

the village

VOICE

Quentin film

geeks

Tarantino
on race,
plagiarism &

ABBOTT &
COSTELLO

BY LISA
KENNEDY

p29

Excerpt from
"Natural Born
Film Makers" article
pg 29-32

A funny thing happened on the way to the coronation, however. A couple of hours before Tarantino thanked Maslin, introduced Lazurus One and Two (Travolta and Willis), and laughed his laugh, Don Murphy called. One of the producers of *Natural Born Killers*, Murphy was phoning at the suggestion of Chris Gore, editor of L.A.'s *Film Threat*. It appears, as a film geek rises so might he fall. And while journalist *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* spent their spring and summer buzzing around Tarantino's startling originality, a paper trail of letters to the editor generated by the *Film Threat* posse, plus a few articles in *Film Threat* and the British mag *Empire*, were vehemently accusing him of the crassest kind of theft: plagiarism. Murphy wasn't phoning to answer Tarantino's snipes at *NBK* director Oliver Stone; he wanted to voice his support for Gore et al.'s contention that Tarantino lifted the premise and even shot by shot sequences of *Reservoir Dogs* from a Hong Kong shoot-'em-up, *City on Fire*. He was also calling to say: "I would openly celebrate Quentin's death. I never had a falling out per se, but his actions since becoming Quentin Tarantino have been diabolical." Ironically, one of the more stunning indictments of Tarantino came in the form of a video called *Who Do You Think You're Fooling (the story of a robbery)* by Mike White. (Gore was only too happy to FedEx me a copy marked "Evidence.") This

only completely witty, if serious, 20-minute video makes the case for Tarantino's theft of Ringo Lam's 1987 *City on Fire* much in the same way NBC set up GM, but in a style so sleek as to be Tarantino-esque.

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