WAR

- **Billion Dollar Property:** Bob Weinstein, Co-Chairman of Miramax said after acquiring the rights to the Rambo series, "We'd love nothing more than for Stallone to be involvedwe think it's a billion-dollar property."
- **International Box-Office:** The Rambo series became more successful for its overseas profits, particularly in Europe and Asia, but high domestic grosses are envisaged for this film mainly due to the iconic status of Rambo and the topical nature of the film. Therefore, the film should be anti-war, pro-justice and peace, internationalist in the new globalised environment, environmentally friendly, spiritual in its message and simultaneously entertaining like *Face-Off*, *The Rock*, *The Matrix* saga and *Mission Kashmir*. Box-office receipts for the film and Stallone's past films shows that he performs better overseas, especially in Europe and Asia. The film's potential markets are America, Europe, the Middle East, South-East Asia and Far East, supplemented by a diverse, trans-ethnic film-cast.
- **Stallone's Return to the Icon:** Opportunity for Stallone to return to a character who is once more a pensive spiritualist, a Sufi Muslim, with the moralising in the film subtle but convincing.
- **David Morrell's Creation:** Return to the historical character of Rambo, intellectual, sensitive and highly spiritual, as created by David Morrell in his original books, and subsequent novelisations.
- **Hi-Concept Action Film:** To retain a less comic-book feel, and to root the film in a historical context and balance it with a realistic dramatic license, the aim should be to make a monumental action film.
- **Strong Female Characters:** There is a general male exclusivity in the Rambo films, with the second film depicting Rambo's short-lived romance. The fourth should have strong female characters, as demonstrated in the treatment, and is crucial based on film market analysis.
- **Global Stellar Cast:** American, Indian, Israeli, British, Canadian, Hong Kong and Middle Eastern artists of a high-calibre working together.
- **Topical:** The world is torn between Islamist terrorism and American unilateralism, allowing us to educate and entertain our audience. The title is highly relevant to the character and to our times.
- **Spirituality:** There is a genuine spiritual change and development in the Rambo saga. In *First Blood*, we can perceive Rambo as a type of Gnostic Christian, who is influenced by Co, and dons her Jade Zen Buddhist necklace after her death in his arms. Rather than stay in America, his home-country following his return from Vietnam, Rambo chooses to go to the East to spend time in spiritual sanctity. In *Rambo III*, Rambo tells Trautman that he is searching for peace, which he has found in Thailand, and that the war in Afghanistan is not his war. Trautman, for reasons of justice, goes to Afghanistan. When Rambo tries to rescue him, he is once more influenced by the lifestyle of the Afghan mujahideen, above all holy warriors, and by giving Tomask his necklace, there is a relinquishing of his Zen Buddhism and more an emphasis of the tolerant Islamic Sufism, as evidenced in Morrell's novelisations. When asked to stay, we generally believe that Rambo would feel at home in Afghanistan. Therefore, the next film should show Rambo to be influenced by Islamic Sufism, which would be a bold and highly relative theme in the film. Indeed, a jihad has been termed by a Persian historian as being 'the taking up of swords to take swords out of the hands of madmen.' Rambo's creator, the author David Morrell, would concur with this view. The best-selling poet in America is the Persian Sufi Muslim Rumi, and Sufi Islam is the antithesis of Islamist Terrorism.
- **One-World Justice:** Anti-globalisation, just-peace movement. Pro-United Nations, and reformed; global democracy with a one man, one vote policy, not as a pawn of the Security Council. The US has repeatedly acted to undermine peace and human rights initiatives at the United Nations, routinely voting against hundreds of UN resolutions and treaties and easily has the worst record of any nation on not supporting UN treaties. Global democracy would be the answer to this.
- **America on Trial:** The latest global research and analysis states that the US governments' history and its foreign policy is widely condemned around the world, with the major focus on hypocrisy and self-interests parading as global justice. America should be tried by its own citizens, in a constructive manner, as the sons of a country can be the best in affecting positive change. The works of Noam Chomsky, Robert Elias and Hamza Yusuf Hanson in particular should be utilised.
- **Roots of Islamist Terrorism:** When President, Ronald Reagan welcomed members of the Afghan Mujahideen to the White House in 1985, he said about them: "These are the moral equivalent of America's founding fathers." An examination of the ensuing change in politics is necessary.

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

THE RAMBO SAGA

FIRST BLOOD



1982. Carolco (Buzz Feitshans). 93 minutes.

Director: Ted Kotcheff. Producer: Buzz Feitshans. Screenplay: Michael Kozoll, William Sackheim and Sylvester Stallone, from the novel by David Morrell. Photography: Andrew Laszlo. Music: Jerry Goldsmith. Cast: Sylvester Stallone (Rambo), Richard Crenna (Trautman), Brian Dennehy (Teasle), Bill McKinney (Kern), Jack Starrett (Galt), Michael Talbott (Balford), Chris Mulkey (Ward)), John McLiam (Orval), Alf Humphreys (Lester), David Caruso (Mitch), David Crowley (Shingleton), Don Mackay (Preston).

Synopsis

John Rambo, a solitary wanderer across America, goes to look for a buddy from the Vietnam War, but the friend has died of cancer brought on by Agent Orange. Now, Rambo is the only survivor of the unit he fought with. He walks into a small town, ironically called Hope, and is picked up by the sheriff Teasle (Brian Dennehy) who tells him they don't want people like him in the town. Teasle drives him over the bridge and points him out of town, but Rambo turns around and walks straight back over the bridge.

Teasle arrests Rambo, 'just another smartarse drifter', for vagrancy and takes him back to the police state where the masochistic Galt (Jack Starrett) roughs him up. The prisoner won't have his fingerprints taken. He is hosed down and the police are puzzled by the horrific scars that cover his body. Throughout these processes, Rambo is haunted by the treatment he received as a prisoner of the Viet Cong, incarcerated in a pit in the ground. When the police prepare to shave him, the sight of the razor is the trigger to his violent attack on his wardens.

Fighting his way out into the street, Rambo pushes a passing motorcyclist off his machine and escapes into the wooded hills above the town. Tracker dogs are brought in to find him. Galt rides a helicopter which tracks Rambo to the edge of the ravine. Galt shoots to kill Rambo, but Rambo jumps into the ravine, where the branches of the a tree break his fall. Galt forces the pilot to follow Rambo down into a gorge, for he is intent on killing him. Rambo throws a stone at the helicopter screen which smashes. The pilot loses control and Galt falls to his death.

Rambo offers to give himself up to Teasle, but his trigger-happy men keep firing at their escaped prey. Teasle learns that Rambo is a Green Beret, a war hero with the Congressional Medal of Honour. 'Those Green Berets, they're real bad assess,' says one of the men, but Teasle angered at the

death of Galt, is now more determined to catch Rambo. The dogs close in on their quarry, but Rambo has set traps of sharpened spikes, and the dogs are impaled on them. The men understand that this is no ordinary police chase.

‘We ain’t huntin’ him,’ says a greenhorn policeman, ‘he’s huntin’ us.’

Teasle’s men are ingenuously trapped by Rambo’s jungle warfare techniques, suffering hideous injuries. Teasle himself is caught and Rambo warns that he will give him a war he won’t believe. Colonel Trautman (Crenna), Rambo’s commander from the Vietnam War, arrives to tell Teasle he is dealing with no ordinary man. Trautman made Rambo, and he has come to rescue Teasle from him. Rambo has been trained to survive the most cruel conditions, to kill by attrition, to ignore pain, to withstand all weathers, to eat things that would make a billy-goat puke. Trautman tries to persuade Teasle to drop his pursuit, but Teasle says he has his duty to do. Trautman tells Teasle he can’t win against Rambo.

But Trautman tries to talk Rambo out of it, when he speaks to him by radio. Rambo tells him that he is the last of his boys, that all the others have died. Trautman reminds Rambo that he is his friend, and Rambo explains that he had only wanted something to eat; they, not him, drew first blood. Part-time reinforcements are brought in to join the hunt, and the police think Rambo is killed when they blow p the entrance to an old mine. But Rambo has escaped into the workings and makes his way through the flooded, rat infested tunnels until he emerges into daylight again. Stealing an army convoy truck, Rambo drives back to Teasle’s town for a final showdown. He blows up the gas station and starts exploding the rest of the town. Teasle’s personal mission to get him reaches its apex. Teasle crashes through a skylight and Rambo seems about to kill him, when Trautman tells him his mission is over.

Rambo breaks down as he tries to explain his feelings to Trautman. It had never been Rambo’s war, but one in which others had got him involved. Rambo had done his best to win the war, but the government had lost it. When he had come home, he had been reviled and spat on by his fellow countrymen who had no idea of what it had all been about. He cries as he tells Trautman of a friend who died in his arms, his body shot to pieces, his legs blown off. Trautman listens, deeply affected, as Rambo sobs. He folds him into his breast, and gently comforts him. Rambo is taken into police custody. Teasle is taken away by ambulance, and will, no doubt, survive. (In the novel, Trautman kills Rambo at the end).

Notes

- The overlay of religiosity in the film can hardly be missed. Rambo’s first scene has him walking through the misleading gentle countryside until he is betrayed by the often intangible forces that betray him, and ends up in prison. Rambo is then persecuted, not only as Rambo was, but in the same way Christ is often depicted.
- John Rambo is never portrayed as an American patriot throughout the length of the film. Returning home, he finds that the country he fought for, treats him like a pariah. He is wrongly and unjustly arrested for vagrancy, and due to the illness of post-traumatic stress, fights back. We learn nothing of John Rambo, the person, his interest, his loves, his hates, what sort of food he likes, what sort of friends he likes. Also, **First Blood** has a male-only world, which changes in the sequel.
- In itself, the Vietnam war and the treatment of its veterans were given is a muted point in the history of America. Stallone himself said that ‘Five per cent of that war was fought against Communism and ninety-five per cent to line the pockets of the big chemical industries.’
- David McGillivray in *Films and Filming* recognised ‘an expertly constructed survival adventure with a fresh and persuasive angle to its social comment’ and the precise unstereotyped drawing of the characters.’
- Stallone stated that the ‘picture went beyond the war, got into morality and man’s dignity and civil rights.’ In **First Blood**, the outright patriotism of the central character is distinctly muted. It criticised the American government, for its actual running of the war (‘somebody wouldn’t let us win’, says Rambo), for its use of Agent Orange, and, after the killing was done, for its treatment of its redundant soldiers. The military, of courses, shares some of the responsibility. The American people, too, have played a part in all this, and are also responsible for what Rambo has become. The film is concerned with the plight of the Vietnam veteran, the hero (not always) conquering returning home to a society that preferred to forget the devastating blow the Vietnam War had dealt to America’s confidence. What **First Blood** would do would be to reawaken the difficult truths about America’s own lost generation. Rambo would stand to remind the people of things they would rather forget.

RAMBO: FIRST BLOOD, PART II



1985. Tri-Star (Buzz Feitshans). 93 minutes.

Director: George B. Cosmatos. Producer: Buzz Feitshans. Executive Producers: Mario Kassar, Andrew Vanja. Screenplay: Sylvester Stallone and James Cameron, from a story by Kevin Jarre. Editors: Mark Goldblatt, Mark Helfrich. Photography: Jack Cardiff. Music: Jerry Goldsmith. Cast: Sylvester Stallone (Rambo), Richard Crenna (Trautman), Charles Napier (Murdock), Steven Berkoff (Podovsky), Julia Nickson (Co), Martin Kove (Ericson), George Kee Cheung (Tay), Andy Wood (Banks).

Synopsis

Rambo, who still had a five year sentence in an American penitentiary to complete, is doing hard labour in the prison quarry when Trautman visits with a proposal that will temporarily reinstate Rambo in the Forces, and may even mean a Presidential pardon. The mission: to establish if there are any American prisoners of war still detained in Vietnam. Rambo has a few doubts, but agrees, and asks Trautman if, this time, they will win the war.

Rambo is flown out to meet Colonel Murdock (Charles Napier) in charge of the technologically sophisticated operation. Murdock is impressed by Rambo's Vietnam record and with pride, tells Rambo of his own. He explains that there are 2,500 servicemen missing in Vietnam; the government needs proof that they are being held by the Viet Cong. Rambo is to go to a known prison camp and take photographs of what he sees, but on no account to engage in any action. Trautman instructs Rambo to let technology do most of the work, and to forget the old Vietnam, which is dead.

'I'm alive,' says Rambo, 'It's still alive, ain't it?'

Equipped with weaponry, Rambo is dropped into Vietnam where he has 36 hours to achieve his mission and reach the extraction point. His guide is the pretty Co Boa (Julie Nickson) who takes him downriver by boat. Rambo tells her of his return to America after the Vietnam War, only to find that there was another war, against returning soldiers, being fought at home. Nevertheless, Co's dream is to go to America.

They reach the camp, and Rambo, against all orders, gets inside and discovers American soldiers suffering appalling privations in vermin-infested cells. He rescues a prisoner and escapes to the boat, but the owner has betrayed them, and they are ambushed by the Russians. They break free and make it to the extraction point, but when Murdock learns Rambo has an MIA (Missing in Action) with him, he aborts the mission and instructs the rescuing helicopter to fly off, leaving Rambo a prisoner of the Viet Cong.

Trautman furiously accuses Murdock of setting Rambo up, but Murdock tells him the fact is that there are American soldiers in Vietnam who cannot be allowed to get out.

Rambo is chained up in a pit of pig-manure, but is pulled out to face the sadistic Russian commander Podovsky (Steven Berkoff) who tells Rambo to radio his headquarters to say he has been captured and condemned for espionage, and that no such criminal aggression should be attempted in the future. Co gets into the camp. After torture, Rambo agrees to speak to base, and asks for Murdock. He tells Murdock he is coming to get him, and with Co, escapes from the camp, intending to travel to

Thailand and then on to America. Co asks if she can go with him. He agrees to take her, and they kiss, but at that moment Co is gunned down. Rambo cries as she dies in his arms. He takes her lucky necklace and wears it.

Trautman wants to rescue Rambo but Murdock tells him he is under arrest. Now, Rambo goes on a killing rampage to get himself out of Vietnam. He liberates some MIAs and blows Podovsky to pieces. Arriving at the base with the escapees, Rambo shoots Murdock's control room. Finally, he corners Murdock and seems about to dispatch him with his knife but, instead, he tells the terrified Murdock to go back and free the rest of the men.

Trautman tells Rambo his achievement will mean a second Medal of Honour, but Rambo is unconcerned.

'I want what they want,' he explains tearfully, looking towards the MIAs, 'and every other guy who came over her and spilled his guts and gave everything he had, one for his country to love us as much as we love it.'

With those words, Rambo walks off into the desert alone, with no possession and no commitments.

Notes

- The sequel included Richard Crenna encoring his role of Trautman, Charles Napier as the American Colonel, and baddie, and Steven Berkoff as the sadistic Russian villain. It seemed that here American and Russia were equally untrustworthy in Rambo's eyes, America's treachery to its heroes being the more painful because its heroes believed that they were fighting for their country. Whereas **First Blood** had explored the extreme difficulties of Rambo being eligible for re-entry into society, the sequel assumes that so far as civilised society is concerned, Rambo will always be an outsider. It seems to be one of the indecencies of that society to make use of this particularly faithful citizen when dirty wok, and killing, is to be done. Society, and the government, have washed their hands of what they have turned into a mercenary.
- Speaking of **Rambo 2** at the time, Stallone states that 'if this is the sort of film they want see, well and good. American audiences have waited a long tom to display their patriotism.' It should also be noted that this was Stallone's biggest hit since the first Rocky, which was also released at a monumental time in American history, the Bicentennial celebrations in 1976.
- American audiences displayed their patriotism vociferously across the country. 37% of those who saw **Rambo 2** went back to see it a second time, and 22% of these returnees sat through it a third time.
- 'With Rambo,' said Marvin Antonowsky, who was responsible for marketing the movie, 'you're dealing with the emotional climate in this country. Audiences cheer when Stallone says that this time he hopes we'll win the Vietnam War. If the picture had come out two years ago, nothing like this would have happened.'
- The New Yorker thought it was 'narcissistic jingoism.'
- The right wing ideology is highly complex, but such complexities were largely lost on its audiences, exposed to a chain of violence that gather momentum as the film progressed.
- Rambo seems to cry at the death of Co, though the camera turns tactfully away, but his deep disturbance really only explodes at the close of the film, where he sobs out his last, extenuating, speech between clenched teeth. Rambo, moralises, here as he did in First Blood, sending the audience with something to think about.
- When Trautman furiously accuses Murdock of setting Rambo up, Murdock tells him the fact is that there are American soldiers in Vietnam who cannot be allowed to get out and arrests Trautman. Rambo shoots Murdock's control room. Finally, he corners Murdock and seems about to dispatch him with his knife but, instead, he tells the terrified Murdock to go back and free the rest of the men. Therefore, the official American military continues to be viewed with scepticism and plagued by lies and perpetual self-interest; Rambo and Trautman represent a minority in the American military who are concerned for truth and justice, regardless of political implications.
- Before Rambo leaves to walk into the American alone, he destroys the American hi-tech military hardware which was not used for his benefit.

RAMBO III



1988. Carolco (Mario Kassar/ Andrew Vanja). 102 minutes.

Director: Peter McDonald. Producer: Buzz Feitshans. Editors: James Symons, Andrew London, O. Nicholas Brown. Screenplay: Sylvester Stallone, Sheldon Lettich. Photography: John Stanier. Music: Jerry Goldsmith. Cast: Sylvester Stallone (Rambo), Richard Crenna (Trautman), Marc de Jonge (Zaysen), Kurtwood Smith (Griggs), Spicos Focas (Masoud), Sasson Gabai (Mousa), Doudi Shoua (Hamid), Randy Raney (Kourov), Marcus Gilbert (Tomask).

Synopsis

Though **Rambo III** begins with a shot of the American flag, Rambo has left America, though he had the choice to stay. Influenced by the Zen Buddhism of Co in **Rambo: First Blood Part 2**, and adorned by her Buddha necklace, Rambo can now be found in a Zen Buddhist monastery. His only recourse is to win stick fights, but this is only done to raise money which he gives to the monk. Rambo, the man-made military machine, has been searching for serenity and has found it in East, in the spirituality of Zen Buddhism. Trautman is again the kindly Devil who tempts Rambo out of this haven, prompted by a government that even if Rambo co-operates with them, they will be on his own, they will wash his hands of him should he be captured in action. Trautman tells him that over two million Afghans have been murdered by the Russians, who have employed chemical warfare. America has made inroads against these incursion, but has been unable to quell one pocket of Russian resistance, commandeered by the particularly brutal Zaysen (Marc de Jonge). Trautman intends to go in, and wants Rambo with him, but Rambo tells him his personal war is over, and he wants the peacefulness of his present life. However, when he hears that Trautman's mission has resulted in his capture, Rambo resolves to rescue him, with Trautman the first American captured in Afghanistan, and begins his journey. Trautman tells his torturer that America has already had its Vietnam, and that Russia is now having its own. He says to his berating Russian captors; 'Every day your war machine loses ground to a bunch of poorly armed and poorly equipped freedom fighters. The fact is you underestimated your enemy. If you'd checked your history, you'd know that these people here have never given up to anyone. They'd rather die.' He refuses to reveal where the missiles against Russia are situated.

After making his way through Pakistan to Afghanistan, Rambo sees an Afghanistan hospital, which toughens his resolve against the enemy. He is then taken to a mujahideen camp, where he meets a council elder who quite plainly labels the ongoing conflict a "holy war." An orphaned boy, Tomask, is fascinated by Rambo and longs to be his partner. Rambo, at once, wins the respect of the mujahideen by joining them at the violent horse polo game and then makes his way into the Russian fort where Trautman is imprisoned. The boy creeps into the fort behind him. Rambo discovers Trautman, but has to escape without him. Trautman tells Zaysen that Rambo will have no mercy on him. Rambo send the boy away, giving him the good luck Buddhist charm he wears around his neck, and gets back into the fort. He and Trautman make their escape by helicopter, then make their way to the border.

They have almost reached safety when they are confronted by the massed forces of the Russian contingent. Zaysen tells Rambo to give himself up but, against all odds, Rambo effectively declares war on the Russians and begins to eliminate them in an orgy of killing. The mujahideen arrive on horseback to help him. This conflagration ends in a head-on collision between Rambo's tank and Zaysen's helicopter, in which Zaysen is blown to pieces. In the afterglow of battle, Rambo had become the saviour of the Afghanistan people. Asked to stay with them by the boy orphan, Rambo goes into one of his longest brooding thoughts, but he says he has to leave. As he drives away with Trautman, they two admit that they may be getting a little soft. The film dedicated itself to 'the gallant people of Afghanistan.'

Notes

- The contemplative side of Rambo's character, lingered over in the early stages of the film and touched on at the close is here beautifully expressed against a background of everything that is mystical and elemental - at the moment of his decision to leave the monastery and go to war, he is fixing a wheel.
- Rambo III in its novelisation is based on Rambo's drift from Zen Buddhism to Islamic Sufism. Hence, the term 'holy war' and jihad resonates with Rambo's mentality; there is something worth dying for, and that is your beliefs. The notion of dying for your country is largely obsolete for Rambo.
- There is no breakdown at the end of this film, but rather light-heartedness; both admit they may be getting a little soft. Tomask can be attributed to the reason for this softness, as an innocent child.
- Once more, the US military officials state that they will deny any knowledge of this mission, with Rambo now used to the lies and deception of US covert operations.
- Tomask is fascinated by Rambo and longs to befriend him, and as an orphan, the clear implication is that the boy needs a father figure. There continues to be a male exclusivity in this film as in the first.
- The Afghan friend of Stallone states that one of the ancient enemies of the Afghans wrote a poem about them: "May God deliver us from the venom of the cobra, the teeth of the tiger and the vengeance of the Afghan." This correlates with Rambo III's tagline: 'God would have mercy - John Rambo won't!' The tribal elder, based on Ahmad Shah Masoud, states that this is a "holy war" and that "There is no true death for the mujahideen, because we have taken our last rites and consider ourselves dead already."
- In 1989, Stallone said, 'I'm proud of (Rambo III) more than the others, because it dealt with the truth of what's happening in Afghanistan. It was the most responsible film I've ever made.'

SAGA TIMELINE

Year	Rambo's Life	Tomask's Life
1947	Born in Bowie, Arizona, USA to German-Indian parentage	
1980	Vigilantism in Hope, USA (33). Convicted.	Born in Paghman, Afghanistan, during the Soviet Invasion
1984	Vietnam Second Mission (37)	Orphaned and brought up by mujahideen.
1987	Afghanistan (40)	Meets Rambo (9) in his Afghan mission.
1989	Marries Dr. Mishal and adopts Tomask from Afghanistan (42)	Tomask is adopted by Rambos in Pakistan. (11) Goes to live in USA.
1990	Gulf War and Rio Earth Summit, (43)	Tomask is in school, meets Natalia. (12)
1993	World Trade Centre Attack, New York (46)	15, Racist, thinks of spirituality continues with his reading about Afghanistan
1995	Tomask leaves for Afghanistan (48)	Tomask leaves for Afghanistan Relief. (18)
1998	Attacks in Africa and US Attacks on Afghanistan. (51)	3 years intensive jihad training in Afghanistan. (21)
2001	Kyoto, September 11 th (53)	(24) Fights in Afghanistan.
2002	Afghanistan (55)	(25) Afghanistan.
2003	Iraq (56)	(26) Pakistan, Malaysia.
2006	Attack on UN Assembly (59)	(29) Attack on UN Assembly.

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

CHARACTERS

JOHN J. RAMBO

Born in 1947 to German-Indian parentage in the small town of Bowie, Arizona, John Rambo is a middle-aged administration officer in the United Nations Environment programme, New York. A former US special services soldier, Rambo left active military service after the Vietnam war, and has been decorated with four Purple Hearts (a medal awarded for battle wounds), four bronze metals, two silver stars, a Distinguished Service Cross, and two Congressional Medal of Honours. He has been trained as a medic, helicopter pilot, special forces soldier, light weapons specialist, and a reconnaissance trooper. Following his return from the Vietnam war, Rambo was suffering from post-traumatic stress which led to an unfortunate vigilante attack on the small-town community of Hope, for which Rambo was subsequently imprisoned. In special arrangements with the US military, Rambo led a covert operation in Vietnam in 1984, rescuing many MIAs, earning himself a Presidential Pardon and his second Congressional Medal of Honour. In search of spiritual truth, Rambo left the USA and travelled to the Far East, living at a Zen Buddhist monastery in Thailand, and working to provide for that community. In 1987, Rambo was part of another US covert operation in Afghanistan, where he rescued the captured Colonel Trautman, his mentor, and worked with the Afghan mujahideen to break the last Soviet stronghold in occupied Afghanistan. In turn, he learned about the plight and gallantry of the Afghan people, invariably influenced by their Islamic Sufism. Following his return to the United States, Rambo began working for the United Nations Environment Programme, where he met his future wife, Dr. Mishal, a highly-educated and articulate Lebanese-American environmental law attorney. During the preparation of the Rio Summit in 1990, Rambo and Mishal fell in love and married. Unable to have children, Mishal and Rambo decided to adopt, and so in 1990, she and Rambo travelled to Pakistan, where in the Afghani UNICEF refugee camps of Peshawar, they adopted Tomask, the orphaned boy who had befriended Rambo during his covert mission in 1987. Through the years, the couple brought up Tomask with much love and affection in the USA, where he was very popular for his all-round academic ability and sporting prowess. Returning to the USA in 1990, Rambo and his wife worked intensely as part of the United Nations Environment Programme, and though Rambo was asked to help in the Gulf War, he declined, preferring to work for the environment. Since 1990, there has been no contact between the US military and Rambo. Increasingly, Rambo had become more and more concerned with the proliferation of war, debating about it, and believing in the true international community of mankind, believing that American perception of justice should not be based on self-interests, but genuine needs, such as fear of genocide. He additionally believes that more needs to be done to develop the world's starving population, refugees and victims of war, and has viewed the decline of the planet, from the Rio Summit to Kyoto, as being primarily the basis of the American government's unilateralism. He wants to change the deep inequities in his own country and those in the world. Rambo has maintained his proactive interest in spiritual truth, maintaining his developing his understanding of Islamic Sufism. He has missed his son, and fears what has become of his son. It has been ten years since they have seen each other. Rambo is more sedate, and pensive, and maintains his time, horse-riding and reading, enjoying the work's of Rumi.

This is a continuation of the character of John Rambo, as presented in the novelisation of the films by David Morrell. There are similarities with the character John Rambo and Inayat Khan of *Mission Kashmir*, as both play the central role in the film and are father figures. John McLane of the *Die Hard* Series, can be a valuable comparison because of the hijack situation, and the fact that his wife is in the UN Assembly/ Nakatomi Tower. However, the premise is different from the original *Die Hard*; Rambo would react very differently to a hijack situation than John McLane. Sylvester Stallone can perceive the character as shade of Deke DeSilva, the New York policeman he portrayed in the 1981 film, *Nighthawks*, who is seconded to Interpol in the hunt for a terrorist in New York.

TOMASK RAMBO

Tomask Rambo was born in 1979, in the Paghman Valley, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, in the wake of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan. His father was killed as a mujahideen leader in 1981, and his mother later died of a severe illness, leaving Tomask orphaned. In 1988, at the age of eight, Tomask met, and was deeply impressed with John Rambo, an American soldier, who epitomised the true Afghan spirit in character and actions, and as a father figure. Before Rambo left, he gave Tomask a jade necklace as a sign that there was a bond of father and son between them. During the Soviet withdrawal, Tomask was placed in an orphanage as part in the UNICEF Afghan refugee war-camps in Peshawar, north Pakistan. One day, and to his total surprise, John Rambo appeared with his wife, Mishal, at the camp, and told him that he was going to come and live in America with them, delighting Tomask. Arriving in New Jersey, Tomask worked hard at school, making friends with many people of his own age, and was influenced by his father's words of respecting the environment and the community. In the wake of anti-Islamic sentiment in the World Trade Centre 1993, Tomask found himself increasingly isolated, often called an outsider because of his Afghan heritage. He soon became more and more studious, learning about different religions, such as the Zen Buddhism, and Islamic Sufism. However, Tomask was becoming more and more politicised in his views, envisaging the harm that had come to Afghanistan; after all, it was a completely devastated country. He also met with people at his mosque, and soon became attracted to a political group, which was running unofficial programmes to send volunteers to Afghanistan to help in the war effort, as relief work. At 18, and with much trepidation, Rambo and his wife allowed their son to go, as he was going to return in three months. Soon, he was writing to stay it would be another three and then a year. Rambo and his wife sent letters and soon the letters stopped. Tomask had moved away from relief work, and had become involved in the war to rule Afghanistan, and was trained as one of the finest, fearless soldiers in the country, with extraordinary speed, strength and intelligence, and with a single-mindedness that meant he could succeed in very difficult missions; a veritable, one-man army. E-mails were sent under his name, but were largely in-between. Many times, Rambo thought of returning to Afghanistan to find his son, but Mishal stopped him, on account that he knew that his son would not be involved in the war he went through. However, in 1998, they soon realised that things were not right in Afghanistan, after the Tanzania bombings. It has been ten years since she has seen him.

Historically, there are similarities with the American Taliban, John Walker Lindh, being young, exuberant and studious and going off to fight for the Taliban. The character is similar to Altaf portrayed in *Mission Kashmir*, and in many ways, is the Rambo for the twenty-first century.

KAMAL ROSTUM

Considered the most ruthless man in Afghanistan in the 1980s, Kamal Rostum is the dreaded mercenary of Afghanistan, working with the Russians, or the Afghans, and switching sides purely on the basis of money. Of Persian-Afghan origin, he was born in Mazari Sherif, Afghanistan, and was raised by an uncle, the equally ruthless Rostum, to fight, without mercy. He has led a militia in Afghanistan during the 1980s, which were renowned for decapitating their victims and their fearless fighting made them despised and feared. They have fought the Northern Alliance and the Taliban; his group is created of renegades from all parts of the world. Additionally, this militia has been accused of mass rape and genocide. Kamal fled Afghanistan during the US attack in 2002, and went to Japan, where he is awaiting further orders from the terrorist networks. He is considered the new form of the Khawarij, an ancient Islamic sect which believed in the letter of enforcing Islamic law by any means, Islamic or otherwise, and are true Islamic extremists who were responsible for the death of the third Islamic caliph, Ali, the cousin of the Prophet Muhammad.

Historically, there are similarities with the Afghan Uzbek warlord, Rashid Dostum, and also the Arab-Afghan militia in Afghanistan, but taken to their extremes, mainly in the vein of the Khwarij. In the film genre, there are similarities with the warlord character, Hilal Kohistani, in *Mission Kashmir*, and with Simon Gruber in *Die Hard with a Vengeance*.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AMIT TALIAN

Amit Talian is a highly-educated administrator of Indian origin who has worked his way through the UN system, since its beginnings. Educated in India and the West, he was elected President of the UN in 2005, and is renowned for his articulation and stature as an international statesman, who has a high regard for human development, mutual understanding and detests war. He is a non-violent man and always has been.

Historically, there are similarities with Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General. In the film genre, the Secretary-General resembles US American President Jim Marshall played by Harrison Ford in *Air Force One*, and also the Japanese CEO Takagi (James Sigato) of the Nakatomi Corporation in *Die Hard*.

DR. MISHAL RAMBO

Dr. Mishal Rambo is a woman of Lebanese-Italian American origin, highly educated at many of America and Europe's top universities, and specialises in Environment Law. She is recognised as a renowned authority in her field, and has worked to introduce global environmental regulatory legislation. In 1989, she met and courted John Rambo, and they soon married, after which she went with her husband to Pakistan, and adopted the young orphaned boy whom Rambo had spoken of. They raised him in their happy home in New Jersey, and Mishal was extremely worried for her son's safety when she heard that her son had gone to Afghanistan. She has missed him terribly like any mother does of her child.

The intellectually-brilliant character is an eclectic mixture of the wife, Holly Gennaro McLane played by Bonnie Bedelia in *Die Hard* with *Mission Kashmir*, and the First Lady Grace Marshall (Wendy Crewson) in *Air Force One* and Dr. Kathryn Raily in *Twelve Monkeys*. Historically, we can compare her with the mother of John Walker Lindh.

NATALIA ANDALUCI

Natalia Andaluci is a vivacious, beautiful and intelligent girl of Italian-Spanish origin who became friends with Tomask when he arrived from Afghanistan, and they have shared a special friendship, with Tomask helping her out often. After his immersion in religion, she and he became less and less closer, as he was no longer interested in being friends with her. Under reference from Dr. Mishal, Natalia has also become highly educated, and has started working as an Italian interpreter in the United Nations. She has always cherished the memory of Tomask, and this has meant she has had difficulty having boyfriends since.

The character is based on Sufi Parvez from *Mission Kashmir*.

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

SYNOPSIS

New York, 2005. The effects of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq mean that the USA is increasingly despised around the world for its unilateralism, and the increased threat of Islamist terrorism with attacks in Bali and France shows no signs of abating. Vietnam Veteran John Rambo is working as an environmentalist at the United Nations beside his wife, Dr. Mishal. On the eve of the inauguration of the new United Nations Secretary-General, Rambo and his wife are informed that their Afghani-adopted son, Tomask, has not been working in relief in Afghanistan: he has been trained as one of the best jihad fighters in the country, and after inflicting numerous casualties, has fled to Malaysia. The CIA official informs them that they are planning a new attack on the United Nations, and they believe Tomask is involved.

As part of the Islamist terrorist networks, the dreaded Afghan mercenary, Kamal Rostum, is spearheading the jihad mission against the United Nations. Tomask is part of the mission, as are several mercenaries, drawn from every part of the global terrorist network. Their aim is destroy the seat of the United Nations, and begin World War Three. As they converge on New York, Rambo and his wife try to understand what their son has been doing, and where he is. Tomask's old-school friend, Natalia, helps them.

During a session of World Economic Forum at the UN Assembly, where the majority of the world's statesman and business people are congregating, the terrorist hijack takes place, and Dr. Mishal and Natalia are in the Assembly Hall at the time. Rambo manages to slip out, as the whole United Nations compound is surrounded by the US Army. Kamal lists his demands and his reasons for the mission to UN Secretary General Amit Talian, who conveys them to the US Army. Rambo starts to pick off the perimeter of the terrorist mission. When Tomask is sent to patrol the surrounding perimeter, he kills the special commando unit sent in, and sees his step-father, RAMBO....

1. THE UNITED NATIONS 2004

In the sunshine of Manhattan, New York, the United Nations compound in New York is a microcosm of the world, with its diverse population, speaking all the languages of the world, laughing and working together. In the UN Assembly, the inauguration of UN Secretary-General Amit Talian takes place, where he speaks of the role of the United Nations in his tenure in an articulate, somber voice, and is warmly applauded by those in attendance, including the heads of many states. One of those in attendance is Dr. Mishal, who finishes listening to the speech, and walks through the UN Assembly to take the lift to another floor. She enters an office in the hi-rise UN building and, at the window, a man is standing at the window, gazing over the magnificent New York skyline. She says his name, 'John', and he turns to him. She kisses him affectionately on the cheek: its Rambo. He says he has some bad news, and at that point a senior CIA official comes into the room.

2. Debriefing in Malaysia

At a debriefing of the Malaysian Intelligence Services, Kuala Lumpur, the room is attended by many Malaysians and a few officials of Western appearance, including the British and American. On the overhead projector, and displayed as a three-dimensional hologram is the face of Tomask Rambo, an American citizen who is said to have fled the Afghan war in 2001, and is said to be part of a sleeper cell, getting reading for another attack. The American, a CIA official, reads out the history of Tomask in a typically military debriefing, his history and rumours of his work in Afghanistan, ending on the fact that his father is John Rambo, a retired American special services soldier. 'Like father, like son?' is what someone asks. The CIA official states that its unlikely, but that Rambo was informed this morning of his son's whereabouts.

3. The Rambos Learn the Truth

The CIA official, Mathus, asks Rambo and his wife about their son, how long he's been missing, and they state how they adopted him, brought him up in America, and that he has been working in relief work in Pakistan for the last seven years, managing the UNICEF refugee camps. They have not heard from him from a while, but the work he has been doing is valuable and worthwhile. He has written letters, but only some of them have been delivered. Rambo is asked about his religion, his spiritual outlook as his wife. They state that Mishal is Muslim-Lebanese by descent, but not a strict devotee, and Rambo is interested in spiritual truth, which can be anything from Gnostic Christianity, to Zen Buddhism, to Islamic Sufism; however, his spiritual truth is closest to Islam. They describe the incident after the World Trade Center in 1993, when Tomask had been racially abused, and how he had read more about Afghanistan and the situation there and gone to work. Mathus informs them of how Tomask has become a person very much in the vein of his

father; a one-man army, who is said to have inflicted numerous and unreported American casualties during the War on Terrorism, before escaping from Pakistan. Rambo is shocked as is Dr. Mishal. Mathus states that they believe they he is part of a sleeper cell, in Malaysia, which is planning another attack on mainland America in the near future. They say the last correspondence they had from him was in Pakistan in 2002.

4. Afghanistan 2003 - TOMASK

A group of UN soldiers are working in the mountains of Afghanistan, fixing guns and working. Suddenly a blast erupts through the command. A man with a machine gun bursts upon them, shooting them instantly, kicking some and hurting others. There are about 20 men in the room, and in a burst of violence, kicking and shooting, all are dead. The man is dressed in black, and has a rippling, cut, physique. This is Tomask. He had not killed one man, and proceeds to go up to him, grabs him and asks 'who was responsible for the attack on the men of Khiladi?' He says he does not know. Tomask breaks his neck instantly and starts to look around the compound.

5. Debriefing Room, Malaysia - KAMAL

Returning to the briefing room, we are shown a hologram of Kamal, blurred and only one taken at a rally. He is described as being arguably the most ruthless man in Afghanistan. After leading his militia, he left for the Chinese city of Harbin, where he is said to be based at the moment. We have no idea where he is, but it is presumed he headed for the Far East.

6. Kamal and Courtesans in Harbin, China

In an underground chamber, two beautiful Oriental woman, geishas or courtesans, put on their clothes on and leave a room, and on the stairs pass an Oriental man bearing a message. He knocks on the door, and sitting in a chair is the finely-physique Kamal, draped in a white silk dressing gown, with his hair wet and flowing. He is given the message by the frightened messenger, opens it up and deciphers the code, a mixture of English, Arabic, Farsi, Russian and numbers. It reads 'End Hour, 4227.' Kamal smirks.

7. International Locations and People

Many men of all colours and nationalities across the world are given the same message. Tomask is in Malaysia, in a decrepit house in an abandoned house in rural area. He is surrounded by machinery and weights, and is working out and reading. There is a knock on the door. With vigilance, Tomask opens the door and looks at the same message.

8. Mishal and Rambo at Home

At their New Jersey, Rambo is riding his horse and petting it. He enters his suburban home, and starts the Islamic prayer. His wife is laying the food on the table. They start talking about Altaf and their son, and the Islamic religion and how it is opposed to the ideology, and how Rambo helped during September 11th. Tears well up in his eyes, and he describes how a young man went in and tried to save lives on that terrible day. They discuss the reasons why America is hated around the world, when once it was admired: how America has been directly and indirectly responsible for so many deaths since World War 2. Rambo explains that it has lost the notion of justice being blind to self-interest: true justice is justice against one's own self. Mishal asks where Tomask is and what happened to him, and why he would be hesitant to go to Afghanistan in all this time to visit their son. Rambo states that this was because he could see the fire in his son's eyes, this was a son who grew up in war, a victim of an elaborate games of world powers. Mishal shouts and says it is Rambo's fault; his past coming to haunt him. Only God knows where he is. At this juncture, Natalia turns up at the door, and they chat to her, and explain what has happened; Natalia speaks fondly of Tomask.

9. Board Meeting in Dubai

The terrorists of all nationalities are converging on Dubai, amidst its hi-rise sophisticated buildings, to discuss the mission. In an international hotel, they meet and discuss the mission behind close doors. Kamal is seen to be the head of the mission. There are fifty men in the room. He describes the mission as to attack and finally cripple world government in a straight-forward jihad mission; to attack the United Nations building and capture its inhabitants during the World Economic Forum. Indeed, most of corporate world will be attending as will most leaders of the world. Tomask is there, and remains relatively silent at the mission. Within two days, they will be in America.

10. New Mission in the UN

The terrorists arrive at New York airport, with some seeing each other, and not saying anything. Each goes off to their own place and begin the military preparation for the attack. Hi-tech weaponry, plans and anything of importance is set in preparation for the mission. On the day, the cell manage to invade the

Economic Forum, using the latest American technology of web-masks and identity scans. They capture all the people inside, and the army is brought outside. The US is placed on its highest security level, and all borders are closed.

11. Missing Detail: Rambo is there

In charge of the UN compound, the Army is brought in and are staying outside; there are far too many people and far too little chance of survival. After all, huge numbers of people are in the UN compound himself. However, they did not count on Rambo being in the building.

12. Kamal lectures Talian - Hostage situation

Kamal begins a diatribe lecturing to the UN President Talian, who tries to keep the people in the room calm and tranquil. The dialectic between the west and the Islamic world is aired here, though in its primary stages; there is genuinely something introspective about the film. The extremist Islamic ideology is expounded. Anti-American rhetoric is expounded, some of it true, others aspects exaggerated. When an African Muslim tells them what he is doing is wrong, he is brought forward and shot in front of everyone. The room is shocked. Kamal tells his demands to the Army outside and then to the people in the room. Whilst doing so, the majority of negotiations are going on. The terrorists ask for a transfer of funds across the US, demanded the release of all prisoners of political conscience, in prisons across the world, but primarily the transfer of fund to over 1,000,000 accounts around the world, totalling 86 billion dollars. If this is not met, then everyone in the UN hall will be killed. Additionally, if any attempt is made to attack the people in the hall, and if the message if not heeded, than all bombs in the building itself will go off, as will the release of biological weapons spread throughout the USA. Rambo has escaped and is hiding. Mishal and Natalia stay together and are the hostages: they are wondering if Tomask is here. . Rambo neither listens to the terrorists nor to the Army outside; he slowly picks them off, one by one, enraging Kamal, and keeping his identity hidden.

13. Tomask fights the task force in the UN building

Tomask patrols the building, and fights an elite group of US commandos who tried to penetrate the building. The fight scenes are truly awesome, with Tomask displaying near-superhuman strength and speed. After he has disposed of the specialist unit, Tomask suddenly sees Rambo, who tries to convince him they are wrong, that this is not the Islamic way; they argue and he goes back to him, and says nothing. He says that Natalia and his mother are inside the building as hostages, and he must save them. Tomask is concerned, but tells his father to leave, as if he did not see him.

14. Tomask Vs Kamal

As Rambo continues to pick off the terrorists, Tomask is having crises of conscience in the UN Assembly building. He sees his mother, and with tears in his eyes, he asks her if everything is okay. Dr. Mishal nearly cries, but holds back the tears. He asks Natalia how she is, and she says fine. He is quickly told to come back and sort the guards out. Kamal begins to become mad is the release of hostages and money encrypted transfers to bank accounts /around the world. If this is not completed in the next five hours, chemical and biological weapons will be released throughout the world by cells around the world. Turns out that Kamal is a renegade from the Taliban, and was kicked out by them for his particularly vicious style of mercenary terrorism. As Rambo picks terrorists off in the building, using innovative methods, Kamal becomes more and more enraged, and Tomask begins to realise that his father, Rambo, will be killed. The UN Security General, Talian, tries to negotiate with the Kamal, and is struck down. Talian tries to keep people and his employees under calm.

15. Rambo taken Hostage

When Kamal decides to send the order to kill Rambo, Tomask breaks rank, and the two begin to fight inside the UN Assembly, with pandemonium spreading throughout the hall. Tomask is hit bloodily, and becomes unconscious. Dr. Mishal and Natalia try and help, screaming for them to stop, at which Kamal asks why? Mishal says she is his mother. Kamal laughs. The money has been transferred, and a bomb is left secured inside the building in the Assembly, armed to detonate unless the armed terrorists are given secure refuge to a foreign land. As Kamal and his thirty men leave, Rambo realises that the aim is to detonate the UN anyway, once the plane has landed. Kamal realises that Tomask is Rambo's son, and threatens to kill him if Rambo does not give himself up. Rambo gives himself up, and he is taken as the hostage with a number of people, including the UN President Talian, Dr. Mishal and Natalia. Kamal says that when they reach their destination, Rambo will be tortured, in front of his family, until he wishes he was dead.

16. Rambo Vs Kamal Vs Tomask

The hostages are taken to Ellis Island by hovercraft where a plane awaits them to take them to Algeria, over the Atlantic. At Ellis Island, Rambo manages to break his hand, so that he is freed from his handcuffs, and begins to fight with Kamal. Kamal pounds Rambo with sheer brutality, inflicting severe and visible wounds on Rambo, leaving his ribs cracked. Tomask appears with a genuine ferocity and fights Kamal, thrashing him with speed and strength to near-death, but stopping at the behest of his mother and Natalia; the family is reunited, against the backdrop of New York.

17. UN Ceremony, Tomask rehabilitated.

Rambo is rewarded for his work at the UN by Amit Talian, where he emphasises the need for a more unified and just world order, where faith between nations is respected, and where international development is a genuine priority, not a policy appeaser. We see his Tomask, Mishal and Natalia smiling as he speaks.

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

CAST, CREW AND PRODUCTION

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

2004. Miramax. 150 minutes.

A-List Director: David Fincher, John McTiernan, Shekhar Khapur, Night Shyamalan, Ridley Scott, Tony Scott, John Woo, Michael Bay, Ang Lee,.

Screenplay: Alpha1Media, Sylvester Stallone, David Morrell

Novelisation: David Morrell

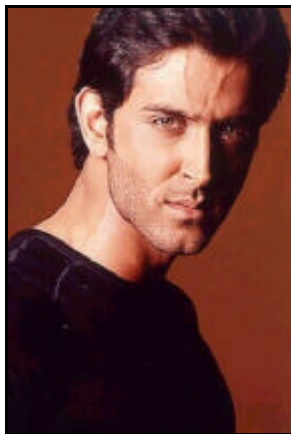
Comic Adaptation: Marvel Comics

Music: Jerry Goldsmith

Cast: Sylvester Stallone (John J. Rambo), Hrithik Roshan (Tomask Rambo), Oded Fehr (Kamal Rostum), Amitabh Bachchan (UN Secretary-General Amit Talian), Madeleine Stowe (Dr. Mishal Rambo), Natalia Cigliuti (Natalia Andaluci)



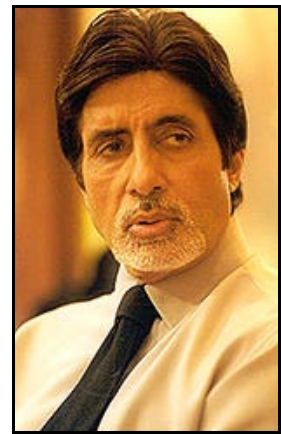
Sylvester Stallone
JOHN RAMBO



Hrithik Roshan
TOMASK RAMBO



Oded Fehr
KAMAL ROSTUM



Amitabh Bachchan
AMIT TALIAN



Madeleine Stowe
DR. MISHAL RAMBO



Natalia Cigliuti
NATALIA ANDALUCI

JOHN J. RAMBO

Sylvester Stallone

**Date of birth:**

6 July 1946

Place of Birth:

New York, NY, USA

Relevant Films:

- ***Afghanistan: Land in Crisis***, 2002 (TV) - Himself
- ***America: A Tribute to Heroes***, 2001 (TV) - Himself
- ***Rambo III***, 1985 - John. J. Rambo, writer
- ***Rambo: First Blood Part II***, 1985 - John. J. Rambo, writer
- ***First Blood***, 1982 - John. J. Rambo, writer
- ***Nighthawks***, 1981 - Detective Sergeant Deke DeSilva

Recent Awards:

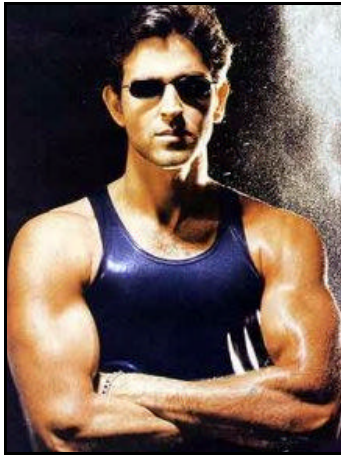
- Lifetime Achievement Award by the USA Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Films
- Winner of the People's Choice Award for Favorite Motion Picture Actor

SYLVESTER STALLONE has established worldwide recognition as an actor, writer, producer and director since he played the title role in his own screenplay of *Rocky* which won the Academy Award in 1976 for Best Picture. Two of the characters he has portrayed on the screen are part of movie history and popular culture: *Rocky*, the one in a million southpaw boxer who spawned four sequels and a billion-dollar franchise; and *Rambo*, the Vietnam Veteran, who brought war back to America, and then took it to the rest of the unjust world. The highest-paid actor in the world in the 1980s and 1990s, and one of its most famous, Stallone's credits as an actor/writer/director are *Rocky II* and *Paradise Alley*. As actor and co-writer, Stallone filmed *F.I.S.T.*, *First Blood*, *Rambo: First Blood, Part II*, *Rhinestone* and *Rambo III*. He co-wrote, directed and produced *Staying Alive* and starred in *Nighthawks*, *Victory*, *Tango & Cash* and *Lock Up*. *Rocky V*, starring and written by Stallone and directed by John Avildsen, opened in 1990. Of late, Stallone undertook the challenging and compelling role of Freddy Heflin in the Miramax feature film *Copland*, which has garnered him international critical and audience acclaim. Winner of the People's Choice Award for Favorite Motion Picture Actor, Stallone was recently given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the USA Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Films.

Sylvester Stallone has portrayed *Rambo* in the *Rambo* trilogy since its inception, and is the primary cause for the reason becoming an icon. Additionally, he has contributed to the evolution of the character since writing the screenplay for *First Blood* and, therefore, it is highly beneficial that he continues this contribution in the fourth film.

TOMASK RAMBO

Hrithik Roshan

**Date of birth:**

10 January 1974

Place of birth:

Mumbai, India

Relevant Films:

- ***Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham*** ('Sometimes Joy, Sometimes Sorrow'), 2001 - Rohan
- ***Mission Kashmir***, 2000- Altaaf
- ***Fiza***, 2000 - Amaan
- ***Kaho Na Pyar Hai***, 2000 - Rohit & Raj

Recent Awards:

- Numerous Best Actor awards for *Kaho Na Pyar Hai*

Hrithik Roshan is considered India's young superstar for the twenty-first century. His first film in 2000, *Kaho Na Pyar Hai* (*Say that its Love*) won the most number of awards for a film in a single year, including numerous Best Actor nominations for its lead. In particular, his excellent acting ability, with his intense performances, and his lean, feline physique made the fights scenes in essentially a love story, a phenomenal commercial hit. Following the success of this film, Hrithik portrayed Amaan in the film, *Fiza*, which dealt with the alienation of the Muslim minority-youth in modern India. Amaan is a young Muslim boy in modern India, who leaves his family to perform jihad, after becoming a victim of the civil riots in India. The film was critically acclaimed, especially for the focused and studied performance of the impressive Hrithik. Many remarked that the young and muscular actor resembled Sylvester Stallone, with the actor himself admitting to the Hollywood star being one of his childhood heroes. In *Mission Kashmir*, Hrithik portrays Atlaaf, a Muslim boy in Kashmir who wages war against the Indian authorities, but primarily in vengeance against his step-father. Both films have portrayed sensitive and accurate representations of the Islamic jihad movement, and Hrithik Roshan has portrayed the variant aspects of such characters to much critical acclaim.

In conviction, Hrithik is the only person who can play Tomask convincingly. He resembles Sylvester Stallone as Rambo in *Fiza* and *Mission Kashmir*, is fluent in English, Urdu and Hindi and is of North Indian origin, so is physically similar to Afghans. Moreover, following the phenomenal success of the Indian Summer, 2002, in the UK, and the publication of the book, *Bollywood Boy* which is about Hrithik, the crossover from Bollywood to Hollywood should begin with Rambo: Holy War.

KAMAL ROSTUM

Oded Fehr



Date of birth:
23 November 1970

Place of birth:
Tel Aviv, Israel

Relevant Films:

- ***Presidio Med***, 2002 (TV) - Dr. Nicholas Kokoris
- ***The Mummy Returns***, 2001 - Ardeth Bay
- ***Arabian Nights***, 2000 - (TV) Robber #2
- ***Cleopatra***, 1999 (TV) - Egyptian Captain
- ***The Mummy***, 1999 - Ardeth Bay

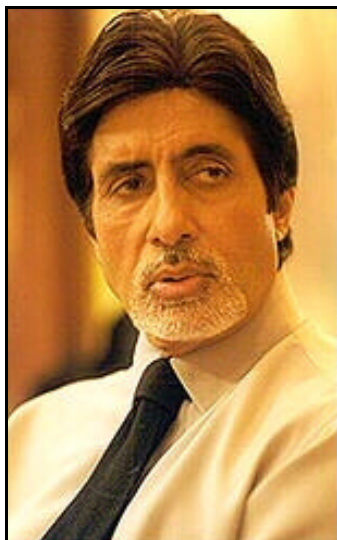
After his stunning performances as Ardeth Bay, the Persian Magi in *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*, Oded Fehr is set to be a new action hero in Hollywood, and one of the rare actors to be of Middle Eastern descent.

Oded Fehr was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, to European parents and was educated there until the age of 18 when he joined the Israel Navy for 3 years. After making his mind to become an actor, Fehr went to London, and was accepted into the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Britain's oldest working theatre. Six months after his graduation, he was cast as Ardeth Bay, the Persian Magi leader, in *The Mummy*. The producers were so impressed with his emoting that the script was altered to allow his character to survive for the sequel, *The Mummy Returns*. Other offers quickly poured in and, in an attempt to avoid typecasting, Fehr undertook the comic role of a slick European lover-for-hire in the Rob Schneider vehicle *Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo* (1999). Although he cast as an Egyptian Captain in the 1999 ABC miniseries *Cleopatra* and one of the thieves in the Aly Baba story in that network's 2000 miniseries *Arabian Nights*, Fehr continued to confound expectations in his choice of film roles essaying a French Canadian thief pursued by the titular *Texas Rangers* (2001). The relishing role of Kamal will ensure Fehr Oded to A-list roles his talents deserve.

His breakthrough performance as the brave and noble Ardeth Bay has earned him popular and critical acclaim. Demonstrating that he is equally adept at action sequences as well as dramatic acting, Oded Fehr will be the best actor to portray Kamal in *Rambo: Holy War*. Moreover, the need to make Kamal handsomely and seductively devilish, able to charismatically attract new recruits to his movement, means that the film will earn itself something of Faustian feel.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AMIT TALIAN

Amitabh Bachchan



Date of birth:
11 October 1942

Place of birth:
Allahabad, India

Relevant Films:

- **Kaante** ('Thorns'), 2002 - Major
- **Aankhen** ('Eyes'), 2002 - Vijay Singh Rajput
- **Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham**, 2001 - Yashovardhan Raichand
- **Ek Rishta** ('One Bond'), 2001 - Vijay Kapoor
- **Mohabbetein**, ('Love Stories'), 2000 - Narayan Shankar
- **Major Sahab** ('The Major'), 1998 - Jasbir Singh Rana
- **Khuda Gawah** ('God is My Witness'), 1992 - Badshah Khan

Recent Awards:

- Filmfare Star of the Millennium, 2000
- BBC Superstar of the Millennium, 2001

Amitabh Bachchan is considered the superstar of Indian cinema, a veritable one-man industry for almost four decades. He first became known as the angry young man of Indian cinema after his 1973 film *Zanjeer*, which made him a superstar, and cemented his reputation as an action hero from the 1970s to the 1990s. Altogether his career, which began in 1969, has spanned more than 100 films, most of them commercially and artistically successful. Bachchan took a break from Hindi Cinema after *Khuda Gawah* (1992), in which he portrayed an Afghan chieftain and was subsequently elected to parliament in India with a huge majority from his home city of Allahabad. However, his stint in politics did not last long, due to his disillusionment with the political bureaucracy and corruption, and resigned his seat in parliament and returning to cinema in 1998. Following the global recognition he received after being voted BBC Superstar of the Millennium in 1999, he was selected as the first film personality from India to be immortalized at Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum in London. Today, he is Indian television's biggest draw as he hosts the popular game show *Kaun Banega Karodpati?* (Who wants to be a Millionaire?) and also is the highest-paid actor in Indian Cinema. On January 26, 2001 he was awarded the *Padma Bhushan* for his contribution to Indian Cinema.

With a genuine gravitas as an actor with an impressive baritone voice, and as an experienced politician, Amitabh Bachchan is the only actor able to fulfill the demands of the role of the UN Secretary-General Amit Talian.

DR. MISHAL RAMBO

Madeleine Stowe



Born to British and Costa Rican parentage in America, Madeleine Stowe is an award-winning actress who has gone from strength to strength through her career. Her first leading lady role was in *Stakeout* opposite Richard Dreyfuss but it was her vivacious performance as the British frontier-woman, Cora, in the exhilarating *The Last of the Mohicans* which brought her a legion of fans the world over. Robert Altman tapped the actress to play Tim Robbins' long-suffering wife and elicited one of her best and most complex screen portraits in *Short Cuts*. However, she graduated to full-fledged status as leading lady with the otherwise routine thriller *Blink* (1994), cast as a blind woman who witnesses a murder and falls for the cop on the case, played by Aidan Quinn. After several years off screen to concentrate on motherhood, Stowe returned to the screen as Angelo's daughter in *Avenging Angelo*, in another thrilling performance partnered with Sylvester Stallone.

Date of birth:
18 August 1958

Place of birth:
Los Angeles, USA

Relevant Films:

- ***Octane***, 2003 - Senga Wilson
- ***Avenging Angelo***, 2002 - Jennifer Barrett
- ***We Were Soldiers***, 2002 - Julie Moore
- ***Imposter***, 2002 - Maya Olham
- ***The General's Daughter***, 1999 - Warr. Off. Sara Sunhill
- ***The Proposition***, 1998 - Eleanor Barret
- ***Twelve Monkeys***, 1995 - Dr. Kathryn Raily

Recent Awards:

- National Society of Film Critics: Best Supporting Actress, *Short Cuts*
- 1993: Golden Globe: Special Achievement, *Short Cuts*; shared award with cast

Due to her education, acting career, intelligence, and heritage, Madeleine would be the perfect choice for Dr. Mishal. It would be similar to the role Stowe portrayed to fine effect as a psychiatrist in *Twelve Monkeys* and would enhance the on-screen chemistry between Stallone and Stowe. Additionally, the acting scenes between Madeleine and Natalia will provide an excellent contrast, and provide a much-needed feminine perspective to the Rambo films.

NATALIA ANDALUCI

Natalia Cigliuti



Date of birth:
6 September 1978

Place of birth:
New York, USA

Relevant Films:

- **St. Sass**, 2002, (TV Series)
- Evan
- **Reality Check**, 2002 -
Serendipity
- **The Random Years**,
2002 (TV Series) Casey
- **Romantic Comedy 101**
(2001) - Jennifer
- **Joe Dirt**, 2001 - Sorority
Girl
- **Hollywood Horror**, 2000 -
Kathy
- **Held Up**, 2000
- **Simon Sez**, 1999

A young, beautiful and charismatic actress, Natalia Cigliuti has worked in the American television industry for much of her youth, but her film career is awaiting an imminent breakthrough. Television beckoned in 1993 with the role of Lindsay Warner in the high-school comedy series, *Saved by the Bell: The New Class* for four seasons, followed by roles in Aaron Spelling's *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Pacific Palisades*. Though her big-screen appearances such as *Held Up* and *Simon Sez* have not gained her the roles she deserves, Natalia is unfazed by the industry's lack of seeing her potential: "I don't even own a copy of *Simon Sez*... I recently moved to Rhode Island, where I can ride my horse every day. That's my reality. Nothing else really matters."

The role for Natalia is tailor-made to demonstrate her acting abilities in a sensitive and challenging role. By pairing her with Madeleine Stowe, it is the mentoring off-screen which will be reflected on-screen, as will the mother-daughter-in-law relationship the two will share. With experience in action films and a true passion for horse-riding, Natalia is equipped to handle the action sequences in the film, and it is expected that *Rambo: Holy War* will prove to be the breakthrough film for Natalia in her film career.

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

DAVID MORRELL: RAMBO'S CREATOR

Rambo is the fictional creation of David Morrell, an award-winning Canadian author with eighteen million copies in print, with his works translated into twenty-two languages. That "father" of all modern action novels was published in 1972 while Morrell was a professor in the English department at the University of Iowa. He taught there from 1970 to 1986, simultaneously writing other novels, many of them national bestsellers, such as *The Brotherhood of the Rose*. Eventually wearying of two professions, he gave up his tenure in order to write full time. Shortly afterward, his fifteen-year-old son Matthew was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and died in 1987, a loss that haunts not only Morrell's life but his work, as in his memoir about Matthew, *Fireflies*, and his novel *Desperate Measures*, whose main character has lost a son. His most recent books are the dark-suspense novel *Long Lost* and *Lessons from a Lifetime of Writing*, an analysis of what he has learned during his more-than-thirty years as a writer. Noted for his research, Morrell is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School for wilderness survival as well as the G. Gordon Liddy Academy of Corporate Security. Additionally, he is an honorary lifetime member of the Special Operations Association and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. He has been trained in firearms, hostage negotiation, assuming identities, executive protection, and anti-terrorist driving, among numerous other action skills that he describes in his novels. Pertaining to the Rambo Sage, he has written three novelisations for it and it is highly recommended that he works on the fourth film. Here are some of the most important points to note from Morrell's contribution and vision of the character:

- Rambo is the creation of a Canadian, not American, author. Hence, the view is one of an outsider on America as the dominant superpower;
- David Morrell describes *First Blood*, as a novel about a returned Vietnam veteran suffering from post-trauma stress disorder who comes into conflict with a small-town police chief and fights his own version of the Vietnam War: **I decided to write a novel about a returning Vietnam veteran who brings the war to the United States.**
- Rambo was suffering from post-traumatic stress; he was not a hero by definition, and not some who was to be emulated.
- The novelisations should continue with the spiritual development of Rambo from Zen Buddhist to Islamic Sufi: the Vietnam Veteran turned Muslim.

First Blood (1972)

My first novel. Hard to believe it's been in print so long. "His name was Rambo, and he was just some nothing kid for all anybody knew." In this father of modern action novels and movies, a small version of the Vietnam War breaks out in backwoods America. The ending is surprisingly different from that of the movie. The novel also has more action and explores Rambo's police-chief antagonist (a hero from the Korean War) to the point that many book reviewers thought the police chief was the main character. In the Warner and Headline (British) editions, there's an introduction explaining how the book came to be written.

Rambo (First Blood Part II) (1985)

While the second Rambo film was being shot, the producers asked me to write what's called a novelization, i.e. a book version of the screenplay. Since I had nothing to do with the screenplay (Rambo returns to Vietnam to rescue POWs), I wasn't much interested in this derivative kind of fiction. Two things changed my mind. One, the screenplay was so skimpy that I thought I might be able to add something. Two, I began to think of a novelization as a chance to experiment with a new form. If you've ever seen a screenplay, you might understand. It's just dialogue and a few stage directions. I added a lot of new things to the story. Fans of James Cameron should pay attention to the book's first scene, which I amplified from an unused script he wrote for the film.

Rambo III (1988)

Again, I did a novelization for a Rambo movie that someone else wrote, and again I added a lot to the story, which is as follows: During the Afghan-Soviet war, Rambo's former commander and surrogate father, Col. Trautman, is captured by the Soviets. Rambo goes to rescue him. The first scripts I saw were excellent, particular the character of a fortyish female French physician who takes care of Afghan children injured during the war. The story had an epical RAMBO OF ARABIA feel. But for budgetary and other reasons, the scripts got simpler until the released film felt like a cartoon. One of the subtexts I added was that the Soviet War with Afghanistan was a version of America's involvement in Vietnam, with similar fracturing effects to each country's veterans and culture.

How did you get the idea for First Blood?

In 1966, I was a Canadian who came to the United States to study American literature at Penn State. Vietnam was hardly mentioned in the news in Canada, so I had no idea what the war was about when my fellow graduate students became obsessed about it, partly because of fears that they'd be drafted. Penn State's English department required its graduate students to teach rhetoric, and in several of my classes, I encountered young men recently returned from the war who had a lot of trouble accepting me as an authority figure. We got to talking. I learned about their difficulties in adjusting to civilian life: nightmares, lack of sleep, depression, defensive reactions to loud noises, what we now call post-trauma stress disorder. By 1968, Vietnam was regularly mentioned on the TV network news, often with graphic images. Meanwhile, Civil Rights riots had begun and were destroying several of America's inner cities. These riots were in part related to the war inasmuch as impoverished Blacks had a lot more risk of being drafted than rich Whites did. I got to thinking that the images of the war weren't much different from the images of the riots. Eventually I decided to write a novel about a returning Vietnam veteran who brings the war to the United States. That's a short answer. A longer one can be found in my introduction to the Warner paperback of *First Blood*. I also mention *First Blood* at length in *Lessons from a Lifetime of Writing*. I did an audio commentary for the DVD of the movie and wrote liner notes for the Rambo Trilogy boxed set.

Your most famous character is Rambo, the Vietnam vet who was introduced in *First Blood*. I realize that the first film changed quite a few things from the book, but how happy, in general, were you with the first film in the series?

Stephen King once told me that in the movie *First Blood* I had been treated about as well as Hollywood could treat a novelist inasmuch as the plot was recognizable. The only major plot change is that Rambo dies at the end of the novel and lives at the end of the movie (although a death scene was in fact filmed but not used). The interpretation of that plot is another matter. In my novel, Rambo is furious about what he's been through in Vietnam. He's confused and tormented and in many ways causes the small war that he fights. In the movie, though, he's a victim, a reluctant warrior. The film is softer than the book and has less characterization, particularly with regard to the policeman who in the novel has numerous dimensions. For one thing, he's old enough to be Rambo's father and is a war hero from Korea, elements that add strong contrast in the story.

Sylvester Stallone has recently said that there well may be a fourth Rambo movie. If so, would you be willing to write the novelisation of the film? I understand you still own the print rights?

Yes, there's a rumor going around that Sylvester might do another Rambo movie. I think it's just that -- a rumor. As near as I can tell, it started after Sept. 11 when people remembered that in the third Rambo movie the character went to Afghanistan. People began wondering how Rambo would deal with terrorists. All of a sudden, the idea appeared in print as if it were fact, not rumor. I spoke to Sylvester in March of 2001, and at that time he had no intention of returning to the character. If a fourth movie does get filmed, I'd have to consider the script before I decided if I'd do another novelisation (a prose embellishment of a screenplay). For the other novelisations, I was motivated to add some elements to the stories so they wouldn't be merely "Rambo shoots this guy" and "Rambo shoots that guy." (I had nothing to do with those screenplays.) Also I was experimenting with a type of fiction that I'd never tried. Now I've been there and done that. Whether I'd do it again, I'd have to think long and hard about. **One thing we know is that I retain print control of the character and no one else can write fiction or novelisations about him.**

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Latest Developments Include:

David Morrell, Author of 'First Blood'

Alpha1Media been in contact with David Morrell, the author of 'First Blood' who still retains novelisation rights for the character. All parties should look to retain David Morrell as a consultant on the film project.

C-2 Pictures: The Duo behind the Rambo Saga

The formation of C-2 Pictures with Mario Kassar and Andrew Vajna at the helm is a tremendous asset to the new Rambo film. The indefatigable duo who brought the Rambo saga to the screen, one should see the process of acquiring rights to and producing *Terminator 3* as a template for the fourth Rambo project. The total costs for acquiring the rights to the Terminator films was \$15 million, whereas the rights for Rambo only sold for \$500,000 at auction. Miramax has possessed the rights to the Rambo films for six years, with the last Rambo made fifteen years ago. Possible resolutions include a strategic alliance between C-2 Pictures and Miramax, Miramax solely producing or Miramax selling the rights for Rambo to C-2 Pictures for an equitable price.

Sylvester Stallone's Middle East Venture

August 2003 saw Sylvester Stallone as the executive producer of *Triple I* - International Investigators Incorporated, an action and adventure television series set in the Middle East, marking Hollywood's first alliance with the Middle Eastern film market. The joint project between Elie Samaha's Franchise Films and ICM (International Creative Management), both US-based, and local producer Egyptian Action Film, is hoping to attract audiences worldwide.

In an interview with Arab Radio and Television, Sylvester Stallone said *Triple I* would be a Middle Eastern action adventure, but with a 'serious' message underneath. 'It's going to be a suspense series, there will be crime shows, and recovery of lost artifacts, kidnaps and retrieval, action and adventures where good triumphs over evil,' Stallone said, suggesting it would bridge the gap between Americans and Arabs, and between Islam and other cultures, that has widened since 9/11:

'I think people are scared of what they don't know,' Stallone said, so the more you expose the different cultures to one another, you are going to see that they love their families, they go to work, they do the same things as us and right away you start to listen, and I think that's very important'

Stallone's Interest in Rambo IV

July 2003 saw Sylvester Stallone wishing to reprise his role as Rambo: "There is a lot of talk about *Rambo IV*. If the story is right, then yeah I would do it, but firing a M-60 and wearing a red bandanna around my head is not the Rambo I want to play in 2003. It would have to be like *First Blood*."

Abu Dujana: An Ancient Rambo?

Regarding the iconic red bandanna of Rambo, its lineage may not only be Red Indian, but also Middle Eastern. In seventh-century Arabia, there was a remarkable soldier in the army of Prophet Muhammad called Abu Dujana, a man of courage who used to swagger in war. He was famous for donning his red headband before going into battle. On one auspicious occasion in 625, Abu Dujana was given Prophet Muhammad's sword before a famous battle, after which he banded his head and started strutting amongst the fighters. Watching him do that, Prophet Muhammad said: 'This is a sort of walking that God detests, except in such a situation.'

RAMBO: HOLY WAR

CHRONOLOGY OF THE RAMBO SAGA

October 2003	Alpha1Media contacts the main players in the Rambo film project, sending an updated film treatment for <i>Rambo: Holy War</i> .
August 2003	Sylvester Stallone's demonstrates his interest in a fourth Rambo film: 'There is a lot of talk about <i>Rambo IV</i> . If the story is right, then yeah - I would do it, but firing a M-60 and wearing a red bandanna around my head is not the Rambo I want to play in 2003. It would have to be like <i>First Blood</i> .'
July 2003	Sylvester Stallone is the executive producer of <i>International Investigators Incorporated (Triple I)</i> , an action adventure TV show to be filmed on location in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, a first in Hollywood history. According to Stallone, the film will also help to bridge the cultural gulf between the USA and the Middle East.
July 2003	C-2 Picture's debut film, <i>Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines</i> , opens, with its estimated cost at \$175 million.
June 2003	Alpha1Media contacts David Morrell, who thanks them for expressing interest in the Rambo film series, and wishes them the best for the project proposal.
May 2003	Peter Bart from <i>Variety</i> asked Andrew Vajna of G-2 Pictures about another Rambo film at Cannes: 'We spoke to Sly about it many times, but we don't own that franchise anymore. Miramax does.' Vajna continues 'Maybe (Miramax) will just give it to us!'
May 2003	Alpha1Media discusses <i>Rambo: Holy War</i> with Patrick Walsh of Conville & Walsh Literary Agency, United Kingdom.
March-May 2003	American-led war in Iraq as part of 'The War on Terror'
February 2003	Press Coverage states there are preliminary discussions between C-2 Pictures and Miramax to pull the fourth Rambo out of development hell.
February 2003	Press Coverage states that French film director Luc Besson (<i>The Fifth Element</i>) mentions that he was in talks with Dimension Films to direct the next Rambo movie.
Jan-February 2003	Alpha1Media writes a complete treatment for <i>Rambo: Holy War</i> .
January 2003	<i>The Sun</i> , a British newspaper, contains an entertainment story about a supposed script that has been written for <i>Rambo IV</i> that would feature Stallone's character fighting in Afghanistan during the U.S. attack against the Taliban regime. No mention of such a script is reported in the trades, but the story received wider and negative publicity.
January 2003	Richard Crenna, the veteran actor who portrayed Colonel Trautman in the Rambo saga, passes away.
February 2002	Miramax Co-Chairman, Bob Weinstein, confirms that a script for <i>Rambo IV</i> has been given the green light.
December 2001	American-led war in Afghanistan as part of the 'The War on Terror.' <i>Rambo III</i> is revisited because of its setting in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.
November 2001	The British newspaper, <i>The Sunday Times</i> , states that Sylvester Stallone is busy writing a script for the fourth installment in the Rambo series titled "Former Green Beret John Rambo parachutes into Afghanistan to battle leaders of the Taliban".

September 11, 2001	Islamist terrorists fly planes into the key financial and political buildings of the United States of America. In the aftermath, <i>Rambo III</i> is written about due to its setting in Afghanistan helping the <i>Mujahideen</i> .
March 2001	Press Coverage about the fourth Rambo project undergoing a re-write and being focused with an anti-drugs message, with Stallone requesting Miramax to sign up for the film before 2004.
July 2001	Alpha1Media writes an initial script idea for fourth Rambo film.
September 2000	Jackie Chan speaks about a fourth Rambo film being in the script stage and about his reservations in portraying a drug-dealer character specifically written for him in the film.
April 1999	Press coverage about a fourth Rambo script based on former comrade, Thomas Flannery, is flouted.
1998	Mario Kassar re-teams with his former partner Andrew Vajna in 1998 to form C2 Pictures, aimed at developing and producing the event-oriented motion pictures.
June 1998	Dimension Films is reported to have signed J.D. Zeik, scriptwriter for <i>Ronin</i> , to write a script for the new Rambo film. David Morrell has been retained as a consultant for the project.
November 1997	Press coverage states that Scott Rosenberg, writer of <i>Con-Air</i> and <i>Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead</i> , is rumoured to be involved in the fourth Rambo project.
May 1997	Dimension Films purchases the prequel and sequel rights for the Rambo franchise at the Carolco Pictures bankruptcy sale for \$500,000.
October 1997	Andrew Vajna acquires 50% of the rights to <i>The Terminator</i> franchise at the Carolco Pictures bankruptcy auction for \$8 million.
1995	Mario Kassar enters into negotiations to sell Carolco Pictures with Fox emerging as the most interested party.
November 1995	Carolco Pictures files for bankruptcy protection.
December 1989	Andrew Vajna departs from Carolco Pictures, selling his interests in the company to Kassar, who becomes sole chair.
June 1988	<i>Rambo III</i> is released, set in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.
May 1985	<i>Rambo: First Blood Part II</i> debuts, and earns \$32 million after three days release, and \$300 million worldwide.
September 1981	<i>Rambo: First Blood Part II</i> starts shooting in Mexico.
October 1982	<i>First Blood</i> opens and grosses \$20 million during its first month alone, with a final worldwide tally of \$100 million.
1981	The rights to <i>First Blood</i> are bought by Carolco Pictures from Warner Bros., who, in turn, approach Sylvester Stallone to appear as the titular character.
1978	Carolco Pictures moves from film distribution and sales into production.
1976	Mario Kassar forms Carolco Pictures, Inc. with partner Andrew Vajna, specialising in international film distribution.
1972	Warner Bros. buys the film rights to <i>First Blood</i>
1972	David Morrell, whilst Professor of English at the University of Iowa, publishes <i>First Blood</i> , the "father" of all modern action novels.

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- **The Rock** (1998, USA)
- **Air Force One**, (1997, USA)
- **The Matrix** (1999, USA)
- **Mission Impossible 2** (2000, USA)
- **Mission Kashmir** (2000, India)

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- **Islam: Empire of Faith** (TV - 2000, UK)
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- **Nighthawks** (1981, USA)

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- **Aankhen** (2002, India)

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