

Dracula Year Zero: History of Vlad III The Impaler History Channel Special



A DaVinci Code-style Journey into the History and Myth of the Real Life Dracula.

THE APPROACH

Vampire mythology meets the history of Vlad The Impaler to reveal how medieval Europe's most cruel tyrant was the bloody inspiration for history's most unforgettable monster—Dracula. Computer generated FX will create a darkly realistic, highly stylized era in history. While “CSI” style close ups take viewers inside the weaponry, technology and historical locations that became notorious footnotes in time.

THE STORY

Where does history become myth or vice versa? Historical accounts of the Balkan ruler are compared with entrenched vampire myth. The result is a fascinating account that shows how fact and fiction became integrated over the centuries. And in some cases, indistinguishable from one another.

THE LOOK

CG FX and green screen technology create a stylized world-onto-itself of 15th Century Europe. A palette of strong, slate-hued blacks, graphite and deep scarlet colors render a defining look that's evocative of the era. The overall visuals are edgy and foreboding, creating a compelling sub-text for the dark events that unfolded.

THE VISUAL EFFECTS

Exceptionally detailed CG sets will authenticate every element of the period—from its stone castles and ragged villagers to the perennial gloom of medieval Europe's overcast skies. While CGI FX recreate large-scale historical accounts like the “Forest Of The Impaled”, when a marauding army turned back in terror upon discovering twenty thousand of Vlad's impaled victims in the surrounding countryside.

Unlimited camera range provides angles and p.o.v's. simply not possible with a cinematic camera. Shots are taken from extreme high angles: a birds-eye view of a soldier being impaled on pike. Or underground perspectives of the pike as it's driven into the dirt. While CSI style close ups literally penetrate the action to shed new light on facts once considered the stuff of nightmares.

THE RESULT

In the end, this is a story of real-life terror and imagined horrors. Highly stylized sets and vivid imagery bring back Vlad The Impaler--the tyrant whose unspeakable atrocities inspired the creation of the world's most enduring and feared, monster—Dracula.

THE PRODUCER

Mechanism specializes in producing CG heavy television programming with a full staff of writers, directors, producers and production support. The company's 3,000 sq. ft. production, post-production and animation facility is located in the heart of Chelsea.

Mechanism created and produced all of the CG Effects for History Channel's *Last Stand of the 300*, 13 episodes of *Rome: Engineering an Empire*, *UFO Stories: The Canadian Rosewell and The Mexican Rosewell*, and the pilot *How Stuff Works* with Optomen productions. The company also recently produced graphics for HBO's *The Wire*, MOJO Channel's new series *Bobby G*, and the Showtime's *Zombie Honeymoon*.

