

## **Black Cat Comics**

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Geek is chic.

Thanks in part to the box office success of fan-boy standards like “Spider-Man” and “Lord of the Rings”, comic book stores are gaining new fans and attracting back some old ones.

Black Cat Comics, located at 2261 South Highland Drive across the parking lot from Sugarhouse Movies 10, caters to any kind of comic connoisseur from anime to *Archie* and from *Batman* to *Sandman*. Owner and operator Greg Gage, 34, witnessed the impact the movie industry has been making on comic sales. “The movies are PG-13, so a lot of kids are going and becoming fans of superheroes which they haven’t been for a while.” said Gage.

The blending of comics and movies are causing the line between those that work on comics and movies to blur. Numerous comics are being made into movies and several big name movie writers penning for comic books. Many movies coming out this year were originally published as comic books like “Sin City” by Frank Miller, “Constantine” based on *Hellblazer* by Jamie Delano, and “The Fantastic Four” from creators Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

On the flip side, Joss Whedon, writer of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “Toy Story”, is currently writing one of the best selling X-Men stories ever in *The Astonishing X-Men*. Kevin Smith, of “Clerks” and “Chasing Amy” fame, wrote popular stories for both *Daredevil* and *Green Arrow*.

Even comics about movies are big sellers, like *Ashes 2 Ashes*, a series set in the world of “Evil Dead” and “Army of Darkness” movies by Bruce Campbell and Sam Raimi. Raimi also directed the first two Spider-Man movies.

Artists are using the comic book medium as a way to present other stories as well. One of Gage’s best sellers is the comic book adaptation of the Book of Mormon entitled *The Golden Plates* by Mike Allred. Gage has already sold out of nearly five shipments of the first issue and expects the next issue in March.

The comic book industry has recognized that a lot of their fan base has grown up and wants more edgy stories than the typical four-color superhero book was providing. In response most comic book companies have created special lines of comics for adult audiences.

Marvel Comics introduced the Marvel Knights and MAX titles starring classic heroes like Spider-Man and Daredevil dealing with mature themes. DC has its long running Vertigo titles and some of the Batman series are being written for an older

audience. Image comics publishes *Powers* by best selling author Brian Michael Bendis, a crime book involving superheroes.

For readers who want to get back into comics Gage recommends the Marvel Ultimate titles, which are modern retellings of classic characters like Spider-Man and The Avengers. “You start from the very beginning. You don’t have to know forty years of continuity to enjoy the story.” said Gage.

Also you can still check out the adventures of *Archie*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Underdog*, and *Woody Woodpecker* in the Black Cat Comics kids section.

Black Cat Comics offers a hold service with a ten percent discount so comic fans won’t miss any issues of their favorite books. They also carry a huge selection of graphic novels, which are collected series of comics that feature an entire storyline in one book.

On May 14 Black Cats Comics will celebrate their one year anniversary by having award winning comic book creator Brian Wood author of *Demo* and *Channel Zero* in store to sign autographs.

Like at the end of any comic, the reader is left to ponder; can Spider-Man stop the evil plans of Doc Ock in time to save New York? Will Lois Lane ever discover Superman’s true identity? Pick up next month’s issue and find out.