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STAR NEWS

» FROM THE WORLD OF LUCASFILM

by Sue Weinlein Cook and Scott Chernoff

EPISODE II SHOOTING WRAPS AT EALING

Additional shooting on Episode II wrapped in April at England's Ealing Studios. The production team spent two weeks with cast members digitally filming scenes to be inserted in the film's rough cut.

"The England shoots will be mostly in front of bluescreen," producer Rick McCallum told

the Official *Star Wars* Web Site (www.starwars.com) in advance. "Though we've been really busy since we wrapped in September, it's always exciting to get back in front of the cameras." (See this issue's Prequel Update for the latest scoop.)

Actors involved with the Ealing shoots included Hayden Christensen (Anakin), Natalie Portman (Padmé Amidala), Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), Christopher Lee (Count Dooku), Samuel L. Jackson (Mace Windu), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO), and Oliver Ford Davies (Naboo governor Sio Bibble).

These weeks—the *Star Wars* crew's first shoot at Ealing—were jam-packed with the filming of transitions between scenes shot on location and stuntwork, such as chase and fight scenes, shot primarily before a bluescreen. R2-D2 Operator Don Bies hinted at more

scenes between droid favorites Artoo and Threepio as well.

Now a year of post-production has moved into full swing for the film's 2002 release. Check back with *Insider's* Prequel Update in each issue for the latest news.



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STAR WARS EVENTS LIGHT UP SUMMER



Steve Sansweet

With still a year to go until the release of Episode II, Steve Sansweet—*Insider's* main insider at Lucasfilm—helps ease the agonizingly long months of waiting with an all-new presentation destined to dazzle fans at four conventions this summer.

The presentation, called *Star Wars: CONNECTIONS*, will show how Episode II fits into the overall *Star Wars* saga. Convention organizers have been given this description, according to the Official *Star Wars* Web Site:

The Star Wars saga is a space epic of grand design and boundless fun. It entertains and inspires as it explores the conflict between good and evil, technology and humanity. The saga of the Skywalker family celebrates heroism and the limitless potential of the individual. And it is those individuals who stay with us long after the last battle fades: the feisty princess and the strong-willed queen; a young farmboy whose yearnings for adventure lead to the end of an Empire and revelations of family secrets; the Padawan who becomes a Jedi Knight and connects father to son; and finally, a young Podracer who travels a tortuous path to the dark side before ultimately finding redemption at the hands of that son. Join Lucasfilm's Steve Sansweet as he explores the connections among the Star Wars films, from A New Hope... to next year's Episode II.

Sansweet promises a peek at Episode II, so look for *Star Wars: CONNECTIONS*—and more *Star Wars* guests and events—at these summer conventions:

SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL—July 19 to 22 in San Diego, Calif. Rub elbows with the folks from Dark Horse Comics and find out the latest news about their *Star Wars* line and more. Request the convention's latest update from their website (www.comic-con.org).

Star Wars Weekends Return to Walt Disney World

Disney's MGM-Studios in Orlando, Fla., once again hosted the annual *Star Wars* weekends throughout May. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, guests to the park were treated to an array of exclusive *Star Wars* character meet-and-greets, *Star Wars* celebrities, trivia contests, and more, said Natalie Howden of Walt Disney World's Online Guest Service.

Savvy fans at Disney World kept their eyes peeled for pre-release info on *Atlantis: Lost Empire*, this summer's new Disney animated feature featuring the voice talent of Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), among others.

Celebrity attendees at last year's *Star Wars* Weekends included Kenny Baker (R2-D2), Hugh Quarshie (Captain Panaka), Jake Lloyd (Anakin Skywalker), and

Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia); rounding out the roster were such characters as Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Han Solo, Darth Maul, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Queen Amidala. Parades, face painters, the ever-popular Star Tours motion ride, and a Jedi Training Camp for kids seeking to learn the ways of the Force topped each weekend's schedule of events.

Find out more about this year's *Star Wars* Weekends online by clicking on "Events" at www.disneyworld.com.

Past Fan Club Chief Honored at First AlphaCon

In recognition of his years of service to science fiction fans across the world, Fantastic Media president and former *Star Wars Insider* publisher Dan Madsen received a Lifetime Achievement

Award from the organizers of a new science fiction convention.

The award, presented in May at the first-ever AlphaCon, went to Madsen because "he's done so much for fans," said Daniel Lundquist, event director for the Omaha, Neb., convention. "Sometimes the behind-the-scenes people don't get recognized as much as [celebrities]."

"To be recognized in this manner was a real thrill for me," Madsen told the *Insider*. "I have run fan clubs since I was 16 years old. I have made... lifetime friends running the clubs, so to top it off with an award like this and to have it presented to me by such a good friend as Anthony Daniels was the best of all. It's nice to be recognized for something you are passionate about."

Madsen founded the Lucasfilm Fan Club in 1987 and produced the first *Star Wars* Celebration in 1999. "He definitely deserves it!" Lundquist said.

Currently President of Fantastic Media, which is now owned by Decipher, Inc., Madsen continues to serve to fans by running the Official *Star Trek* Fan Club, due to relaunch this fall in conjunction with a new *Star Trek* TV series, and serving as a regular contributor to the *Insider*. "We are also working on launching two new fan club projects this summer that I think fans will be very excited about," said Madsen.



TOP SUMMER CONVENTIONS!

GEN CON GAME FAIR—August 2 to 5 in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Guests include Billy Dee Williams (Lando Calrissian). Other highlights include seminars, demos, and other events for the *Star Wars Roleplaying Game* and *Star Wars Customizable Card Game*. Sansweet's take on the show, run by the *Insider*'s publisher, Wizards of the Coast? "Oh, I had a ball at GEN CON.... It's my third or fourth. It's a great audience and a lot of *Star Wars* fans." And that's our objective opinion, too. Read more at www.wizards.com/gencon.

WIZARD WORLD—August 17 to 19 in Chicago, Ill.

Details on guests and events were unavailable at press time, but check out updates at their website (www.wizardworld.com/wizent/conv_2001.cfm).

DRAGON*CON—August 31-September 3 in Atlanta, Ga.

(Deep breath...) The Master of Ceremonies is Anthony Daniels (C-3PO); actor guests include Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), and Richard LeParmentier (Admiral Motti in *A New Hope*); author guests are Aaron Allston (X-Wing novels), Kevin J. Anderson (Jedi Academy trilogy, *Tales from Jabba's Palace*, and *Darksaber*), A. C. Crispin (Han Solo trilogy), and Rebecca Moesta (Young Jedi Knight series); artist guest Joe Corroney also appears. Read all about it at www.dragoncon.org.

Also in attendance were fellow alumni Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis—the primary donor for the Robert Zemeckis Center for Digital Arts at USC's School of Cinema-Television. This new 35,000-square-foot facility took three years to build in downtown Los Angeles.

Known for his pioneering efforts in digital filmmaking technology (*Insider* #52), Lucas endowed the Akira Kurosawa digital soundstage, as well as a CGI/advanced media classroom. The center also boasts non-linear production and post-production equipment, production stages, a 50-seat screening room, digital editing lab, and the USC student-run television station.

"Film as we have traditionally thought of is going to be different," Robert Zemeckis told *Daily Variety*. "But the continuum is man's desire to tell stories around the campfire. The only thing that keeps changing is the campfire."

With Episode II shot completely digitally, Lucas is doing his part to keep the campfire going.

American Film Institute Honors American Graffiti

Not long after the opening of the new USC facility, Lucas and the cast and crew of *American Graffiti* received honors from the American Film Institute at this year's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival.

"This was the movie that established me," *American Graffiti* writer and director Lucas said March 3 at the Institute's Favorite Film Series, held during the festival in Aspen, Colo. The 1973 movie also launched the careers of Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Richard Dreyfuss, Cindy Williams, Mackenzie Phillips, and Suzanne Somers, among others.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

STAR SIGHTINGS

THE FORCE IS STRONG IN THESE PROJECTS FROM THE CREATIVE FORCES BEHIND THE STAR WARS SAGA...

by Scott Chernoff with Sue Weinlein Cook

MARK HAMILL STRIKES BACK



The star of the original *Star Wars* trilogy, **MARK HAMILL** (Luke Skywalker), is returning to the big screen with a promising cameo in the next movie from acclaimed filmmaker Kevin Smith (*Clerks*, *Chasing Amy*, *Dogma*). The latest in the director's "New Jersey series" is called *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, and in addition to Jason Mewes and Smith himself in the title roles, the cast features an all-star ensemble of past Smith castmembers, including Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Jason Lee, and George Carlin, as well as newcomers Shannon Elizabeth, Jason Biggs, Will Ferrell, and many more.

In the new comedy, Hamill appears in a lightsaber-like duel in a spoof scene that the director refers to as "the BluntCave sequence," which seems to recall a certain cave on a certain swamp planet in a certain film about a certain Empire striking back with, well, certainty. On his official Web site, viewaskew.com, Smith said the sequence was "a real gem of a scene, due largely to two factors: Mark and Hamill...Good Lord, was he fun to have around. He's a real sweetheart of a guy who doesn't play up the fact that he's a living, American icon. He'll be missed."

But fans aren't missing him—in addition to his myriad voice-over roles in TV cartoons, Hamill also returned in April to *Son of the Beach*, the FX network comedy series produced by Howard Stern. Hamill reprised his hilarious role of corrupt guru The Divine Rod in an episode titled, appropriately, "The Divine Rod Strikes Back..."

FORD WOODED BACK TO ACTION; MCGREGOR "DOWN" WITH SCOTT



The world's most popular action star, **HARRISON FORD** (Han Solo), will team up with top action director John Woo (*Hard Boiled*, *Face/Off*, *Mission: Impossible 2*) for a still-untitled feature film written by Andrew Marlowe, who also wrote Ford's blockbuster *Air Force One*...

Ford will also be back on the big screen this year in new version of a film originally released in 1979. *Apocalypse Now Redux* is the title for a special edition of the classic Vietnam epic that has been expanded and re-edited by director Francis Ford Coppola. The actor, then known primarily for *Star Wars* and *American Graffiti*, filmed his small role in *Apocalypse Now* between the first two *Star Wars* features; the powerhouse drama stars Martin Sheen, Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall, Laurence Fishburne, and Dennis Hopper...

Apparently his acting isn't the only thing about Ford that's tops with fans. More male plastic surgery

patients sought to duplicate Ford's jawline than any other celebrity's, according to a yearlong study by the Institute of Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery. Other famous faces that made the list include Rob Lowe's nose, Brad Pitt's lips, Tom Cruise's eyes, and Johnny Depp's cheeks.



In a teaming to match the Ford-Woo connection, **EWAN MCGREGOR** (Obi-Wan Kenobi) has joined the ensemble cast of the military epic *Black Hawk Down* for director Ridley Scott, whose past films include the original *Alien*, the Harrison Ford sci-fi stunner *Blade Runner*, landmark drama *Thelma and Louise*, blockbuster sequel *Hannibal*, and the latest Academy Award winner for Best Picture, *Gladiator*.

Jerry Bruckheimer (*Pearl Harbor*, *Remember the Titans*) produces *Black Hawk Down*, based on the true story of a life-and-death battle that took place in Somalia in 1993....McGregor also appears in the British independent film *Anno Domini*, and the documentary *Killing Priscilla*, about his *Eye of the Beholder* director, Stephen Elliot...

STAR WARS STARS RETURN TO BROADWAY

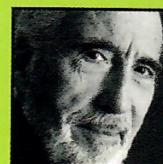
Broadway audiences will have the chance to see two stars of the Skywalker saga live on stage in the coming year. First, this summer, **NATALIE PORTMAN** (Padmé), who previously starred in the acclaimed Broadway production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, takes a supporting role in a new production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, directed by Mike Nichols (*The Graduate*, *The Birdcage*). The play stars Oscar winners Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline, and also features such celebrated actors as Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman, John Goodman, Allison Janney, and Hank Azaria...



Then, in January 2002, **LIAM NEESON** (Qui-Gon Jinn), who previously starred in the hit Broadway production of *The Judas Kiss*, will return to the Great White Way in a new staging of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, the story of the Salem witch trials. Richard Eyre, former head of Britain's National Theatre, directs.... The busy Neeson, fully recovered from his motorcycle

injury (*Insider* #51), also plans to star with wife Natasha Richardson in *Asylum*, a thriller to be directed by Jonathan Demme (*The Silence of the Lambs*) and written by horror novelist Stephen King, based on a novel by Patrick McGrath. Neeson also played host this spring to a New

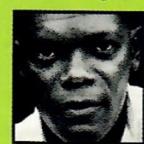
York auction in support of the Movie Action for Children charity. Proceeds from the affair totaled nearly \$405,000—including \$49,500 for a lightsaber Neeson used in *The Phantom Menace*. Other high-priced items? A dress Catherine Zeta-Jones donned in *The Mask of Zorro* drew a fashionable \$1,500, while a Ralph Fiennes shirt from *The English Patient* sewed up \$1,950. The real hero of the night was the William Wallace broadsword, wielded by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*, which brought in a staggering \$135,000.



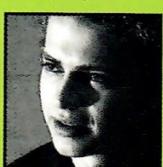
FILM CLIPS

CHRISTOPHER LEE (Episode II's Count Dooku) hopes to reunite with screenwriter/director Robert Hardy, who penned his 1973 film *The Wicker Man*. (*Insider* #53) Hardy's new script, *The Riding of the Laddie*, was "thrilling and exotic and erotic and exciting," the actor told *Empire Online*. Meanwhile, as *Blair Witch 2* director Joe Berlinger plans a Lee-free remake of *The Wicker Man*, the actor confirms that he will reprise his role as the hero Duc de Richeleau in director Joe Dante's remake of the 1967 Hammer classic, *The Devil Rides Out*, based on a thriller by occult novelist Dennis Wheatley. Lee worked with Dante previously on *Gremlins 2: The New Batch*.

Production wrapped this spring for the thriller *Changing Lanes*, costarring **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** (Mace Windu). This Roger Michell film, also starring Ben Affleck and Toni Collette (*Shaft*, *The Sixth Sense*), wrapped principal photography in March after filming in New York's Chinatown, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Jersey City, NJ.



HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN (Episode II's Anakin Skywalker) paired with Kevin Kline (*A Fish Called Wanda*, *In and Out*) on the new film *Life as a House*. "It was something completely different" from his *Star Wars* work, he told *Entertainment Tonight*. "The room in which I had to explore my character [Anakin] was much more defined by the previous movies, and what people know about my character," he said. "Life



as a House, on the other hand, gives me more room to create and experiment and take risks." This Irwin Winkler comedy/drama costars Kristin Scott Thomas (*The Horse Whisperer*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) and Mary Steenburgen (*Nixon*, *Back to the Future Part III*).

TELEVISIONARIES

CARRIE FISHER (Princess Leia), fresh off her cameo in the box office hit *Heartbreakers*, hosted the American Movie Classics special *Blocked: A Novelist's*

Lucas, who wrote and directed the film, said he was happy to participate in the reunion. "The movie holds a special place in my heart next to my own memories of growing up in a small town in the fifties. It's exciting that after all these years *American Graffiti* is still around and still making people laugh," the Associated Press reported.

The 1973 box office hit was selected for the tribute because of the long-lasting impact it has had on filmmaking and for its tremendous popularity. Lucas developed a new narrative style, one that intertwined multiple story lines while using music to reinforce the film's dramatic moments. This unique style resulted in five Academy Award nominations, a Golden Globe award for best picture/come-

dy and both the New York Film Critics and National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Screenplay.

Those same features nearly kept the film out of theaters. Universal studio officials favored a television release because they thought it was too far outside the Hollywood mainstream to succeed. Yet *American Graffiti* grossed more than \$100 million. That number is even more impressive when you consider the film's production budget of only \$750,000. The movie still represents one of the biggest returns on investment in Hollywood history, a tribute to the director's fresh approach.

During the event, reporters urged Lucas to hint at his future plans beyond the *Star Wars* films.

"I want to go back to television," Lucas said. "I like television; it's a lot more fun." The director told the *Hollywood Reporter* that he's not sure networks will be interested in his ideas, but he's determined to pursue them. "I will get them done one way or another, whether I get support from the industry or not," he said. ☀

Dave Prowse Hospitalized After Paralyzing Attack

Actor Dave Prowse (Darth Vader) may have wished for some of the Force powers of his famed alter-ego when he was struck in February by a painful arthritis attack that sent him partially paralyzed to the hospital.

Prowse, 65, suffered the attack

while on his way to a convention in Germany. He returned to the United Kingdom for treatment for pain that briefly paralyzed his back and arm. Although his condition initially baffled doctors, it eventually was ruled an attack of arthritis, of which Prowse is a chronic sufferer. The former body builder and Mr. Universe contestant sometimes now uses a cane to help him walk.

"Dave is going to be just fine," said Prowse's personal assistant Maxwell Patterson after the initial scare. "He is much better now." The actor, who returned home from the hospital in early March, underwent physical therapy to remove some residual stiffness but planned to return quickly to his busy schedule of convention appearances. ☀

Experience in Hollywood. Her TV movie *These Old Broads*, which she wrote and co-produced, starred Hollywood divas Elizabeth Taylor, Debbie Reynolds (Fisher's mom), Shirley MacLaine, and Joan Collins. The comedy, about four legendary actresses who emerge from retirement, aired in February on ABC.

BILLY DEE WILLIAMS (Lando Calrissian) appeared on an episode of ABC's acclaimed medical drama *Gideon's Crossing*.... **KIERA KNIGHTLEY** (Sabé) starred as the daughter of Robin Hood in the *Wonderful World of Disney* TV-movie *Princess of Thieves*.... **JAMES EARL JONES** (Darth Vader's voice) appears in two upcoming documentaries, *Antietam: A Documentary Drama*, and *The Papp Project*, about legendary Broadway producer (and Jones collaborator) Joseph Papp.... **AHMED BEST** (Jar Jar Binks) cameos in the music video for Offspring's "Want You Bad."

BEHIND THE SCREEN

Star Wars creator **GEORGE LUCAS** wrote the introduction to the British book chronicling the career of one of the new stars of Episode II, *Christopher Lee: The Authorised Screen History*, by Jonathan Rigby.... Lucas also put on his writer's cap to pen an article in the March issue of *FamilyPC Magazine*, and he appears onscreen in an exclusive interview for Criterion's DVD release of Akira Kurosawa's classic *The Hidden Fortress*, a major influence on Lucas' first *Star Wars* movie, *A New Hope*....

Also making his way to DVD is **BEN BURTT**, sound designer of all five *Star Wars* movies and picture editor of Episodes I and II. *Blue Planet*, the 1990 IMAX film that Burtt directed, has been released in the format, as has his 1991 documentary *The True Story of Glory Continues*, which appears on a new special edition DVD of the Oscar-winning war story *Glory*.... Episode I and II property master **TY TEIGER** is the man behind the props for two upcoming films: *Spy Game*, starring Robert Redford and Brad Pitt, and *Swiss Family Robinson*, a new version of Disney's family adventure....

AWARDS & HONORS

The movie industry's annual awards season has passed, and as usual, the craftspeople behind the *Star Wars* saga have been honored for their outstanding work on other projects. Heading the list is **RICK BAKER**, who handled makeup for many of the Cantina creatures in the original *Star Wars*. The makeup master shared an Academy Award—his sixth Oscar—with Gail Ryan for his work on *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.... Baker also won the top honor in his profession, a Hollywood Makeup Artist and Hairstylist Guild Award, for *Grinch*, sharing the honor with collaborators Toni G and Kazuhiro Tsuji....

Star Wars saga composer **JOHN WILLIAMS** also scored a major win, taking home the music industry's highest honor, a Grammy Award, for his "Theme from *Angela's Ashes*" in the category of Best Instrumental

Composition.... Williams was also nominated for an Academy Award in the Original Score category for *The Patriot*. The nod marked an astonishing 39th Oscar nomination for the legendary composer....

The duo of Randy Thom and Tom Johnson from **SKYWALKER SOUND** were nominated for an Academy Award for their work on *Cast Away*, while **ILM**'s Stefen Fangmeier, John Frazier, Walt Conti, and Habib Zargarpour were nominated for an Oscar for Best Visual Effects for their groundbreaking water simulation in *The Perfect Storm*.... The same quartet, along with ILM's Tim Alexander, also won the Special Visual Effects award for *Perfect Storm* from the British Association of Film and Television Arts, otherwise known as the BAFTAs, the British equivalent of the Oscar.

Last but not least, the BAFTAs, also shone the spotlight on *Return of the Jedi* casting director **MARY SELWAY**, who won a lifetime achievement award called the Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema for her entire body of work, which also includes *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and the upcoming Harrison Ford-Liam Neeson thriller *K-19*, among many others. In a video statement at the event, George Lucas said, "It's an award that I think is well-deserved, and I'm especially pleased that the cinema community at large is recognizing casting directors, who I think make an extremely important contribution to the filmmaking process—and you're one of the best." ☀

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



SPECTACULAR EPISODE II BEHIND-THE-SCENES PIX!

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KI-ADI-MUNDI & NUTE GUNRAY
STRIKE BACK!

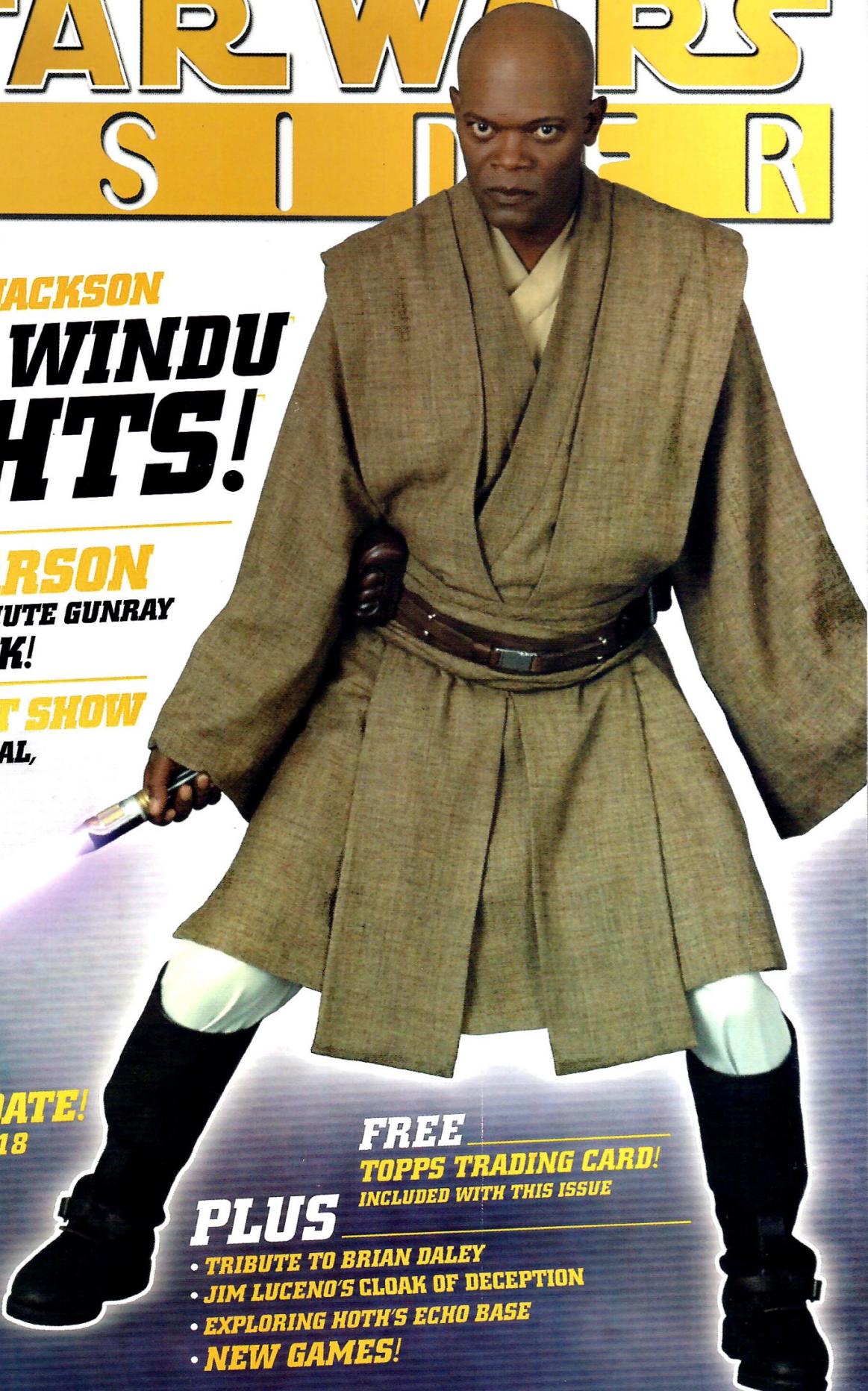
THE MUPPET SHOW
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EPISODE I
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STAR NEWS

FROM THE WORLD OF LUCASFILM

by Sue Weinlein Cook

PHANTOM MENACE DVD COMES PACKED WITH EXTRAS!

**U.S. RELEASE SLATED FOR
OCTOBER 16, 2001**

The first *Star Wars* film ever available on DVD features more than six hours of bonus material, including a commentary by director George Lucas, Rick McCallum, and others. The *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* DVD will take fans deeper into the *Star Wars* universe than ever before. Lucasfilm Ltd. and Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment announced in June that October 16, 2001, is the date to mark on your calendars for the disc's release in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to the running commentary, the highly-anticipated DVD also includes such rarely and never-before seen extras as seven deleted scenes compiled just for this DVD, and an extraordinary documentary film culled from over 600 hours of behind-the-scenes footage. Also included is an interactive featurette with a glimpse into the process of animatics. Additional features include the original theatrical trailers, TV spots,

a still gallery, Web documentaries, featurettes, and much more. Fox and Lucasfilm promise a disc digitally mastered by THX for superior sound and picture quality, pushing the technological advancements of DVD to the limit.

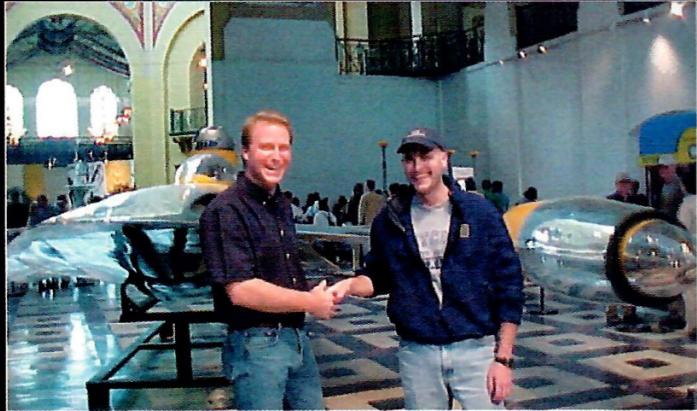
Enthusiastic video purchasers throughout North America snapped up more than 5 million copies and generated nearly \$100 million at retail just 48 hours after the VHS debut of *The Phantom Menace* last year. The second highest-grossing motion picture of all time worldwide, Episode I also set records at the box office by achieving the biggest opening ever as it raced to become the fastest film in history to reach \$350 million in North America.

Lucasfilm and Fox also announced the release of George Lucas' and Ron Howard's *Willow* on DVD in North America late this year.

The Phantom Menace DVD, is a two-disc set with an approximate

running time of 480 minutes. Look for a more detailed preview in the next issue of the *Insider*. ☺

▼ U.S. Air Force pilot Scot Zamolyi (right) shakes hands with ILM Model Supervisor John Goodson. Behind them is the N-1 Naboo Starfighter, making its first appearance in the U.S.



LIVING THE DREAM

Star Wars inspires people of every generation to turn their flights of fancy into real-life adventure. Scot Zamolyi, a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot, attended the *Art of the Starfighter* premier. The piloting acumen of *Star Wars* aces like Luke Skywalker and Han Solo instilled in Scot a childhood dream of becoming a pilot, which is a dream Scot lives today.

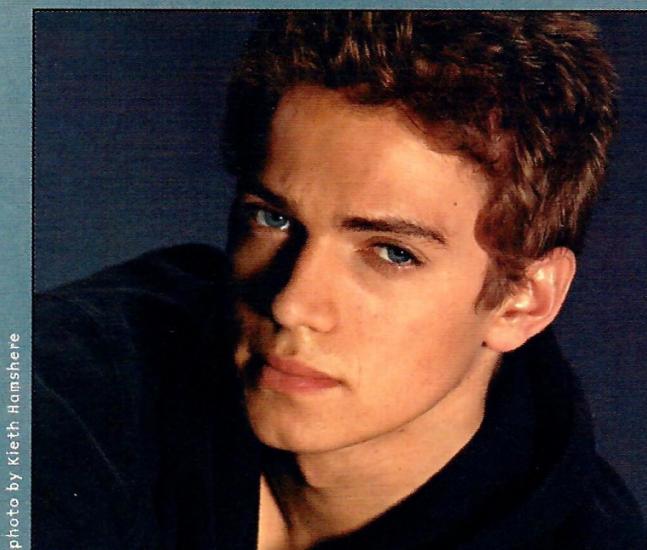


photo by Kiehl Hamshire



Hayden: The Chosen 'One To Watch'

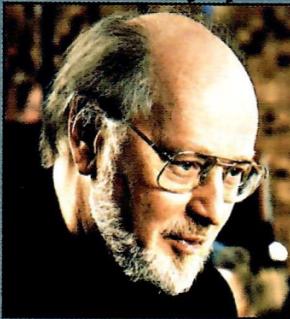
Not only is he "the chosen one"—according to *Movieline* magazine, actor Hayden Christensen is "One to Watch."

Christensen, who plays Anakin Skywalker in Episode II, received the "One to Watch" award at the third annual Young Hollywood Awards, sponsored by *Movieline* magazine. The actor turned 20 just ten days before the ceremony.

The ceremony, hosted by Carson Daly, was held April 29 at the House

of Blues on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. During the awards, audience members enjoyed a sneak peek at some behind-the-scenes footage of Episode II.

Recipients of the "One to Watch" award, a new category added this year, are selected by the *Movieline* editors. The award recognizes young actors who work consistently in feature films and are on their way to becoming Hollywood's next big stars. Other "Ones to Watch" this year were Gabrielle Union (*Bring It On, The Brothers*), Marisa Coughlan (*Teaching Mrs. Tingle, Gossip, Freddy Got Fingered*), and Usher Raymond (*Light It Up, The Faculty*).



John Williams Receives Honorary Doctorates

John Williams has earned five Academy Awards during his

career, as well as one British Academy Award, 18 Grammys, three Golden Globes, two Emmys and numerous gold and platinum records. This year, the composer of the scores for the *Star Wars* movies added to his collection of achievements honorary degrees from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and Utah State University.

Visiting the New York campus on April 29, he conducted the Eastman Philharmonia in a special concert of his film music for students and faculty. The *Star Wars* opening theme served as the encore. At the concert, the school awarded him an honorary doctorate of music degree as a tribute to the enduring power of his work.

"It's a tremendous honor to have John Williams visit Eastman, and an incredible opportunity for our students to perform his internationally recognized music under his direction," said the school's director, James Undercofler. "His music has a remarkable, diverse reach."

In a bit of a reversal just one week later, Williams sat in the audience at a concert in his honor at Utah State University in Logan,

» "WILLIAMS" CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM LAUNCHES STARFIGHTER EXHIBIT

Thousands of visitors—many in costume—previewed the "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter" exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building in Washington, D.C. on April 28. The exhibit, which explores the genealogy of *Star Wars* starships, boasts as its centerpiece a full-scale, 35-foot-long Naboo Starfighter used in the making of *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace*.

More than 11,000 visitors attended the preview and ribbon-cutting ceremony, said Anabeth Guthrie, media relations manager for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). "That's triple the average April Saturday visitors of the Air and Space Museum." More than 6,000 visitors came through the exhibit the second day, she added.

Special guests at the 3,000-square-foot exhibit's ribbon cutting included Industrial Light & Magic Model Project Supervisor John Goodson, who was a

concept model maker on Episode I. Also attending were Jane Boston, general manager of Lucas Learning; Mary Bihr, LucasArts Entertainment Company vice president of worldwide sales and marketing; and Kathleen Holliday, Lucasfilm's director of special programs.

Smithsonian Undersecretary Sheila Burke did the honors of cutting the ribbon to officially open the exhibit. Though she valiantly attempted to cut the ribbon with a toy lightsaber as a treat for the cameras, the more traditional scissors proved the way to go.

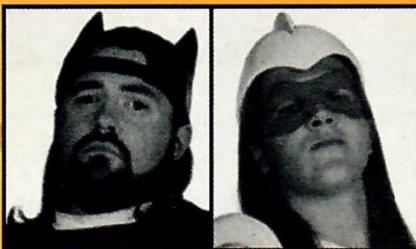
This is the first time the signature yellow and chrome spacecraft model has been presented in the United States. The ship was displayed previously at London's

» "STARFIGHTER" CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

STAR SIGHTINGS

Where They Are, What They're Doing, and How You Can See It All!

Sue Weinlein Cook



Everyone who's seen his films knows that director Kevin Smith (*Dogma*, *Chasing Amy*) is one of Us. The man loves *Star Wars*—one of the most memorable moments in his film *Clerks* was a scene in which the two main characters pondered the morality of contract workers dying alongside Imperial bad guys in the Rebellion's fiery attack on the unfinished Death Star in *Return of the Jedi*. And Silent Bob's homage to Yoda in *Mallrats* manages to keep that movie on our to-rent lists. So no one should be surprised that Smith's next venture, due out in August, is titled *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*.

What is surprising is the film's Skywalker quotient.

CARRIE FISHER (Princess Leia) tells the British online entertainment magazine *Popcorn* that her cameo role as a nun is a "very serious" character involved in an off-color misunderstanding.

On-screen brother **MARK HAMILL** (Luke Skywalker) has signed on for a cameo.

With a nod to *The Empire Strikes Back*, Smith's plot revolves around Jay's (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob's (Smith) attempt to sabotage the production of a film based on the comic book that chronicles their lives as revenge for being cut out of the royalty loop.

Fisher's UK fans caught her recent *InStyle* magazine article about her life as a mother and a daughter—of actress Debbie Reynolds, not the Dark Lord of the Sith.

Hamill made headlines of his own when Sci-Fi.Com announced that he will voice the Joker in the *Justice League of America* animated series for the Cartoon Network. Hamill previously voiced the clown-faced villain in 1998's *The Batman/Superman Movie* for television and in the acclaimed *Batman* animated series and *The New Batman/Superman Adventures* series. In *Justice League*, the Joker appears as a member of the Injustice Gang....

Meanwhile, **HARRISON FORD** (Han Solo) once again hits *Premiere* magazine's Power 100 list of Hollywood's major players. The celeb ranked 48 this year.



With a nod to *The Empire Strikes Back*, Smith's plot revolves around Jay's (Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob's (Smith) attempt to sabotage the production of a film based on the comic book that chronicles their lives as revenge for being cut out of the royalty loop.

down 11 points from his previous rank as No. 37. The magazine acknowledged his success with last year's *What Lies Beneath* but tongue-lashed the actor for turning down the drug-czar part in the Academy Award winning *Traffic* (a role Michael Douglas stepped into). In Ford's favor, *Premiere* cited his plan to don fedora and whip again in a fourth Indiana Jones feature, produced by **GEORGE LUCAS** (No. 18 on the Power 100 list). According to the magazine, Indy 4 director **STEVEN SPIELBERG** (No. 6) sought Oscar-winner M. Night Shyamalan (No. 65) to script the new Dr. Jones adventure.

Ford ranked a little higher in the Seventh Annual Blockbuster Entertainment Awards, coming away with Best Actor honors in the Suspense Film category for *What Lies Beneath*. (Costar Michelle Pfeiffer was voted Best Actress in the same category.) And let's not forget, whatever his rank on *Premiere*'s list, Ford remains a box-office powerhouse, pulling in a reported \$25 million for his role as captain of a Russian sub in the 2002 submarine thriller *K-19: The Widowmaker*. The film also features *The Phantom Menace*'s **LIAM NEESON** (Qui-Gon Jinn)....

EWAN MCGREGOR (Obi-Wan Kenobi), seen recently in *Moulin Rouge*, has been cast with his *Trainspotting* companion Jonny Lee Miller in the comedy *On the Line*. Playing opposite the Jedi is Sarah Michelle Gellar (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). *On the Line* has McGregor's American-Italian character teaming up with Miller to search for Gellar—though it seems she's Miller's love interest. The pairing with Gellar could be repeated in the post-holocaust British film *Mondo Beyondo* (co-starring Rufus Sewell of *Dark City*), scheduled to begin filming next year....

The Official *Star Wars* Web Site announced several new character names for Episode II, namely

CHRISTOPHER LEE (*Sleepy Hollow*) as Count Dooku, **VERONICA SEGURA** (*Subterfuge*) as handmaiden Cordé, Australian actress **ROSE BYRNE** (*Beneath the Banyan Trees*, *The Goddess of 1967*) as handmaiden Dormé, and fellow Aussie **SUSIE PORTER** (*Mullet*, *Better Than Sex*) as waitress Hermione Bagwa....

In other casting news, **WARWICK DAVIS** (Wicket and Wald) will play Professor Flitwick in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, according to *Premiere* magazine. The actor was scheduled for several appearances in Japan this summer, as was the Ewoks' much

taller Jedi buddy **PETER MAYHEW** (Chewbacca). Just back from Tokyo is **BILLY DEE WILLIAMS** (Lando Calrissian). The New York Daily News reports that the Cloud City administrator plans to return to Asia—this time to China—to shoot a new film.

Closer to home, at Walt Disney World's annual *Star Wars* Weekends in May, were **KENNY BAKER** (R2-D2), **DOUG CHIANG** (Design Director), Fisher, Mayhew, **JEREMY BULLOCH** (Boba Fett), Davis, **MIKE QUINN** (Nien Nunb), and **PHIL BROWN**

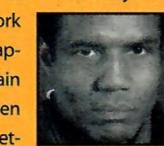
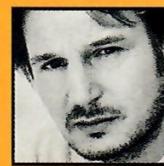
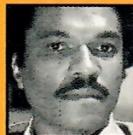
(Uncle Owen). Fans at the Weekends (see *Insider* #54) were treated to Q&A sessions with the celebs, as well as photo opportunities with costumed characters, a Jedi Training Academy, and a late afternoon party featuring tunes from Figrin D'an and the Modal Nodes.

And to help celebrate the *2001: A Space Odyssey* theme for this year's Kentucky Derby Festival, **JAMES EARL JONES** (voice of Darth Vader) appeared as the special guest at the event's kickoff luncheon in April.

Two Episode I actors are bound for the stage in coming months. *The New York Post* reports that **LIAM NEESON** (Qui-Gon Jinn) is set to participate in a revival of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, a play set against the backdrop of the Salem witch trials. *The Post* theorizes that Neeson will play the role of the brave but doomed John Proctor for as little as \$2,000 a week, in addition to a percentage of ticket sales. The play debuts in January, five years after Neeson's last foray onto the Great White Way—in Oscar Wilde's *The Judas Kiss*, also directed by former chief of Britain's National Theater Richard Eyre.

Qui-Gon's young charge, **NATALIE PORTMAN** (Padmé Amidala) steps onto the boards in a revival of Chekhov's *The Seagull*. The performance runs July 24 through August 19 in New York City. This spring, her trusted captain, **HUGH QUARSHIE** (Captain Panaka), took to the small screen

with a bit part on the A&E network's *Horatio Hornblower* miniseries. Always the freedom fighter, Quarshie played the leader of rebellious French slaves who attempt to seize a Spanish fortress.



» "WILLIAMS" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Utah. He was one of several guests at the free concert, organized by the school's Department of Music to pay tribute to the class of 2001. The USU Chamber Singers, Chorale, and Wind Orchestra performed "Fashioned as a Galaxy," a piece composed by Daniel Gauthrop. In addition, the school's Wind Ensemble gave Williams a special welcome by performing the title music from the movie *Superman*, one of his more than 90 movie and

television themes.

Williams received an honorary doctorate degree from Utah State the next day, May 5, as part of the university's 108th annual commencement activities.

Born in New York, Williams moved in 1948 to Los Angeles, where he eventually began his career in the film industry. He wrote music for many television programs in the 1960s. Since then, he has composed the music and



served as music director for more than 80 films, including the *Star Wars* trilogy, the Indiana Jones trilogy, *Superman*, *Jaws*, *Home Alone*, *Presumed Innocent*, *JFK*, and more recent films such as *Jurassic Park*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*, and

The Patriot. Williams has been nominated for 39 Academy Awards, making him the most nominated living person. His soundtrack album *Star Wars* has sold more than 4 million copies, making it one of the most successful non-pop albums in recording history. ☀

» "STARFIGHTER" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Barbican Centre as part of last year's "The Art of Star Wars" exhibition.

Guthrie said the exhibit's preview, billed as a Fan and Family Day Costume Party, attracted *Star Wars* lovers from all over the country. "A whole group of stormtroopers with a Boba Fett, an Imperial Guard, and a Darth Maul drove down from New York," she said. "They were stopping traffic on Constitution Avenue. It was fantastic."

Families attended together, too. Kids had a ball with special activities created for the exhibit, particularly a large mural where they could draw starfighters of their own and a craft area where they could build droids from old-fashioned wooden clothespins, pipe cleaners, and gold or silver paint. "People were making C-3PO units left and right," Guthrie said. "There's still glitter all over the place."

In addition to the Naboo starfighter, the exhibit included audio-visuals, images, and interpretive text illustrating the use of models in the creation of movie special effects. Reproductions of concept art for other ships, such as the *Millennium Falcon* and X-wing fighter, displayed the evolution of starfighter design in the *Star Wars* saga. The exhibit also highlights the work of Lucasfilm

in the documentary video "Designing *Star Wars*" and through interactive learning activities from Lucas Learning and LucasArts. And the new Sony PlayStation 2 *Star Wars Starfighter* and PC-based *Star Wars: Pit Droids* games provided a fun diversion for those willing to stand in line.

The exhibit ran in Washington D.C. through June 24. In July "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter" began its four-year tour of Smithsonian Affiliate museums.

This is only the second *Star Wars* exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian, Guthrie said. The successful "Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" exhibit debuted at the Air and Space Museum and went on to tour museums across the country. ("Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" runs from August 5 to January 5 at the Toledo [Ohio] Museum of Art and from April 5 through July 7, 2002 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.) ☀

Descriptions and itineraries for Smithsonian Institution exhibitions can be found at www.si.edu. Information on Smithsonian Affiliations can be found at <http://affiliations.si.edu>.

STAR WARS: ART OF THE STARFIGHTER PREMIERE

Star Wars fans flocked to Washington D.C. on April 28 for the premiere of the "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter" exhibit, featuring a life-size model of the N-1 Naboo Starfighter used in the filming of Episode I.



▲ Stormtroopers and work-for-hire bounty hunters were called upon to impress the 11,000-strong crowd at the premiere.



▲ Smithsonian Undersecretary Shelia Burke demonstrated her skill with the lightsaber before the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the exhibit.



▲ Darth Maul and dozens of lightsaber-happy Jedi managed to stop traffic on Constitution Avenue.



▲ Star Wars Fan Club members in the Washington D.C. area received postcard invitations to the exhibit's stellar premiere.

JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK! • ATTACK OF THE CLONES

STAR WARS INSIDER

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INTERVIEWS WITH AHMED BEST & ANTHONY DANIELS

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STAR NEWS

FROM THE WORLD OF LUCASFILM

by Sue Weinlein Cook

WILLOW COMES TO DVD

NOVEMBER 27, 2001

**SPECIAL EDITION FEATURES
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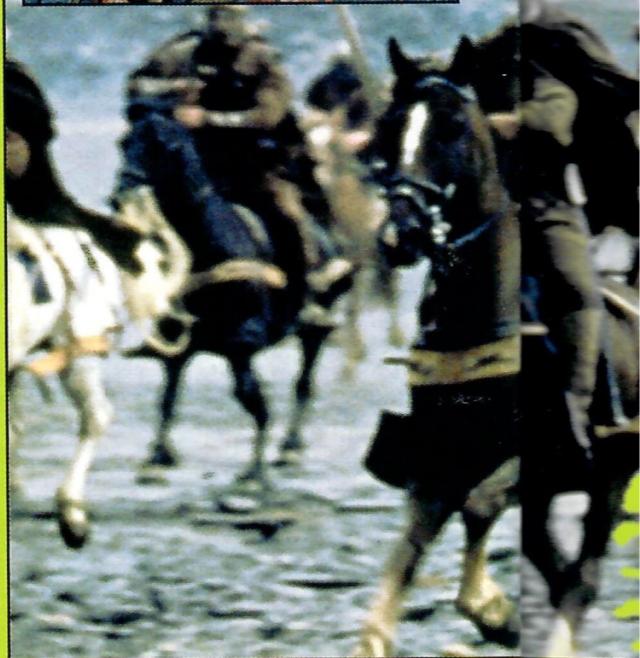
Lucasfilm Ltd. and Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment announce the DVD debut of one of the most successful fantasy adventure movies of all time, *Willow*. Directed by Ron Howard and executive produced by **GEORGE LUCAS**, *Willow* numbers among the most requested DVDs on the Internet, consistently ranking in the Top 10 on DVD websites. The 1988 film stars Val Kilmer (*The Saint*), Joanne Whalley (*Breathtaking*), Jean Marsh (*Monarch*), with **WARWICK DAVIS** (Wicket the Ewok) in the title role. It was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Sound Effects Editing and Best Visual Effects.

The Special Edition DVD features exclusive material enabling fans of the movie, as well as a new generation, to experience the mystical adventure like never before. This Special Edition DVD has been THX digitally re-mastered for superior sound and picture quality and is presented in new 5.1 Dolby surround sound. Features on the disc include special commentaries, an all-new documentary showcasing *Willow*'s groundbreaking achievements

in special effects, a classic "Making of an Adventure" documentary, an effects featurette, original theatrical trailers, TV spots, a still photo gallery, and much more.

Willow is also available on VHS. Coming November 27, the DVD and VHS are priced to own at \$26.98 and \$14.98, respectively.

Based on a story by George Lucas, with a screenplay written by Bob Dolman, *Willow* is director Ron Howard's fantasy world of medieval adventure. *Willow* stars Val Kilmer as Madmartigan, a swashbuckling warrior, and Warwick Davis as the title character. In a mythical kingdom, the evil sorceress Queen Balmorda (Jean Marsh) plots to kill all infants so that the newborn princess, Elora, will never take over the throne. But a midwife sets the baby adrift in a river, and she is rescued by Willow, a farmer in Nelwyn, a peaceful village of trolls, fairies, and little folk. Willow and Madmartigan begin a quest to deliver the baby from evil while being chased by Queen Balmorda's daughter, Sorsha (Joanne Whalley), sent to bring the baby back to Nockmaar. ☺





THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION ARTS LOS ANGELES

British Film Academy to Salute Lucas at Britannia Awards

Director Also Invited to Join Smithsonian Committee to Select 'American Achievers'

The awards keep rolling in for director **GEORGE LUCAS**. After being recognized by the American Film Institute for his landmark *American Graffiti* (*Insider* #54), he's scheduled to receive the Stanley Kubrick Britannia Award for Excellence in Film. The award presentation takes place at the 11th annual Britannia Awards, Nov. 10 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. The awards are sponsored by the British Academy of

Film & Television Arts Los Angeles.

"We are delighted to be honoring George Lucas, who has chosen to make so many of his films in the U.K., including his 'Star Wars' and 'Indiana Jones' series," BAFTA/L.A. chairman Gary Dartnall told the *Hollywood Reporter*. "He has contributed immensely to our industry as an innovative filmmaker, changing the way movies are made, seen and heard."

Lucas has directed and/or produced 10 films on location in the U.K. throughout his career, including four *Star Wars* films, the *Indiana Jones* trilogy, and the *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. He is also doing some production on Episode II in the U.K.

This is not Lucas' first honor for excellence in film. In 1992 he received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' prestigious Irving G. Thalberg Award. Throughout his career, his projects have earned 17 Oscars (of 66 nominations), 12 Emmys (of 26 nominations), and six BAFTA Awards (of 17 nominations).

Last year the top British film award went to director and Lucas friend and sometimes partner

STEVEN SPIELBERG (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*). Other previous winners include John Travolta, Dustin Hoffman, Bob and Harvey

» "AWARD" CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



STAR WARS EPISODE II *ATTACK* of the **CLONES**

» In case you've been living under a rock since the official announcement on August 6th, *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones* is the full title for the next *Star Wars* film, scheduled for release in 2002.

As reported on starwars.com, "Attack of the Clones joins *The Phantom Menace*, *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* as chapter titles in the six-episode Skywalker saga. It harkens back to the sense of pure fun, imagination and excitement that characterized the classic movie serials and pulp space fantasy adventures that inspired the *Star Wars* saga." ☀

STAR SIGHTINGS

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Neeson in Asylum • Lucas Attends Playboy Mansion Bash



From Russian submarine XO to Irish gangland murder victim, **LIAM NEESON** (Qui-Gon Jinn) has had a full schedule of filming this year. His next movie, *Gangs of New York*—directed by Martin Scorsese (*Bringing out the Dead*, *The Age of Innocence*) and starring Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Beach*), Cameron Diaz (*Charlie's Angels*), and Daniel Day-Lewis (*Last of the Mohicans*, *The Age of Innocence*)—is now in post-production. *Gangs*, based on a book by Herbert Asbury, depicts the gang wars between New York's Anglo-Protestant poor and the wave of Irish-Catholic immigrants in the days before the Civil War. Industrial Light and Magic is creating the digital effects for the \$90 million picture, Miramax's biggest-budget feature yet.

Last fall, prior to the start of filming, Neeson shattered his pelvis in a motorcycle accident (*Insider* #51), but a quick reworking of production schedules allowed him to remain part of the cast. The movie's December 21 opening pits *Gangs* against *The Fellowship of the Ring*, which features **CHRISTOPHER LEE** (Count Dooku) in the role of Saruman (*Insider* #51).

Following *Gangs*, Neeson will appear with his wife Natasha Richardson (*Nell*, *The Handmaid's Tale*) in the Jonathan Demme (*Philadelphia*, *Beloved*) thriller *Asylum*. According to the Ananova website, the two have long sought to work together. *Asylum*, based on Patrick McGrath's 1998 novel, tells the story of a woman whose husband becomes the director of an institution for the mentally ill, and of the inmate-murderer she befriends (Neeson). This drama for Paramount Pictures is written by Stephen King, who—in a first for the prolific novelist—adapts the work of another author for the screen....

Before agreeing to play Jack Ryan in the upcoming *The Sum of All Fears*, Ben Affleck (*Pearl Harbor*) wanted dispensation from **HARRISON FORD** (Han Solo), who played the role in two previous Tom Clancy films. As reported in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Affleck said, "I wouldn't have taken the job without talking to Harrison. I said, 'I want to make sure you're cool with me doing Jack Ryan.'



He said, 'Ben, I'm totally cool with it. I don't want to be Jack Ryan anymore. And you'll have a great time. You'll be terrific and you have my blessing.' He was very sweet

and nice. I felt like I was Mark Hamill talking to Han Solo." Ford previously appeared as Ryan in *Patriot Games* and *Clear and Present Danger* after Affleck's *Pearl Harbor* costar Alec Baldwin created the role in *The Hunt for Red October*. Look for *The Sum of All Fears* in theaters next year.... Viewers of the American Film Institute's "100 Years... 1000 Thrills" special on CBS in June caught Ford, as host, introducing "America's most heart-pounding movies." Ford's own *Raiders of the Lost Ark* made #10 on the list, with his *The Fugitive* at #33 and *Blade Runner* at #74. *Star Wars* came in at #27. It's interesting to note that the fan version of the list—compiled via an online poll at AFIOnline—presents a little different picture: #1 *Star Wars*, #2 *Raiders*, #3 *The Empire Strikes Back*, #6 *Return of the Jedi*, #9 *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Thanks for turning out to vote, everyone!...

GEORGE LUCAS joined publishing magnate Hugh Hefner at the Playboy Mansion earlier this year to celebrate what would have been Marilyn Monroe's 75th birthday. Hefner, a well-known Monroe fan, hosted the event in support of the documentary "Marilyn Monroe: The Final Days," from American Movie Classics and 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment.

Lucas has been working with Fox on preservation techniques to restore many of Monroe's movies. He said he hoped the industry turns its efforts toward aiding the preservation of smaller films as well. "It's the independent films—the orphans—that still need saving," the director told *Variety*.

Others attending at the event included director Sydney Pollack, actor George Chakiris, and actresses Barbara Eden and Poppy Montgomery (who played Marilyn in the May CBS television TV miniseries *Blonde*)....

JEREMY BULLOCH (Boba Fett) is the first star cast in the new animated series *Nature's Guard*, produced by the Ontario-based LegendWorks Licensing. The story—which the company's president and head designer Jon Athan calls "G.I. Joe meets Ninja Turtles with a very *Star Wars* epic story"—revolves around a civil war on the planet Forestya between Nature's Senate and the Spidersect Empire. Athan said he met Bulloch at a convention and was excited to hear of the actor's interest in the project. "We instantly on the spot cast him as one of the characters," Athan said. Bulloch will be voicing Longtail, an old and wise yet roguish gray squirrel-soldier. "You could think of him as Han Solo meets Qui-Gon Jinn," he

said. Athan also hopes to attract other *Star Wars* actors to the project, which is still in development. For more details on these furry freedom fighters, visit www.naturesguard.com. Bulloch also is engaged in talks with LightWorX to appear in an *Advanced Warriors* interactive online plot as a mage named Max with a mysterious past. Filming was set to take place this summer in England....

The Australian edition of *For Him Magazine*

ranked **NATALIE PORTMAN** (Padmé Amidala) at #15 in its "Top 100 Sexiest Women in the World" feature. The Queen of Naboo managed to nab only the #75 place in the American edition and #84 in the U.K. version. Along with her listing, the magazine featured comments from the actress regarding her current studies at Harvard University and her interest in psychology as a career field that may even rival acting....

British fans can catch **DENIS LAWSON** (Wedge Antilles) starring as a Glasgow detective on the new BBC police series *The Fabulous Bagel Boys*. Lawson plays a Jewish cop whose family runs a kosher delicatessen on the show, which premiered this spring in the U.K. Reportedly, the debut episode even featured a small *Star Wars* homage when another character referred to Lawson's as "Rabbi Wan Kenobi"....

The buzz around Hollywood is that award-winning director and screenwriter M. Night Shyamalan (*Unbreakable*, *The Sixth Sense*) will not pen the new *Indiana Jones* film. Though there reportedly were talks with him about the job, it's not going to happen. Now reports are that *Traffic* screenwriter Stephen Gaghan may get the nod instead. On a related front, *Variety* reports that *The Empire Strikes Back* writer Lawrence Kasdan (*The Big Chill*), is set to direct *Dreamcatcher*, based on a Stephen King story....

Perennial back-pain sufferer **DAVID PROWSE** (Darth Vader) was back in the hospital again after losing the use of his legs. In February he suffered an attack of chronic arthritis that sent him to the hospital (*Insider* #54), but this latest illness is diagnosed as an abscess at the base of the spine. He is out of the hospital now and fully recovering with the help of a back brace, and he expressed thanks to all the fans who sent him good wishes while he was hospitalized. 

Sue Weinlein Cook

» "AWARD" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Weinstein, Anthony Hopkins, Martin Scorsese, Peter Ustinov, Michael Caine, and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli. ☺

Ewan to Trade Lightsaber for Mike?

It's nice to know that if the job of safeguarding the galaxy ever goes bust, you can always fall back on a career as a musician. Fans raised eyebrows when **EWAN MCGREGOR** (Obi-Wan Kenobi) capably crooned Elton John's "Your Song" and other numbers in his musical film *Moulin Rouge*.

"Elton was on the set the day Ewan sang, and he couldn't believe it," said *Moulin Rouge* director Baz Luhrmann in the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "Elton was like, 'This guy sings this song better than I sing it.'"

The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, where costar Nicole Kidman also praised his vocals. "Ewan had to sing me Elton John's 'Your Song' about six hundred times," she told the World Entertainment News Network. "But every time [I hear it] it still evokes an immediate emotional adoration of him. When he would sing to me it was like magic."

McGregor said he'd consider recording other songs as well. "I'm not planning to cut an album or anything, but I'd never done much singing before, and I really enjoyed the opportunity," he told the WENN. "Film is often a long, laborious way to tell a story, and songs are quick and efficient, so it's quite satisfying on many levels. We had four months of rehearsals, so we could get really comfortable with the idea of singing. It got to the point where



photo © Twentieth Century Fox



photo © Twentieth Century Fox

you didn't even think about it before you broke into song."

Will Obi-Wan turn to the pop side of the Force? Always in motion is the future....

While *Moulin Rouge* turned heads with its blend of 19th-century settings and 20th-century music, Ewan continued filming the Ridley Scott thriller *Black Hawk Down* in Morocco. His wife and daughter, who usually join him on his shoots, have stayed away from this one; the Ananova website reported that the actor found the vivid violence in the movie, which revolves around a Somalian kidnap mission, too violent for his young daughter. The McGregors are expecting their second child in October.

The actor's next project will be an adaptation of a 1954 novel called *Young Adam*. The \$6 million film, directed by David McKenzie

(*Scrooge: A Christmas Carol*), depicts the life of Scottish writer Alexander Trochi. Reports are also circulating McGregor will appear opposite Renee Zellweger (*Bridget Jones's Diary*) in the World War II comedy-drama *Knickers*. He plays a sales executive who becomes the love interest of a reluctant German spy and lingerie salesperson, played by Zellweger. According to the Ananova website, director John McKay (*Fellowship of the Ring* sound mixer) begins filming next year in the U.K. ☺

Legal Battle Heats up over Ford-Neeson Cold War Film

Shooting wrapped early this summer on the Cold War submarine thriller *K-19: The Widowmaker*, starring **HARRISON FORD** (Han Solo) and **LIAM NEESON** (Qui-Gon Jinn). (See *Insider* #52.) The film, directed by Kathryn Bigelow (*Strange Days*, *Point Break*), is based on the true story of a 1961 disaster aboard Russia's first nuclear ballistic submarine. However, the final days of shooting in Halifax, Nova Scotia,

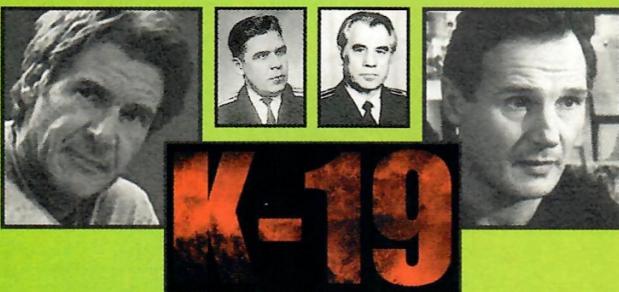
came under a cloud when a lawsuit against the \$80 million production was upheld by a Los Angeles Superior Court.

The lawsuit, brought by writer/producer Inna Gotman against Intermedia Films International earlier this year, claims that the film's producers stole her claims to the story and interfered with her attempts to contact its living subjects. During the final days of shooting this spring, Judge Alan G. Buckner announced its decision not to throw out the suit.

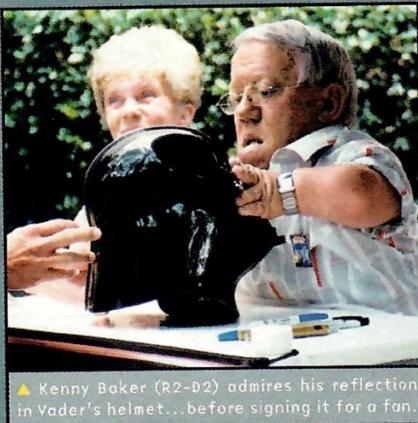
Gotman alleged that she brought the idea for a film about the nuclear accident to Intermedia in 1999 and was told to continue her work on the project. She later discovered that the company had proceeded with a film about the incident without her.

Gotman said she had received the exclusive rights to the life stories of 13 surviving members of the sub's crew in 1994, and that Intermedia's independent claim to these rights is based on

» "K-19" CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



» "WEEKENDS" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23



▲ Kenny Baker (R2-D2) admires his reflection in Vader's helmet...before signing it for a fan.

final challenge: A lightsaber duel against Darth Vader himself! Thanks in part to his menacing appearance and height advantage, Vader was able to withstand the steady barrage of little green lightsabers, but in the end—as in the films—he finally gave in to the light side of the Force.

Tatooine Traders—Fans could visit a store featuring event-exclusive trading pins, action figures, commemorative lithographs, costumes, masks, T-shirts, and other limited-edition items.

The *Star Wars* Weekends celebration in 2002 promises to be even more thrilling, particularly with the release of *Star Wars* Episode II. Expect to

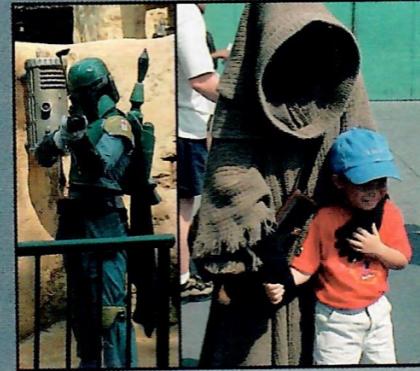


▲ Phil Brown (Owen Lars) and Mike Quinn (Star Wars character puppeteer) were the final guests of the four-weekend event this past May.

see Episode II stars and events, plus your favorite classic trilogy characters. Preparations for next year's event are already underway, so plan your vacation now! *Insider* will keep you posted as the news develops.

For updates on next year's galactic celebration, check out www.disneyworld.com.

The staff of Star Wars Insider would like to extend special thanks to Gary Buchanan at Disney for his hospitality, generosity, and down-to-earth approachability.



▲ "Autograph, huh? I'll give you an autograph..." ▶ "Would you like to buy this little boy? Heck, I'll throw in the cap for free..."

» "K-19" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

forged documents. She added that Intermedia began to interfere with her relationship with the film's subjects.

For its part, Intermedia claims in a countersuit that Gotman obstructed the production by informing crew members they could go to jail for working on the project and by jeopardizing Intermedia's relationship with other parties as well.

In *K-19: The Widowmaker*, Ford stars as the heroic captain Nikolai Zateyev, who remained with his crew aboard the vessel despite exposure to deadly radiation after a chain reaction threatened to

overheat the reactor and launch the sub's missiles against the United States. Neeson portrays Zateyev's adversary and second-in-command, Officer Yenin.

Intermedia's attorney had asked that the case be dismissed because it was filed in state court when its proper jurisdiction was federal court, as the claims fall under the federal Copyright Act.

While the legal battle continues, National Geographic Television announced its plans to spotlight *K-19: The Widowmaker* in a "National Geographic Beyond the Movie" documentary. The program draws upon the resources of

the National Geographic Society—including its maps, print publications, and photography archives—to complement historical feature films and offer more background on the events they depict. The first installment of this series

focused on this spring's blockbuster *Pearl Harbor*.

No release date for *K-19: The Widowmaker* had been announced at press time. It is to be distributed in the United States by New Regency and Fox.



You'll find *Star Wars* fans in the most unexpected places—even on the shelves of your local record store. Check out the cover of rock band Weezer's new *Green Album*; lead signer Rivers Cuomo's guitar boasts a bunch of *Star Wars* stickers, including R2-D2, Chewbacca, C-3PO, and Darth Vader. Meanwhile, Dougie Payne from the British group Travis told *Worldpop.com* that music has a personal power for good. "I think music's about energy and it's a positive energy in the face of this giant monolith of negativity," he said. "It's like the X-Wing going into the Death Star in *Star Wars*... that's what music's like."

BOUNTY HUNTER SPECIAL • COUNTDOWN TO *ATTACK OF THE CLONES*

STARWARS[®]

INSIDER

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STAR NEWS

57

FROM THE WORLD OF LUCASFILM

by Sue Weinlein Cook with additional reporting by Paul Enz and Mat Smith

STAR WARS CELEBRATION II 25 YEARS OF THE FORCE

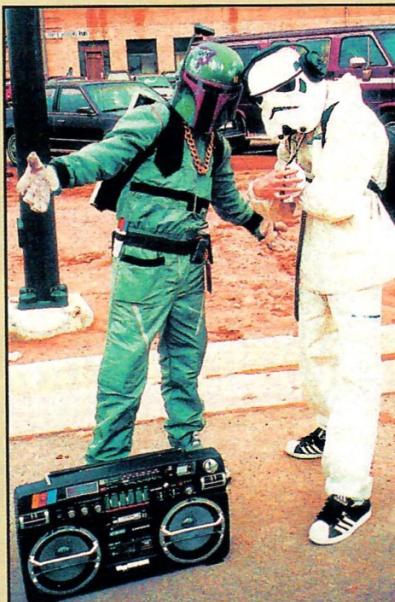
MAY 3-5, 2002

INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Just 25 years after the release of *A New Hope*, and only weeks before *Attack of the Clones* hits the silver screen, *Star Wars* fans from around the world will descend upon Indianapolis to attend the largest official fanfest ever. Held in the immense—and rain-proof—Indianapolis Convention Center, *Star Wars* Celebration II will boast over 340,000 square feet of pure *Star Wars*. Well over 20,000 fans are expected to join a horde of actors, artists, authors, dealers, vendors and exhibitors, becoming totally immersed in the ultimate *Star Wars* fan experience.

Just some of the events and attractions to look forward to are: special appearances (including autograph and Q&A sessions) by celebrities and behind-the-scenes talent from all five movies, a special showing of never-before-seen film footage, a collectibles trading area, the *Star Wars* Archive, an art show, an auction, contests for miniatures and costumes, *Star Wars* game events, a video gaming area, multiple screening rooms, and more.

Star Wars fans will have no shortage of things to do and see.



Run-THX plays Celebration I. Celebration II: Electric Boogaloo. Photo by Kevin Fitzpatrick

Collectors will be particularly interested in the *Star Wars* Celebration II merchandise available only at the event, including a special *Star Wars* action figure that will not be made available anywhere ever again.

Of course, the *Star Wars* Celebration II experience will be most complete for *Star Wars* Fan Club members, who will enjoy

several exclusive benefits. (It really won't be the same event for non-members—just another reason to enjoy being a part of the club.)

Even with the huge, everything-under-one-roof venue, space is limited, so early registration is important to ensure your place.

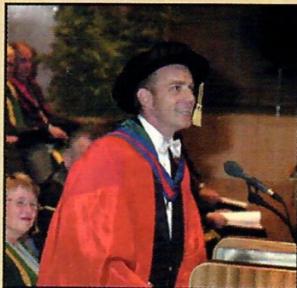
To get more information or to register, go to www.starwarscelebration.com or call 1-866-334-JEDI. ☺

TRAILERS!

By the time you're reading this, *Star Wars* fans have seen the first trailers for *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* both online and in theaters.

Owners of *The Phantom Menace* on DVD were the first to see the Episode II footage through a special website accessible with the disc in the computer's DVD-ROM drive. This QuickTime internet preview explores the mysteries of *Attack of the Clones* as our heroes are confronted with more questions than answers.

Episode II has hit the big screen as well—a teaser, anyway. This time, movie audiences saw



Ewan McGregor cheerfully accepts an honorary doctorate and his perfect attendance award.

Padawan No Longer

Honorary Degree First Event in Scottish Actor's Busy Summer

Once he was but a learner, but now **EWAN MCGREGOR** (Obi-Wan Kenobi) is . . . a doctor. The actor received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters this summer from the University of Ulster.

In his acceptance speech during the graduation ceremony, McGregor, 30, told students to

live their lives with passion. "I've always been driven with a passion," he said. "I've always striven toward being the best I could be. I still am."

The Scottish actor wore a traditional tartan kilt during the ceremony in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The university sought to honor him for his "services to drama and film in the U.K.," according to the *Belfast Telegram*.

"I am often asked what I would have done if I was not an actor," he said. "That was not an option. I was always going to do it and do it to this level of success and I wish that for every one of you also."

McGregor graduated in 1992 from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Although his grades were nothing stellar, he told the BBC he's going to start making his friends call him "doctor."

If this international celebrity follows his passions, his most recent is surely singing (*Insider* #56). Following his captivating crooning in this spring's *Moulin Rouge*—singles like "Come What May" from the soundtrack hit the Top Ten in pop charts world-

wide—McGregor was to perform in August at Glasgow's Gig on the Green. The mini music festival also attracted British singers Travis and Iggy Pop.

McGregor was to play the gig while in Glasgow shooting *Young Adam* (*Insider* #56) with director David McKenzie (*Scrooge: A Christmas Carol*). The thriller, based on a novel by Scottish writer Alexander Trochi, costars Tilda Swinton (*The Beach*). Its plot centers on a drifter who discovers a woman's corpse floating in the river while working on a barge between Glasgow and Edinburgh. *Young Adam* is supported in part by Scotland's government-backed film-funding agency Scottish Screen.

Earlier in August McGregor had another occasion to don his kilt when he served as Chieftain of Scotland's Highland Games. The annual Crieff games challenge contestants in the ancient arts of caber tossing (hefting a huge log end over end) and throwing the hammer (slinging an anvil over a bar some 10 feet

» "DR. EWAN" CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



It's an Honor Just to be Nominated



As reported in Variety's Video Business publication, *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* was primed for Video Premiere Awards weeks before it was even released, racking up nominations in each major DVD category:

- Best Overall New Extra Features
- Best Original Retrospective Documentary
- Best New, Enhanced, or Reconstructed Movie Scenes
- Best Audio Commentary
- Best DVD Menu Design

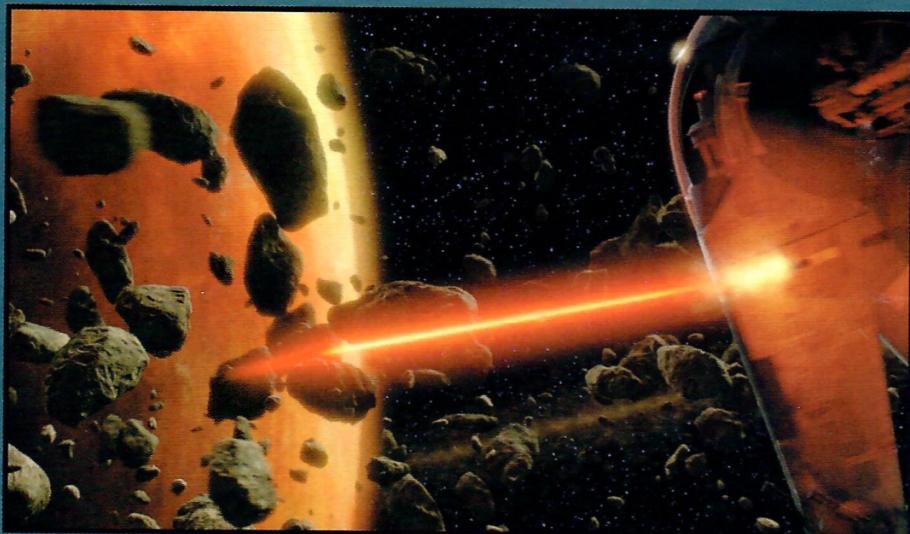
The Video Premiere Awards honors original creative work produced specifically for home video programming. The awards ceremony was scheduled to be held October 23 at the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood, so check out starwars.com for more news of the results. ☀

RELEASED

glimpses of the blossoming romance between Senator Padmé Amidala and her Jedi protector, Anakin Skywalker. Their feelings for each other might be forbidden, but with the galaxy crumbling around them, can they afford to live a lie?

If you're one of the four people who haven't seen the trailers yet, head over to starwars.com.

We want to know what you think of your first glances of *Attack of the Clones* footage. There's a discussion happening online at the starwars.com forums, or share your thoughts at swinsider@wizards.com. ☀



STAR SIGHTINGS

New York ♥ Natalie • Sexy Threepio?

NATALIE PORTMAN (Padmé Amidala), in New York for the Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Seagull*, has won the hearts of New Yorkers. *New York Magazine* voted her their

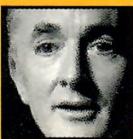


"Summer Fun Cover Girl," citing the Long Island actress's theater work, her starring role in Episode II, and her love for the New York Public Library. Thanks to her classic good looks, *Harpers & Queen* magazine is calling her "the new Audrey Hepburn." Those of us who don't live in the Big Apple got a chance to see her this summer playing a cameo role in Ben Stiller's new comedy, *Zoolander*.

Portman wowed the crowd this summer at the *A.I.* premiere in New York. According to *E! Online*, she embodied "hippie chic," wearing a white T-shirt, pink Indian print skirt, turquoise and coral jewelry, and a denim jacket. The actress also made an appearance at a party for the band U2 following the final concert in the U.S. portion of their tour. The *New York Post*, ever the journal of *important* tidings, reported that Portman, a vegan, was less than thrilled with the lack of macrobiotic hors d'oeuvres at the shindig. Yes, but what was she *wearing*?

Portman might be the "Summer Fun" girl, but you don't have to be human to be sexy. At least, that's the thinking of the voters in Moviefone.com's Android Appeal survey. In a poll asking visitors to the site to choose the sexiest robots, C-3PO came in at #5—beating out *Star Trek*'s Data but losing to *Blade Runner*'s Pris and Rachael as well as Ah-nold as *The Terminator* and the Stepford Wives. The site credits his smooth English accent and fluency in millions of languages as the key to Threepio's appeal. Good thing it wasn't his shiny gold plating: The droid you see in Episode II sports a dull plating instead.

Meanwhile, Threepio's alter-ego, **ANTHONY DANIELS**, recently had a small role on British TV in the series *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)*.



Speaking of polls, *Star Wars* was "the overwhelming favorite" in a survey by Popcorn.co.uk of our favorite summer blockbusters of all time. Thousands participated in the survey, which awarded *The Matrix* the #2 spot, followed by *Gladiator*, *Titanic*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Terminator 2*, *Jurassic Park*, *The Mummy*, and *Gone With the Wind*.

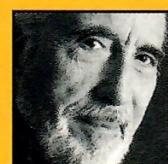
Look for **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** (Mace Windu) to star with Milla Jovovich (*The Fifth Element*) and Stellan Skarsgård (*Dancer in the Dark*) in *No Good Deed*. The police thriller, filming this summer under the directorship of Bob

Rafelson (*Five Easy Pieces*), is based on the Dashiell Hammett short story "The House on Turk Street." In a bit of departure from his *Shaft* role, Jackson plays a San Francisco car theft detective who gets caught up with an international gang of bond thieves when he should be on vacation.

The actor recently told CNN that he asked Episode II filmmakers to make his lightsaber purple. "I can tell you I asked for a violet light," he said. "George thought about it and he said, 'Well, the good guys have this color light and the bad guys have that color light.' So he's debating whether he'll make my light something different or as common as everybody else's. But you know, I don't care as long as it comes on." [Editor's Note: *George decided to give Mace his purple lightsaber, as recently revealed by the cover image to Insider #55 and confirmed by Steve Sansweet at the Star Wars Connections presentation at the San Diego Comic-Con.*]

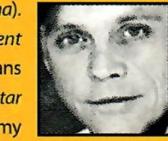
Besides Episode II, Jackson is also due to appear in *Changing Lanes* and *Fifty-First State* and to host the 16th annual American Cinematheque Award ceremony honoring Nicolas Cage (*The Family Man*) at the Moving Picture Ball September 22 in Beverly Hills. Don't worry if you don't have your tux: The event will be broadcast October 10 on TNT.

It's not the One Ring, but **CHRISTOPHER LEE** (Count Dooku), who appears this Christmas as Saruman in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, was recently awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire for Services to Drama. The presentation to Lee, 79, of one of Britain's highest awards was made in Queen Elizabeth's annual birthday honors list. Almost 1,000 were included in the list, but only 15 percent of them received a CBE (just shy of a knighthood) or higher honor. Other CBE recipients include Dudley Moore (*Arthur*) and Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*).



Recently we in the States have seen Lee on public television in the *Gormenghast*. In the miniseries, based on Mervyn Peake's novel, he plays Flay, the Earl of Gormenghast's faithful servant.

MARK HAMILL (Luke Skywalker) toured the country this summer promoting his cameo appearance in the new film *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, directed by Kevin Smith (*Dogma*). The actor told *Entertainment Tonight* that his sons were big fans of the director, an unabashed *Star Wars* fan. "To me it's one of my favorite moments in Kevin's film, where in just off-handed dialogue [in *Clerks*] the guy says to the other guy, 'So what do you think—on the Death Star—was



that independent contractors or did they do in-house?'" In the new film, Hamill plays an aging actor portraying the villain of a comic-book movie. Oh yeah—he has a lightsaber. "It's really fun, and I felt this is as close to a villain on *Batman* as I'll ever get."

CARRIE FISHER (Leia Organa) has a cameo in the film



(*Insider #55*), which was released in August. No stranger to comics, Hamill is working on a computer game based on his book, *The Black Pearl*, and has a role on an upcoming episode of *V.I.P.* *E!* Online reports that he later will star with Christian Campbell (*The Piano Man's Daughter*), J.P. Pitoc, (*Just Can't Get Enough*), and Sally Kirkland (*A Month of Sundays*), as a rock drummer's dad in the independent film *Thank You, Good Night*.

An autographed black-and-white photo of the star was recently auctioned on eBay for a paltry \$197.50! Proceeds from the sale went to support the Tampa, Florida, chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

The voice of Darth Maul, **PETER SERAFINOWICZ**, has a new show on the BBC, according to *Radio Times*. The six-part sitcom, *World of Pub*, also stars Phil Cornwall who, with Serafinowicz, runs London's least successful pub.

JAY LAGA'AIA (a security officer) was host of *StarStruck*, an Australian talent show.



Mel's Drive-in, a diner made famous in *American Graffiti*, soon will be not only a part of history but also its neighbor. This summer, construction began on a new 50's-style diner in the refurbished Max Factor Building near Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. The building will also house the Hollywood History Museum. Steve Weiss, Mel's co-owner, told KFWB that he hoped the new drive-in and museum would help revitalize the area. LA residents can look for the grand opening in November. Have a chocolate shake for us....

The American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced that films don't have to be on "film" to qualify for the annual Oscar awards. Presenting a feature to audiences via a "non-video-tape digital process" also applies. Good news for Episode II, Lucasfilm's first all-digital feature.

Residents of Toledo, Ohio, have a new reason to celebrate. The *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* exhibit arrived at the Toledo Museum of Art in August and runs until January 5. *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* (*Insider #35*) was developed by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. All of the artifacts in this exhibition

» "DR. EWAN" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

high). His father, James, is a director of the century-old event, so Ewan is no stranger to the games. His mother, Carol, told the World Entertainment News Network, "Ewan's been involved in the games since he was just a lad and is delighted that they've recognized him this year."

Recently, British television audiences have caught McGregor in another of his passions: making wildlife documentaries. *Ewan McGregor: The Bear Facts*, which aired in July on the BBC, tells the story of polar bears who descend on a Canadian town looking for food when the sun melts their icy homes. Another BBC nature film—*Trips That Money Can't Buy*, scheduled to air in late August—has McGregor venturing into the jungles of Central America with wildlife expert Ray Mears. Meanwhile, McGregor and *The Bear Facts'* director Doug Allan have already discussed returning to the Arctic for a film that would send them diving beneath the ice into the habitat of beluga whales and, yes, more polar bears.

As if that isn't enough to keep him busy, the actor also has signed on to judge Turner Classic Movies' "Classic Shorts 2001" competition. This short film contest for U.K. filmmakers, which takes place during

AR TOO'S STORY REVEALED

"For 25 years, Artoo Detoo has been one of the most beloved actors ever to appear on film," raves Lucasfilm Vice-President of Marketing, Jim Ward. "We get calls from the fans and the press all the time asking all about the guy—where he came from, what's his story, what's he up to now. To be honest, we had no idea."



The early days found Artoo shadowing directors Francis Coppola and George Lucas, even after the droid's breakthrough in *Star Wars*. He was desperate not to be typecast as an astromech.

the 45th Regus London Film Festival November 7th to 22nd, seeks to spotlight the classic directors of the future. Other judges include directors Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*, *Alien*, *Blade Runner*), John Madden (*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, *Shakespeare in Love*), and Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*).

"Artoo's drinking problem began affecting production as early as Episode IV: A New Hope."



Pushing his way onto the set of *American Graffiti*, Artoo became more than a little friendly with actress Condy Clark. Were the feelings mutual?



Richard Dreyfus and Artoo were once the best of pals, until something so disturbing drove them apart that Rick still can't bring himself to talk about it.

With Artoo's return in Episode II, Ward tasked the documentary crew to find the real story. But every answer only raised

further questions. As the facts were gleaned and the pieces of the puzzle put together, the true tale of this troubled artist unfolded—from his estranged relationship with his father, his struggle as an artist with physical challenges, the price of fame and his come-back to prominence.

Lucasfilm's latest documentary, *Artoo Detoo: Beneath the Dome*, tells the mechanical actor's true story for the first time. Featuring many of Artoo's famous associates, including Ewan McGregor, Carrie Fisher, Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, and Samuel L. Jackson, an exclusive preview airs during the November 25th broadcast premiere of *The Phantom Menace* on Fox.

The documentary itself appears in installments on www.starwars.com, concluding in December.

Signs of a drinking problem surfaced early. Artoo felt the need to outpace the likes of Coppola, Zemeckis, Lucas, Scorsese, Spielberg, and Howard.



are on loan from the archives of Lucasfilm Ltd. This popular exhibition of treasures from the Lucasfilm archives presents more than 250 models, props, costumes, and original artwork from the *Star Wars* films.

The Toledo Museum of Art is one of only eight top museums to host this show, among the most-visited Smithsonian exhibitions of all time, and, according to *Museums New York* magazine, one of the year's top-ten must-see exhibitions. Highlights of the show include C-3PO and R2-D2, Chewbacca, Yoda, and Darth Vader. Also displayed in the exhibition are the crime lord, Jabba the Hutt, and his

court jester, Salacious Crumb. Production models on display include the original six-foot *Millennium Falcon*, an AT-AT walker, and a snowspeeder. The exhibition is accompanied by an excellent audio tour narrated by **JAMES EARL JONES** (Darth Vader), as well as a documentary film featuring interviews with George Lucas, the films' actors, and artists who worked on the *Star Wars* saga.

During *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth*, the museum also presents an exhibition titled "The Heroic



Tradition: Art and the Mythic Journey." Created by Jeffrey A. Brown of Bowling Green State University's department of popular culture, "The Heroic Tradition" focuses on objects from the museum's own collections that depict classical heroes on their journey to enlightenment.

Insider columnist Steve Sansweet conducted a seminar titled "Star Wars: From Film to Cultural Icon" at the museum on Sunday, October 7th. Tickets for *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* are available by calling (419) 243-7000 or toll free at 1-888-763-7486, or visiting www.toledomuseum.org.