

 <p><b>ING DIRECT</b> Save your money Member FDIC</p>	<p><b>2.75%</b> APY No Fees. No Minimums.</p>	 <p><b>The Orange Savings Account</b> Open Now</p>
--	---	---

LAT Home | My LATimes | Print Edition | All Sections

Jobs | Cars.com | Real Estate | More Classifieds

**Los Angeles Times** | **Entertainment**

SEARCH

CHANGELING  
NOW PLAYING

Movies TV Music Interactive The Biz Celebrity Awards Photos Hollywood A-Z Reviews Charts

You are here: [LAT Home](#) > [Blogs](#) > [Hero Complex](#)

## HERO COMPLEX

FOR YOUR INNER FANBOY; NEWS ON GENRE FILMS, GRAPHIC NOVELS AND SCIENCE FICTION

« [Jules Verne Festival this weekend in downtown Los Angeles](#) | [Main](#) | ['Spider-Man' shocker: Is Flash Thompson about to come home from Iraq in a body bag?](#) »

### Mary Lambert, from Madonna videos to the 'Dark Path' of vampires

10:43 AM PT, Oct 21 2008



Mary Lambert laughed into the phone when I pointed out that, in films and books, there seem to be an awful lot of vampires and hellspawn roaming around Southern California through the years. "Yeah, well, *duh*. Los Angeles is the *natural* place to put your soul at risk. It's just like the crossroads down in Mississippi where **Robert Johnson** met the devil. L.A. is the place you come to if you want to bet your soul."

Lambert has a Southern drawl -- she's a native of Arkansas -- but the filmmaker is no tourist in L.A. In the world of music video

production, she was a pioneering force in the boom days of the 1980s with signature works that include Madonna's "Like a Virgin," "Borderline" and "Material Girl" and Janet Jackson's "Control" and "Nasty Boys." She would go on to work with Sting, Mariah Carey, Mick Jagger and Motley Crue and though her videos were often exercises in narrative in a way that many music videos are not, she was restless to tell stories in longer form.

Lambert made a name for herself among horror fans by directing the 1989 film adaptation of Stephen King's "Pet Sematary" and its sequel. Now, with "The Dark Path Chronicles" on [Farnet.com](#), she has made a meeting point between her two career paths. The series, which starts Nov. 6, will tell the tale of an L.A. teenage girl and the handsome bloodsucker (literally) that she meets during a hypnotic sequence at leafy Griffith Park.

There will be seven episodes, each 3 to 5 minutes long. The cast is young, up-and-upcoming actors and the music is by some bands making a lot of noise (again, literally) on the underground scene, much of it Goth-tinged and all of it ominous in its metal styling. The bands include **Zombi**, **Junius**, **Jesu**, **Watch Me Burn** and **Prophet 7:13**. Says Lambert: "The music industry, as it is, is completely changing and the way people find and enjoy their music is changing. It's very exciting and I've always wanted to tell a story in a series of music videos. This is a story that is a good one, too." Here's a synopsis that Lambert's team sent over to me:

Dark, bleak and distorted, The Dark Path is a



ADVERTISEMENT

paid for by [www.noprop7.com](#)



SIERRA CLUB  
CALIFORNIA

**OPPOSES  
PROP. 7**

### About the Blogger

Growing up, [Geoff Boucher](#) always wanted to be a mild-mannered reporter working for a major metropolitan newspaper....or maybe a wookiee. He came to the Los Angeles Times in 1991 and, after years covering crime and local politics, he switched to the Hollywood beat covering film and music. Now he's the paper's go-to geek.

**Also contributing:** The Legion of Super-Bloggers here at the Hero Complex includes **Jevon Phillips**, a Times staffer who specializes in our favorite television shows, especially "Heroes" and the frakking brilliant "Battlestar Galactica;" **Denise Martin**, another Times staffer, who has an undying passion for "Twilight" and anyone ever enrolled at Hogwarts; **Gina McIntyre**, a Times editor who learned her craft by watching too many slasher films; and **Christie St. Martin** from [Funny Pages 2.0](#), who was recently voted geek queen of the Internet. Congrats Christie!

Subscribe to Blog:



parallel reality, like the 5th dimension or the Astral Plane. The physical world and the Dark Path are alternate realities separated by vibrational frequencies. Aspects of the physical world have their counterparts on the Dark Path. Vampires use the Dark Path to hide, especially in the daylight and to travel unseen. To travel the Path, one must be an Adept, (someone who has attained a proficiency in the occult arts.) The series begins as Samantha, a lovely but somewhat strange teenager, hears someone whispering her name. She leaves her shabby apartment, and with blood trickling from her ears, follows the voice to a roach coach in the middle of Griffith Park. She opens the vehicle's door and suddenly a young vampire materializes out of nowhere. This is Jurgen, who is also "Adept" on the Dark Path, and has awakened after 75 years to discover a world he no longer understands. He demands that Samantha help him. Frightened but dangerously attracted to him, Samantha joins him and the haunting adventure ensues.



*Pet Sematary*  
Photo by: Ralph Ruzic

I asked Lambert if this is a tough time to be doing a vampire story -- with the "Twilight" sensation, "True Blood" and the recent "30 Days of Night" and the now-you-see-it-now-you-don't "Moonlight," it sure feels like that sector of pop culture has been pretty well, um, drained. "I think good stories are good stories, I don't think you worry about what other people are doing or what they have done. This is a story I've wanted to tell for a long time...Los Angeles is like a character in this story and the use of music and the way we tell the story are completely different than any of the things you mentioned. I can't wait for people to see this."  
-- Geoff Boucher

*Photos:*  
A scene from "The Dark Path Chronicles," courtesy of [Fearnert.com](#).  
Lambert's music video for "Material Girl" created a defining persona for Madonna. Image from the Los Angeles Times archives.  
Lambert directed the 1989 film adaptation of Stephen King's "Pet Sematary." This publicity still showing Fred Gwynne in the movie is from the Los Angeles Times archives.

Bookmark it:  Digg

October 21, 2008 in [Dark Path Chronicles](#) , [Mary Lambert](#) , [Stephen King](#) | [Permalink](#)

## TrackBack

**TrackBack URL for this entry:**  
<http://www.typepad.com/t/trackback/816965/34773809>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference [Mary Lambert, from Madonna videos to the 'Dark Path' of vampires](#) :

## Add a comment

If you are under 13 years of age you may read this message board, but you may not participate. [Here are the full legal terms you agree to by using this comment form.](#)

Comments are moderated, and will not appear until they've been approved.

**Name:**

**E-mail Address:** (will not be published)

URI ·

## Categories

- [30 Days of Night](#)
- [A-Team](#)
- [A.D.](#)
- [Aaron Eckhart](#)
- [ACT-I-VATE](#)
- [Adult Swim](#)
- [Akira](#)
- [Alan Moore](#)
- [Alex Ross](#)
- [Alfred Hitchcock](#)
- [Alias \(TV\)](#)
- [Alice in Wonderland](#)
- [American Splendor](#)
- [ARG](#)
- [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#)
- [Art Spiegelman](#)
- [Artists](#)
- [Batman](#)
- [Battlestar Galactica](#)
- [BBC](#)
- [Berkeley Breathed](#)
- [Blade Runner](#)
- [Blogging](#)
- [Book of Lies](#)
- [Brad Meltzer](#)
- [Brandon Routh](#)
- [Brevity](#)
- [Brian K. Vaughan](#)
- [Broadway](#)
- [Bruce Willis](#)
- [Bryan Singer](#)
- [Buck Rogers](#)
- [Buffy the Vampire Slayer](#)
- [Captain America](#)
- [Caption contest](#)
- [Catherine Hardwicke](#)
- [Charles Burns](#)
- [Chris Carter](#)
- [Christian Bale](#)
- [Christopher Nolan](#)
- [Christopher Priest](#)
- [Christopher Reeve](#)
- [City of Ember](#)
- [collecting](#)
- [Comic Book Legal Defense Fund](#)
- Comic-Con**
- [Coraline](#)
- [Craig Thompson](#)
- [Crime comics](#)
- [D.J. Caruso](#)
- [Daniel Craig](#)
- [Daredevil](#)
- [Dark Horse](#)
- [Dark Path Chronicles](#)
- [Dark Shadows](#)
- [David Cronenberg](#)
- [David Duchovny](#)
- [David Lapham](#)
- [David Tennant](#)
- [DC](#)
- [DC Comics](#)
- [Dean Haspiel](#)
- [Dexter](#)
- [Disturbia](#)
- [Dollhouse](#)
- [Douglas Adams](#)
- [Dr. Who](#)
- [E.T.](#)
- [Eagle Eye](#)
- [EC](#)
- [Eddie Campbell](#)
- [Edgar Wright](#)
- [Edward James Olmos](#)
- [Eoin Colfer](#)
- [Eric Powell](#)
- [Everyday Hero](#)
- [round-up](#)
- [Ex Machina](#)
- [fan costumes](#)
- Film**
- [Flash](#)
- [Gordon](#)
- [Frank Miller](#)
- [Frank Spotnitz](#)
- [Fringe](#)
- [Game \(the film\)](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Geoff Johns](#)
- [George Lucas](#)
- [George Romero](#)
- [Gerard Butler](#)
- [Gerard Way](#)
- [Ghostbusters](#)
- [Grant Morrison](#)
- [Green Arrow](#)
- [Green Hornet](#)
- [Greg](#)