



Internal Correspondence

From

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From: Grazia Daddi

For those of you who missed Stan Lee and Spider-Man's live AOL event during the unveiling of The Marvel Online area on July 4th during the San Diego Comic Book Convention....

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OnlineHost: Your emcee is Karen KJW (AOLiveMC5).

AOLiveMC5: Mr. Stan Lee, welcome to AOLive! It's our pleasure to have you here as a guest!

Smilinstan: Thanks! Love being here!

AOLiveMC5: This is a real treat for us

Smilinstan: Hello-- don't have to introduce myself-- I already know myself!

AOLiveMC5: We have just tons of questions coming in from our audience, shall we get right to them?

Smilinstan: Let's go, heroes!

Question: Hello Stan! What is all the hoopla about the new Marvel area on AOL?

AOLiveMC5: Oh yes, this is a very big deal. I'm glad someone asked about it!

Smilinstan: It's not hoopla-- it's genuine excitement and well-warranted enthusiasm! We're gonna revolutionize the Internet!!!

Livespider: Livespider is Spider-Man of course... your friendly neighborhood that is..

AOLiveMC5: Welcome to AOLive, Livespider! Great to have both of you here.

Question: So, what is Marvel Online going to be like?

Livespider: It's super to swing in.

AOLiveMC5: Just keep that web stuff off of me, OK?

Smilinstan: It's gonna be the same as when we started Marvel Comics years ago-- THE START OF A WHOLE NEW ERA!

Question: Stan, how did Jack Kirby's death affect you emotionally?

Smilinstan: IT BROKE ME UP TOTALLY-- JUST AS IT DID THE ENTIRE COMIC BOOK WORLD!

AOLiveMC5: Here's a nice comment from a fan!

Comment: Stan, I received from a friend a piece of art done by you: a master of a comic strip from the '80's, with Mary Jane in London, just before an explosion. He told me you gave it to him while you were in Colorado Springs a few years back.. It's now one of my most prized possessions.

Smilinstan: I'm flattered and delighted.

Question: When will Marvel Online be available to AOL users?

Smilinstan: July 18th-- I can't wait- my typing fingers are all atwitter!

Question: How did you help create Spider-Man, and how did Marvel editors first react to the character?

Smilinstan: I WAS the Marvel editor-- and I'm my biggest fan-- so I loved it!!!

Question: Have Spider-Man's powers changed over the years?

Smilinstan: His powers haven't changed that much— but he himself has undergone many transformations.

Question: What is going on with the Spider-Man motion picture, directed by James Cameron?

Smilinstan: Unfortunately, there are a number of legal problems— which don't involve Marvel—but which have to be settled before Jim can start the movie. I'm waiting with bated breath— as is K Jim and most of fandom!

Question: Are you happy with the direction Marvel's going in (ie: Heroes Reborn, Onslaught)?

Smilinstan: I am more than happy, I'm delighted. Bob Harras, our editor in-chief, is doing a sensational job and our writers and artists are the best

Question: Do you know any of the story line for the live action x-man movie

Smilinstan: Yes. But naturally I can't tell. However, the movie will have involve all your favorite XMen and most of our top villains.

Question: How do you feel about the way Bob Harris / Perleman(sp) is running Marvel?

Smilinstan: Bob is doing a great job— and Ron Perleman, who owns the company, is a wonderful guy who doesn't interfere creatively.

Question: Stan, are you ever going to bring back Peter Parker?

Smilinstan: Ab-So-Lute-Ly!!!

Question: What do you think Marvel is NOT doing that it should be doing in terms of where you think the company is headed?

Smilinstan: Honestly, I think Marvel is really on the right track now— and getting better all the time. We're like a speeding locomotive and I don't think we can be stopped!

Question: OK....what inspired you to write comics....and just who is your favorite hero and villain anyway

Smilinstan: I was inspired by greed — I needed the scratch. My favorite heroes are all of them.

Question: Did you ever ask a parent who his favorite kids are?

Smilinstan: Can't answer that! They're all my kids!

Question: So what can we expect from this new online series of comics? What titles, characters?

Smilinstan: Spider-man, Wolverine, a fan-selected character and a new on-line character. And if that doesn't whet your appetite, I am typing my little fingers off in vain!

Question: Stan: Will you show up once in a while in the Marvel Online?

Smilinstan: I hope they ask me to pop in a lot. You know what a ham I am— I LOVE this!

Question: Stan, how do you feel about Lee and Liefeld invalidating your origins for Iron Man, the Hulk and the Avengers?

Smilinstan: They're not really invalidating them — they're just updating 'em. Hell, our comics are like living organisms — they grow, they change — that's the nature of life — and Rob and Jim are great talents— I'm glad they're working on the strips.

Question: Hey, Spidey, what's up with the clone thing? Can you be the real Peter now?

Smilinstan: YES, definitely. The clone thing was an idea that was slightly less than totally successful.

Livespider: I am what I am and will always be Spider-Man

Smilinstan: But now we're back on track.

Question: Any new developments on the Spidey feature film?

Smilinstan: We're all waiting for Jim Cameron to give the signal that he's ready to begin.

Question: Here's a 20 year old question - why did Gwen Stacy get killed off? I still miss her!!!!

AOLiveMC5: Good old Gwen.

Smilinstan: So do !! I went to Europe at that time and left Jerry Conway write the next issue – when I returned he had killed Gwen. I'm not going to Europe any more!

Question: Hi Stan :), is Marvel ever going to resolve the one "true" Spider-Man issue, and will it be soon??

Smilinstan: I don't know if it'll be soon – but you can bet our little band of geniuses will resolve it:

Question: I'm wondering if there are any other Marvel cartoons in the works?

Smilinstan: YES! Silver Surfer– on Fox Network– also, Captain America, on Fox– and The Hulk on UP!!!

Question: What differences were there between working with Steve Ditto and Jack Kirby?

Smilinstan: Actually, very little. They were both great at visually telling stories and were both absolute joys to work with – no temperament.

Question: My all-time favorite characters are the X-men. Will there be a movie made based on them?

Smilinstan: We're working on the movie now. It'll be done by 20th Century Fox and be a BIG budget film

Question: Do you feel today's comic books are to violent?

Smilinstan: "Too" has two 'o's!!! I don't know if they're too violent or not. I don't know if movies and TV are. What's the diff. between violence and action? We just try to tell exciting stories.

Question: With Marvel winning Marvel vs. DC, what does this mean for Marvel, other than bragging rights? :)

Smilinstan: Hey, us brag? C'mon! Besides, most of the guys at DC are our buddies. The match was fun and mebbe they'll win next time. (Not if I can help it!)

Question: Livespider, where can I buy those nifty web-slingers?

AOLiveMC5: Yeah, I want one too!

Livespider: Those are homemade. One of a kind. Special secret that only I know. And I'm not talking. I can't tell you because some supervillains may be tuning in and I don't want THEM to get any! After all, then my enemies would be taking advantage of me.

Question: Is venom ever going to return? If so, when?

Smilinstan: YES! Can't tell you when – let us save some surprises!

Question: Stan, don't you agree that you were cheated out of an Oscar for your performance in Mallrats?

Smilinstan: Absolutely. But I think Tom Hanks was jealous of me!

Question: What do you foresee as an up and coming trend in the comic world?

Smilinstan: I'm not sure. I just think the stories and art work will get better and better and with computers and interactive things coming along— there's no telling where comics will end up — but wherever it is— Marvel be right up front!

Question: What will the next major storyline be in Spidey's life?

AOLiveMC5: I hope he'll fall in love with me and we'll run off!

AOLiveMC5: What do you say about that, Spidey?

Smilinstan: Send Spidey your picture!!

Livespider: Can't dear MC Mary Jane is my beloved.

Smiiinstan: Can't tell you what the comicbook storyline will be, but in the newspaper strip, his next will have him versus SUB-MARINER!!!

AOLiveMC5: <<sniff>

Question: Stan, why is there no blood in Marvel Comics?

Livespider: However do send the picture.:)

Smilinstan: We don't need blood to sell or tell our stories — besides, ol' Stan can't spare any!

Question: How does it feel to be a popular as you are in comics

Smilinstan: If I'm as popular as I hope I am, it feels great. If not, what's wrong with you people? Start getting on the Marvel bandwagon!

Livespider: Well I don't know how Stan feels, but I feel pretty good

AOLiveMC5: <giggle> You tell 'em Stan!

Question: What's your feeling on "dead" characters? If dead, should they stay dead? Should they be killed off so easily?

Livespider: That Stan, he's nothing without the old webhead

Question: What are the submission requirements for new storylines and characters? What do you look for in a story?

Smilinstan: They shouldn't be killed off easily. They oughtta stay dead. But that's just one guy's opinion. I'm gonna take new typing lessons!

Question: Will there be more crossovers like the Spidey/Batman one?

Smilinstan: I hope so!

Question: Will you guys stick with the Heros World deal, or go back to Capital?

Smilinstan: We're sticking!!!

Question: From what I understand of the current plans for relaunching the major titles, some of the origins are being changed somewhat. Are these changes going to be temporary, or will they be permanent?

Smilinstan: Hard to say – but the changes will not be drastic, and they'll all be true to the original Marvel spirit.

Question: What is the biggest difference between shows of the 60's and 70's to the comic shows of today?

Smilinstan: What do you mean by Comic Shows?

Question: How's the Comic-Con this year?

AOLiveMC5: That's right, Stan, you're joining us from the Comic conference. How is it?

Smilinstan: Great– thousands of people– and lots of them wearing Marvel T-shirts!!!

Question: Edwin Poole, still have a few of the Hulk shirts that you guys worked on.

Smilinstan: I'd give the answer if I knew what the question was!!!

Question: When you created Spider-Man did you ever envision him surviving into the 90's?

Smilinstan: I hoped he'd last till the next month so I'd keep getting my salary! This whole thing is a total wonderful surprise to me!

Livespider: I hope he envisioned me lasting this long. I plan on sticking around too.

AOLiveMC5: Oh, Stan, look at this comment that just came in!

Livespider: My pleasure, Stan.

Comment: Stan, you were my first radio interview a number of years back, and it was great. It lasted 15 minutes, and after you left, I realized that the pausebutton was on the whole time. You came back and did another 20 minutes with me, no problem! Thanks again

AOLiveMC5: Do you remember this?

Smilinstan: You're welcome. Who are you?

Question: Hi, do you ever plan on retiring

Smilinstan: No – they'll have to drag me out kicking and screaming!

Livespider: Me neither

Smilinstan: Anyway, working in comics is the most fun you can have without laughing!

Question: Stan: Do you have any plans to ever end the Spider-Man comics???

Smilinstan: NOOOOOOOO!

Livespider: Noooo!

Question: To Stan Lee: What do you think of the government making statements about kid's hero's like the Power Rangers, etc. Are characters like Wolverine really too violent for our kids? When I was young, we had Cowboys, Indians, Guns, Arrows, and GI Joe...

AOLiveMC5: Cowboys and Indians sounds pretty violent to me.

Smilinstan: I think kids will always like action adventure and fantasy stories. I don't think they ever have or ever will harm kids. I never advocated violence—just clean action adventure.

Question: Stan, do you think the Marvel masthead should read: "Stan Lee and Jack Kirby present"?

Smilinstan: I'll take a pass on this one.

Question: Stan, do you read comics yourself? Any personal faves. I like the Crow, how about you?

Smilinstan: I like most all of 'em. Of course, I'm slightly partial to the ol' House of Ideas!

Livespider: Yep. Spider-Man of course!

Question: Hi again. We're relatively new at this so sorry for the faux pas. Anyway, my son is a BIG fan of yours and wants to know how you came up with the X-men?

Smilinstan: I needed some reason for heroes becoming SUPERheroes — and I had already done radioactive spider bites and gamma bombs — so I figured I'd just call 'em "mutants" and that would explain everything. It was the easy way out!!!

Question: Who do you think would be the perfect actors to cast as your favorite Marvel characters?

Smilinstan: It would take all day to answer that. But I can think of Harrison Ford as quite a few roles in Marvel

Question: Spidey: Isn't it agitating to learn that you are not real, but a clone? It must have been real hard for you, not to mention the idea of a lil' one coming along.

Smilinstan: Spidey can't answer. He's still on the psychiatrist's couch!

Livespider: Flat on my back

Question: Now that Marvel is on AOL does that mean that rival DC comics will be leaving?

Smilinstan: That's up to them. I hope they stay. I like the company!

Question: Which power in the Marvel Universe would you want if you can have it?

Smilinstan: It would be cool to be able to span the galaxies on a flying surfboard — but I wouldn't mind visiting other dimensions, either. Hell, I'd like ALL of 'em!

AOLiveMC5: I kinda like that web stuff you have, Spidey! <wink>

Question: Are The Fantastic 4 ever going to loose their power for good?

Smilinstan: Not if I can help it!!!

Question: Hello Stan... So how does it feel to see your creations breaking into the "next level?"

Smilinstan: I LOVE it!

Question: Stan, what did the Spider artists do to ment getting fired (except John Romita Jr.)?

Smilinstan: Can't really answer that. Lots weren't "fired" but simply went on to other things.

AOLiveMC5: We're out of time, but let's take this one last question.

Question: Is the Marvel Action Hour gone for good?

Smilinstan: In MarvellaLand nothing is ever gone for good. We've got a lot of new cartoons coming to replace it.

AOLiveMC5: Thanks for answering our questions, Stan! Sorry we ran out of time.

OnlineHost: Mr. Stan Lee, it has been our pleasure to have you as our guest this evening.

Livespider: Thanks MC5. Call any time you need a friendly neighborhood Spider-Man

AOLiveMC5: And a big thanks to our audience. Great questions!

AOLiveMC5: Oh, I will Spidey! Thanks!

Smilinstan: Thanks for having me. It was a real kick. Will be happy to do it again -- often! Excelsior!!!

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