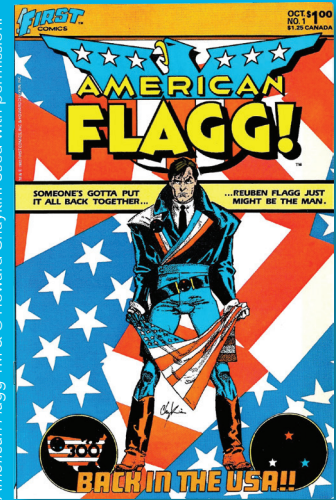


In 1982, a theater major, an ex-radical, and comic book artist named Joe decided to take on the “Big Two”...



Here is the story of **First Comics**, the Chicago-based publisher that challenged DC and Marvel Comics in the 1980s to win readers over to their innovative line through the direct market. From Howard Chaykin's *American Flagg*, Ostrander & Truman's *Grimjack*, Mike Grell's *Jon Sable*, *Freelance* and *Starslayer*, Mike Baron's *Badger* and his collaboration with Steve Rude on *Nexus*, Jim Starlin's *Dreadstar*, Wheatley & Hempel's innovative *Mars*, and the fabulous return of Joe Staton's *E-Man*, and its achievements with graphic novels and *Classics Illustrated*, First was to be counted on for great entertainment.

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Determined to beat the big guys Chicago-style, they named their upstart company First Comics.™

*Count On It!*

Co-author **RICHARD J. ARNDT** is the writer of *The Star\*Reach Companion* and *Horror in Black and White: A History and Catalog, 1964-2004*, and, with Steven Fears, is co-author of *Our Artists at War: The Best of the Best American War Comics*, and he has written a volume of poetry, *Lazy Man Hill*. A Nevada school librarian and comics historian known worldwide, Richard has also written extensively for the magazines, *Comic Book Creator*, *Alter Ego*, *From the Tomb*, *Comic Book Artist*, and *Spooky*.

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1

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by Jon B. Cooke & Richard J. Arndt



1

Showcasing the Saga of the '80s Independent Publisher



# FIRST COMICS™

## COMPANION



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