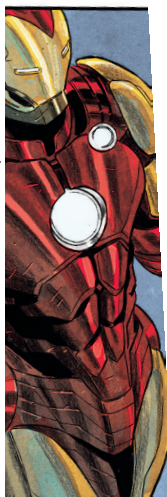
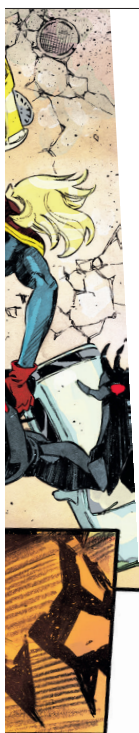


► **SCI-FACT!** Bichir was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in 2011 film *A Better Life*.

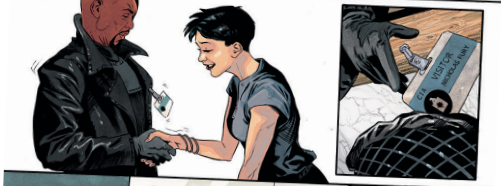


of each other," he reasons. "Distrust can slide into paranoia easily, but it's only paranoia if you're wrong about them, and otherwise it's just good planning. So we're meeting a Nick Fury and a Maria Hill who have been betrayed before, who have had to go through that and come out the other side, and now have to figure out not just who they trust, but why as well."

While Fury and Hill are the central protagonists, plenty of other heroes will also show up. "It starts with them investigating Skrull activity in Iowa that might be nothing but could be something very serious," says North. "I can say that over the course of our five issues, things get very big very fast, and we'll definitely see some familiar faces, including some personal favourites of mine, as you can't tell a *Secret Invasion* story without the Avengers!"

North is also taking over scripting Marvel's First Family in November, but don't expect any crossovers, as he completed *Secret Invasion* long before landing his new assignment. "That means that while *Secret Invasion* won't be referencing *Fantastic Four*, it does open the door to *Fantastic Four* picking up some of the threads that began there," he says. "When this miniseries concludes, you might just be seeing a little bit of Maria Hill and Nick Fury in *Fantastic Four...*" **SJ**

Secret Invasion issue one is out on 3 November.



ACTOR EXCLUSIVE

Making His Mark

Demián Bichir on the new version of *Let The Right One In*



It's a glamorous life being a vampire.

IN THE ORIGINAL *LET The Right One In* movie, the father of child vampire Eli – spoiler alert – kills himself halfway through the film, first by disfiguring himself with acid, then offering his neck to his bloodthirsty daughter and finally falling from a hospital window. We can only presume that won't be the fate of the dad in Showtime's newest reimagining of John Ajvide Lindqvist's cult novel, otherwise we're doubting that Oscar-nominated actor Demián Bichir would have signed up for it. This series is a very different beast to the Swedish original.

"If you adapt a novel into a film there will be lots of different things that will be new to people who read the book," Bichir, who plays Mark in the series, tells Red Alert from his home in Mexico City. "And if you adapt it into a series, the nature of the media demands different stories, different characters, new twists and new cliffhangers. This is a beautiful adaptation of the same story that many people know and love. I mean, some characters will probably die along the way, and then maybe some other new characters will come on board, as well. It's been

brilliantly made by Andrew Hinderaker, our showrunner. It's a love letter to the original story."

One of the strengths of the 2008 film is its grounded, realist tone. Eschewing the melodrama normally associated with vampire stories, *Let The Right One In* was an almost Ken Loach-like take on the genre. It's something that's carried over into the TV series – and that certainly appealed to Bichir.

"One of the great things about this series is it's so real," the actor enthuses. "It's so well written that it almost makes you forget that it's a fantastic type of genre. It makes you feel that you're watching Ingmar Bergman or Steven Soderbergh."

Of course, it's an intense series thematically speaking, and Bichir's co-lead (singer and actor Madison Taylor Baez) is just 11 years old. How was it filming this dark and disturbing story with someone so young?

"Oh, we have a lot of fun on set – we have to, because if we



go into the dark side of it, then that could be dangerous territory," he says. "I'm glad Madison has taken this very lightly and playfully. She's only 11 and she's very, very smart. Some people

were asking her the other day, 'What have you learned from Demián shooting this series?' and no one asks me what I've learned from working with her. I can tell you, you learn that this is a game we play for a living."

Whether Bichir survives the first 10 episodes we don't know for sure, and the actor is careful about giving away too much as regards plans beyond season one. "The beautiful thing about a series is that it's actually the audience who call the shots," he says. "If people love this series, which I'm sure they will, they will ask for another season, and then for another, and then for another. So this is a beautiful challenge for the creators or writers to keep up with." **so**

Let The Right One In is on Paramount+ now.