

## **About Sergio Cariello**

I was born in Brazil, in 1964. I started drawing as soon as I could hold a pencil. At the age of 5, I already knew I wanted to be a cartoonist, and I told my parents. I drew on church bulletins, napkins and every surface I thought was worthy of my strokes. I made up my own mini comics, with my own characters. And I drew all the TV cartoon and comic book characters I liked.

At the age of 11, I invented Frederico the Detective for our local newspaper, *Diario De Pernambuco*. I created the whole comic strip myself: story, lettering, pencils and inks. My strip also won a contest for the same paper! The newspaper published my strip weekly, and I had so much fun creating it. I loved the response I got from school – my friends wanted to know what would happen next week on Frederico. I continued creating that strip until I was 14 and began having other interests: girls, the beach, working out, guitar playing. But I never stopped drawing. I even took on assignments for political caricatures at the same newspaper.

In 1982, I found an issue of Batman, issue # 350. My eyes popped when I saw advertisement featuring a caveman talking to an ugly bird: "Have you heard about it? The Joe Kubert School of Cartooning?" I had been a big fan of Joe Kubert's work since I saw his take on Tarzan. I knew right away that this was the school for me. I began saving money and learning English so I could fulfill my dream of coming to America to become a cartoonist.

I studied for a year at the Word of Life Bible Institute in Brazil and was blessed with a scholarship to study on the Word of Life campus in upstate New York. This was my bridge to America. While studying and working at Word of Life (NY), I applied to The Kubert School. And in 1986 I had a phone interview with Joe Kubert himself. I was thrilled to talk to him and even more thrilled to be accepted into the school! During my second year at The Kubert School, I heard through the school that Marvel Comics was looking for bullpen "letterers". Nobody else at school seemed interested, but I jumped at the chance! I was still lettering when a Marvel editor noticed I could also draw. I took on some drawing assignments and eventually had to leave the lettering bullpen to meet my drawing deadlines.

Marvel editor, Pat Garrahy, moved to DC Comics and offered me the opportunity to pencil Deathstroke, which led to many other characters: Guy Gardner, Steel, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, The Flash, Young Heroes in Love, Blue Beetle, Batman, Azrael and others. (A comprehensive list of comic book work can be viewed at Sergio's website.)

There was a time when I was not too busy, so I called my old pal Joe Kubert, who gladly hired me as an instructor at his school. I taught various courses such as Methods, Basic Drawing, Color, Paste Ups, Story Adaptation, Caricature and Life Drawing. I spent seven years teaching at the school I'd once dreamed of attending. And one of the most rewarding parts of my career has been seeing my students breaking in the business.

My faith and art came together in a surprising way over the last ten or fifteen years. But it really started when I was around age eight and discovered the *Picture Bible*, published by David C Cook. I loved the style because it used comic book illustrations to tell the Bible stories I knew from Sunday school. Many years later that publisher was looking for an illustrator to update the artwork for the *Picture Bible* (now called *The Action Bible*). Cook saw my drawing of Jesus carrying our cross which had been published in another book. I was thrilled to be picked for the job. I began with stories from the New Testament and really loved it. Jesus is my all-time favorite character to draw.

It's been the privilege of my life to combine my faith and art in *The Action Bible*. I loved to study the Bible before I began drawing *The Action Bible*, so these illustrations are the result of a continuous walk with Christ. Drawing Captain America or Batman is fantastic, but drawing Jesus is different because Jesus is real and I'm the temple of the Holy Spirit. I know the Holy Spirit is touching readers' hearts through my drawings.

*"What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time,"* (Ecclesiastes 3:9a)

