



Smash Box Studios, Hollywood. The gate opens up and the car zips into the warm – even tough it's January - LA traffic. Here I am, seated in the the passenger side of a convertible, while, out of my mind, I am re-living the dialogue made famous by Ezekiel and Vincent in Pulp Fiction, where they discuss how French people “have Royal with fromage, Le Big Mac, and the fact that there are no Burgher King”. At the driver seat of the 1973 fire red Mustang Mach1- aka the famous Eleanor of Gone In 60 Seconds, the 1974 original and not the remake - is, rare breed of director Mr. Quentin Tarantino, an institution in iconoclastic filmmaking, still dressed in black clothes from Gucci, Prada & Versace – he bought them off the rack after the shoot just because they reminded him the elegance and the sophistication of one of his Hollywood myth: 007, Bond, James Bond. “I used to go to the movies with my parents, so I kind of skipped the PG13 and I started to watch adult movies, that's where I learned –very early I might add– how to write a dialogue. My favorite Hollywood actor of all time is Robert Mitchum, noticed we have the same dimple in the chin; then there's Steve McQueen, he is the man; : I loved Alfred Hitchcock's intelligence and how he played with the audience; can't leave out Gregory Peck, Farrah Fawcett's T-shirts, Mr. Isaac cool Hayes and Evil Knivel's stunts.” He never shuts up. He is an unlimited source of small details that make up for the whole story. While listening to him, one could imagine being in the presence of Tim Roth & Harvey Keitel of Reservoir Dogs, laughing together with Jackie Brown or experience Pulp Fiction's humor. Quentin calls home, check his dentist appointment – “I am obsessed with cereal, I just eat too much of them!” – and then start to describe to us his crib, the Movie Dome where he invites his closest friends to seat down, relax and watch screenings. “Yeah, I'm a big movie guy and I'm single, so my house looks like a movie guy who is living in a single's house. There are stacks of videocassettes and 16 mm film reels lying everywhere, plus posters and stuff. Once me and Sam Jackson watched movies for 3 days in a row! I've got more than 20-30 thousand DVD. I don't even want to mention how many cinema books I've got! I love them, I've got so many movies that I could organize a film festival inside. Once I made up a list of all the movies that I have to see before I die. it would take me 20 years to finish it off!” Sometimes, his passion for the B-movies of the '60 & '70, have been source of criticism from his worst critics, who might label these movies as badly shot or worst, pieces of crap in which bad B-list actors were casted. “My movies are homage to CINEMA, they are full of quotes and references, and in order to understand them, you've got to

**Cinefilo a livello maniacale, ha una passione speciale per i B-movies e gli spaghetti western italiani degli anni 60 e 70. Attore, sceneggiatore, e produttore, oltre che regista dallo stile eccessivo e pulp, è l'innovatore del cinema indipendente**

have a very deep knowledge of the subject. I worked with actors whose movies made Hollywood history, such as John Travolta - one of his favorite movie star - and Kurt Russell. Who are these people to say I did wrong? These kind of people, who only review movies, they have no imagination. I do write about other people's lives, I do try to capture every day's life, it's part of my job to steal sentences here and there, details which can be wrote into a screenplay, into the nature of the character. I love details. I want you to know that for Kill Bill, I wrote in the screenplay EVERY sound effect, each one of them! That' how meticulous I am. The same goes for music and lyrics, they are as important as the dialogue. Or maybe I am just ahead of everybody, who knows!! One thing is sure, the audience agrees with me.” After his last movie, Grindhouse, double feature shot together with Robert Rodriguez, his future project might surprise his fans. “I've actually always wanted to come up with a story that I wanted to do as a kid's movie,” he says. His film, collections of records, posters, film prints, toys and lunchboxes are living testaments to the world of popular childhood culture. “I remember from working at Video Archives that if a kid liked a movie, let's say the Mighty Ducks, they would see that movie 20-30 times. They would even know the names of all the kids in The Mighty Ducks ... and that's an audience member I want on my side. I like his passion, his obsession. The same one which makes up for cult movies, don't you agree? I just have to come up with the right storyline.” Talking about that, what did you play with when you were a kid, what was some of your favorite Saturday morning cartoons? “G.I. Joe soldiers were the best. I am sure that without knowing I became a director playing with them. They were my first actors, all of them, especially the amputee ones, my imagination grew thanks to them. I remember that my least favorite Saturday morning cartoon was definitely Scooby Doo, while I loved H.R. Pufnstuf and I think Pink Panther was really funny too. I also remember having a nice collection of lunch boxes even tough I didn't invest a lot of \$\$ in them... but I certainly have tons of comic books. Hands down, my favorite guy - mid-70's - was Shang-Chi, Master of Kung-Fu. It was really great. Although my favorite hero, the hero I wanted to be, was Luke Cage, Hero for Hire, which was basically one of the first black super hero. Years later I found out that, Nicolas Coppola liked him too and because of him, he change his name to Nicolas...Cage! How cool is that dude?” And then he goes on and on... while I am hoping he sees the red traffic light ahead of us!

**Roberto Croci**