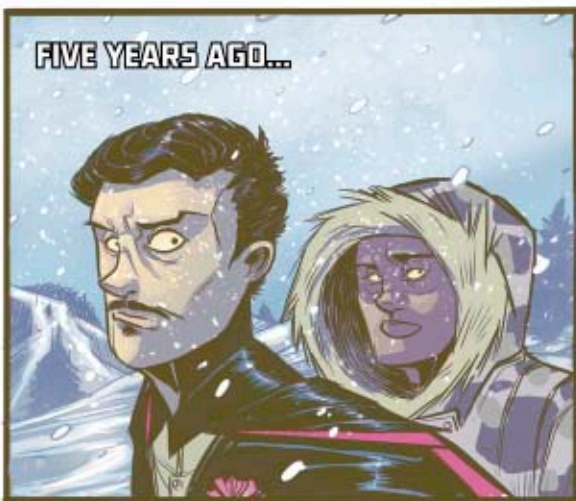


FIVE YEARS AGO...





NOW.



NARDA...

YOU'RE A FOOL, FALSE WIZARD.

I COULD GET HER BACK IF YOU WOULD SET ME FREE...



THAT'S ENOUGH, DEMON. I KNOW YOUR TREACHERY TOO WELL.

WEAKLING!

YOUR WORLD LIES IN CHAOS... MY MAGIC, REAL MAGIC, COULD RESTORE--



I SAID THAT'S ENOUGH!



YOUR FOUL MAGIC ISN'T THE ONLY KIND THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, ACHERON...

IT'S TIME TO PUT ON A SHOW.



...IT'S BEEN YEARS. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE CALLED US HERE?

...NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IS THE HEALTHIEST IT'S BEEN IN *DECADES* WITH ALL THE TV'S AND COMPUTERS OFFLINE!

MY FATHER SAW HIM WHEN HE WAS A BOY, WOULD YOU BELIEVE? HE MUST HAVE QUITE A *PAINTING* IN HIS ATTIC...



DANG, NOT USED TO USING *FILM STOCK* THESE DAYS...

IT'S HIM!

LEE! PHIL! LONG TIME NO SEE! HEY, FRED, HOW ARE THE GRANDCHILDREN?

MANDRAKE! WHAT'S THE SCOOP? WHY THE SUDDEN REAPPEARANCE?



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT? LET ME FILL YOU IN...

THE WORLD HAS BEEN HIT HARD BY RECENT EVENTS.



ALL OVER THE WORLD, PEOPLE NEED *AID*... AND THAT COSTS *MONEY*.

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THIS MONEY BY *MAGIC*, MISTER MANDRAKE, SIR?



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.

MANDRAKE RETURNS

LEGENDARY MAGICIAN ANNOUNCES CHARITY GALA FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND



PHOTO: L. FALK

Late last night, Mandrake the Magician, once considered the world's premier illusionist, announced a special one-off charity performance to raise money for emergency relief in those areas of the world hit hardest by the recent invasion.

Noteworthy is the venue - Mandrake's private estate, known as "Xanadu" --which will, in this exceptional case, be opened to the public. A hall within the mansion is being converted into a theater for the purpose.

This show marks Mandrake's first public performance in an acrimonious break-up with his wife, Princess Narda of Cockaigne. It is unclear whether he will be accompanied by his longtime associate Lothar, once billed as the World's Strongest Man, or if this will be a solo performance but, either way, it is expected that demand for tickets will be high.

Ticket prices, though not yet confirmed, will be on the pricey side. In a prepared statement, a smiling Mandrake opined that people will be willing to pay a little over the odds for such a good cause. It is expected that the audience will consequently be dominated by the wealthy -- film stars, captains of industry and the like -- although a small number of tickets for those of limited means will be made available closer to the date of the performance. ■

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Occasional sightings of homeless men who resemble warriors from the planet Mongo continue to be reported to the authorities. At this time none of the sightings have been confirmed. A source at the Department of Defense speculates that they may have been abandoned on Earth after the invasion was thwarted, left to fend for themselves. Advice from the Department is not to approach them at any cost as they are likely still to be extremely dangerous. All suspected sightings should be reported at once to the authorities. ■



PHOTO: M. LAMING