

# ROSS BRUSHES OFF JLA

## Painter tackles 'Justice' series

**A**fter taking on Uncle Sam, Galactus and the end of the world, Alex Ross faces his toughest challenge yet: a regular comic book series.

Beginning in summer 2005, Ross will co-write and paint *Justice*, a 12-issue, bimonthly Justice League series. Joining Ross for the project will be the *Paradise X* creative team of co-writer Jim Krueger and penciler Doug Braithwaite. By letting Braithwaite handle the layouts and pencils, Ross expects to maintain a bimonthly schedule and still retain his detailed style.

*Justice* represents another first for Ross' career. After observing heroes in *Marvels* and

following the superhero civil war in *Kingdom Come*, Ross wanted to tell a straightforward superhero-versus-villain story. "[This] is something that I wanted to be taken as seriously as it can within the course of this drama," Ross said. "We would be attempting to make it the most believable 'Super Friends' episode ever seen."

*Justice* teams the major Justice League members from his treasury edition, *JLA: Liberty and Justice*—Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Shazam, the Flash, Green Lantern and Aquaman—against the combined might of their greatest foes.

With *Justice* taking place outside the net of continuity, Hal Jordan and Barry Allen will appear as the Green Lantern and Flash, respectively.

And the heroes won't be the only ones getting tweaked; Ross aims to make his villains fearsome by adhering to their original roots.

"There's characters that you know are famous, well-worn villains that have been around for a long time," Ross noted. "There's certainly a kind of intimidation over how to make them seem cool while retaining their classic mode, essentially."

To fulfill the demands of this war between good and evil, Ross plans numerous costume redesigns to ready the characters for battle. "The villains [will all be] re-envisioned," Ross explained, "not through that typical 'now we're going to introduce their new slicker looking outfit.' I've thought about the classic looks that we know of them and then tried...to really get to the root of the character."

■ MICHAEL SHERRIN



**BATMAN**



**WONDER WOMAN**