

# hit the scene

series. Mini and maxi series from four to forty issues featuring new and minor characters that don't demand a full blown series. With the introduction of this trend, the short-lived comics are becoming even more throw-away and temporary.

New titles are popping up like mushrooms in the back of my closet.

Marvel in the next little while will introduce: Alpha Flight, Canada's answer to the X-men; Kull, a better quality barbarian; US1, a superhero trucker (need I say more, real yuck city); Blip, a video game magazine; Miniseries, with The Black Panther, Dazzler, The Beast, X-men, The Micronauts, and Hercules leading the way; and even more Graphic novels like The Hulk and Thor.

But it's DC that literally explodes with miniseries like Green Arrow, Deadman, Atom, JLA, Jonni Thunder, Bluedevil, and maxiseries like Amethyst: Princess of Gemworld, and Vigilante. Even full blown series lead by the Outsiders, Ronin, Zeroman, and Thriller. Also in the works

are team-ups between JLA/Avengers, and another X-men/Teen Titans. Rumors of a DC-Charlton takeover are in the wind.

Adding to the glut of new titles are scores of new publishing houses with dozens of brand new comic titles. Publishing houses like Fist Comics, Publishing Warp, American Flagg, Starslayer, and E-man, who is bound to be a cult favorite, sort of like Plastic Man at his best.

Or Pacific Comics (PC) with titles like Twisted Tales, Alien Worlds, (two anthology titles that rival the old EC gems on heavy paper with glossy color), the Rocketeer (fine 40's style), Captain Victory, Silver Star, (two Jack Kirby books), and my favorite - Groo the Wanderer (Sergio Aragones with the funniest comic in the last ten years).



Or Eclipse comics starting Destroyer Duck, Scorpio Rose, and DNA Agents. Depraved Comics (new wave humor), Galaxia, Thrilling Detective Tales, and Sabre.

Or even Red Circle Comics (ie. Archie Series) resurrecting old titles like The Fly and The Mighty Crusaders.

Of course with all these titles popping up like money from Madison Avenue, it's a comic eat comic out there. The one saving grace is that there really isn't any room for shoddiness anymore. Extreme competition usually leads to improved quality. You would think that competition with hot tubs and convertibles would have some significant effect on the industry.

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