Written by Michael Gingold
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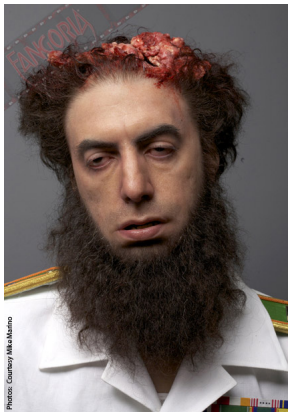
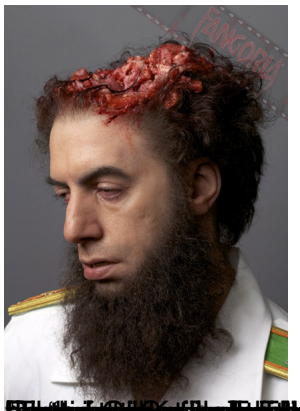
Special makeup artist Mike Marino has worked his magic on horror and fantasy fare ranging from BLACK SWAN to MEN IN BLACK 3, but he has also contributed to comedies as well, including the Sacha Baron Cohen vehicle THE DICTATOR. With that film hitting disc today, we’ve got some closer looks at Marino’s magic, and his comments.

In THE DICTATOR, out on “Banned & Unrated” DVD and Blu-ray/DVD combo from Paramount Home Entertainment, Cohen plays Hafez Aladeen, ruthless ruler of the Republic of Wadiya who gets into assorted misadventures when he is called to New York City to address concerns about his country’s nuclear weapons program. A couple of these required Marino’s prosthetics wizardry, and the artist tells Fango, “One that stood out was a scene where Aladeen’s double is shot in the head. I convinced them to do a full replica of Sacha instead of a makeup, feeling it would be much better than a makeup or wound; if he could react to a perfect replica of himself, it would be much more effective. Larry Charles, the director, and DP Lawrence Sher were assuming they could shoot around the prop if they had to, but when we showed up with it on set, they could not believe how real it looked and shot close-ups of it instead.