



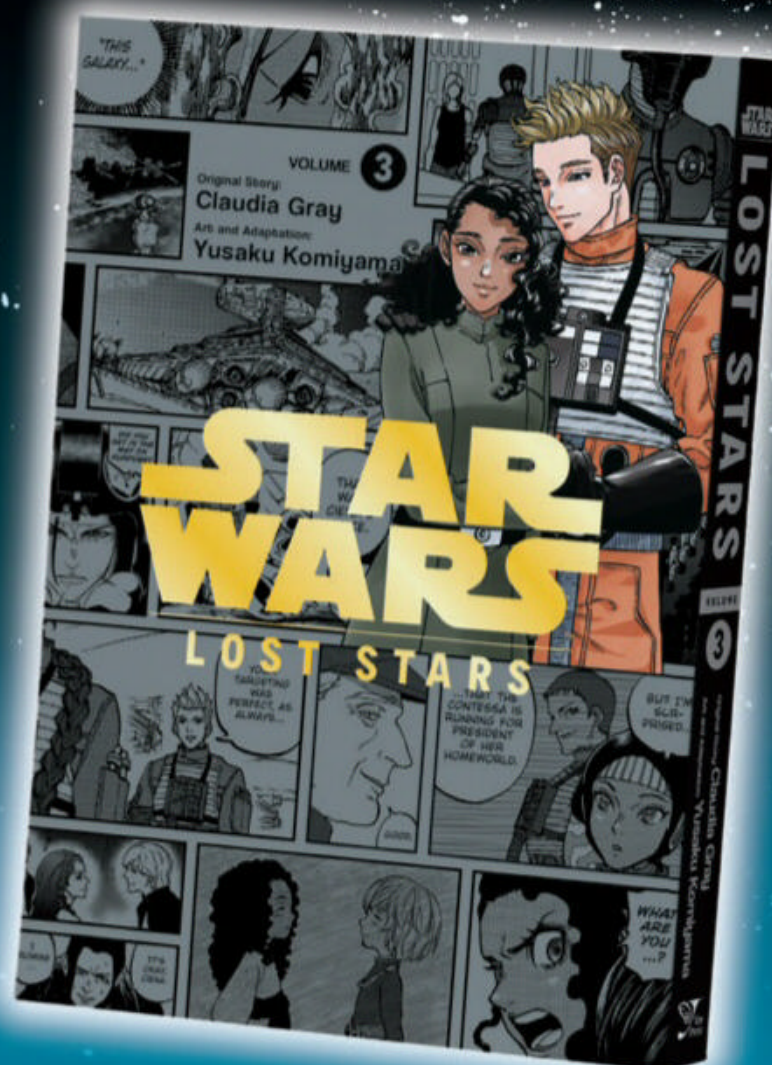
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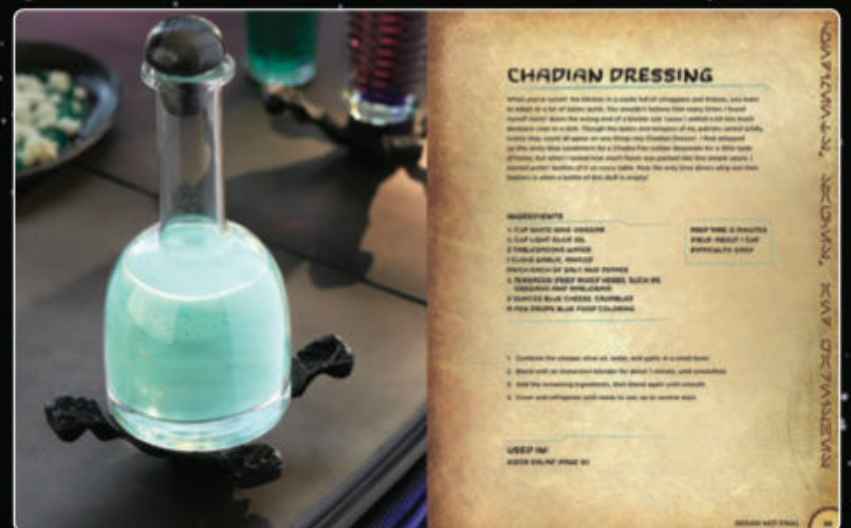
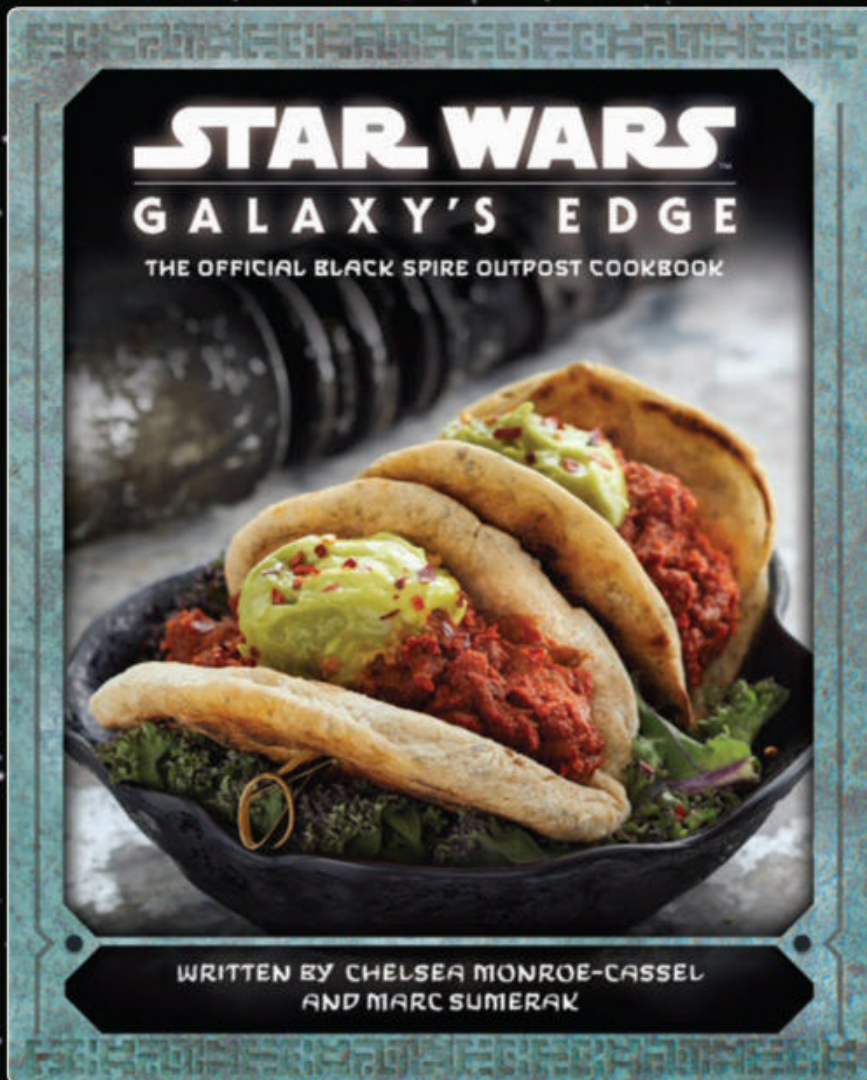
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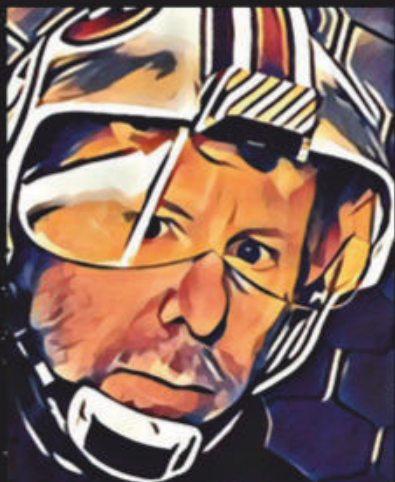
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WELCOME...



Every journey has a first step. Every navicomputer is programmed with a final destination. And that last sentence is why I don't write movie taglines for a living.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker is almost here; the final chapter of a saga that has enthralled me since I was a boy. I'm not sure how I'll feel as I settle into my seat in a darkened cinema, as spoiler-free as I can be, or what kind of state I'll be in when the house lights blaze into life at the end. What I do know is that I'm grateful for the 42+ years of storytelling and imagination that *Star Wars* has bought into my life.

And it's not as if this is actually "the end."

Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni's dramatic new TV show, *The Mandalorian* (which we preview in this issue of *Insider* – see page 28) is a case in point. *Star Wars*' first live action television series revels in its use of familiar elements, but it also takes us on the first steps of a brand new journey across our favorite fictional galaxy, with new heroes and villains to meet along the way. Ewan McGregor is set to return as Obi-Wan Kenobi in his own Disney+ series: *The Clone Wars* rage on. So don't be afraid. No saga is ever really gone.

Talking of journeys, this issue we visit the filming locations of Ahch-To from *The Last Jedi*, learn more about the porgs, and we speak exclusively to a certain protocol droid about his real master's memoirs. Some guy named Anthony Daniels. Now *he* has some *Star Wars* stories to tell.

May the Force be with you.

Christopher Cooper
Editor

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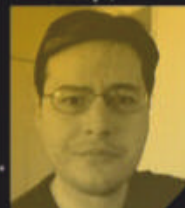
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Star Wars Insider meets
the man inside C-3PO's
mechanical body.



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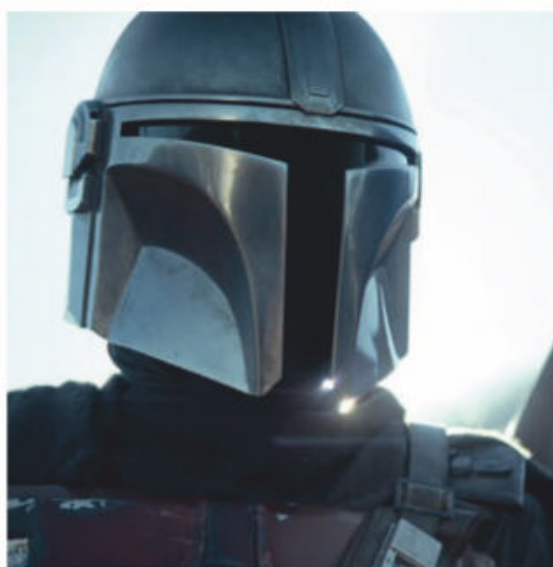
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LAUNCHPAD

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“Hello There!”

Ewan McGregor to return as Obi-Wan Kenobi

Obi-Wan Kenobi. Now that’s a name we’ve not heard for a long time. A long time. Unless, of course, you’re the kind of fan who revels in rumors, and has been longing for the return of Ewan McGregor to the role he last portrayed in 2005’s *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*—not counting a subtle line of voiceover work for *The Force Awakens* (2015), of course.

So, when McGregor walked on stage at Disney’s D23 event and asked Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy,

“Could you ask me, in front of all of these people, all of these witnesses, could you please ask me: Am I going to play Obi-Wan Kenobi again?” chances are that many fans in the room already knew the actor’s answer would be a resounding “Yes!”

McGregor went on to reveal that Kenobi’s return had been secretly in the works for quite some time. “It’s been four years of saying, ‘Well, I don’t know.’ Now I can say ‘Yes, we’re going to do it,’” he coyly admitted to the thrilled audience.

Kenobi will return in an all-new series on the Disney+ streaming service, set 8 years after the rise of the Empire in *Revenge of the Sith*. Like Darth Vader, we’ve been waiting a long time for this, but with the show only just entering pre-production, we’ll have to wait a little longer to discover what new adventures (and dangers) the Jedi Knight will encounter. Until then, fans can sit back and enjoy a huge catalogue of *Star Wars* movies and animated series on Disney+, and *The Rise of Skywalker* in theaters this December.



(Photo by Jesse Grant/Getty Images for Disney)



Clone Wars Climax

Launch of the final season on Disney+ confirmed.

Another major event we've been waiting a long time for is the upcoming seventh and final season of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, which was announced at San Diego Comic Con way back in 2018. Disney has now confirmed that the series will land on the new streaming service Disney+ in February 2020.

The new episodes bring to a close the adventures of Anakin Skywalker (Matt Lanter), Obi-Wan Kenobi (James Arnold Taylor), and Ahsoka Tano (Ashley Eckstein) as they continue to battle against Separatist forces during the final days of the Republic, in a climactic series that inevitably dovetails with the events of *Revenge of the Sith*. The 12 episode-long season will at last chronicle the legendary Siege of Mandalore, and explore the immediate fallout of Order 66.



A vacation
cruise in
another
galaxy!

Halcyon Days

All aboard the *Star Wars* space cruise

Galaxy's Edge may be this planet's most immersive *Star Wars* experience for now, but another Disney attraction is waiting in the wings to steal its crown.

According to new information revealed by Disney Parks at August's D23 event, *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*—the newly announced name for the hotel attraction currently under construction at Walt Disney World, Florida—will take guests on a two-day adventure vacation to a galaxy far, far away. Think of it less as

a holiday destination and more as a cruise ship to the stars, with a two-night itinerary that will pitch guests into an intricate storyline that unfolds during the voyage.

"Throughout your journey, you'll share your adventures with some interesting characters, some of whom you'll be meeting for the very first time. Some, you may already know," revealed Ann Morrow Johnson, executive producer and creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering. Those will likely include Chewbacca and a squad of

First Order stormtroopers, who appear in the latest concept images released by Disney (see above). Johnson went on to warn that guests should "be wary of who you make allegiances with, because the choices you make affect the course of your journey, and ultimately determine how your *Star Wars* story unfolds. You may just be called upon to become a hero."

The launch date for the Starcruiser *Halcyon* is yet to be confirmed, but you can follow developments by visiting disneylands.com.



01 Aboard the Starcruiser *Halcyon*, passengers will be able to relax in their hi-tech cabins or keep fit with a session of lightsaber training.

A Galaxy Of Games

You can do your chores later. Let's play *Star Wars*!

The many worlds and battles of the *Star Wars* movies have long proven to be an inspiration to the developers of numerous computer and video games. That tradition continues to expand, with a new batch of digital delights, either out now or on the horizon. Here are the latest titles that armchair rebels can look forward to.



The Battle of the Bricks

LEGO mobilizes its forces

The fate of the galaxy will soon be in the palm of your hand, quite literally, in a new LEGO *Star Wars* mobile game on its way in the new year.

LEGO *Star Wars* Battles will pit armies of minifigure-style characters against one another in real-time, one-versus-one multiplayer standoffs, on planets and battlefields drawn from across the *Star Wars* eras, including Hoth, Naboo, Scarif, Geonosis, and more. The game will match strategy and action with classic LEGO *Star Wars* humor, offering opportunities to collect and upgrade characters and vehicles, master the light and dark sides of the Force, and build different LEGO towers to defend and equip your forces.

LEGO *Star Wars* Battles will be available on both iOS and Android in 2020.



That's Wizard!

Feel the Force of Pinball flippers

ZEN Studio's popular *Star Wars* Pinball is out now for Nintendo Switch, featuring 19 tables based on the worlds, characters, and spectacular battles of the movies. The game also features a career mode for dedicated players, plus a soundtrack that is playable in jukebox mode. Blistering animations, a vertical gameplay option, and the console's Force-like HD Rumble effect make for a *Star Wars* game unlike any other.

When *Star Wars Insider* recently spoke to the game's developers at Zen Studios, they admitted that adapting the saga to pinball was a little overwhelming at first, as was deciding which memorable characters, iconic scenes, and epic moments they should immortalize in a pinball table, but ideas started popping up among the team right away.

"The most challenging, and also the most fun job for a designer, is to invent a way to present a given scene in a not only appropriate, but sometimes outright innovative pinball form," said game designer Peter Grafl. "For example, there is the speeder bike scene from *Return of the Jedi* (1983). We knew it had to be included, so we came up with a very cool minigame where you can actually dodge trees during a high-speed chase, controlling a speeder bike by shooting the ball up certain ramps. While we could also mention a whole lot of other examples, the point is that we had a blast while coming up with ideas, and it also exemplifies why *Star Wars* is perfect pinball material."

Star Wars Pinball for Nintendo Switch is in stores now.

Kyle Katarn Strikes Back

Classic *Star Wars* tale hits Nintendo Switch and PS4

Fans of action-adventure game *Star Wars Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast* will be thrilled to learn that the beloved classic is now available for Nintendo Switch and PlayStation 4, giving gamers a chance to relive the adventures of rebel and Jedi Knight Kyle Katarn.

Remastered for modern consoles by developer Aspyr, the Nintendo Switch version includes Joy-Con gyro aiming support. *Star Wars Jedi Knight: Jedi Academy* is also set for release on the same platforms in early 2020.





Cracking
Star Wars
nutcrackers,
out now!

A Nutcracking Holiday Special

Celebrate the season of goodwill with the nuttiest *Star Wars* homeware

When R2-D2 isn't harboring the Death Star plans or saving the day, the little droid apparently serves as the perfect platform for celebratory seasonal décor and nut cracking duties. A set of new homeware products in Kurt S. Adler's *Star Wars* collection arrives just in time for the holidays, including table ornaments, decorative lights, and a fun range of nutcrackers for breaking open your favorite nutty treats.

Fittingly, however, and given their taste for nuts and berries, the

cheery Ewok nutcracker tops our list of the cracking devices on offer.

Constructed of wood and resin, the 7 1/2-inches tall retails for \$48.99. Other nutcracking *Star Wars* characters in the line include R2-D2, a furry Chewbacca, Darth Vader, and bounty hunter Boba Fett, among others.

As for table ornaments, the Princess Leia and R2-D2 table statuette—standing at 5 1/2-inches

tall—depicts the rebellious Alderaanian decorating the beloved droid with a star and lights. Meanwhile, the Yoda ornament sees the little Jedi Master sitting atop a snowy chimney, wearing a Santa Claus outfit, and carrying a bag of presents ready for younglings to tear open. Both items are priced at \$54.99 and are made of polyester, plastic, and fabric mache.

Discover the range at kurtadler.com.



THE LIGHT SIDE

By Jamie Cosley





Worth Its Weight In Coaxium

Accessorize your saga with stylish *Star Wars* jewelry

A new series of *Star Wars* accessories from RockLove Jewelry includes necklaces, medallions, earrings, and even an Ahsoka Tano-themed ring. Each item is sculpted in sterling silver and incorporates unique features, like the Gonk Droid necklace's articulated legs and the faceted orange crystal eyes on the Jawa earrings. There's even a Thermal Detonator necklace.

RockLove's Planetary Medallion pendants focus on the diverse worlds seen in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Each reversible medallion shows the location's name written in Aurebesh, with characters and landmarks associated with the planet featured on both sides of the coin. RockLove Jewelry's limited edition run of *Star Wars* products is available now at RockLove.com/Collections/StarWars.

Devastating Decorations

Deck your halls with Hallmark's 2019 *Star Wars* ornaments

This holiday season, Hallmark have a set of new Keepsake Ornaments with which to adorn your tree. Crafted by artist Robert Hurlburt and based on Darth Vader's personal ship, the *Devastator*, the Imperial Star Destroyer Ornament With Light and Sound can be plugged in with a Keepsake Power Cord (sold separately) to provide constant illumination. Featuring the *Tantive IV* suspended from its cargo bay, the Star Destroyer is part of Hallmark's Storytellers series, and will put on a sound and light show from *A New Hope* with the press of a button. The plastic ornament's dimensions are 3.72-inch

(width) x 1.74-inch (height) x 6.7-inch (depth), and it is priced at \$39.99.

Feeling rebellious? Hallmark's C-3PO and R2-D2 Peekbuster Motion-Activated Sound Ornament might be just right for you. Crafted by Orville Wilson, the 4.7-inch high plastic ornament is priced at \$29.99, and portrays C-3PO wearing a Santa Claus hat alongside his long suffering counterpart R2-D2, who doesn't seem concerned that a string of holiday lights has been draped across his dome. This motion-sensing droid duo will protect the presents under your tree, as any nearby movements will prompt the rebel heroes to warn trespassers against having a sneaky peek at the gifts below.



Timeline

Important dates
in *Star Wars*
history.

1965

November 22: Mads Mikkelsen, Galen Erso in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016), is born.

1972

November 6: Thandie Newton, Val in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), is born.

1978

November 17: The *Star Wars* Holiday Special premiered on CBS.

1979

December 29: Diego Luna, Cassian Andor in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2018), is born.

1980

November 29: Janina Gavankar, who provided the voice, likeness, and motion capture performance for Iden Versio in *Star Wars: Battlefront II*, is born.

1989

November 22: Alden Ehrenreich, Han Solo in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), is born.

1993

December 19: Hermione Corfield, Tallie Lintra in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), is born.

2003

November 19: PC game *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic* is released on PC.

2017

December 15: *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017) is released in cinemas worldwide.



Seeing Red

The *Rise of Skywalker*'s Sith troopers takes San Diego by storm

The buzz surrounding the crimson Sith troopers that will appear in *The Rise of Skywalker* reached a crescendo at San Diego Comic-Con, where a plethora of Early Release Edition products connected to the groundbreaking armor were showcased. Hasbro's Black Series Special Edition debuted an impressive action figure based on the crimson stormtrooper design, while Hot Toys unveiled their own 1/6 scale Sith Trooper figure.

You'll need to stay hydrated while trooping, so why not take a 'sip of

the Sith?' Beeline revealed a lighter take on the new bad guy in the form of their Sith Trooper Geeki Tikis and Sith Trooper Mini Muglet. Meanwhile, Funko added their exclusive Sith Trooper Pop! into the mix, with the collectible bobble-head reflecting the company's craftsmanship and attention to detail.

A bonus Sith Trooper card and a *Star Wars* Authentics Sith Trooper Photo were provided with every purchase of the Topps *Star Wars: The Power of the Dark Side* Trading Card Set that was available at the show, while Trends International gave away

Sith Trooper Premier Bookmarks emblazoned with the red Sith helmet.

Do you prefer to demonstrate your allegiance for all to see? From Fifth Sun's short sleeve Sith Trooper Tees to Loungefly's Sith Trooper Unisex Backpacks, the convention exclusives had fans covered—literally! To top it off, Heroes & Villains by BioWorld made their Sith Trooper Hats and Sith Trooper Pins available both separately and as a set.

We'll soon learn what role the Sith troopers play in the new movie, but there is no time like the present to seek out these Sith-worthy collectibles.





The *Star Wars* Shoe 'Scene'

Footwear paired with storyboard artwork

TOMS Shoes' new collaboration with *Star Wars* takes us back to the saga's origins. The popular shoe brand has developed a line of canvas kicks featuring designs based on concept art and storyboards that inspired numerous scenes depicted in the films.

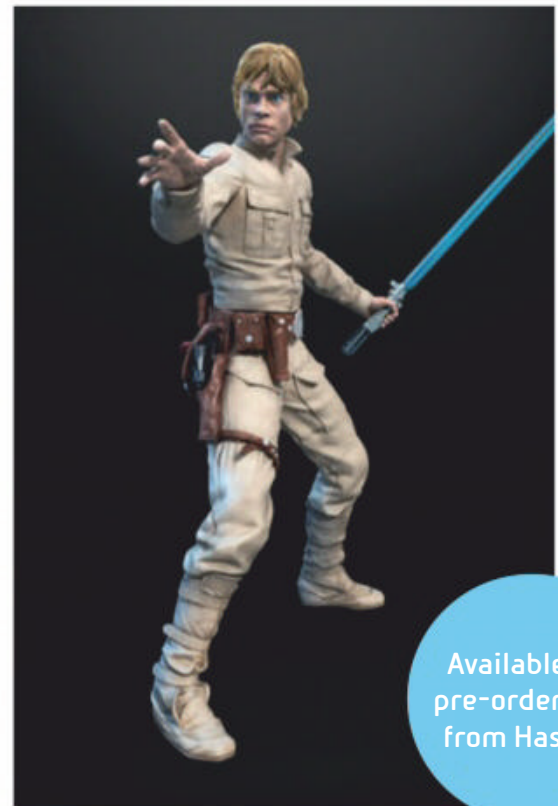
From slip-ons that display dogfighting TIE fighters and menacing AT-ATs to lace ups that highlight classic characters like the Ewoks, the new line has something for feet of every size*. To find out more about the line and where to order a pair, visit TOMS.com/Star-Wars.

*Rontos excluded.

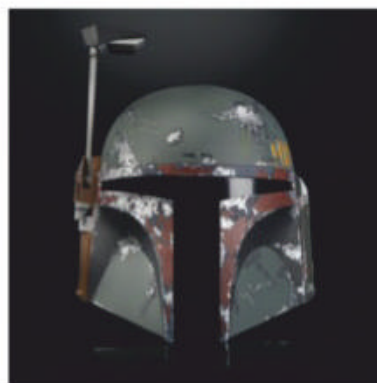
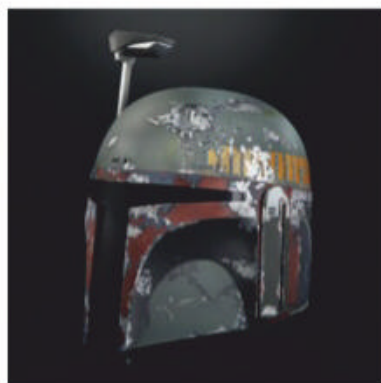
Always Two There Are

From hyperspace to HyperReal

Following in the footsteps of the company's HyperReal Darth Vader figure, Hasbro premiered their 8-inch Black Series HyperReal Luke Skywalker at San Diego Comic Con. Outfitted in the fatigues he wore on Cloud City, this poseable figure captures Mark Hamill's likeness in an astonishing fashion, and comes with Luke's iconic blue lightsaber. Due to ship in May 2020, the HyperReal Luke Skywalker is priced at \$79.99 and is available for pre-order now.



Available for pre-order now from Hasbro!



A Heady Bounty

Join the hunt for the ultimate in Mandalorian headwear

Part of Hasbro's elite Black Series line, the wearable Boba Fett helmet also debuted at San Diego Comic-Con. Equipped with precise details and a moveable range finder, the Hasbro

design team considers this to be their most screen-accurate helmet to date. Currently available to pre-order, the bounty hunter's signature headgear is priced at \$119.99, and is expected to ship by May 2020.

Snack With A Sith Lord

Keep your treats as secure as Vader's Castle

Do you need a safe place to hide your cookies so hungry Gungans stop snapping them up with their whiplash tongues? Then the Darth Vader Limited Edition Sculpted Ceramic Cookie Jar could be for you—certain to keep your snacks more secure than a Scarif vault.

Made by Vandor (not the snowy planet), the jar is an intimidating recreation of the Dark Lord that will keep prying paws away from your favorite Sith snacks. Measuring in at 11-inches tall and 6-inches wide, the cookie jar is priced at \$73.99 and is expected to ship in early 2020.



Book Club

Learn to cook the Galaxy's Edge way, avoid getting eaten by Ewoks, and discover Jedi secrets in the latest *Star Wars* books!

Available in
bookstores this
November!

Turn the pages, you must!

Luke Skywalker spills
The Secrets of the Jedi

Even though the Jedi Order stood firm for a thousand generations, after the Emperor's purge of their kind only Luke Skywalker remained to interpret their legacy. *Star Wars: The Secrets of the Jedi*, out on November 19 from Insight Editions, offers a history of the noble tradition through the centuries, presented through Luke's uniquely humble point of view.

"The Luke Skywalker who is writing this particular tome is a long way from the optimistic farm boy he was back when his journey began," writer Marc Sumerak has revealed. "Because of that, he's able to look past the glorified stories of the Jedi of old to find the truth about the Order, no matter how difficult it may be for those reading to hear."

The book spans the full sweep of the saga, from the prequel-era movies through to the events of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017). As the in-universe author, Luke puts an accessible spin on every factoid, reflecting the candor of an inheritor with no obligations to previous traditions and no appetite for pretention. Beautiful illustrations

accompany the prose, and the book also features interactive elements that include a pop-up holocron, a Jedi equipment booklet, and a translator card. Incorporating lore from the aforementioned movies, as well as animated projects like *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2015) and *Star Wars Rebels* (2014-2018), *Secrets of*

the Jedi provides vital insight into the guardians of peace and justice.

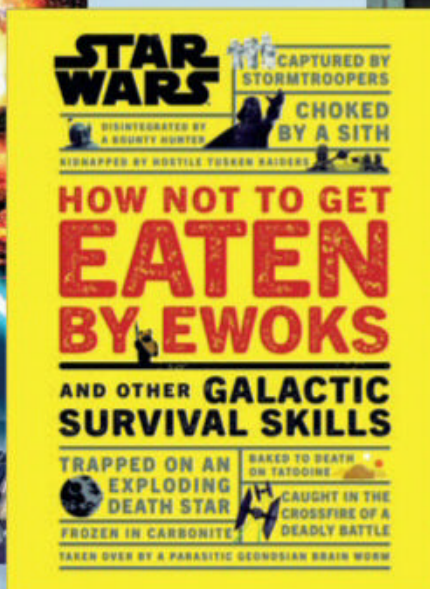
Says Sumerak, "It's always a great pleasure to get to return to a galaxy far, far away for another project, but having the chance to explore the path of the fabled Jedi Order through Luke's eyes was an honor like none I've ever had before."



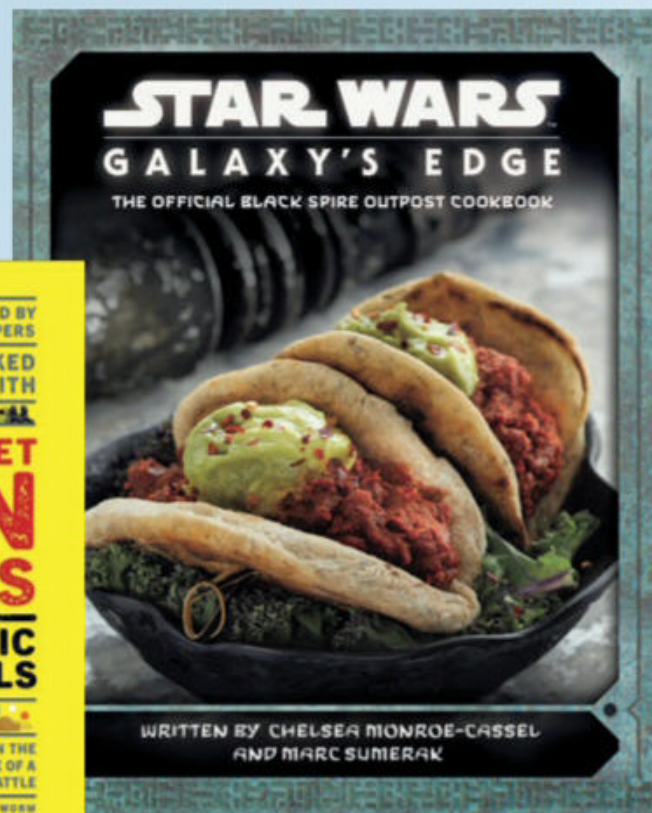
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Star Wars: The Ultimate Pop-Up Galaxy

Out now from Insight Editions, this astonishing pop-up celebrating the Skywalker saga is part of Lucasfilm's Journey to *The Rise of Skywalker* book campaign, and relies on intricate paper engineering to depict iconic scenes and exotic alien worlds from the *Star Wars* movies.

Conceived by legendary pop-up artist Matthew Reinhart and featuring illustrations by Kevin M. Wilson, *Star Wars: The Ultimate Pop-Up Galaxy* is presented in a dynamic 360-degree format that enables the action to be viewed from all sides, while the book can also open up to form a displayable 3D diorama of the complete saga. What's more, the clever paper mechanics help readers interact with each diorama to launch rebel snowspeeders or even send an AT-ST stomping across Endor.

02

Star Wars: How Not to Get Eaten by Ewoks and Other Galactic Survival Skills

The *Star Wars* galaxy can be a dangerous place, filled with ferocious beasts, extreme weather, and backstabbing allies. The last thing you want is to find yourself at the wrong end of an Ewok's spear!

That's where this handy pocket guide comes in, packed as it is with invaluable survival tips & tricks. Need to avoid disintegration by a bounty hunter, or worried about escaping from Tusken Raiders on Tatooine? Writer Christian Blauvelt provides answers, laying out everything you need to know to avoid the stickiest of interstellar situations, using everything from disguises to diplomacy. *How Not to Get Eaten by Ewoks and Other Survival Skills* is out now.

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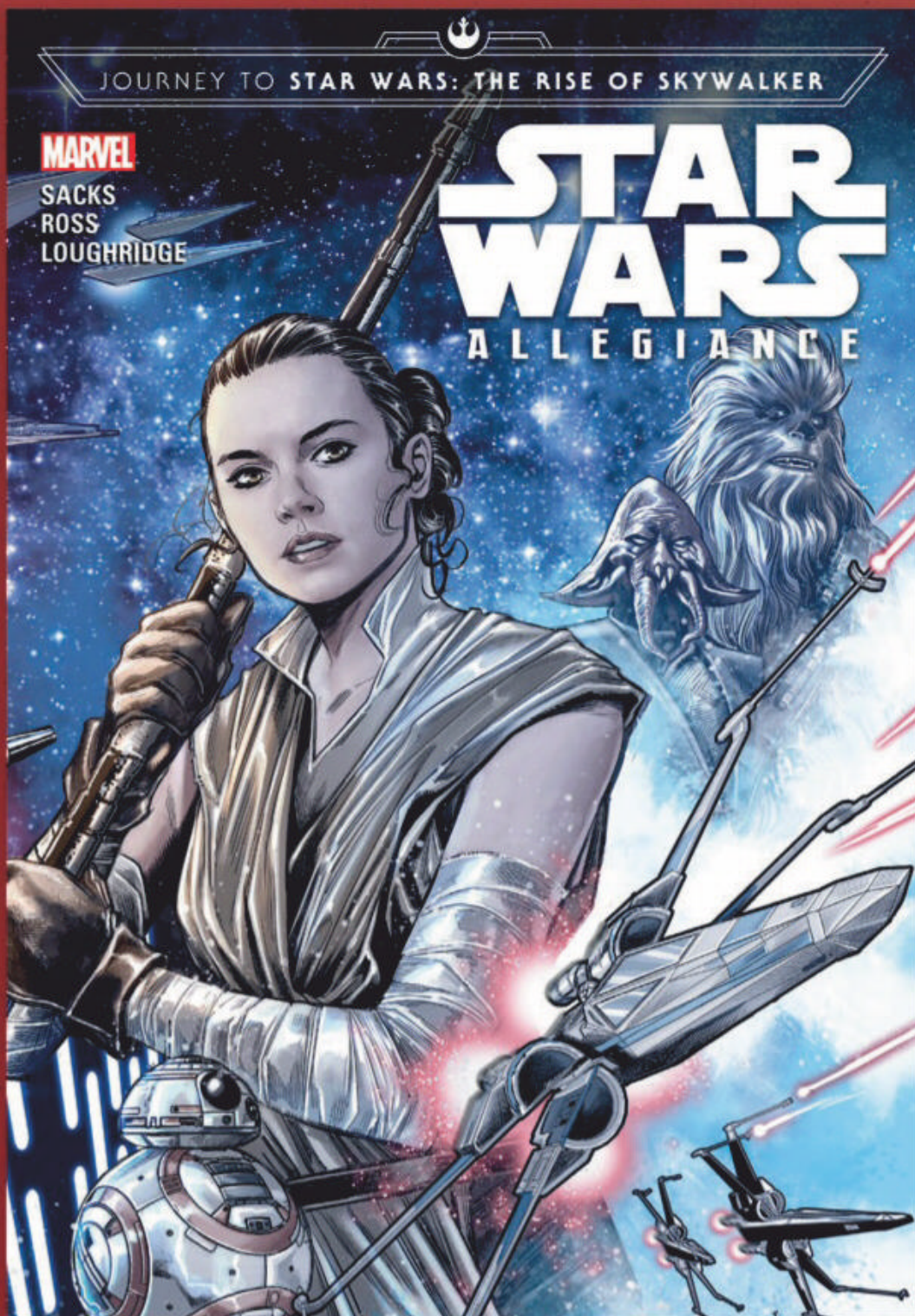
Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge: The Official Black Spire Outpost Cookbook

Now that Galaxy's Edge is open for business in California and Florida, fans are immersing themselves in the sights, sounds, and flavors of the galaxy far, far away—especially the flavors! While there's no substitute for enjoying fried Endorian tip-yip inside Batuu's Docking Bay 7, now you too can experience the deliciousness in your own home, thanks to *The Official Black Spire Outpost Cookbook*.

Writers Chelsea Monroe-Cassel and Marc Sumerak (channeling Strono "Cookie" Tuggs, former head chef for Maz Kanata) present a full menu of out-of-this-world meals and intergalactic eats prized by Outer Rim traders and pirates, gathered by Tuggs during his travels through space. This truly unique *Star Wars* cookbook from Insight Editions is out on November 5.

Comics Roundup

Prepare for *The Rise of Skywalker* with this month's *Star Wars* comic releases



Choose Your Allegiance

The Resistance prepares for its final battle in the *Star Wars: Allegiance* collection

In *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, the First Order obliterated the Resistance HQ on D'Qar, and hounded the survivors towards a pivotal confrontation on Crait. Marvel Comics' *Star Wars: Allegiance* picks up the story of the embattled Resistance, now on the run, and badly in need of weapons, warships, and warriors to continue the fight against Kylo Ren's vile regime.

Originally published over four weekly installments in October 2019, *Star Wars: Allegiance* acts as a prequel to *The Rise of Skywalker*, and the adventure is now available in a single paperback volume. Featuring the talents of writer Ethan Sacks (*Age of Republic*) and artist Luke Ross (*The Force Awakens*, *Thrawn*), the story chronicles General Leia Organa and Rey's desperate venture to seek help from expert shipbuilders the Mon Calamari. But Leia's diplomacy might not be enough to win the support of a species with fresh memories of the Empire's brutality, and some will stop at nothing to maintain peace on Mon Cala! Meanwhile, Poe Dameron and Finn join forces to locate an old Imperial armory on the moon of Avedot. What they don't yet realize is that they're being hunted down by the most notorious criminal gang in the galaxy!

In keeping with the original four-issue mini-series, the *Star Wars: Allegiance* collection has four different covers to choose from, combining to create a single composition. Marco Checchetto's stunning art spotlights the heroes and villains of this tumultuous era, featuring Rey and Chewie, Leia and Rose, Finn and Poe, and Kylo Ren and General Hux. Look for it in stores on November 20.

Star Wars: #74

Multiple storylines converge in the penultimate issue of Marvel Comics' *Star Wars* series, including the sight of Chewbacca and Darth Vader engaging in hand-to-hand combat!

Star Wars #74, written by Greg Pak with art by Phil Noto, is jam-packed with characters and clashing motivations. Can Luke Skywalker truly rely on shady grifter Warba Calip? And will Han Solo, Leia Organa, and Dar Champion survive their battle with an Imperial Star Destroyer? The rebels need to find a new HQ, and this time failure is not an option! Setting up what promises to be a wild climax, issue #74 is in stores on November 6.

***Star Wars: Jedi: Fallen Order Dark Temple #4 (of 5)***

Hostilities continue to grow around the excavation site of Ontotho's dark temple, in this comic series prequel to the video game from Lucasfilm and Respawn Entertainment.

Jedi Knight Eno Cordova and his reckless Padawan Cere Junda have inadvertently stirred up a hornet's nest. Dueling factions—including the planet's armed forces and a squad of deadly Temple Guardians—are closing in, threatening to silence the temple's secrets forever. *Jedi: Fallen Order: Dark Temple*, written by Matthew Rosenberg, with art by Paolo Villanelli and a cover by Will Sliney, is in stores on November 13.

***Doctor Aphra #38***

The latest installment in Doctor Aphra's adventures, out on November 6, sees the Empire's top archaeologist forced to defend her title from her own father!

Issue #38, from writer Si Spurrier, artist Caspar Wijngaard, and cover artist Ashley Witter, continues the "Rogue's End" storyline, and sees Doctor Aphra figuring out how to deal with dear old dad, who endures interrogation at the hands of Imperial droids Triple-Zero and BeeTee-One. Meanwhile, a ghostly aura emanating from an ancient Jedi temple draws Darth Vader under its spell. Who can say what effect this magic will have on a Dark Lord of the Sith?

**Incoming**

Don't Miss These
Upcoming Releases

**NOVEMBER*****Star Wars #75***

Marvel Comics

Writer: Greg Pak

Artist: Phil Noto

Cover Artist: Phil Noto

Doctor Aphra #39

Marvel Comics

Writer: Si Spurrier

Artist: Caspar Wijngaard

Cover Artist: Ashley Witter

Doctor Aphra Volume 6:

Unspeakable Rebel

Superweapon

Marvel Comics

Writer: Si Spurrier

Artist: Wilton Santos and others

Cover Artist: Ashley Witter

Star Wars:

Target Vader #5 (of 6)

Marvel Comics

Writer: Robbie Thompson

Artist: Stefano Landini

Cover Artist: Nic Klein

Star Wars Adventures #28

IDW Comics

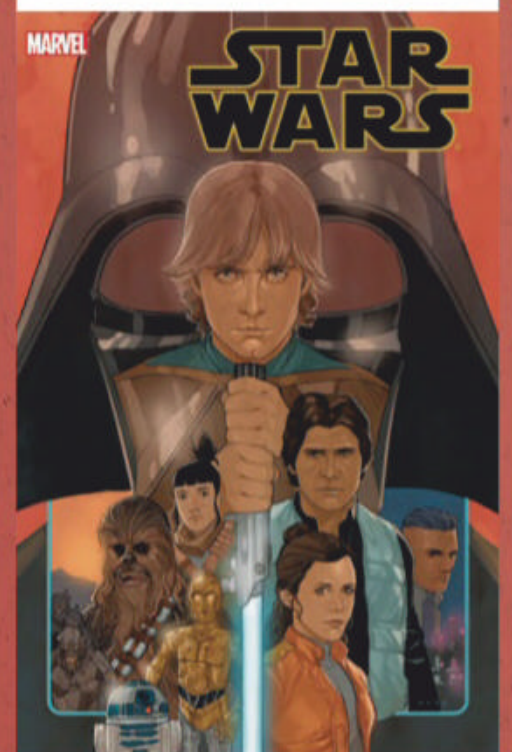
Writers: John Barber and

Michael Moreci

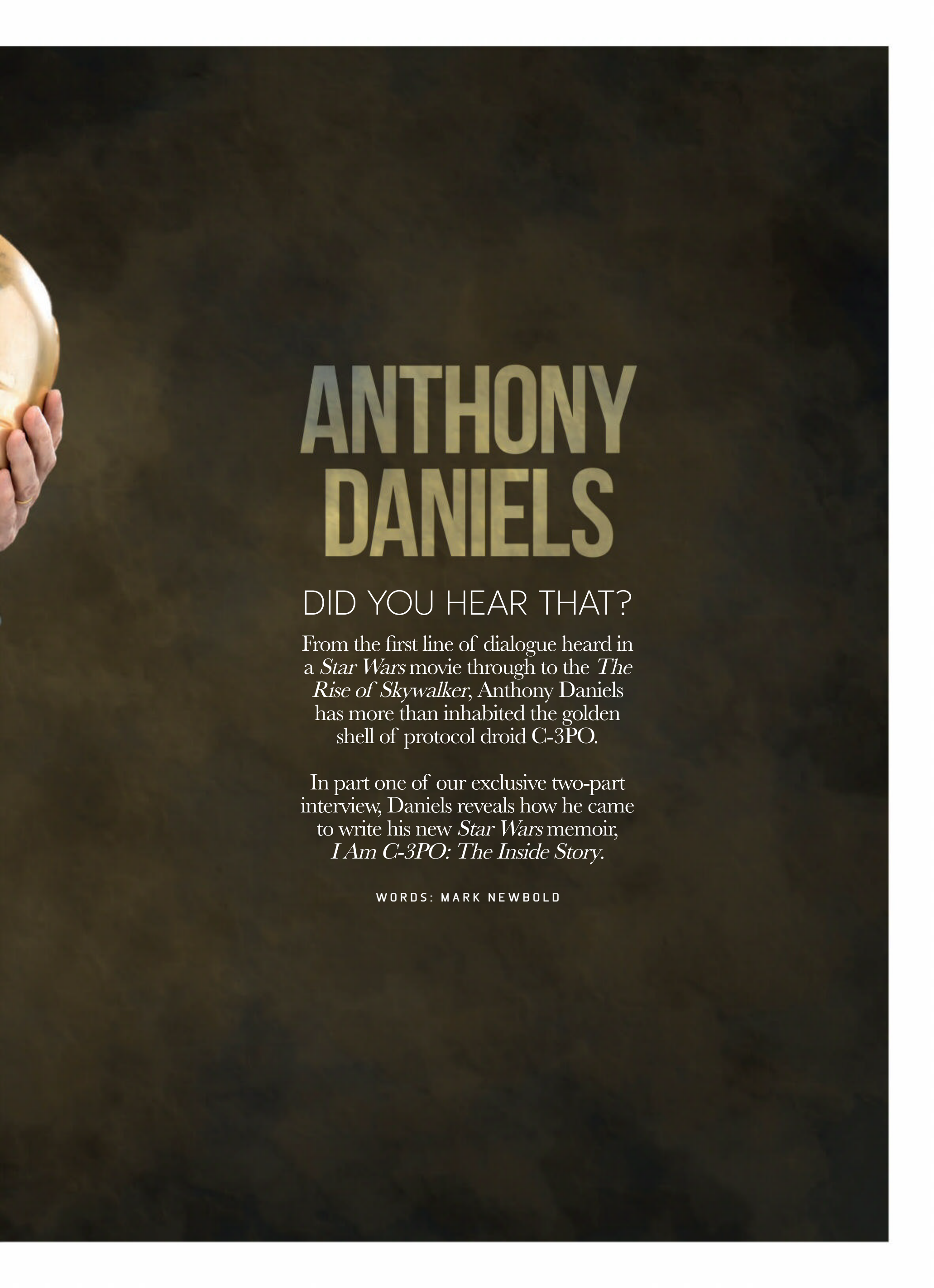
Artists: Tony Fleecs and

Derek Charm

Cover Artist: Derek Charm







ANTHONY DANIELS

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

From the first line of dialogue heard in a *Star Wars* movie through to the *The Rise of Skywalker*, Anthony Daniels has more than inhabited the golden shell of protocol droid C-3PO.

In part one of our exclusive two-part interview, Daniels reveals how he came to write his new *Star Wars* memoir, *I Am C-3PO: The Inside Story*.

WORDS: MARK NEWBOLD

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uffice it to say, *I Am C-3PO: The Inside Story* isn't Anthony Daniels' first foray into writing about

Star Wars. Back in 1995, he began contributing a wonderful column to early editions of the magazine that you're holding right now.

Star Wars Insider: Some years ago, long before your C-3PO memoirs, you wrote the Wonder Column for *Star Wars Insider*.

Anthony Daniels: I did, and I'm thrilled when people remember it. I wrote the column with Dan Madsen, who ran the official *Star Wars* fan club at the time, to tease my brain, I think. It was written in a particular style that was certainly elliptical and humorous, and slightly challenging to read. It made me laugh. I remember writing something about Julius Caesar going to the supermarket during spring break and getting a six-pack of steak knives in his back, so I tried to extend the remit, if you will. Dressing up as C-3PO only goes so far, so I tried to show that I wasn't just a man in a suit.

Your book isn't a straightforward autobiography, as it focuses very much on your *Star Wars* work.

Apart from one or two dives to the left and right, it is purely about my life in *Star Wars*, which has been 44 years. I wish it had come up to a nice number like 50, but I've got to live a few more years to do that. I made a decision, and it was absolutely conscious, to only really talk about my life with *Star Wars* and the *Star Wars* spin-offs, which are legion, and things that are associated with *Star Wars* of which I'm a part. But if you use the word autobiography, no it's not.

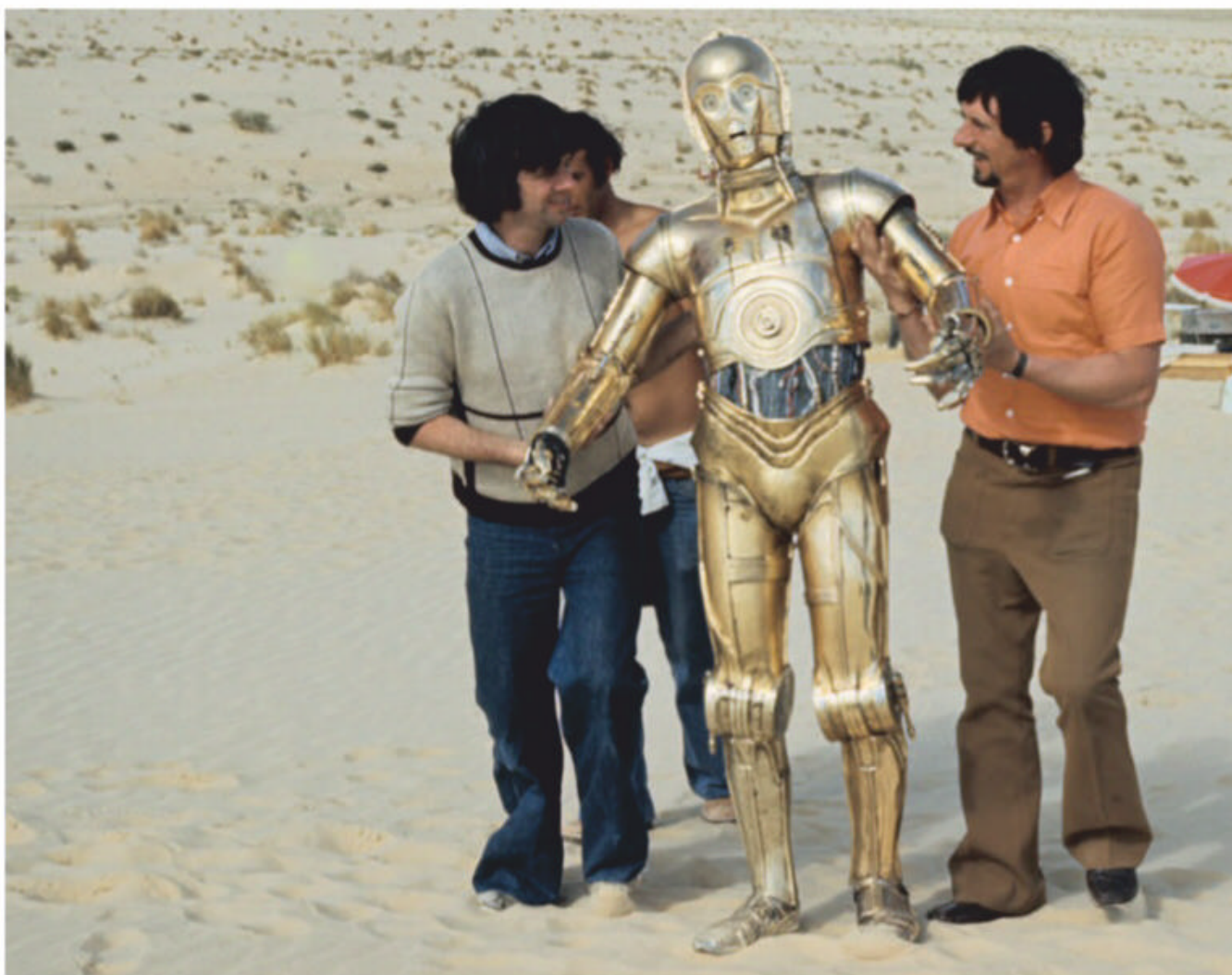
What made you decide to write your memoirs at this point in your career?

Well, I didn't. It wasn't my idea at all. The publisher asked me. They asked for 40,000 words, and that sounded manageable, and I said,

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01 Anthony Daniels with his C-3PO costume from *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980).

02 Daniels as C-3PO, enduring the desert heat in 1976.

03 Daniels on the set of *A New Hope*.



“OK, if you think people will be interested,” and they said, “Oh yes,” so I agreed. Then they said 60,000 would be better, so I’ve written 95,000, give or take the odd word. I hadn’t thought about doing it before because it’s a lot of work to write a book, even with a computer and a keyboard. My heart goes out to Charles Dickens. And thank goodness for the spellcheck.

You mentioned wondering whether potential readers would be interested in C-3PO. Are you surprised that people are so passionate about the character, and *Star Wars* in general?

It’s funny you should ask that, because I explain why I get it *now* in the opening chapter of the book. It’s an entirely true story, and it only happened ten years ago. I was hosting *Star Wars* In Concert, so I was in a situation where night after night I was facing thousands of *Star Wars* fans and lovers of John Williams’ glorious music. And because they were live shows, live theater, there was a real energy that came across the footlights at me. It was like a crash course in what I’d been missing all these years. Genuinely, I began to see through to the fan’s faces, so I’m a late learner.

So, until the penny dropped, you only saw *Star Wars* as a job?

It is a job. An amazing job. One that I initially turned down because I didn’t think it was a good idea, not something I wanted to do. But circumstances changed my point of view, thank goodness. It has always been a gig, and it worries me sometimes that I don’t want to fib about that, that I don’t want to eulogize for the sake of saying “I’m a disciple too.” No, it’s a job. I play C-3PO, and I’m very glad people like him. Do I want to play him every minute of every day? Absolutely not. Do I have a perfectly lovely private life? Absolutely. And of course, the one helps the other.

The only *Star Wars* object on display in my home is a LEGO statue of C-3PO. My wife and I both adore that figure because it represents more than C-3PO. It’s more than *Star Wars*, it’s more than LEGO, it’s a unique piece of art that was a gift from LEGO to me when I was on stage with them at Celebration Anaheim. I love it partly because of that history, but also because it’s a piece of pop art.

You’ve told so many stories at conventions like Celebration over the years. Did you find you’d ever mis-told a story when you came to research the book?

When you tell a story, whether it’s in a book or onstage, or when you’re telling a story to friends or telling a joke, you naturally have to enhance it. Not all true facts come in an

“DRESSING UP AS C-3PO ONLY GOES SO FAR, SO I TRIED TO SHOW THAT I WASN’T JUST A MAN IN A SUIT.”

encapsulated form with a beginning, a middle and an end. I do try to end each episode in the book with a flourish, because that makes it worth reading. In writing, and in talking, you naturally have to dramatize and make it interesting. At a convention, the audience needs a little cue, when to applaud, and sometimes you see speakers who don’t understand that and the audience is waiting for that cue, their hands are poised to clap, and it doesn’t happen. But they do it anyway out of politeness.

Does your new book address any of the urban myths surrounding your character, like being left on a trolley in the desert while the crew went off for lunch?

Oh, the ridiculous stories. Not for one moment was I ever left

unattended. People’s jobs were to make me as comfortable as possible, which was difficult. It had taken two hours to put the costume on, so they weren’t about to take it off for lunch. That was difficult, but on the second day we did because I said I can’t do this. People’s loyalty was extraordinary, nobody would have dreamt of doing something spiteful.

Some of these silly stories, like they left me in the costume for hours—they had to, because there was no time to take it off. That I fainted in the desert—no, but I fell over a couple of times. In every movie I fell over. Fortunately, I know how to fall. Not my favorite thing.

How honest have you been in the book about your experiences making the movies?

I think you’ll be surprised. There are no shocks, no great revelations, there’s nothing sensational in it, but there are things where, in normal conversation, you might mold your language and thoughts to what is acceptable in public. It’s important to note, this is not a book for children, at all. It’s a book for people who are interested in *Star Wars*, interested in this particular character, and by extension in me a bit. It’s not entirely comfortable, because if I said everything was wonderful, I’d be on a different kind of medication.

It’s a rather odd and surprising journey, through a world I never thought to inhabit. Certainly, I censored myself around *The Rise of Skywalker*, but I showed J.J. Abrams what I was writing, and he said it was all fine.

Did writing the Wonder Column help develop your ability to turn a phrase?

I have them on file, and I was amused to find that occasionally I would do the opposite of a one-word sentence. I would weave, purely for effect. It was totally written for another medium. But this, ►

► being a proper book, I needed to be more grown up. It sort of came naturally. What you will find odd is that I wrote the end first, because curiously endings are one of the things we're most secure about. To begin at the beginning is slightly tired, so why not flip people's expectations? Sometimes you have to manipulate a story, and make sure you give evidence, so that the audience is prepared for the payoff and appreciate it, and everybody's satisfied. So mechanically it's a bit like writing the *Insider* column. I have had to trick my brain into concentrating properly.

There is a certain pretentious pleasure in choosing exactly the right word, and then a few days later thinking, "Oh no, that word is much better," or to reverse a phrase so it's more felicitous than before.

I've completely trashed the rules of punctuation. Any schoolchild reading this will be destroyed, because they'll have been told that a sentence must have a subject, a verb, and an object. I have one-word sentences, because we speak like that, we speak in interrupted thoughts, we speak in ellipses. It's how I think.

Was it difficult to remember all of the *Star Wars* things you've been involved with?

Being involved in all of the movies, some of the stories were pretty fresh, or constantly being refreshed in my mind. *The Yoda Chronicles* sticks in my mind as being one of the most wonderful offshoots of the whole thing, but when I look at some of the chapters, I had to think. I've done so many things I can't remember.

I write about how some things were achieved when making the movies, which I thought

people might be interested in. I use the phrase "movie magic," because sometimes it just is magic. Sometimes it's stage magic, old fashioned smoke and mirrors, literally mirrors. Always with the single eye of the camera, which can be tricked quite simply and magically, and very inexpensively. A ten-year-old would enjoy it; a ten-year-old who wanted to buy dad a Christmas present, now that would be a double whammy (*Laughs*).

There's a bit about being at the Academy Awards, which was a nightmare. Backstage in this huge green room. It was one of the most terrifying moments I've had. Terrifying. But the story is not so

much about that, it's about what *nearly* happened. Boy, does that survive in my head. And also being on *The Muppet Show*.

In which C-3PO danced!

Yes, he did. And I amazed myself. I

actually found the choreographic notes that I wrote for the dance number. Wait, step left, step right, tap—all that kind of simple stuff.

Did you find the writing process difficult at all?

I wasn't afraid of writing. It wasn't like, "Where do I begin?" I could never, ever write a novel or a mystery, or a thriller. I recognize that I just don't have that kind of brain—absolutely not. But I do know some of the rules of writing a cliffhanger, for example, and hopefully not insulting the reader's intelligence. I hope it doesn't talk down in any way to anybody.

And the relief of finishing it, finally, of not being able to fiddle with it, because I'm a great tinkerer. I can think of a better way of saying that now. ►

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04 Daniels returned to the role of C-3PO in *The Force Awakens* (2015)

05 Anthony Daniels as protocol droid C-3PO.

06 C-3PO is reunited with his sparring partner R2-D2, at the climax of *The Last Jedi* (2017).



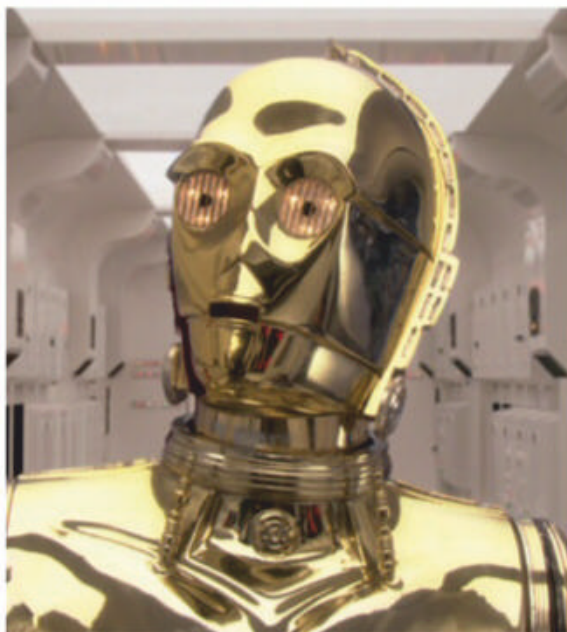
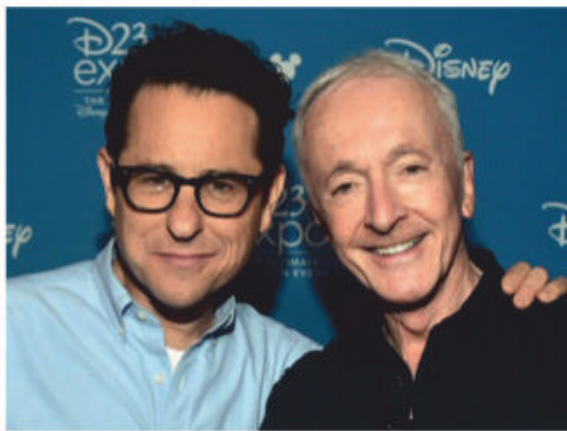
► **So you now understand how George Lucas must have felt, when he decided to make the *Special Editions*?**

Some people were critical of him making them, but suddenly I began to see why he wanted to do that. It was like he'd thought of a better way of phrasing them. I suppose the difference is that my book hasn't become public before I fiddled. I fiddled before the fact, his was after the fact, in a fairly major way.

People have asked me, "How do you feel, now you've finished it and you don't have to write?" Most mornings I was up early, typing away. I was on airplanes typing away, I was on the film set. I was on trains. Anywhere I got a moment. In France, in our new house with no central heating, wrapped up in scarves, overcoat, blankets, a hot water bottle. I found space, but now I don't have to do that anymore, it's quite curious.

Is that a relief? Do you miss it?

Half and half. I think I might actually read it the next few days, knowing I can't change anything. It's something I had to do, and only I could do it, so that was a bit weird. I hope people like it. Whether or not they do, I am not unsatisfied with it.



07 Daniels promises that *The Rise of Skywalker* sees C-3PO at his best.

08 Anthony Daniels with director J.J. Abrams.

09 C-3PO actor Daniels is a veteran of three *Star Wars* trilogies, having appeared in all nine Skywalker saga movies.

08

I have said what I have said, I don't need to say anything else. There are areas that I touched on lightly, there are areas that I remember better than others. Christine (*Daniels' wife-Ed.*) pointed out that I seem to have a very full memory of the first film. But why wouldn't I? It was such a seminal experience, in so many ways.

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You're not going to remember making all nine of the films to the same degree.

No, which is kind of a bit sad. But then we came back for Episode 7. Working with J.J. Abrams was so visceral, I think you can tell how much we enjoy working with him. It's been a complete joy. And now C-3PO is back in action in Episode 9, and what an end piece for him.

Now that we've reached the final episode of the Skywalker saga, would you be happy to play C-3PO again?

Oh, totally. He's my best friend, apart from my wife. He's a very good friend. 🤖

NEXT ISSUE: In part two, Anthony Daniels reveals what it was really like to inhabit C-3PO's metal body.

STAR WARS™



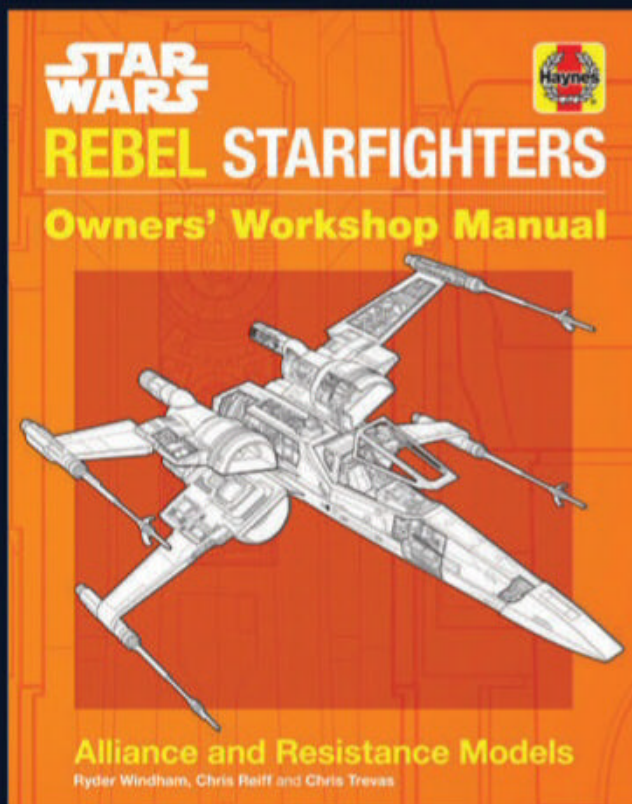
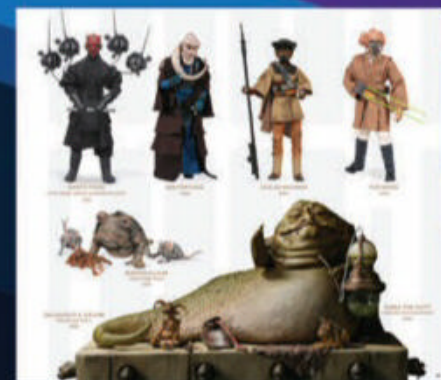
SOME NEW ADDITIONS TO YOUR NEVER-ENDING *STAR WARS* COLLECTION

From Snub Fighters to SIDESHOW these all-new *Star Wars* books are perfect for casual and committed collectors



Written in collaboration with the legendary Sideshow Collectibles, *Star Wars: Collecting A Galaxy* showcases the artistry and passion behind their extraordinary sculptures.

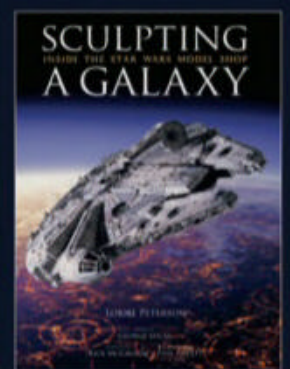
Available November 2019, wherever books are sold.



The latest entry in Insight Editions' range of official *Star Wars* workshop manuals dives deep into the iconic starfighters of the Rebel Alliance and the Resistance. Featuring A-Wings, B-Wings, Y-Wings and the beloved X-Wing, this book reveals the designs and modifications behind these heroic craft.

Available November 2019, wherever books are sold.

More *Star Wars* Titles Available from Insight Editions



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THE MAN

FROM MANDALORE

LAUNCHING ON THE DISNEY+ STREAMING SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019, *THE MANDALORIAN* DELIVERS ALL THE THRILLS, SPILLS, AND EPIC ADVENTURE OF THE CINEMATIC *STAR WARS* GALAXY DIRECT TO YOUR TELEVISION SCREENS! *STAR WARS INSIDER* REVEALS WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE ALL-NEW SERIES.

WORDS: TARA BENNETT



F

or executive producers, Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni, *The Mandalorian* has been their

passion project since they began developing the series in early 2018. But the roots of the show, and their collaboration, go back much further. In fact, Filoni recently revealed that their adventure in the live-action *Star Wars* galaxy was practically fated all the way back in 2007, when each of the creatives was working on separate projects at George Lucas' famous Skywalker Ranch.

At the time, Filoni was working with Lucas on the animated series *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2015) when he heard that Jon Favreau was also there, mixing "a tiny movie about an obscure comic book," called *Iron Man*. "I got word Jon Favreau would like to see if he and his son could come over to the studio and see what we were doing on *The Clone Wars*," Filoni recalls. "Up to this point, no one had seen *The Clone Wars*, so I did what anyone would do with a top-secret property, I said, 'Sure. If I can see *Iron Man*, I will make you that trade.'"

Their friendship was forged in those screening rooms, and Favreau even pitched himself to

"It's like the old Samurai movies and the Westerns, where the gunfighters are roaming and people are fighting for their own safety."

Jon Favreau

Filoni as a willing voice for the animated series, if a suitable spot ever came up. Consequently, the key character of Pre Vizsla (a Mandalorian warrior, no less!) was written especially for the director, marking Favreau's formal entry into the *Star Wars* galaxy.

Together Again, Huh?

The two were reunited a decade later when Favreau learned of Disney's intention to develop original *Star Wars* content for the company's planned streaming service, Disney+. The life-long *Star Wars* fan immediately booked a meeting with Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy, with an idea for a television series.

"I came in and pitched to Kathleen a version of a show that took place after *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983),



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01 The gunslinger and bounty hunter known as “the Madalorian” (Pedro Pascal).

02 Moff Gideon (Giancarlo Esposito) attempts to maintain order.

03 It seems the galaxy does not remember the Empire fondly.

04 Familiar tech finds new owners in *The Mandalorian*.

05 The Mandalorian’s carbon frozen catch.

06 IG-11 (Taika Waititi).

► after the revolution, and after everybody is done celebrating, because the Empire is gone and then chaos reigns!” Favreau explains of his original concept for *The Mandalorian*. “There is no central government in the galaxy, so it’s like the old Samurai movies and the Westerns, where the gunfighters are roaming and people are fighting for their own safety to build safe communities. But it’s a dangerous world.”

It was then that Kennedy asked if Favreau knew Filoni and, once their shared background was revealed, she connected the pair to develop the series together. Favreau wrote several scripts immediately and passed them over to Filoni to give his feedback.

Filoni remembers, “What I loved about [the scripts] is that it felt like *Star Wars* to me, and I don’t say that lightly. It was exciting. I was looking for a way to break into live-action, and I have to say what a great mentor to have



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in Jon. I’m incredibly fortunate to work with him on this project.”

The Real Deal

As with every *Star Wars* project, story secrets and plot details have remained closely guarded, and even with the series debut just around the corner, there is

much that fans will only learn as the series airs. What won’t be a surprise is how authentic the small-screen *Star Wars* adventures will look. Despite a more modest budget than its big-screen cousins, great care has gone into replicating the signature look of the *Star Wars* movies for *The Mandalorian*. ►

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MAKING THE MANDALORIAN DAVE FILONI

Originally from Pennsylvania, life-long *Star Wars* fan Dave Filoni headed west after college to work in animation. His first jobs in the industry were working as a storyboard artist on animated shows like *King of the Hill*, *Kim Possible*, and Nickelodeon's *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, for which he would eventually direct several episodes.

Having made a name for himself in the medium, it was none other than George Lucas who asked him to help establish Lucasfilm Animation, which launched with *The Clone Wars* movie in 2008, followed by six critically acclaimed seasons of the television series, which makes it's return with new episodes in February 2020. His innovative storytelling quickly made him a favorite with the *Star Wars* fandom, who have loyally followed his work on subsequent animated series including *Star Wars: Rebels*, *Star Wars: Forces of Destiny*, and *Star Wars: Resistance*.

- 07 Cara Dune (Gina Carano) takes aim.
- 08 The Mandalorian (Pedro Pascal).
- 09 Renowned actor Werner Herzog plays a villainous role.
- 10 Greef Carga (Carl Weathers), head of the Bounty Hunter Guild.
- 11 In the right hands, even a door can be a weapon.



MAKING THE MANDALORIAN JON FAVREAU

While the world may think of Jon Favreau as an actor, writer and/or director (depending on the creative project), he is quick to label himself as both a fan of Walt Disney and *Star Wars*. Both have had tremendous influence on his career path, which is why he now finds himself deeply entrenched with the Walt Disney Company and Lucasfilm for his current creative endeavors. He’s even a newly minted Disney Legend.

Back in the day, the Flushing, Queens, New York native was initially known as a comedian and actor in films like *PCU* (1994) and *Swingers* (1996), and television shows like *Seinfeld* (1989-1998) and *Friends* (1994-2004). It wasn’t until 2001 that Favreau transitioned into directing with *Made*, a crime-comedy he also wrote and co-starred in.

He continued directing films such as the much-loved holiday classic, *Elf* (2003), the sci-fi family film, *Zathura* (2005), and then Marvel Studio’s first self-produced film, *Iron Man* (2008) and its sequel, *Iron Man 2* (2010). More recently, Favreau has directed and produced several live-action remakes for Disney, including the studio’s well-received 2016 version of *The Jungle Book*. A huge hit, it led him to direct and produce another adaptation of a Disney classic animation property, *The Lion King*. Now extremely adept at VFX-centric filmmaking, Favreau was uniquely prepared to use the tools of CGI to assist in bringing the world of *The Mandalorian* to life on the small screen, just as richly as any filmmaker has done in bringing *Star Wars* stories to the big screen.



“All of the derelict background characters from the bar in the very first *Star Wars* movie are now front and center.”

Pedro Pascal

- ▶ A fact endorsed by Favreau, who proudly states that, “Thanks to Disney+ and Lucasfilm, we were able to put together a production that stands up, side-by-side, with all of the feature films.”

Series star Pedro Pascal is also hugely impressed with the visual spectacle of the production, and particularly its setting. “The edgier background of the world-building comes center stage,” Pascal says, revealing that “it’s like all of the derelict background characters from the bar in the very first *Star Wars* movie are now front and center.”

Breaking new ground for *Star Wars*, *The Mandalorian* represents a unique opportunity to welcome new fans to the galaxy, as well as providing thrills for the die-hards. As Favreau enthusiastically pointed out, “There’s a whole new set of characters, so if you are new to *Star*



10

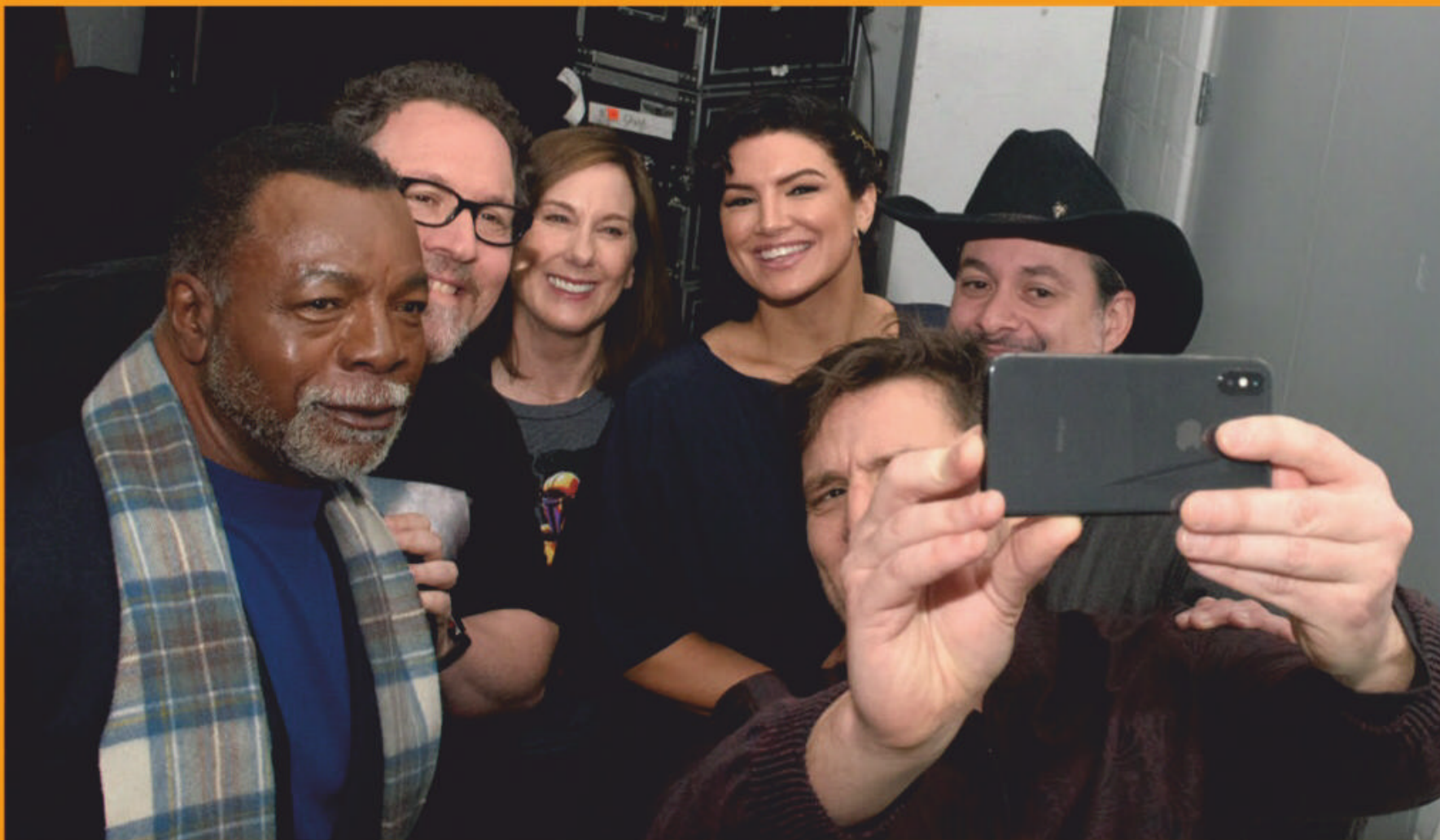


11

Wars, it’s a whole new storyline, in a whole new timeframe that hasn’t been covered yet. But if you are a *Star Wars* fan, we’ve got you. Much like we did with *Iron Man*, it was new characters for new people who might not know superhero films. But if you knew the *Iron Man* books and you saw that movie, you knew that movie was for you.”

• ***The Mandalorian* premieres on Disney+ in the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands on November 12, followed shortly thereafter by Australia and New Zealand, with the streaming service expected to be available in all major markets within the first two years. 🙌**

THE MANDALORIAN AND ASSOCIATES: MEET THE CAST



PEDRO PASCAL
The Mandalorian

■ Like a lone gunslinger in Westerns of yore, Pedro Pascal's Mandalorian is the central figure of the series. A bounty hunter who seems well-versed in the combat style of the famed Mandalorian warriors, he goes where the work takes him. In this case, he's summoned by Greef Carga to find a valuable asset. The rest remains a mystery, down to what he looks like under his mask, or sounds like for that matter. But we do know that Pascal is no stranger to passionate fandoms, as he's played high profile roles like Oberyn Martell in *Game of Thrones* (2011-2019), and Agent Whiskey in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* (2017).



GINA CARANO
Cara Dune

■ Described as a former rebel shock trooper, Cara Dune is another of the galaxy's bounty hunters. Whether she's a friend or foe to the Mandalorian is as yet unknown, but it's a likely safe bet that they've got a history that brings their skill-sets together.

Dune is played by Gina Carano, a former Muay Thai and MMA champion, which means she's bringing her own authentic physicality and stunt skills to the role. As Carano explains, "I think the world of bounty hunters is a very lonely place, and violent at times," so expect the character to bring a weighty back story along with her warrior ways.



CARL WEATHERS
Greef Carga

■ Acting legend Carl Weathers, best known for his iconic recurring role as Apollo Creed in the first four *Rocky* movies, is now perhaps even more famous as the voice of Combat Carl in *Toy Story of Terror* (2013) and *Toy Story 4* (2019).

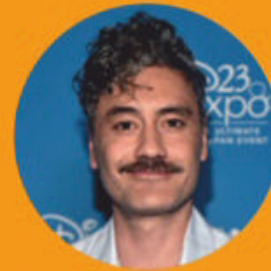
Weathers brings wit and gravitas to the outer reaches of the galaxy as Greef Carga, the leader of a bounty hunter guild who ultimately hires the Mandalorian to track a mysterious asset. Is that asset innocent or nefarious? It's likely to be just as complicated as Carga's relationship with this latest bounty hunter to wear the armor of a Mandalorian.



GIANCARLO ESPOSITO
Moff Gideon

■ Never let it be said that Giancarlo Esposito doesn't know how to craft an indelible villain. Whether he's voicing *Batman* villain Ra's al Ghul in the animated adventures of Gotham's masked vigilante, or exuding the calm menace of drug lord Gustavo Fring in *Breaking Bad* (2008-2013) and *Better Call Saul* (2015), Esposito always leaves an impression.

He intends to do the same as Moff Gideon, a bad man who was an Imperial leader before the Empire fell. "We don't know how much knowledge Gideon has," reveals Esposito, "but he seems to know the movements of everyone."



TAIKA WAITITI
IG-11

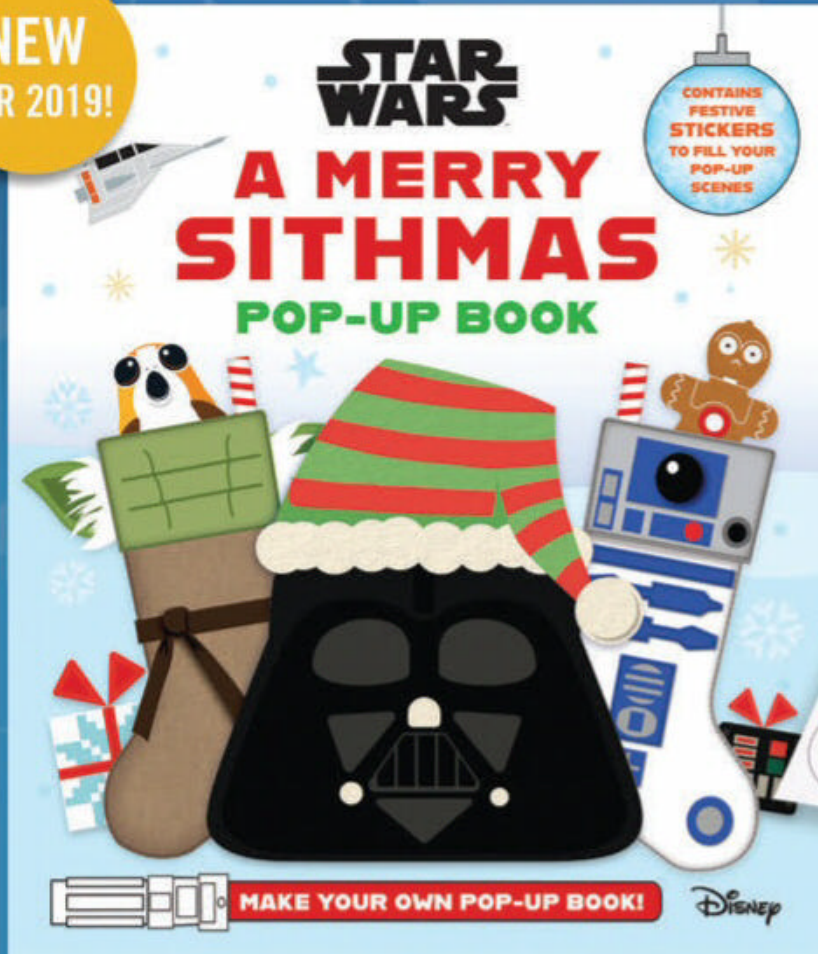
■ The New Zealand native has made quite the name for himself writing, directing and acting in such gems as *What We Do in the Shadows* (2014), *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016), and *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017).

Working in the Marvel Studios camp, Waititi crossed creative paths with Jon Favreau, who cast him as the voice of bounty hunter droid, IG-11. It's unknown if there's a direct relation to the classic droid, IG-88, but Waititi joked that he likes to think they were made in the same factory. As for IG-11's story arc, Waititi claims that the sharpshooting droid becomes "a very loveable character."

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VI Y VI 7 V N K O K E K N K A VI A 7

THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

VILLAINS VERSUS HEROES

Will the evil forces of the First Order triumph, or can the heroes of the Resistance turn the tide of galactic history? As fans await the return of *Star Wars* to the big screen on December 15, 2019, *Insider* introduces the major players who will determine the fate of a galaxy far, far away....



SUPREME LEADER KYLO REN

Portrayed by **Adam Driver**

Since assuming the mantle of Supreme Leader of the First Order after the death of Snoke, the antagonistic and intimidating Kylo Ren now wields more power than ever before. Hungry for even more, Ren scours the galaxy for the darkest secrets of the Force in his quest for ultimate supremacy.



GENERAL HUX

Portrayed by **Domhnall Gleeson**

The ruthless and sadistic First Order general remains driven to crush the rebellious Resistance, and bring order to the galaxy through a combination of brute force and terror.

THE KNIGHTS OF REN

Ominous, mysterious, and implacable, the Knights of Ren are members of an enclave of masked warriors, and the fearsome enforcers of Kylo Ren's dark will.

Each wields a distinctive weapon, best suited to their individual expertise in close-quarter and ranged combat, such as a war club, a long axe, an arm canon, and a blaster rifle.

SITH TROOPERS

Imbued with a fanatical devotion to the First Order, the Sith troopers are an elite force of stormtroopers that draw inspiration and power from a dark and ancient legacy.

Aggressive and well-trained, the Sith troopers are adept in armed and unarmed combat, and are equipped with an array of deadly energy weapons and explosives.



JANNAH

Portrayed by
Naomi Ackie

Hailing from an oceanic moon, Jannah is fierce, principled, and honest. Skilled in archery and riding, she leads a band of warriors who are ready to battle the forces of the First Order to protect their home.

ROSE TICO

Portrayed by
Kelly Marie Tran

The loss of her sister, Paige, made Rose Tico ever more determined to bring an end to the First Order's domination of the galaxy. She now plays key role in Resistance activities.

CHEWBACCA

Portrayed by **Joonas Suotamo**

The faithful former co-pilot of Han Solo continues to honor his friend's memory, manning the controls of the *Millennium Falcon* as he carries out daring missions against the First Order.

ZORII BLISS

Portrayed by **Keri Russell**

As the war between the First Order and the Resistance rages across the galaxy, it is difficult for scoundrels and rogues to retain their neutrality. A tough, no-nonsense smuggler and pilot, street smart Zorii Bliss is one such individual. But the time has come when she and the Spice Runners of Kijimi must choose a side.





LANDO CALRISSIAN

Portrayed by **Billy Dee Williams**

Former smuggler, sportsman (read: gambler), and self-styled galactic hero, Lando Calrissian has long been associated with the cause of freedom. A friend to Han Solo and General Leia Organa, Calrissian returns to the fray during the climactic end game of the fight against the First Order.

C-3PO

Portrayed by **Anthony Daniels**

A veteran of three galactic conflicts, C-3PO longs for more peaceful times. Unfortunately for the worry-prone protocol droid, he once again finds himself on the frontlines of war.



R2-D2

Providing a vital link in Resistance operations against the First Order, the reliable astromech droid continues to play an active part in the ongoing conflict.

REY

Portrayed by **Daisy Ridley**

Rey has come a long way since her childhood as a scavenger in the desert wastes of Jakku. Devoted to fighting the inexorable might of the First Order, Rey has continued to study the ways of the Jedi, but has growing concerns about what the future—and the Force—might hold in store for her.

FINN

Portrayed by **John Boyega**

Fully committed to the Resistance cause, Finn is determined to bring an end to the fierce First Order regime. Despite having left his past as a stormtrooper far behind, that training has helped him become a more confident soldier as he fights alongside his closest friends to achieve that goal.

POE DAMERON

Portrayed by **Oscar Isaac**

Poe Dameron learned a valuable lesson about the responsibility of command when the Resistance was routed by the First Order during the evacuation of D'Qar. Now, the heroic pilot joins friends Rey and Finn on a dangerous quest.

BB-8

Portrayed by **Brian Herring and Dave Chapman**

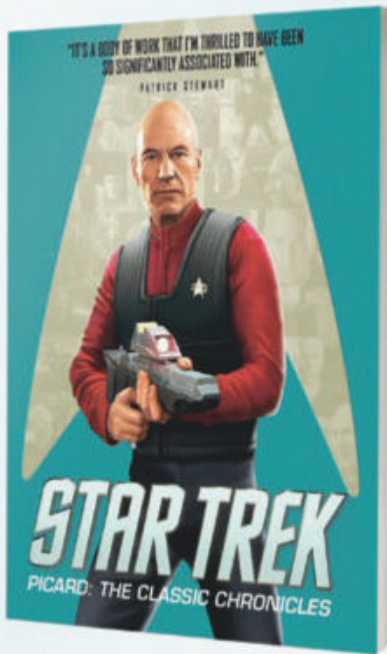
The resourceful pal of Poe Dameron continues to play a vital role supporting the Resistance and his master's friends.

D-O

An impressionable little roller droid, cobbled together from odd components and spare parts, D-O is cute, curious, and fixated with BB-8. D-O will follow the astromech through thick and thin.

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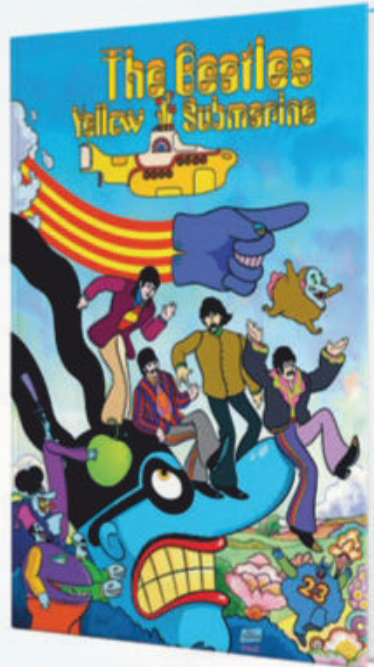


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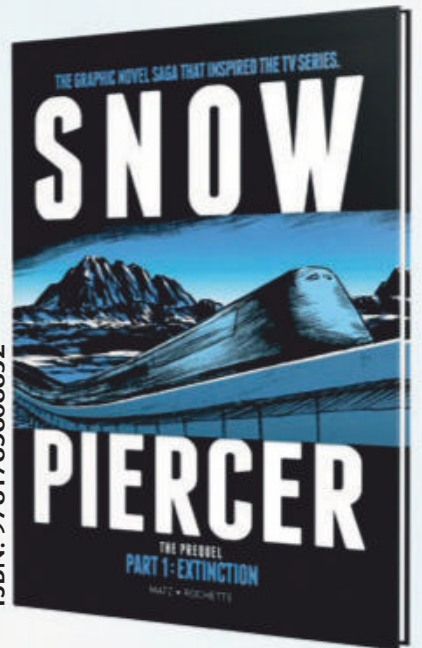


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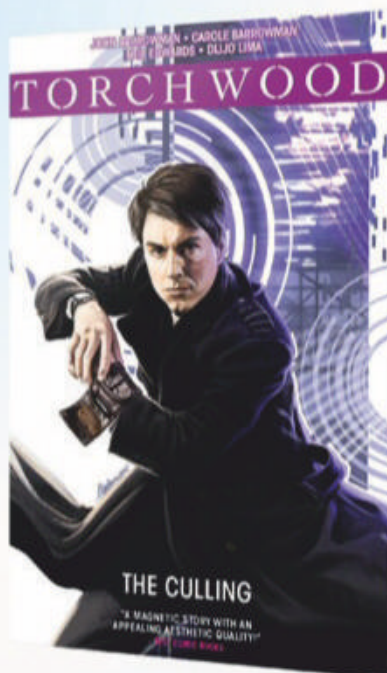


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P O
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THE SECRET LIFE OF PORGS

From the moment they were first glimpsed in the teaser trailer for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), fans have been fascinated by the porgs of Ahch-To. With help from the artist who designed them and a renowned puffin biologist, *Star Wars Insider* uncovers the secret life of Chewbacca's feathered friends.

WORDS BY MELISSA T. MILLER

P

orgs—those cute, curious inhabitants of Ahch-To—are perhaps the most notable addition

to *Star Wars* field guides in recent years, having been inspired by the Atlantic puffins crowding the island of Skellig Michael off the coast of Ireland where some *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017) scenes were filmed. Instead of digitally removing them, director Rian Johnson embraced the opportunity to showcase more wildlife onscreen. Now, puffin researchers here on Earth can provide insights into the porgs of Ahch-To.

Although the original directive was that the porgs be a similar size, shape, and color to puffins—so that myriad background shots with flocks flying through them didn't need to be altered—there was still plenty of room for creative changes. The challenge fell to *Star Wars* creature concept designer Jake Lunt Davies.

"The first iteration of porgs had seal fur and flippers instead of wings, then further down the line in the creative process, a decision was made to change this to feathers and make them more avian," Lunt Davies reveals. "They were always a bit bird-like with their little webbed feet. I saw them as semi-aquatic, imagining that they would jump off cliffs to swim and hunt, just like penguins."

It turns out that, despite Lunt Davies' artistic license, these attributes are actually supported by science. Stephen Kress, Ph.D., the Vice President for Bird Conservation at the National Audubon Society and Visiting Fellow at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has dedicated his career to studying the natural behavior of puffin populations,

and he notes that puffins' legs are set far back on their bodies, a trait they have in common with porgs. "It means they stand upright, and the leg position also has a lot to do with how they lift off into flight," he explains. Puffins usually need to get a running start, either on land or water, before they fly. Alternatively, they can leap off cliffs to become airborne—behavior that is also seen amongst porgs in *The Last Jedi*.

What They Eat

Perhaps the most striking physical difference between puffins and porgs can be found on their faces. While puffins sport a large, colorful beak, the snub-nose and teeth-filled mouth of the porg more closely resembles that of a seal. Both puffins and seals eat fish, making it likely that porgs do too, despite it never being shown onscreen. "Puffins require large numbers of fish to survive," says Kress. "The chicks, especially, rely on a diet of fish."

As has been well-documented in recent years, fish populations—and thus puffins and many other animals that rely on them for food—are finding themselves increasingly under threat from environmental problems such as climate change and overfishing. When unsustainably large numbers of fish are removed from the ocean, it affects every plant and animal that relies on them as part of a healthy food chain. Additionally, many species of fish can only survive in a narrow range of temperatures and are dying off or moving to deeper water, farther away from nesting islands, as the oceans warm.

However, it's unlikely that Luke and the caretakers are having any such negative effects on Ahch-To ►

"I saw them as semi-aquatic, imagining that they would jump off cliffs to swim and hunt like penguins."

Jake Lunt Davies



01 Sketches of porg nests by *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* concept artist Jake Lunt Davies.

- and its native inhabitants. The island in *The Last Jedi* has a healthy underwater environment, evidenced by its ability to support large species of fish. In fact, the addition of Luke's X-wing as an artificial reef could even serve to increase the abundance of small species that likely provide nourishment for porgs.

Just a Bill?

Unlike other birds who regurgitate partially digested food, puffins return to their burrows carrying intact small fish. They use their large bills to transport the fish—sometimes dozens at a time—back to their chicks. Porgs would not be able to do this, and it remains unclear how they feed their offspring; it's possible that they nurse their young instead.

Platypus and echidnas are the only animals here on Earth that both lay eggs and nurse their young, and neither species has typical suckling habits. Instead, the female sweats milk from specific areas of her body, in a process which typically requires her to stay on the nest rather than leaving it to hunt for herself. Every shot of an active nest in *The Last Jedi* shows an adult porg sitting on it, so this hypothesis has potential.

But an impressive bill isn't solely important for dietary requirements: for puffins, it also plays a pivotal role when it comes to attracting a mate. "Recent work has shown that the bill actually glows under ultraviolet light," says Kress. "That may indicate health, age, breeding condition, and all kinds of things to their potential mates."

Lunt Davies admits that, at the time, he didn't give much thought to what his creative

"Birds that nest in the open, like gulls and terns, are usually much more aggressive."

Stephen Kress, Ph.D

02



Puffin photographs by Stephen Kress.

03



- 02 Puffins gather at Matinicus Rock, Maine.
- 03 The bright bill of a puffin helps attract a mate and can be used as a tool for digging.

decisions could mean about the lifestyle and behavior of porgs. "I might watch a David Attenborough wildlife show or something similar. It soaks in and somehow seeps its way back out again in my designs," he suggests.

Nesting Behavior

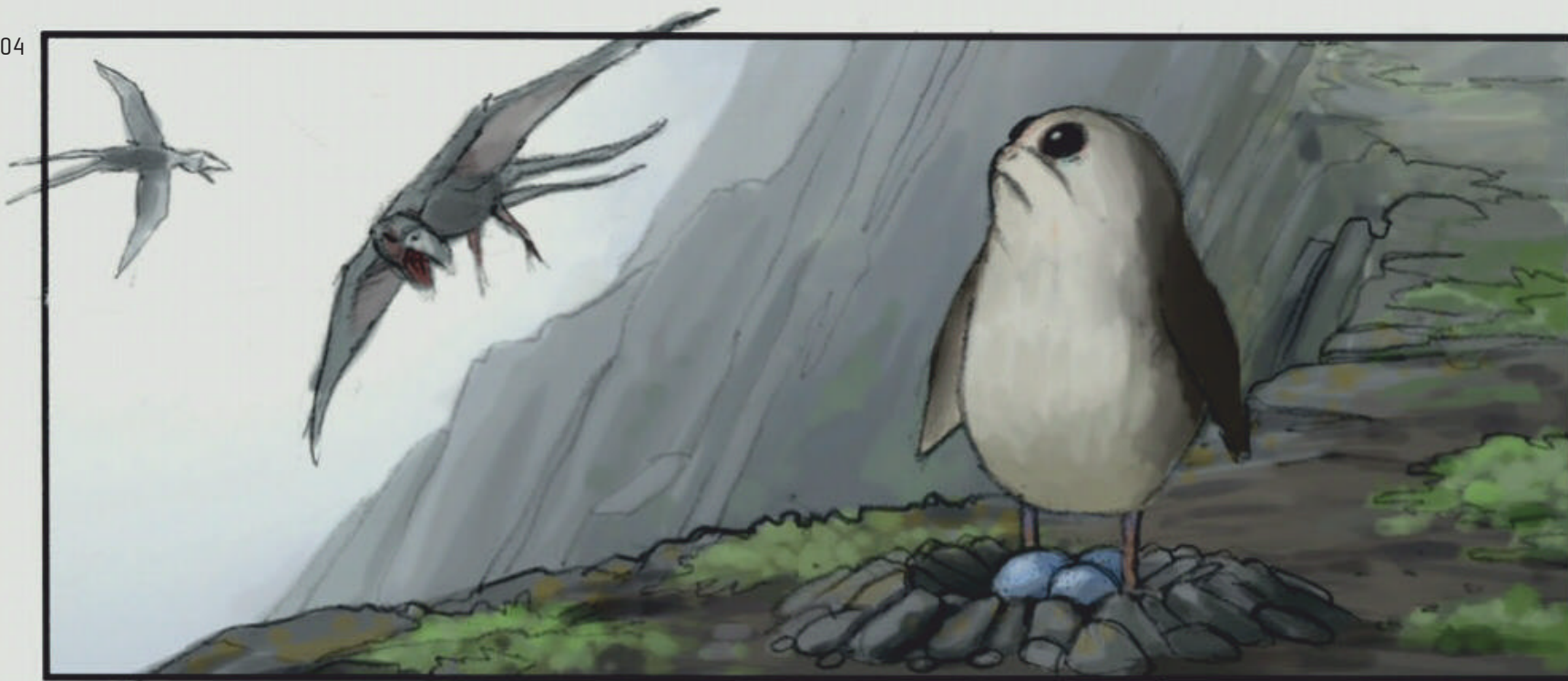
Puffins dig deep and winding burrows to keep their single egg safe from gulls—their natural predators—using the tools provided to them by evolution. Kress explains that they utilize their large bill, "like a pick axe, and they also use their webbed feet as little shovels. They claw with sharp toenails and, dog-like, kick soil out behind them." However,

this careful defense doesn't protect against predation by human-introduced mammals like rats, which can be devastating to puffins and many other species of birds around the world.

By contrast, "our little porglets are exposed," says Lunt Davies, who drew multiple types of nests in his concept art. "I'll draw many ideas, exploring lots of different options, but ultimately only one route gets chosen. So you can ignore anything else if it isn't in the movie."

Porgs making open nests from grass and other scavenged items, like wiring or fabric from passing YT-1300 Corellian freighters, may seem like a small thing,

04



but it belies major differences between their behavior and that of puffins. It's possible that there is little predation on the island, which would allow porgs to lay and hatch multiple eggs in their open nests without fear. Or it could be that porgs have a side to them not shown onscreen.

"Birds that nest in the open, like gulls and terns, are usually much more aggressive," explains Kress. "They're all over a predator that gets near the nest, and multiple birds will join together to attack or chase it away." He also speculates that porgs nesting on the surface rather than in burrows would likely be aggressive around those nests. "Maybe that's where the teeth come in," he says, "though there are birds that just sit tight and hope no one will see them. If they do fly off, they poop all over the eggs, which has a predator-deterrent smell."

Lunt Davies confirms this theory about the porgs, as it turns out that the possibility of the little creatures defending their nests did come up in pre-production. "We looked at the idea of sticking a nest to the side of the cliff for practical reasons," says Lunt Davies. "We could operate the puppets from underneath and keep the shot generally free of rod-removal in post-production. At that time, the parent was going to react

05



04-05 The nesting habits of the porgs were fully explored during pre-production for *The Last Jedi*, with the cliff-dwelling creatures protecting their young from airborne predators. Concept art by Jake Lunt Davies.

“One moment Chewie’s eating them, the next minute they’re happily inside and jumping all around him.”

Jake Lunt Davies



06

► defensively to the threat of larger flying predators circling above.”

Once they’re ready, puffin chicks leave the nest—or ‘fledge’—and head out to sea, then often don’t return to land for two to three years. But some puffins do return to the nesting grounds before they are ready to actually breed. “Young birds arrive later in the season than the older breeders and ‘prospect’ for years before they nest for the first time,” explains Kress. “Pair bonding, and occupation and defense of a burrow, can happen in the year before egg laying.” This could explain the different types of nests seen in *The Last Jedi*, with some on the grass while others are built on cliff faces.

Chewie and the porgs

Chewbacca’s relationship with porgs can also be studied through the lens of puffin biology. “They’ve certainly gotten very tame around our observation blinds at the research site,” says Kress, who notes that puffins and other seabirds are naturally curious about new people and spaces. Rey may have had to wait a few hours (and audiences two years) for Luke to speak, but in that time she interacted with the curious porgs living on Ahch-To, who didn’t seem to view her as a threat.

As for the threat Chewie poses, having apparently captured and killed at least two of them, it’s likely the porgs would remember that. “Birds do certainly recognize individual researchers, we think by facial features,” says Kress. “None of our researchers look like a Wookiee, but I’m sure that body shape would be easily recognized.”

The porg who stares down Chewie could be the mate of one of the porgs he killed. While it’s difficult to say puffins mourn per se, if one dies, “its mate will not breed that year. They take a year off when a mate is lost,” says Kress. If only Luke or the Caretakers had shared some fish or thala-siren milk, Chewie may not have had to resort to hunting on his own!

However, porg curiosity is apparently enough to overcome

06 A number of porgs nested aboard the *Millennium Falcon*.

07 Stephen Kress meets a puffin on Eastern Egg Rock, Maine. Photo by Bill Scholtz.

08 Ahch-To’s porgs don’t take too kindly to the dietary habits of a certain Wookiee.

09 Animatronic porgs await their cue during filming of *The Last Jedi*.



07



08

any memory they have of Chewbacca as a predator, as they investigate and eventually infest the *Millennium Falcon*. The porg that stays onboard and travels to Crait likely has a lot of adjustments to make in order to live away from Ahch-To, and the fact that echoing Chewie's battle cry could indicate that porgs are an adaptable creature. While puffins don't mimic other vocalizations, there are birds that do.

The porgs' relocation from cliff-top to spaceship is something that, Lunt Davies admits, perplexes him. "One moment Chewbacca's eating them, the next minute they are happily inside and jumping all around him," he says. "They're obviously quite invasive creatures." Neither Kress nor Lunt Davies feel qualified to speculate, but it could be that the nest seen on the *Millennium Falcon* belonged to one of the porgs Chewie killed. With porglets already hatching, it's unlikely that an adult would choose to move its nest except under extreme circumstances, or with help from a certain remorseful Wookiee.

"Puffins seldom abandon chicks following disturbance," says



09

Kress. However, "if the burrow is badly destroyed, it would likely be the end of nesting that year." Disruptions can come from predators, but trampling by careless humans is also a threat. Though the residents of Ahch-To may not stay on marked paths, it's incredibly important that humans do if they choose to visit the filming location.

Thankfully, most seabird colonies are protected areas, and access to Skellig Michael itself is

regulated, thanks to the island's listing as a site of both historic and natural importance. Though tourist boats are allowed to land there, guides ensure that visitors respect the rules to minimize their impact.

Get Involved

There are many ways to help puffins, the charismatic seabird that inspired *Star Wars'* porgs, including supporting policy to slow down and reverse the effects



► of climate change. Eating only sustainably caught fish can also go a long way toward encouraging an end to over-fishing. “One of our hopes,” reveals Kress, “is that better managed fisheries will leave more fish in the water and help birds adapt to climate change.” Many fish populations bounce back relatively quickly when fishing is regulated, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium has developed an app called Seafood Watch that keeps an updated list of seafood options to help make choices that support healthy oceans worldwide.

Puffins are also facing an environmental challenge in the shape of pollution—a planet-wide issue—and perhaps chief amongst

that is the plastic problem. As has been widely publicized, it enters the ocean and breaks down into small pieces that are then easily swallowed by seabirds, so the use and disposal of plastic is something that we should all strive to be aware of. In the U.S., the plastic problem has taken a somewhat unexpected shape. “Here in North America, the prevailing winds take balloons out into the ocean,” reveals Kress. “We’re collecting them all the time to keep wildlife safe. The birds can get tangled up, swallow them, and bring them to their nests. When you live in the interior U.S., sometimes you think ocean issues are someone else’s problem,

10 Concept art by Jake Lunt Davies, detailing porg nests and a feisty young porglet.

but balloons end up in the ocean. I have even seen puffin chicks entangled with balloons and the trailing strings in their burrows.”

When asked about potential threats to the porgs, Lunt Davies says, “I imagine the planet would continue to stay a backwater. Nonetheless, porgs strike me as somewhat adaptable.” So hopefully, these curious little island-dwellers will be safe from environmental threats (unless Supreme Leader Kylo Ren looks to blow up the whole island, of course). Through continued research and conservation, the hope is that puffin populations can also recover and thrive. “Healthy puffin populations indicate a healthy marine environment,” says Kress. “Lots of birds means the ocean is healthy and producing food for not just puffins, but for everything else, including humans.” And hopefully porgs will continue to flourish in that galaxy far, far away. 🐾

“None of our researchers look like a Wookiee, but I’m sure that body shape would be easily recognized.”

Stephen Kress, Ph.D



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A close-up portrait of Rey from Star Wars: The Last Jedi. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Her dark hair is pulled back, and she has a small tear on her cheek. She is wearing her signature grey and black outfit. In her right hand, she holds a glowing blue lightsaber. The background is a blurred, blue-tinted architectural structure with vertical lines.

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RESISTANCE REBORN

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Death and rebirth are central themes of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017). *Insider* explores how these and others shaped the arcs of Luke Skywalker, Leia Organa, and Rey in the penultimate episode of the Skywalker saga.

Words: Tricia Barr

“THE LAST JEDI HONORS THE FRANCHISE’S CHIEF VALUES OF IDEALISM, LOYALTY, AND SELF-SACRIFICE THAT MADE THE ORIGINAL STAR WARS SO BELOVED.”

ANN HORNADAY, *THE WASHINGTON POST*

FACTS & FIGURES

Title / *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*

Episode / Eight

Poster Tagline / Let the past die.

Theatrical Release / December 15, 2017

Run time / 152 mins

MPAA / “Rated PG-13”

Budget / \$317 Million

Domestic Opening Weekend / \$220,009,584

Domestic Box Office / \$620,181,382

Worldwide Box Office / \$1,332,539,889

Awards / Empire Awards for Best Director - Rian Johnson, Best Actress - Daisy Ridley, Best Film, Best Visual Effects, and Best Costume Design. Nominated for four Academy Awards.



laustrophobic imagery of sarcophagi abound in *The Last Jedi*. Finn awakens in a coffin-like medical cocoon having recuperated from the wounds he suffered at the hands of Kylo Ren on Starkiller Base; Leia lies unconscious in another after First Order missiles destroy the *Raddus*' bridge; and Rey is sealed in a casket-like escape pod to journey from the *Millennium Falcon* to Snoke's flagship. Even the unarmed and unshielded transports that take what remains of the Resistance to Crait's surface are metaphorical caskets for their doomed occupants. The watery grave of Luke Skywalker's X-wing in a cove on Ahch-To only adds to this sense of finality. Yet *The Last Jedi* is emphatically about new beginnings, continuity, and moving forward, as told through the arcs of Luke, Leia, and Rey.

Return Of The Jedi

Of all the characters, Luke is most plainly biding his time, waiting for death to find him—perhaps a little earlier than nature intends. For someone who isn't using the Force, pole-vaulting across a crevasse to your favorite fishing

spot is living dangerously. The fact that Luke Skywalker, the optimist of the original trilogy, is shrugging off his heroic duties—just like the farmboy who declined to join Obi-Wan Kenobi and learn the ways of the Force—is a bit disconcerting. However, the reveal of the events that led Luke to this fatalistic, solitary life on Ahch-To are the central element of the movie.

Unlike farmboy Luke, who still believed Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru were waiting back at the homestead when he refused his first call to adventure from Kenobi, Rey has no one, except for the new friends she has made aiding the Resistance. She wants to complete the mission entrusted to her by General Leia Organa. She wants Luke to teach her the ways of the Force so she can better understand all this potential she has discovered within herself. Leia is hopeful that Luke will be willing to resume his duty of teaching apprentices with a young woman who doesn't come with the same baggage as training your twin sister's son.

When describing what went wrong with Ben Solo, Luke admits he was “no match for the darkness rising in him.” But the wound runs so deep for the former Jedi Master that he doesn't relate the whole story when Rey first asks what

► happened. He tells her, “I went to confront him, and he turned on me. He must’ve thought I was dead. When I came to, the temple was burning. He had vanished with a handful of my students, and slaughtered the rest. Leia blamed Snoke, but it was me. I failed.”

Luke and Kylo Ren’s fateful encounter is more fully fleshed out over the course of *The Last Jedi’s* second act, told from alternative perspectives. First, after suggesting Rey ask her potential teacher about their falling out, Kylo presents his side of the clash with Skywalker to Rey. When they speak, it has only been a short time since Kylo Ren killed his father, Han Solo—an event that fits into the stage of *Acute Violence* in the four-step *Cycle of Abuse* first identified by psychologist Lenore Walker, explaining patterns of behavior in an abusive relationship. During the following stage, *Reconciliation/Honeymoon*, the abuser will express regret or ignore the incident. The latter is Kylo’s route, and he brushes off Rey’s insistent questions about how he could hate his father enough to kill him. Instead, Kylo changes the subject, relating his alternative description of falling out with his former master. Kylo says, “He’d sensed my power, as he senses yours, and he feared it.” The audience is shown an image of Luke we barely recognize, a bloodthirsty man fully prepared to strike down his own nephew. This version of the story is clearly a narration by Kylo Ren, and although Luke has obviously become a different man to the one we are familiar with from the

For someone who isn’t using the Force, pole-vaulting across a crevasse to your favorite fishing spot is living dangerously.

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original trilogy, this imagery of Skywalker rings as false to what we've seen previously and observe subsequently in *The Last Jedi*.

Struggling with her own issues of identity and helplessness, Rey enters the *Cycle of Abuse* stage known as *Calm*, where her relationship with Kylo Ren operates in a seemingly normal fashion. Luke stumbles into one of these moments, a conversation about loneliness and belonging in which Rey is very much seeking answers, and finding more of them from Ren than her mysterious mirror cave vision or her reluctant mentor. Luke fears what Kylo is doing, and what Rey might become. He acts aggressively to sever the Force bond, but Luke never becomes the man Kylo portrayed in his version of events. Even as Rey attacks Luke in the rain outside the hut he acts only defensively, finally using the Force to break his fall while Rey towers over

01 Luke Skywalker's response to Rey's arrival on Ahch-To was not what she had expected.

02 "Rey from nowhere" encounters resistance from her Jedi hero.

03 Skywalker interrupts Rey's Force connection with Kylo Ren.



PUTTING IT INTO PERSPECTIVE

While we are used to Obi-Wan Kenobi relating galactic history from "a certain point of view," (see a feature exploring this on page 74), the *Star Wars* movies have, as a whole, used the more traditional third-person narrative approach in their storytelling.

Third-person point of view is by far the most common in *Star Wars* movies. The camera represents a limited perspective on the story, but it can shift its focus from character to character or location to location. In *Star Wars* movies, third-person storytelling is importantly not omniscient or all knowing, but rather the audience learns only what the camera shows them. Therefore, the only reliable events are ones we witness directly on the screen, such as the destruction of Alderaan or Kenobi's slaying of General Grievous. Every other truth in which we are asked to believe, however, comes from dialogue spoken by the characters.

The Last Jedi plays with this storytelling perspective in a way no previous *Star Wars* film has, using first-person and camera angles relating to a specific event, narrated from the perspectives of Luke Skywalker and Kylo Ren's points of view. Each of these on-screen retellings of their fateful encounter could be considered unreliable by the audience, or we could choose the one that suits us best. Moreover, even the storyteller could choose to dismiss this narration, if it served their vision going forward.



► him, lightsaber ignited. Almost unwittingly, instinctively, in that moment Luke reopens his connection with the Force, and takes his first step back into a larger galaxy, a Jedi reborn.

Truth Be Told

“Tell me the truth,” Rey insists, confronting Luke after he interrupts her Force-connection with Kylo Ren. Rey has heard the tales of the great Luke Skywalker, to the point she thought they must be myth. The young woman shown in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) figures out Force abilities like someone who already has familiarity with what Jedi are capable of, and gives it a try herself. In *The Last Jedi*, Rey believes she can repeat another of Luke’s legendary feats: standing firm as a Jedi to turn Darth Vader back to the

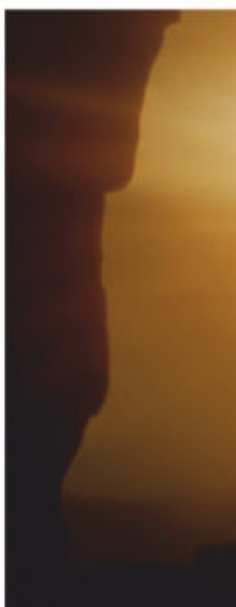
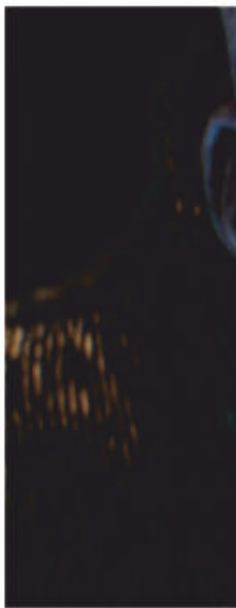
light. Of Kylo Ren she says, “If he would turn from the dark side, that could shift the tide! This could be how we win!”

Luke, though, admonishes Rey, “This is not going to go the way you think.” Later, we learn that Rey’s action is not merely optimism based on past events. Before reaching the *Supremacy*’s throne room, Rey tells Kylo she has seen the “shape of his future.” Having seen him turn against Snoke, she expects a similar turn in his morality, too. Interestingly, this conversation happens in an elevator, which is often used in cinema to denote a symbolic conveyance of a character into a new stage, such as Anakin Skywalker’s elevator ride to Senator Amidala’s penthouse in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* (2002). In *The Last Jedi*, the light and dark manifestations of the Force in the sequel trilogy are heading toward Snoke’s chambers, an “underworld” where their relationship will be reformed with blood-red imagery and fire burning around them.

Although their side-by-side battle to defeat the Praetorian Guard takes place in the *Calm* phase of the abuse cycle, Kylo

Ren quickly shifts back to the first phase, *Escalating Tension*. He refuses to act to save the Resistance transports, and instead asks Rey to join him. When she responds, “Don’t do this, Ben. Please don’t go this way,” Kylo ignores Rey’s pressing concern for the Resistance and twists the conversation to the question that pushed her toward him earlier: her identity. This is yet another manipulation tactic, like the one he has used previously to divert the discussion from his act of patricide. While Rey previously believed being a Jedi meant a momentous act of heroism like Luke’s role in drawing Vader back to the light, she borrows a trick from Kylo’s book and pretends to be doing his bidding, just as he had done with Snoke before killing him. Her outstretched hand isn’t intended to recreate their Force-bond finger-touching for real, and Kylo is distracted enough that Rey manages to rip the lightsaber she had thrown him back toward her. Their Force tug-of-war ends with the hilt and its kyber crystal torn in two. Ren and Rey leave their “underworld” recommitted to their separate paths: Supreme Leader and Jedi Knight.

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- 04 Rey is determined to alter Kylo Ren's destiny.
- 05 The Force isn't about lifting rocks... or is it?
- 06 Supreme Leader Snoke's last gasp.
- 07 His faith in the Force restored, Luke Skywalker moves on to the next phase of his existence.



06 When Rey's status as a Jedi is ordained by Luke, it is while he is using a trick of his own: Force-projecting from Ahch-To to Crait to distract Kylo Ren from his "no quarter, no prisoners" assault on the Resistance base. Standing at the barrier between herself and her trapped friends, Rey can't help but grin when she must simply lift rocks to save the Resistance.

Pass On What You Have Learned

With Luke lost to the toll of his grand Force ruse, Rey is seemingly now a Jedi acolyte with no teacher. In Luke's frantic act to burn down the Jedi library, housed in a hollowed-out tree trunk, Yoda had intervened. He reminded his former apprentice what being a Jedi master required: "Pass on what you have learned. Strength, mastery. But weakness, folly, failure also. Yes, failure most of all. The greatest teacher, failure is."

While Luke and Rey's stories intertwine, Leia's is subtly winding back toward her reunification with Rey on the *Millennium Falcon*. Her

With Luke lost to the toll of his grand Force ruse, Rey is seemingly now a Jedi acolyte with no teacher.

unexpected near-death experience leads to a rebirth of her own on screen. Her eyes flicker open, and Leia flies back toward a new life as a superhero. Leia intercedes when her pupil Poe Dameron missteps, but she never returns to an active command role. Ultimately, she acts almost as a Jedi should—as a guardian, willing to pass on what she has learned, and, more importantly, how she has failed.

As Rey holds her broken lightsaber hilt in her hands and ponders, "How do we build a Rebellion from this?" Leia, the teacher Kylo Ren said she needed, passes on a first, valuable lesson: "We have everything we need." 🗡️





No Such Thing as Luck?

Trust in the Force to win a stunning ARTFX+ statue from Kotobukiya!

Han Solo didn't believe Ben "Obi-Wan" Kenobi when the Jedi Knight insisted, "In my experience, there's no such thing as luck," so if you want to win this issue's prize giveaway perhaps you should place your faith in the Force! Thanks to our friends at Kotobukiya, creators of an incredible range of highly detailed *Star Wars* statues, we have nine ARTFX+ model kits up for grabs. But this month there's a twist!

As the battle between light and dark reaches its crunch moment in *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, our prize is also split between the forces of good and evil, in the form of Kotobukiya's stunning renditions of Obi-Wan Kenobi

and Emperor Palpatine. If you're lucky enough to be one of our nine winners then you'll receive either the venerable Jedi from *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), or the malicious Sith as seen in *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983)—and you'll finally know to which side your destiny belongs!

ARTFX+ Statues are fun-to-assemble, pre-painted snap-fit kits that can be put together easily in seconds without glue or modeling experience, and feature interchangeable parts for the ultimate in posability.

To be in with a chance of winning, just send us the correct answer to the following *Star Wars* trivia question:

Obi-Wan Kenobi was raised on which planet before he was taken to Coruscant to train as a Jedi?

- A) Stevcolb
- B) Jamcord
- C) Stewjon

Send your answer to our regular email or postal address (see 'Contact Us' on page 3), marked "KOTOBUKIYA" by December 24, 2019.

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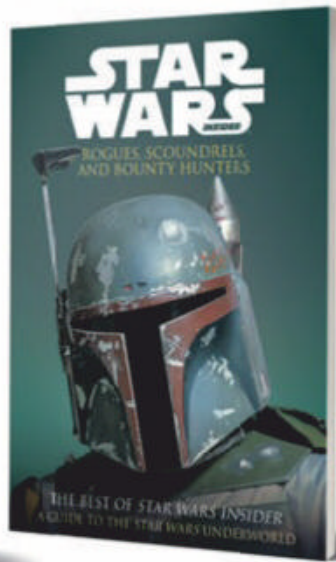
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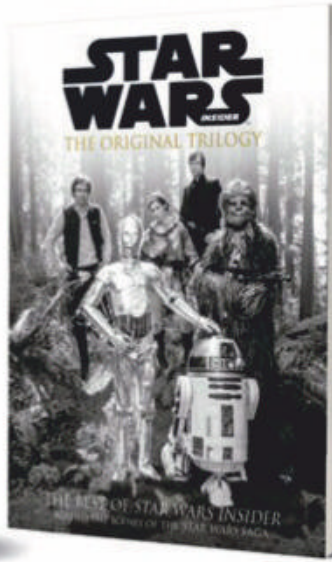
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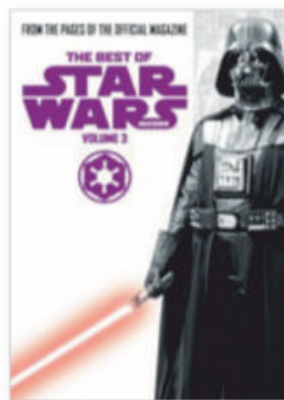
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ADVENTURES ON AHCH-TO

FROM THE EMERALD ISLE TO
A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY...

Having already toured the snowy wastes of Hoth for *Star Wars Insider* (via the Norwegian village of Finse), well-travelled superfan James Floyd takes us on a personal tour of Ahch-To, along the wild Atlantic coastline of Ireland.

WORDS: JAMES FLOYD



T

o find tranquility in exile, Luke Skywalker sought out “the most unfindable place in the galaxy.”

Luckily for those of us on Earth, the stunning seascapes and islands of Ahch-To are actually really easy to find, located at various points along the coastline of Éire, otherwise known as the Republic of Ireland. The Emerald Isle might be on the outer rim of Europe, but for fans wanting a taste of one of the most beautiful and awe-inspiring worlds of the galaxy far, far away, it's well worth the trip.

Skellig Michael, an island just off the west coast of Ireland, was used as the location for Ahch-To in the final scenes of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015). However, when it came to planning the shoot for *The Last Jedi* (2017), which had many more scenes set on the planet, the enormous logistical challenges of filming on an island with no utilities and where *everything* had to be brought in by boat or helicopter, made it an impractical option. Instead, the filmmakers knew that they needed to find alternative locations on the mainland that would blend seamlessly with Skellig Michael. Location scouts scoured the Wild Atlantic Way, 1,500 miles of coastal roads covering the north-west coast of Ireland, looking for cliffs and rocky shores that would be a perfect fit: a point near Malin Head became



01 (Left to right) Bryan Young, Holly Frey, James Floyd, and their porgs, in suitable Ahch-To attire.

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the *Millennium Falcon's* landing place, a natural formation near Loop Head was the ideal dark side cave entrance, and a cliff near Ballyferriter was great for the first Jedi temple set. Film crews also returned to Skellig Michael to film for a few days in September 2015, at iconic points such as the saddle where Luke and Rey first meet, and at the Wailing Woman rock formation used by Rey during her lightsaber practice.

EPISODE I: AHCH-TO OR BUST!

In the summer of 2018, I found myself with a golden opportunity to visit Ireland's *Star Wars* filming locations, when my brother decided to take my parents on a vacation to Ireland—a country my father had always wanted to visit. While dad had a list of places he wanted to see, I thought I'd take in a few intergalactic destinations of my own while we were there.

Traveling with my folks (and Porgy—a porg plush who longed to visit his home planet), we arrived in the small town of Portmagee, ready for our first stop. Sadly, the Force wasn't with us that day, and our boat trip to land on Skellig Michael was canceled due to high swells. My initial disappointment soon evaporated when I befriended two fellow fans, Felicia and Elliot Marsh, from London, who were on their second trip to attempt a Skellig landing. I put my name on the cancellation list for the next day, despite a glum weather forecast. A wild hope but, hey, never tell me the odds!

Instead, we walked along the nearby Kerry Cliffs and caught a glimpse of Skellig Michael and Little Skellig through the fog. So close and yet so far away. A drizzle turned into a downpour, and we sought shelter in the upstairs guest lounge of the Moorings, a room that served as the pre-production office for *The Force Awakens*.

That evening, Gerald Kennedy, who owns the Bridge Bar and Moorings Guest House with his wife Pat, shared stories from the filming, including how he was surprised when one of the “movie people”—none other than Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker)—jumped behind the bar at the wrap party to pour himself a pint of Guinness.

A Moment to Meditate

The next morning came with bad news—no landings. So, I spent some time seeking out locals who had been involved with the filming. Aboard the *Skellig Walker*, tour boat skippers Pat Joe Murphy and John “Cav” Sheehan recounted working on the two Skellig shoots, ferrying film equipment and crew back and forth to the island from first light to late into the evening, radioing in crew dinner orders to the Bridge Bar so that everyone could be fed as soon as they docked. Seanie Murphy, credited as the Lead Boatman in *The Force Awakens*, described his role organizing all the tour boat operators with landing permits into a cohesive fleet, to tackle the incredible logistics



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meditation rock was perched on a truck bed backed over the cliff edge, but the landowners have added a stand-in rock for guests to meditate on.

The next morning, Breege and I trekked up to Ceann Sibéal, where the set for the first Jedi temple—inspired by the ancient ‘beehive huts’

common in the region—was built, having been shipped over from Pinewood Studios. Jutting out over the lip of the cliff, it must have been an impressive structure. Grabbing a few more photos to mark our visit, it was already time to go home. My first visit to Ahch-to had been all too brief, but, hope was not yet lost that there would be another.

02 Luke’s island on Ahch-To.

03 Porgy and pals recreate a scene from *The Last Jedi*.

04 James Floyd and Porgy near Malin Head, Ireland.

05 Luke Skywalker goes fishing.

06 A view across Malin Head.

07 The site of Luke Skywalker’s submerged X-wing.

EPISODE II: AHCH-TO-BERFEST

Some months later, I found myself organizing a second trip to Ireland, only this time it would be specifically to visit all of Ireland’s *Star Wars* filming locations, from Malin Head in the north to Mizen Head in the south. As a bonus, we planned to take part in the second annual May the 4th festivities in towns along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Accompanying Porgy and I would be friends Bryan Young and Holly Frey, their partners, and a whole nest of porgs. Landing at Shannon airport on May 1, I hit the motorway in my rental car, picking up Bryan and Patty in Galway. We drove north to meet Heidi Doherty, program manager of the Inishowen Tourism Office, and coordinator of the May 4th events in Malin Head and the greater Inishowen peninsula area. ▶



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of transporting gear and crew for the two shoots on Skellig. Bidding farewell to Portmagee, we drove up the steep Geokaun Mountain, Valentia Island’s highest point. The summit treated Porgy to a final view of the Skelligs—maybe next time.

We reached Ballyferriter (locally signed as Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, since the west end of the Dingle Peninsula is an Irish language district) and checked in with Breege Granville at her historic home, now a bed and breakfast. She guided us to the filming site of the sunset meditation in *The Last Jedi*, on a cliff near Fearann, just outside town. Hiking along the magnificent cliffs, we were treated to a stunning view from the spot where Luke Skywalker became one with the Force in *The Last Jedi*. During filming, Luke’s



07

THE FILMMAKERS KNEW THAT THEY NEEDED TO FIND ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS ON THE MAINLAND THAT WOULD BLEND SEAMLESSLY WITH SKELLIG MICHAEL.

► She guided us through the hills to our accommodation outside Ballygorman, in guest rooms at the Seaview Tavern, where several of *The Last Jedi* crew had also stayed during filming.

On the morning of the 2nd, we met with mountaineering expert Bren Whelan, our guide from Donegal Climbing, who served as a safety expert on the movie. Starting our hike at the Malin Head signal station, he shared the history, geology, and ecology of the area as he guided us along several spectacular coastal features until we reached the outcrop of Prockagh, a jaw-droppingly beautiful vista point with rugged cliffs, pinnacles hosting nesting seabirds, and, in the distance, a view of the set location for the *Millennium Falcon* landing spot. Afterwards, we stopped at Farren's Bar: the northernmost pub in Ireland, and locale of the Malin Head wrap party, where the owner proudly displays a stormtrooper boot autographed by Mark Hamill. We scrapped our lunch plan when the landowners of the Malin Head filming site called, inviting us over to visit. That's how the Force works!

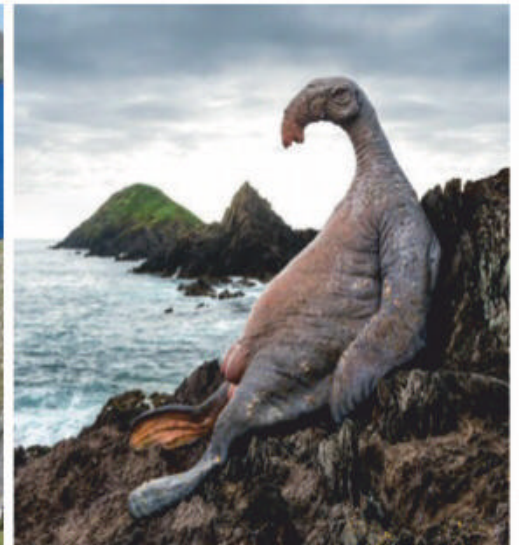
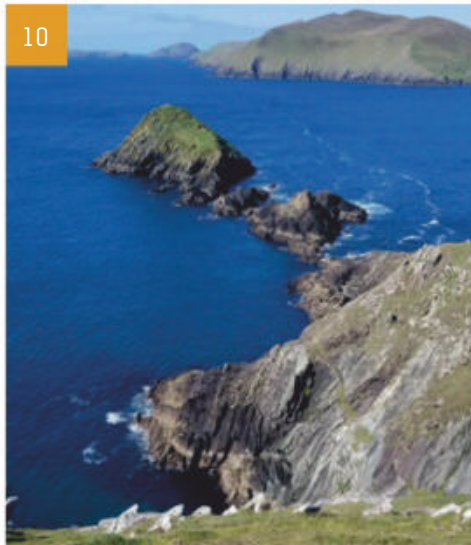
08 Loop Head, County Clare.

09 The Wailing Woman Rock on Skellig Michael.

10 Dunmore Head (Left), home to the thala-siren.

11 The *Millennium Falcon*'s landing site was built at Malin Head.

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Falcon Spotting

After parking by Skildren Cottage, used as the cast's green room during filming, we hiked over to the outcropping where a section of the *Falcon* had been built, and lined up movie shots with the rocks and sea below us. The construction team had erected a platform on the spit of land and dressed it as a large flat rock face for the *Falcon* to rest on, while water jets were used to simulate ocean spray in the background. Being on the site gave us a tangible sense of just how much work it takes to prepare a movie location for filming, and then

to dismantle it all again without leaving a trace.

Bren then showed us several other spots nearby that had been

used in the film, including the lip of the cliff that Rey peers over, and apologizes to the irritated Caretakers after her errant lightsaber practice. We also saw the rock from behind which Luke emerges with a flaming torch as he prepares to burn down the tree library. Bren was also behind that rock, keeping Mark Hamill attached to a safety cable to prevent

him from tumbling off the cliff. Also located here is the inlet that serves as Luke's underwater parking lot ►

LOOKING AT THE SHEER CLIFFS OF THE ISLAND MADE US MARVEL AT THE GENERATIONS OF MONKS WHO HAD MADE THIS PLACE THEIR HOME OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.



ÉIRE: A GALACTIC GUIDE

The stunning locales used by Lucasfilm to depict Ahch-To are more readily accessible than the likes of Tikal in Guatemala, or some of the more remote Tunisian locations from *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977). Dotted along the coastline of Eire, they can mostly be reached by car, although those making a Jedi pilgrimage to Skellig Michael will need to pack their sea legs.

Since all of *The Last Jedi* filming locations involve a cliff of some kind, visitors should employ their common sense regarding personal safety when navigating steep areas, and those with loose rocks or soil. It's also advisable to dress appropriately for changeable weather – many of these spots can get breezy, and the weather in Ireland can shift from sunshine to storms pretty quickly. And just as the film crews did, leave each site as you found it – take only photos and leave only footprints, so that others after you can continue to enjoy these gorgeous locations.

Malin Head, Inishowen Peninsula, County Donegal.

Malin Head, located at the northernmost tip of Ireland, was used for numerous shots in *The Last Jedi*, including Rey's dash to save the caretaker's village seen only in the movie's trailer. The full-size *Millennium Falcon* prop landed on a rocky crag here, and the bay where Luke Skywalker's X-wing was submerged is nearby.

While the land is privately owned and not accessible to the general public, visitors can rent the 1960s-era hexagonal building on the site that was used as the green rooms for the actors. The alternative is to visit Banba's Crown on the adjacent property, where you'll find awesome vistas and a view of the *Falcon* landing spot.

Also check out: Farren's, the tavern that held the Malin Head shoot wrap party, where locals happily share stories of their filming experience.

Loop Head, County Clare

The entrance to Rey's mirror cave is located in a natural feature known as the Amphitheatre at Loop Head, the southwesternmost tip of County Clare, where the River Shannon meets the Atlantic. From the car park at the Loop Head lighthouse, it's a short walk down a steep hill south until you reach the cliffs. Climbing down into the Amphitheatre is dangerous and is strongly discouraged.

Ballyferriter area, Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry

Three separate locations used in filming *The Last Jedi* are located at the western tip of the Dingle Peninsula, close to the town of Ballyferriter.

Dunmore Head, at the westernmost tip of Ireland, is home to the thala-siren milking scene. From the car park at the Coumeenoole Beach, hike onto private land (donations accepted) and along the coast for almost half a mile. Climbing down to the thala-siren rocks is nearly impossible, but there's a great view of the location from the headland, downhill of the ruins of a British lookout post.

The privately owned Ceann Sibéal (pronounced Coun Shi-BALE), or Sibyl Head, saw the construction of the cliffside hut set replicating the real monk dwellings found on Skellig Michael. Roughly a mile east, near Fearann (pronounced FAIR-ren), is Luke's Sunset Meditation Rock. Also on private land but open to visitors (donations welcomed), it is just a half mile hike from the car park to the cliff where they filmed Luke's final moments. A replica rock and a commemorative plaque now occupy the site.

Also check out: Visit an Ahch-To-like stone beehive huts and other historical sites near Sleah Head; and Foxy Jon's, a tavern and hardware store in the town of Dingle, where the Dingle area filming wrap party was held.

Skellig Michael via Portmagee, Iveragh Peninsula, County Kerry

Skellig Michael is only accessible by authorized boat tours – only 180 people, on 15 boats, are allowed to land on the island per day during the mid-May to early October landing season. Most boat tours leave from the nearest town, Portmagee.

Once there, you'll recognize the saddle area where Rey meets Luke for the first time, the steps that Rey climbs, beehive huts, and a local rock feature known as the Wailing Woman, which Rey slices in half during her lightsaber practice.

The island has no public restrooms or shops, and landings may be canceled by inclement weather preventing disembarkation as late as the morning of your departure, with weather canceling about one-quarter to one-third of landing days in the season. However, many operators also offer "eco tours," which do not land on Skellig Michael but instead circle the island.

Also check out: Portmagee is home to the Bridge Bar and Moorings Guest House, which was home to The Force Awakens pre-production office as well as the movie's wrap party. To the west are the breathtaking Cliffs of Kerry, with a fine view of the Skellig Islands.

Brow Head, near Mizen Head, County Cork

Brow Head, at the southernmost tip of Ireland, was where Luke Skywalker went spearfishing – and pole vaulting! Located near Mizen Head, the actual filming location is on private land. The nearest publicly accessible spot is near the ruins of a Napoleonic-era British lookout tower, also used as a signal station by Marconi's Telegraph company, although the filming site is not visible from that summit.

- for his X-wing, and another where Luke and Rey climb down toward the thala-siren rocks. At Malin Head it was literally a case of turning a corner to find yet another place where a scene from *The Last Jedi* was filmed.

Mirror Mirror

The next day, we took a lengthy drive southward toward Loop Head, where the mirror cave entrance was filmed, then onto Ballyferriter. At the Kilbaha Gallery near Loop Head, we met with Ian Glendinning, the chair of Loop Head Tourism. We took a tour of the active Loop Head lighthouse before Ian led us to the filming site, a natural feature known as the Amphitheatre, further along the cliffs. Though in the film, Rey stands one tier above the dark side cave entrance, the Amphitheatre really has two tiers below the cliff top, and it's an unsafe drop to the first level where Rey stands. Still, you get a sense of the raw power of nature, if not the dark side of the Force, from the mesmerizing crashing of waves against the rocks.

Deciding that the thala-siren rocks at Dunmore Head would be our first port of call on May 4—*Star Wars* day—our caravan parked at Coumeenoole, and we caught our first sight of the Skellig islands, way off to the south. We hiked along the

12 Rey (Daisy Ridley) on Ahch-To.

13 Filming *The Last Jedi* near Loop Head.

14 The set for the cliffside huts at Ceann Sibéal.

15 James Floyd and Porgy explore a beehive hut near Sleah Head.



12

leeward side of the Dunmore Head and reached a spot at the tip with a clear view of the rocks stretching out below, where the thala-siren milking scene was filmed. While it's not safe to climb down to the rocks from there, we had a magnificent view.

After a quick drive to Ceann Sibéal, we started the ascent up the cliffs to where the beehive hut set had been. This time, with printed stills from *The Last Jedi* in hand, Nolan and I were able to line up the exact location of Luke's hut based on the angle of the background cliffs. No guesswork for me and Porgy this time! Completing the trifecta of sites, we headed over to

Fearann. Tara Fitzgerald, daughter of the landowners, led us to the bluff where the sunset meditation scene had been filmed and detailed the filming story. Porgy knew this place from our previous trip and was excited to show it off to the porgs accompanying Holly and Patty.

That evening, we enjoyed a unique combination of *Star Wars* and Ireland: a performance of *Star Wars* music by a quartet from the Kerry School of Music, and a tap and Irish dance show by Velocity, a Broadway show featuring world champion Irish dancer David Geaney and James Devine, the world record holder for fastest tap dancing. Velocity added a *Star Wars* dance set to their show, with dancers and musicians rocking out in stormtrooper costumes, before the night finished outside with a laser light show set to John Williams' score.

In Ahch-To's Orbit

As landing season wouldn't begin for another three weeks, the next day a specially chartered boat from Dingle took us out to circle the Skellig Islands. Even though we weren't making landfall, the view of Skellig Michael was utterly breathtaking. We could clearly see the zigzagging staircases, the monastery at the top of one of the island's two peaks, and the Wailing Woman rock formation. Everywhere we looked, there were birds—not just puffins, but gannets



13



14



15

and other seabirds. As we circled the island, we noted how it differed from Luke's island in the movies: the carved-out roadway, coast guard and guide quarters, the heliport, and the historic lighthouses. Looking at the sheer cliffs of the island made us marvel at the generations of monks who had made this place their home over a thousand years ago, on an island at the edge of civilization. On the way back to the mainland, a group of dolphins joined us, surfing in the wake alongside our boat.

After disembarking in Dingle, we stopped for a pint at Foxy Jon's, a pub and hardware store that *The Last Jedi* director Rian Johnson had recommended. Bryan, Patty, and I headed west to visit a set of ancient beehive huts, at a farm on the road to Sleah Head. Made of stone, beehive huts—also known as clocháns—were in use as recently as the 19th Century, and are very similar to the monastery buildings found on Skellig Michael.

Returning to Portmagee, we found the town filled with *Star Wars* fans visiting for the May 4th festival, and I ran into an old friend, Gary O'Toole, a member of the Ireland Garrison of the 501st Legion, who had been trooping in costume at various May 4th weekend activities around town.

Striking Back to the Emerald Isle

On our final day, we met with Vincent, a Portmagee native who runs SkelligMichael.com, a one-stop resource for all things related to visiting the Skelligs. If you're planning a trip, it's a fine site to

begin your research, but our visit was sadly coming to an end. We hit the road for our last *Star Wars* location: Luke's spearfishing cliffs at Brow Head, the southernmost point of the island, only to encounter a locked gate and "No Trespassing" sign blocking our path. Despite following a trail that led to the ruins of a lookout tower and telegraph

**WE WERE
TREATED TO A
STUNNING VIEW
FROM THE SPOT
WHERE LUKE
SKYWALKER
BECAME ONE
WITH THE FORCE.**

station near Brow Head, we couldn't see the cliff faces where the scenes were filmed. Still, we were presented with a gorgeous, if blustery, view, and it was a fine location for our final destination.

It's clear that Ahch-To is so much more than just Skellig Michael—a composite of so many wonderful parts of Ireland.

When Rey touches the Force on the island, she feels all the life around her, and I felt that at so many points too. Whether it was watching dolphins play near our boat, hiking across a bush-covered cliff top, or in the warm hospitality of the people I met, I felt the living Force all around me. Perhaps I won't go into total exile quite like Luke Skywalker, but a return to Ireland feels like I'd be going home. 🍷

TERRYL WHITLATCH

CREATING

CREATURES

Creature concept designer Terryl Whitlatch reveals the dedication and detail required to make the wildlife of the *Star Wars* galaxy so believable.

WORDS: BRYAN YOUNG

"JAR JAR
BINKS TOOK
A YEAR AND
A HALF TO
DEVELOP TO
THE POINT
WHERE
GEORGE SAID,
'THAT'S HIM.'
SEBULBA
TOOK AN
AFTERNOON."



Terryl Whitlatch
10-16-95
JARJAR.BINK

T

erryl Whitlatch has created a universe of *Star Wars* creatures, helping to shape the anatomy of

some of the most familiar life forms to inhabit the fantastical galaxy, both as a concept designer and head creature designer on *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999), and with her work as the artist behind the 2001 book, *The Wildlife of Star Wars*, co-written with Bob Carrou.

Joining LucasArts in the early 1990s, Whitlatch began working in the worlds of George Lucas on the video game *The Dig*. A year later she had graduated to the movies, joining the team at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM).

Star Wars Insider: You worked on *The Phantom Menace*, but your work with *Star Wars* goes further back than that, doesn't it?

Terryl Whitlatch: I was working as a conceptual artist at ILM. My first film was *Jumanji* (1995); I got a call

“WE WORKED ON THE SPECIAL EDITIONS AND THE PHANTOM MENACE AT THE SAME TIME. WHAT YOU PRODUCED FOR ONE SPILLED OVER INTO THE OTHER. I DREW SO MANY EWOKS.”

from Doug Chiang at ILM, and he needed someone who knew animal anatomy. That's how I was hired and that was my first feature. Then anything that had to do with animals or creatures got handed to me.

I think I was working on the very first Clydesdale Super Bowl commercial when Dennis Muren came by and said, “We'd like you to work up the concept of a dewback.”

I did a full body concept and the dorsal view and gave it to them. About a week later they came back and said, “You know, the Ranch really likes this.”

At first it didn't compute in my head, because I knew it translated into “George Lucas really liked it.” I was happy forever. Then a little rumor came by that George was going to be starting up the *Star Wars* franchise again, and I submitted my portfolio. I remember getting a phone call from Doug Chiang saying that both he and I had been chosen as the beginning of the art department for *The Phantom Menace*. We were so excited.

What was your first order of business there?

We had to resign from ILM and Lucasfilm and then get rehired at Lucasfilm for JAK films to work on *The Phantom Menace*, for security reasons. Even though ILM was pretty secure and hard to find, George moved us to the Ranch. It was like you were working in the inner sanctum at Disneyland, or something like that. We had

01 Ewoks celebrate in Whitlatch's storyboard art for *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* Special Edition (1997).

02 Mos Espa creature designs for *The Phantom Menace*.

03 Anakin's podracing nemesis, Sebulba, was based on a camel.

beautiful art tables, they were just lovely, and I felt so spoiled. Doug got a separate office, and the rest of the place was this great big space. It was a very small art department. For the first year, it was just Doug, an art coordinator, and myself. Other artists came in much later, and we had a couple of production assistants, but that was it. There were no more than seven people max at any time in the *Star Wars* art department.

At first we worked on the Special Editions and *The Phantom Menace* at the same time. What you produced for one spilled over into the other. I drew so many Ewoks. I storyboarded some of the new scenes for the 1997 rerelease of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*, where everyone is celebrating. Anything that had creatures in them, I storyboarded.

How did you jump into *The Phantom Menace*?

The first thing we had to think about were the worlds. George had really thought them through, and he knew what they looked like, particularly Naboo, which was a very beautiful place with lush swamps, flowers—all of it very rich for animal life. Verdant. Our first assignment was to fill that world. My assignment, of course, was to fill it with creatures. Doug's work, for the most part—though he did some creature work, too—was to design everything non-creature related and these beautiful vehicles. Absolutely beautiful, splendid things that you'd like to own. Not a scratch or dent. They didn't look too used; they weren't supposed to, because these were royal, beautiful things. So that's what we did.

What was George's approval process like?

We would work from week to week, but Fridays were George days. We put our drawings on the wall and he had two stamps—one was “Okay,” and the other was “Fabulouso.” He used to say he had a third stamp, which was not so nice, called “deep regret,” but he decided to be nice and not to use it on us. It was very encouraging, and George is a very nice man. ▶

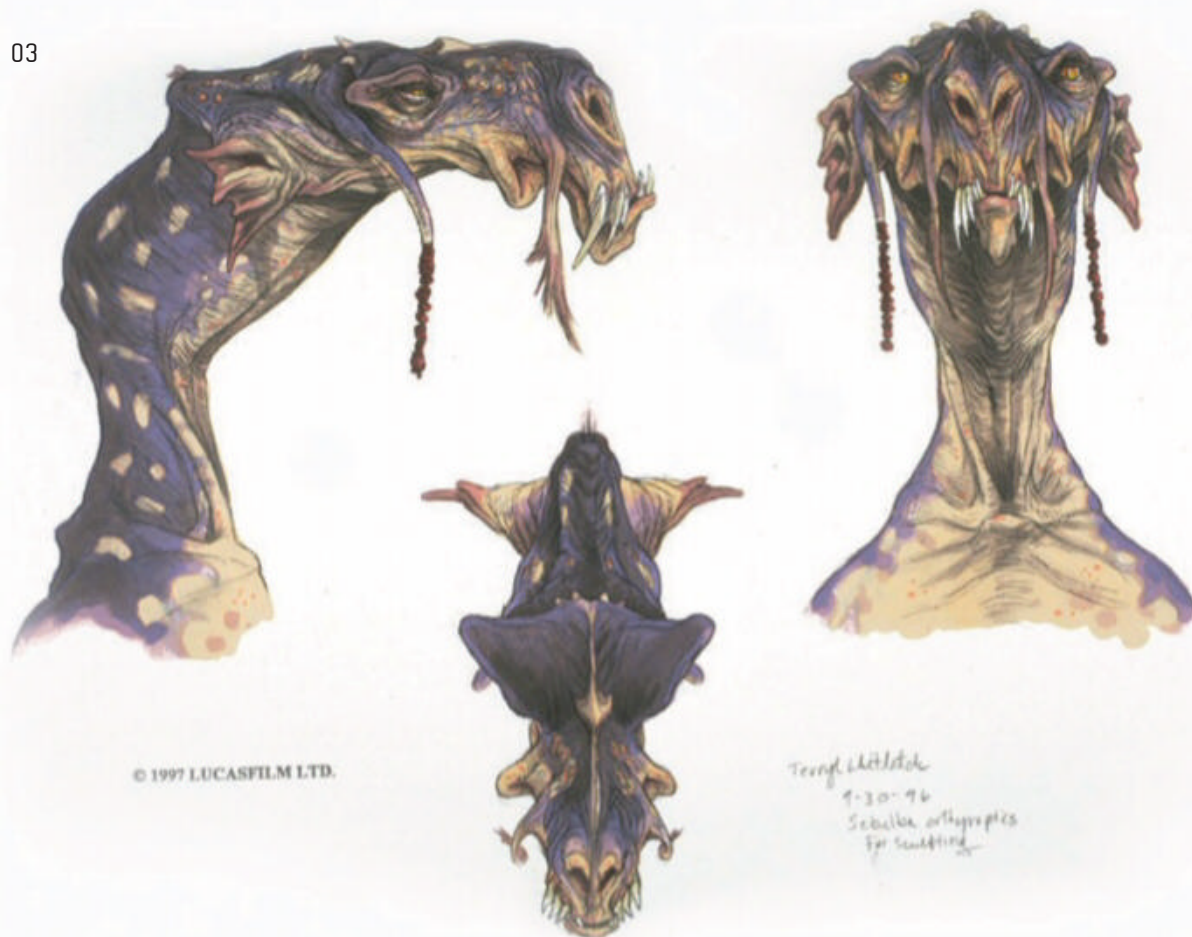
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Terry Whitlatch
9-30-96
Sebulba orthoptera
for sculpting

CREATING CREATURES

With a career lasting over 25 years, Terry Whitlatch is widely regarded as being one of the best creature concept designers working in the film industry today. Having studied Zoology at Sonoma State University and graduating from San Francisco's Academy of Art University, Whitlatch joined Lucasfilm's video-game subsidiary, LucasArts, where she worked until joining Industrial Light & Magic to design animals for *Jumanji* (1995). Whitlatch was the lead creature designer for *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999), and has since forged a respected career as a creature and concept designer for companies such as Disney, Pixar, Walt Disney Feature Animation, and Chronicle Books. She has authored several fictional books along with several covering the science of creature design. She currently teaches Creature Design and Animal Anatomy via online courses to the next generation of artists.

04



► For the most part, he's quiet and soft-spoken, but you could feel his enthusiasm and excitement underneath about this property. That energized us. We wanted to please our boss, too, and it was like trying to please Walt Disney. George has that sort of presence.

What was the most challenging creature for you to capture?

It was actually Jar Jar Binks. When I was at ILM, I did just this doodle of a little creature, this little frog-like creature with big bubbly eyes and features, and it looked worried. It had nothing to do with *Star Wars*. I had just come off a big job, working long hours, and I was really, really tired. I was just sketching kind of how I felt—so fried and glad it was done. I'd kept that little sketch and put it on my bulletin board, and George saw it and said, "Yeah, that's kind of what I'm looking for, not quite, but kind of that feeling."

Then Doug worked up an idea that had a kind of duck-billed

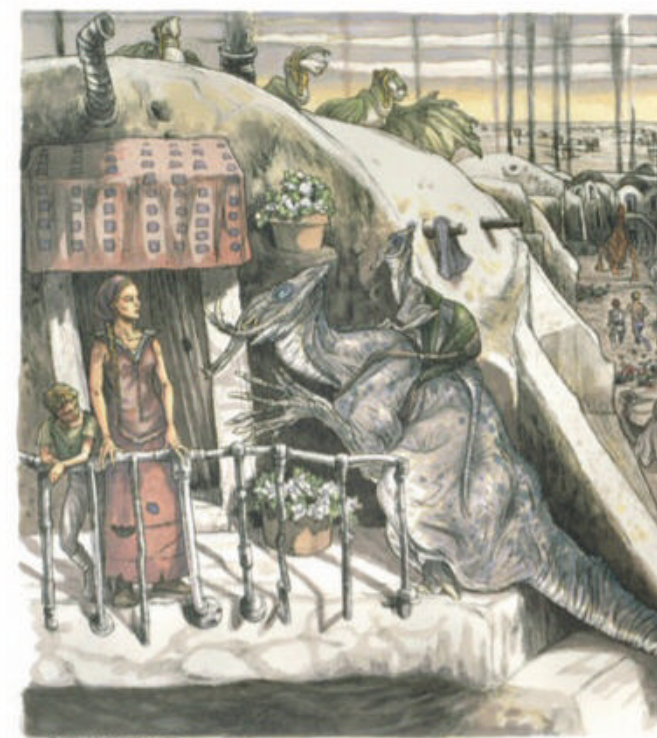
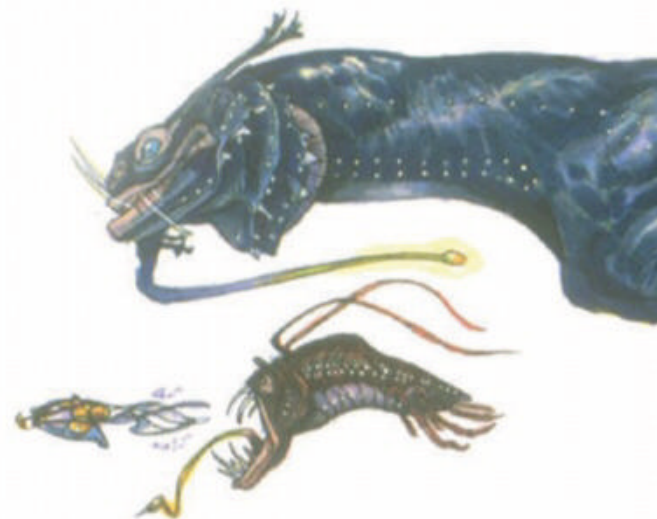
dinosaur head, and George liked that direction and my little funny creature sketch, so he said, "Let's work on these aspects here."

I worked on variations of those themes. Jar Jar looked like quite a few different animals for a while, but pretty much kept that duck-billed dinosaur feel. We just refined, refined, and refined it. And then at a certain point, George said, "What if he had kind of long ears?" So we put some long ears on him so that he could flap around to comic effect. I shortened his thighs so that he would walk like a bird, to increase his non-human aspect, and that's kind of how he evolved. His skin markings were derived from a parrot fish.

What was the easiest creature to create?

Jar Jar Binks took a year and a half to develop to the point where George said, "That's him." Sebulba took an afternoon. I was inspired by this camel that lived at the Oakland Zoo. I was always going there and drawing the animals, and there was this camel. They are very large, and they're very grounded. They look really proud and they have an attitude. I thought to myself, "What if we take the face of that camel and shrink it down,

05



but he still has this attitude?" That's how Sebulba came about. If you look at his head, it's a camel. He's this little guy, and he's this purple Easter egg color with yellow dots on him. Maybe if I looked like him I'd have a bad attitude, too.

I drew him in the morning, George came in on the same afternoon, and said, "Yep, that's him." I could have fallen off of my chair, I was so happy.

Which is your favorite of the *Star Wars* creatures you've worked on?

The sando aqua monster. I really, really like that one a lot. The whole underwater sequence is just thrilling. All of the fish were great.

04 The Hutt's luxury box, as sketched by Whitlatch.

05 Whitlatch rates the sando aqua monster as her favorite design.

06 "Tatooine Slum Scene" by Terry Whitlatch, 1996.

07 Early concept sketches of the sando aqua monster had big eyes.

"WE WANTED TO PLEASE OUR BOSS, TOO, AND IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO PLEASE WALT DISNEY."



06



07

That was me and Doug Chiang. He developed the opee sea killer, and then he handed that to me to work up the anatomy. Then I did the kolo claw fish and most of the sando aqua monster. Doug tweaked it a little bit, because I'd given it larger eyes. You think big eyes on deep underwater creatures, but he felt it would look even larger if we made the eyes really little. At first I was skeptical, but Doug told me his reasoning, which made a lot of sense. If you think about it, whales are huge animals and have huge eyes, but in comparison to their bodies they look small.

I have some favorites from the swamp stampede scene, but they

go by so quickly. There are twenty or more animals rushing by, but all their anatomies, everything, we figured out very thoroughly. You can only really see them close-up when you look at *The Wildlife of Star Wars* book.

How did *The Wildlife of Star Wars* come about?

Well, like all good things, every movie comes to an end and I was looking ahead to what I was going to do after *The Phantom Menace*. I remember thinking, "Isn't it a shame? We developed so many animals for this movie that either fly by or didn't make it onscreen, because that would have made it

a 10-hour movie." So, I went and talked to Lucy Autrey Wilson, who was in charge of LucasBooks at that time, about putting them into a book, and she really liked the idea. George really liked the idea too. So, immediately after my responsibilities for *The Phantom Menace* came to an end, I started working on it.

They wanted me to draw in the same way that I'd done for the production drawings, so that's how I approached the work I did for the book. I had a whole year to do it, and it actually turned out to be more intense than working on the movie, because we had three years to do that! 🙄

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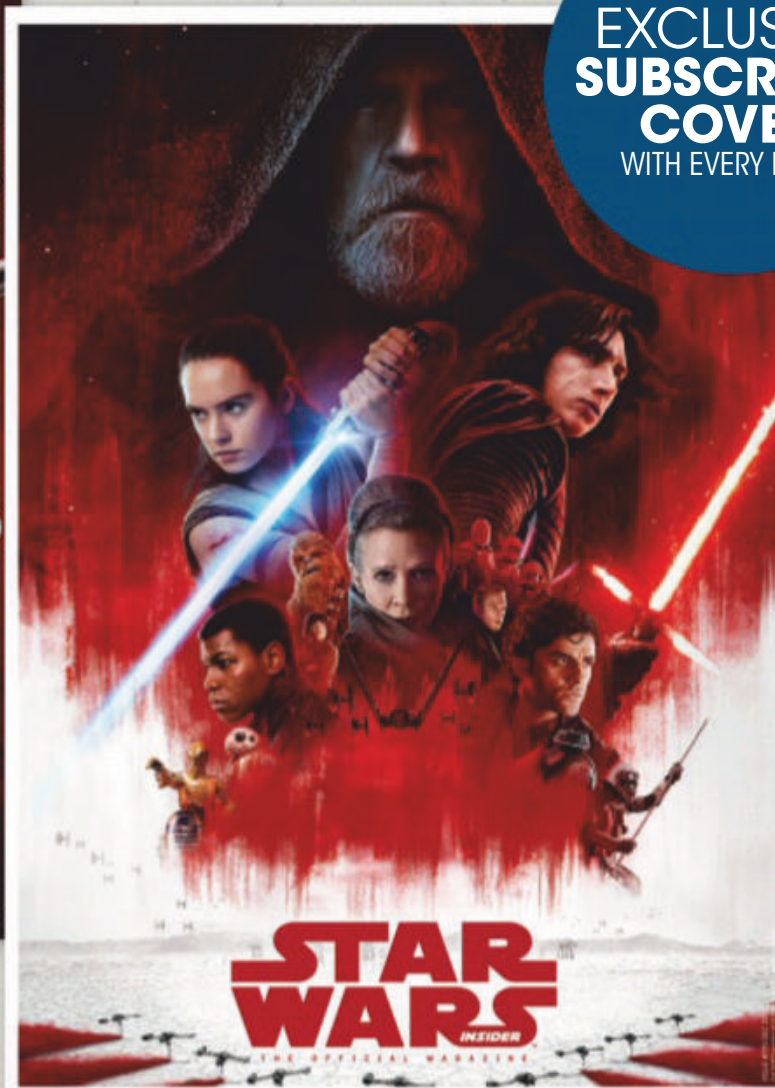
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INSIDER

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A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

Trust, Truth, and Little White Lies

WORDS: JAY STOBIE

Every story can be told from a different perspective. So who do we trust, whose lies can be justified, and which untruths had the biggest impact on the *Star Wars* saga?

H

onesty and deception battle with one another throughout the *Star Wars* films, with half-truths and lies coalescing to create an atmosphere where characters often fool themselves and those around them to varying extents. *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017) provided a rare circumstance for audiences to witness Rey act as a third party and learn about the destruction of Luke's Jedi temple from the perspectives of both the Jedi Master and his apprentice, Ben Solo. The two

versions shared several general attributes, but the conflicting elements far outweighed the commonalities in scope and importance. The situation lent both Skywalker and Solo unique motivations to convey differing accounts, just as the conditions surrounding Obi-Wan Kenobi's carefully worded statements to Luke concerning his father, and Sheev Palpatine's manipulative murmurings to Anakin decades before, impacted the veracity of each participants' words.

Let's parse fact from fiction and discern why these figures were driven to pursue their particular points of view.

A TEMPLE IN FLAMES

Luke Skywalker & Ben Solo

● Encouraged by Kylo Ren to investigate the events that occurred during that fateful night at Luke's temple, Rey listened as the Jedi Master recalled the potential he saw in his nephew; from his hopes to train Ben and pass on his strengths, to the plan to train the next generation of Jedi, and the darkness he later sensed within his star pupil. According to Skywalker, Ben turned on him when he

sought to confront the boy, and subsequently murdered many of his classmates, fleeing with those Ben had converted. Rey believed Skywalker without hesitation, until Kylo claimed that he had awoken to find Luke preparing to strike him down with an ignited lightsaber as he slept.

Of course, the truth revealed itself to exist somewhere between these two interpretations. Skywalker admitted that he had considered

ending his nephew's life when he'd realized the extent to which Snoke had corrupted him, but that the thought had quickly passed. However, no matter how fleeting the moment may have been, Ben observed it, and in turn set the rest of the night's unfortunate events in motion.

The inconsistencies between Skywalker and Ren's accounts stem from the ways in which their journeys influenced their perspectives. Luke's post-war status as a hero of the Rebellion, a respected Jedi Master, and the person responsible for rekindling the Jedi Order, burdened the former farmhand with a responsibility and an image to uphold. From Skywalker's standpoint, the respect and admiration he had rightfully earned suddenly crumbled into irrelevance during the split second he contemplated killing young Ben. Haunted by the terror and betrayal he saw reflected in his nephew's eyes, Luke lost confidence in himself and sought seclusion on Ahch-To. Skywalker's shame ran so deep that, even as he attempted to dissuade Rey from idolizing him, he could not bring himself to immediately divulge the entire tale. Thus, Rey's perception of Luke as a legend only poured salt into the wound that the Jedi Master bore over failing Ben, and the lives that cost. ▶



► For Ben Solo, the incident proved mortifying enough to fully push him into Snoke's clutches, yet still his glaring insecurities remained, pervading the events of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) and *The Last Jedi*; from his pleas for guidance directed at Darth Vader's charred helmet to the doubt that Rey sensed within him in the interrogation chamber. Even Snoke saw the turmoil that still lived within his apprentice following Han Solo's murder, prompting the Supreme Leader to likening Ren to a child in a mask. Ben had donned his signature headgear and adopted the moniker of Kylo Ren to evoke his grandfather's spirit, but the new wardrobe and name also delivered the additional benefit of shrouding the insecurities that continued to plague him. If the mysterious and powerful Master of the Knights of Ren was susceptible to wallowing in self-doubt, one can only imagine Ben's disposition as a mere student torn between Luke's teachings and Snoke's seduction.

Kylo Ren expressed his own opinion of Ben Solo's character when he confronted his father and stated, "Your son is gone. He was weak and foolish like his father, so I destroyed him." In all her wisdom, even General Leia Organa initially absolved her son of any blame, insisting to Han that Snoke caused Ben's turn. Were each of them telling themselves something they knew, deep down, to be untrue? We all apply our own perspective to our life experiences, often to protect ourselves from home truths we'd rather ignore.

Ben's personality traits became ghosts that Kylo hoped to bury, as demonstrated by the false sense of confidence he projected when spinning the tale of the Jedi temple



to Rey. In Kylo's eyes, Luke sought to snuff out Ben's power while the boy remained weak. The apprentice countered by defeating his revered master and razing the temple, thus taking a defiant first step toward becoming the mighty Kylo Ren. Of course, those who knew Ben best saw through this veil, as Lor San Tekka, Leia, and Han all believed he could be brought back. Snoke also comprehended the truth, using it to manipulate Kylo during the First Order's search for Rey and Skywalker. Despite his posturing, Kylo remained well aware that Ben Solo still lived within him, and even confessed to his father that he was being torn apart. Snoke lashed out and chided his protégé for letting Han's death split him to the bone, thus substantiating the notion that while we may lie to ourselves, false beliefs will always haunt us.

Rey believed Skywalker without hesitation, until Kylo claimed that he had awoken to find Luke preparing to strike him down.

A LEGACY TO PROTECT

Obi-Wan “Ben” Kenobi & Luke Skywalker

● The formative relationship between Obi-Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker existed under vastly dissimilar conditions to Luke’s time with Ben Solo. A Master of the Force and of delicately phrased truths, Kenobi spoke honestly to the self-assured Skywalker on the subject of his father’s heroic exploits as a pilot and Jedi, but waxed lyrical when it came to discussing Anakin’s fate and the rise of Darth Vader.

Casting Anakin as two separate individuals, Obi-Wan bluntly proclaimed, “A young Jedi named Darth Vader, who was a pupil of mine until he turned to evil, helped the Empire hunt down and destroy the Jedi Knights. He betrayed and murdered your father.”

While Kylo Ren’s dissociation from Ben Solo exhibited shades of the separation Kenobi imposed upon Anakin and Vader, the old Jedi had nobler intentions. Tasked with safeguarding the boy for nearly two decades, it was his compassion for his ward that prompted Obi-Wan to massage the truth in order to protect young Skywalker from being prematurely exposed to the darkness of Anakin’s descent. Later events justified Kenobi’s concerns, as Vader’s confession on Bespin mortified his son. When he finally returned to Dagobah, Luke received confirmation from Yoda regarding his connection to Vader. Nevertheless, the Jedi Master expressed his agreement with Obi-Wan’s assessment of the situation when he chided, “Unfortunate that you rushed to face him. That incomplete was your training. That not ready for the burden were you.”

Luke was barely able to cope with the shattering revelation, validating Obi-Wan’s choice to shield Luke from that knowledge on Tatooine.

Additionally, Luke served as a living reminder of the good that used to exist in Kenobi’s friend Anakin, and represented the Jedi Order’s continuation. Shouldering his personal ties with Anakin and the prophecy related to one who would bring balance to the Force, Obi-Wan elected to soften the blow and refrain from hefting Anakin’s

history and the Jedi’s legacy upon Luke all at once.

Given how their iconic duel on Mustafar ended, it is intriguing that Kenobi kept Anakin’s lightsaber, but keep it he did—until the day he was able to pass it on to his former friend’s son. By telling Luke that his father wanted him to take possession of the weapon, Obi-Wan established a Jedi lineage between Anakin and Luke that excluded Darth Vader.

From Luke’s point of view, the conflict with the Empire and the galaxy at large were, “all such a long way from here.” Skywalker’s wide-eyed innocence left him susceptible to manipulation by Emperor Palpatine and Darth Vader, a



Obi-Wan established a Jedi lineage between Anakin and Luke that excluded Darth Vader.

► fate that Kenobi sought to avoid at all costs. Luke's optimism and habit of eyeing the future instilled a confidence in him that Ben Solo never had, but that surefooted outlook would have driven him to confront Vader on the Death Star alongside Obi-Wan and left him vulnerable to death or the dark side.

Leia's heritage was another fact conveniently omitted by Kenobi. Although concealing her identity was initially a means of protecting Luke's sister, it subsequently corroborated Obi-Wan's decision to withhold certain details from Luke. During the duel in the Emperor's chamber, Vader sensed his son's love for Leia and almost succeeded in exploiting that compassion to permanently ignite the fury of the dark side in the burgeoning Jedi. However, Luke stuck to his training and narrowly managed to overcome his anger, once again reinforcing Kenobi's tactic of introducing Skywalker to the truth gradually.



A JEDI TO CORRUPT

Sheev Palpatine & Anakin Skywalker

● The artful lies that Sheev Palpatine spun to turn Anakin Skywalker to the dark side stood in stark contrast to those woven by Obi-Wan on Tatooine and Luke on Ahch-To. Palpatine's life as a hidden Sith Lord and a subversive politician granted him unrivaled experience with deception. Skilled enough to betray Darth Plagueis, Palpatine recognized Anakin as the perfect Jedi to target as a new apprentice. Skywalker's strength in the Force benefited him, but the emotional baggage he carried over his mother's death, his place in the Jedi Order, and his apprehension concerning Padmé's well-being negatively influenced his logic, and left him relatively defenseless to the chancellor's scheming.

Palpatine fed Anakin falsities cloaked with elements of the truth





Anakin exactly what he wanted to hear—namely that Padmé could be saved—the Sith Lord placed Skywalker in a position to overlook the inconsistency. For Anakin to be effective as Palpatine's loyal enforcer Darth Vader, Skywalker needed to fully submit to the hatred that resided within him. The new emperor accomplished this by fabricating the story that Anakin had inadvertently murdered his wife in a fit of rage. Aware of his assault on Padmé, Vader effectively became cut off from his former allies and family, leaving Darth Sidious as his only source of refuge and guidance.

While the comment that the truth depends on one's viewpoint originated with Obi-Wan Kenobi, both Palpatine and Anakin presented their own takes on the concept. The chancellor conveniently opined, "Good is a point of view, Anakin. The Sith and the Jedi are similar in almost every way, including their quest for greater power." Equating the two groups appealed to Anakin's devotion to the Jedi's ideals and set the stage to ease his transition from one faction to the other. Sidious's indoctrination worked perfectly, as depicted on Mustafar when Anakin bellowed at Kenobi, "From my point of view, the Jedi are evil!"

The Luke/Ben Solo, Obi-Wan/Luke, and Palpatine/Anakin pairings involved various motivations for deceit, from Luke's regret for his actions to Obi-Wan's impulse to protect his charge. However, Darth Sidious' willful manipulations for his own gains not only grade as the most devious ones, they also set events in motion that resulted in further falsehoods. Darth Vader's very existence caused the awkward situation between Kenobi and Luke, while Kylo Ren aspired to honor the Sith Lord's memory. Is it unfair to blame all three cases on Palpatine? We'll heed Obi-Wan's advice and simply say, "What I told you was true. From a certain point of view." 🗡️



in order to confuse the young Jedi and steer him to the conclusions that the chancellor coveted. When Anakin confessed his belief that the Jedi Order did not have faith in Palpatine, the chancellor quickly agreed and added the fictitious charge that the Council's mistrust extended to the Senate, to the Republic, and to democracy itself. Palpatine pounced on the opening created by the young Jedi, and Anakin allowed his own frustrations with the Council to convince himself that the rest of the chancellor's claims against the Jedi made sense in conjunction with their dislike for Palpatine.

The chancellor's assertion that Darth Plagueis taught his apprentice

Palpatine fed Anakin falsities cloaked with elements of the truth.

all that he had discovered about cheating death spoke to Anakin's wish to safeguard Padmé, but Palpatine later contradicted himself when he declared that he needed Skywalker's assistance to unlock the secret to immortality. By telling



STAR WARS INSIDER J E D I M A S T E R ' S Q U I Z

The First Order has taken over the mantle of the Empire in its pursuit of galactic dominance. Can you answer these questions to help the Supreme Leader eradicate the New Republic and crush the Resistance?

Compiled by
Jay Stobie

“HOPE LIVES IN THE GALAXY.”

Assist the Resistance by supplying vital intelligence about these key worlds that appeared in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017).

ANCIENT AHCH-TO

1: Who maintains Ahch-To's Jedi structures?

- A/ Padawans
- B/ Jedi Temple Guards
- C/ Caretakers
- D/ Force ghosts



2: What items did the Jedi intend to keep in the island's old tree?

- A/ Lightsabers
- B/ Jedi texts
- C/ Kyber crystals
- D/ Jedi robes

3: Where did Luke Skywalker keep his legendary X-wing?

- A/ The first Jedi temple
- B/ The mirror cave
- C/ An island clearing
- D/ The ocean

4: Which local creatures produce green milk?

- A/ Thala-sirens
- B/ Porgs
- C/ Spetan channelfish
- D/ Twinfin hyacanders

5: How many generations ago was Ahch-To's Jedi library built?

- A/ 100 generations
- B/ 500 generations
- C/ 1,000 generations
- D/ 10,000 generations



TAKING FLIGHT TO CANTO BIGHT

6: The city of Canto Bight is located on what planet?

- A/ Cantooine
- B/ Cantonica
- C/ D'Qar
- D/ Takodana

7: Which one of Canto Bight's recreational activities revolved around fathiers?

- A/ Swimming
- B/ Playing sabacc
- C/ Racing
- D/ Fine dining



8: Where did Rose Tico and Finn first encounter DJ?

- A/ The jail
- B/ The casino
- C/ The racetrack
- D/ The beach



9: What type of product did the majority of Casino Bight's wealthy patrons sell?

- A/ Moisture vaporators
- B/ Spice
- C/ Clothing
- D/ Weapons

10: Who helped Rose and Finn escape from Canto Bight's stables?

- A/ The Master Codebreaker
- B/ BB-9E
- C/ Maz Kanata
- D/ Temiri Blagg

THE CLASH ON CRAIT

11: Who operated the outpost on Crait before it was abandoned?

- A/ Jedi Order
- B/ Confederacy of Independent Systems
- C/ Galactic Empire
- D/ Rebel Alliance

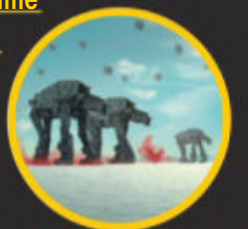


12: What animal species infiltrated the Resistance's defensive perimeter?

- A/ Vulptex
- B/ Rathtar
- C/ Gundark
- D/ Mynock

13: Which substance covered the plains where the Battle of Crait took place?

- A/ Sand
- B/ Glass
- C/ Salt
- D/ Mud



14: What leftover vehicles did the Resistance find inside the base?

- A/ Speeder bikes
- B/ X-wings
- C/ Ski speeders
- D/ TIE fighters

15: Which weapon did the First Order deploy to breach the outpost's main door?

- A/ Ion cannon
- B/ Superlaser siege cannon
- C/ Turbolaser
- D/ Darksaber

“I KNOW THIS PLACE.”

Contact your allies in the Outer Rim to see if they are able to help you determine who said the following:

1. “GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR COCKPIT.”

2. “THE FIRST ORDER WILL CONTROL ALL THE MAJOR SYSTEMS WITHIN WEEKS.”

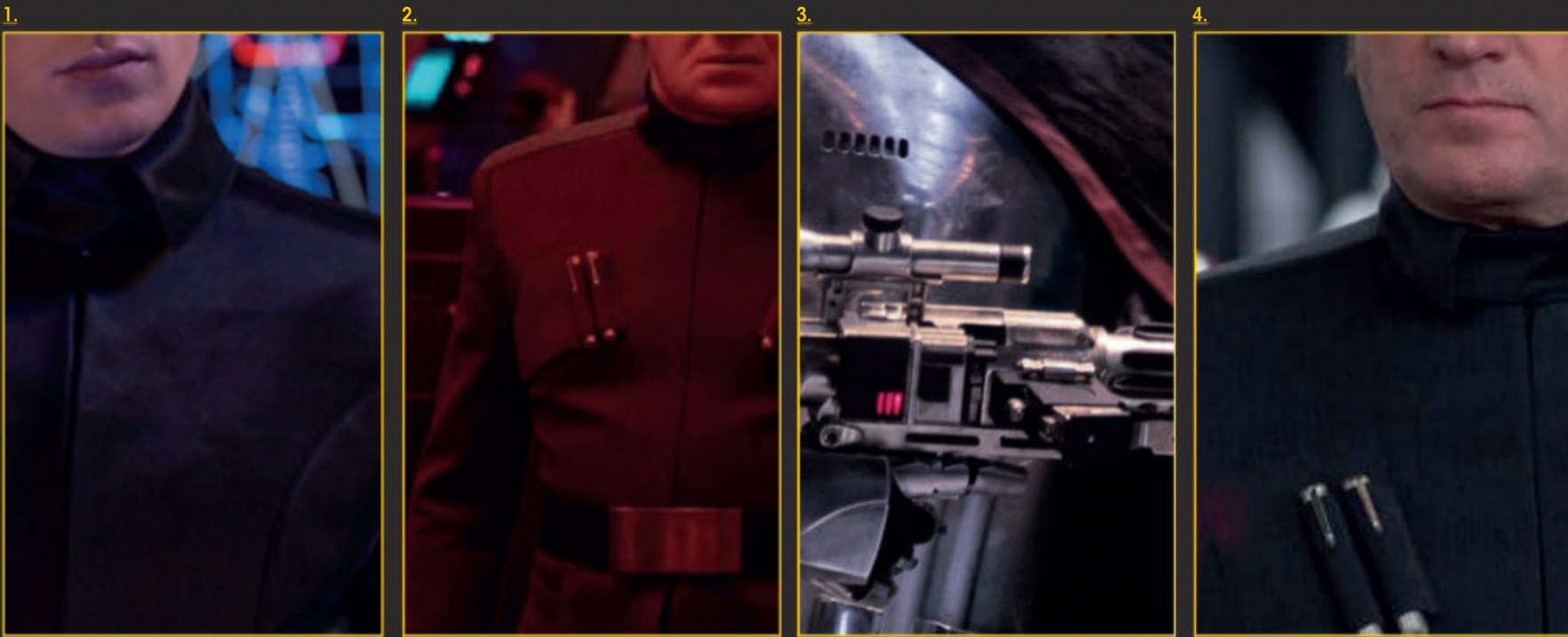
4. “DO YOU THINK THAT I CAME TO THE MOST UNFINDABLE PLACE IN THE GALAXY FOR NO REASON AT ALL?”

3. “I WISH I COULD PUT MY FIST THROUGH THIS WHOLE LOUSY BEAUTIFUL TOWN.”

5. “Someone needs to stay behind and pilot the cruiser.”

“THE FIRST ORDER REIGNS.”

Identify these staunch servants of Supreme Leader Snoke:



QUIZ 1 C, 2 B, 3 D, 4 A, 5 C, 6 B, 7 C, 8 A, 9 D, 10 D, 11 D, 12 A, 13 C, 14 C, 15 B.
“I KNOW THIS PLACE.” 1 General Leia Organa, 2 Rey, 3 Rose Tico, 4 Luke Skywalker.
“THE FIRST ORDER REIGNS.” 1 Admiral Amilyn Holdo.
4 Captain Peavy.

WERE YOU ABLE TO GUIDE THE RESISTANCE TO SAFETY?
0-9: Where’s Han? You’d better refine your calculations before we make the jump to lightspeed.
10-19: Keep studying your stargharts and you might make R2-D2 proud... eventually.
20-24: Happy beeps! Your knowledge of the galaxy is unrivaled.

What's In A Name?

Where did the imaginative names of our favorite *Star Wars* characters come from? *Insider* undertakes an etymological study of their varied origins.

WORDS: MICHAEL KOGGE

When George Lucas first sat down to start writing *Star Wars*, he didn't go straight into a screenplay. He jotted down a list. And on this list, scribbled in heavy pencil on a yellow legal pad, were names. "Emperor Ford Xerxes XII" topped the roster, and the list continued with "Xenos, Thorpe, Lars, Kane, Hayden, Leila, Owen, Mace, Wan, Bail, Biggs, Valorum" and others.

As documented in J.W. Rinzler's *The Making of Star Wars*, Lucas found inspiration for these names from a variety of sources, including the history books he was reading, his interest in mythology, fairy tales, and religions, the movies he adored, and, of course, his love of science fiction. Whenever he got stuck while writing the screenplay, he would return to generating these lists, pulling names from his daily life and research, recombining the letters, spelling them in unique ways, or even inventing new words entirely. "I would say the names to myself, and if I had a hard time dealing with a name phonetically, I would change it," Lucas said in *Star Wars: The Annotated Screenplays*.

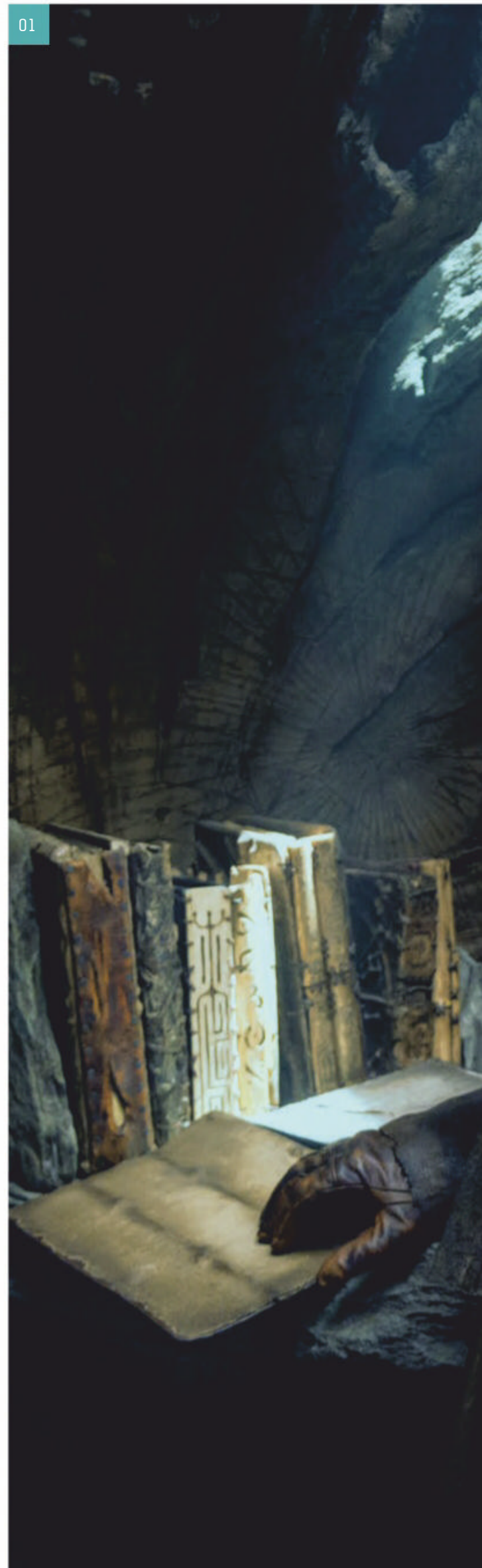
As the drafts multiplied and the story itself changed, iterations of these names remained throughout the revisions. One could venture to say that the creation of the *Star Wars* galaxy was actually an exercise in nomenclature. Naming was the name of the game.

At first glance, the names Lucas gave to his characters might seem out of touch during the era in which he made *Star Wars*. Film audiences in the 1970s were used to gritty, realistic fare, and names like "Luke Skywalker," "Han Solo," or "R2-D2" could sound juvenile, if not downright ridiculous—a point that studio executives and fellow filmmaker friends made to Lucas at the time. Yet Lucas held firm because he believed those names best served the story. And he was right, in a way that he could never have imagined.

Audiences found the simple, straightforward nature of those names to be a refreshing break from the cynicism and irony of the period. They cheered for Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia, snickered with the loner Han Solo, and hissed at Darth Vader—heroes and villains who not only wore their allegiances on their sleeves, but also in their names. And these were names you couldn't forget, names that broke through the zeitgeist and live on in popular culture to this day. For as much as *Star Wars* is hailed as a cinematic masterpiece, perhaps the heart of its longevity—and Lucas' genius—is in the names.

So, let's look at the origins of some of the most celebrated names in *Star Wars*, from the original and prequel trilogies, and the new films that have continued Lucas' tradition of names that pack a simple, yet symbolic punch.

01





02

01 Luke

“Luke” is a name of ancient origin, coming from the Greek “Loukas”, which translates to a man “from Luciana,” which is an area in Italy. Then there are some religious connotations, since Luke is regarded as the evangelist who wrote one of the four canonical gospels of the New Testament. Ironically, in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), it is Luke who has collected the Jedi scriptures, only to want to burn them to ashes.

Whether by coincidence or by authorial intention, combining Luke Skywalker’s first name with the first initial of his last name makes “Luke S,” phonetically not a massive leap from the name of the saga’s creator.

02 Han Solo

Han is a variant of the German name “Hans,” which is an equivalent to the English name “John,” while Solo is an adjective meaning “alone.” Lucas conceived of Han as an orphan, yet doesn’t remember exactly how his last name came about, commenting in *The Making of Star Wars* that “it could have been from some Solo cups,” the famous red plastic cups made by the Solo Cup Company. In any event, as is clear to any Imperial enlistment officer, the name completely suits Han’s me-first brand of individualism.

03 Jyn Erso

The rebel rouser gained her name from the man who first conceived of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016), ILM chief creative officer John Knoll. “It’s a mix up of a lot of my favorite women in my life,” Knoll told Yahoo Movies. “My youngest daughter is Jane, and my wife is Jen, so Jyn is sort of a mashup of them. And, growing up, my aunt was Aunt Ginny, short for Virginia, so there’s a bit of that, too.”

04 Yoda

Identified as “Minch Yoda” in the earliest drafts of *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), there are many possible etymologies for Yoda’s name, from “yodha,” the Sanskrit word for fighter, to the Hebrew *יודא* (“Yode’a”), which translates as “the one who knows.”

05 R2-D2

The little astromech’s designation started out as shorthand for “Reel Two, Dialogue Two,” during the sound mix of Lucas’ first feature, *THX 1138*. Lucas and his creative partner, sound mixer Walter Murch, joked that R2-D2 might be a good name for something, and a few years later Lucas put it to good use in *Star Wars*. Lucas then took the alphanumeric convention for R2-D2 to invent the designation for the droid’s more loquacious associate, C-3PO.

06 Darth Vader

Darth Vader is the name that amateur etymologists often suppose is derived from a Dutch transliteration of “Dark Father.” However wonderfully that fits, Lucas’ original name for the character was “Dark Water.” He settled on “Darth” because it sounded like an amalgam of “dark” and “death.” Lucas then proceeded to try out a host of last names, astonishingly including the likes of “Wilson” and “Smith,” until “Vader” finally emerged from “invader.”

07 Lando Calrissian

Identified as “Lando Karr” in Leigh Brackett’s first draft of *The Empire Strikes Back*, he was revealed as Han Solo’s smuggler friend, a refugee from the Clone Wars who lives on Hoth. Later described as a “slick, riverboat gambler dude,” one unused backstory had Lando hailing from a planet of clones, one of the last survivors after a terrible war eradicated many of his people. *Solo: A Star Wars Story* screenwriter Jon Kasdan embellished the charming gambler’s name to “Landonis Balthazar Calrissian III,” but this ended up on the movie’s cutting room floor.

As for the name’s origin, Lando is fairly common in Italy as both a personal and a family name, and is often the shortened form of Orlando, which translates to “famous throughout the land.”

08 Anakin

Legend has it that Anakin Skywalker was named after British director Ken Annakin, who helmed adventure films like Disney’s *Swiss Family Robinson*, although Lucasfilm revealed this wasn’t the case following the filmmaker’s death in 2009. Anakin, in fact, comes from Ananke, the Greek goddess of necessity and inevitability, also known as the mother of the Fates. This proves to be rather symbolic with Anakin’s own fated destiny in the Jedi prophecy of the Chosen One.

09 Rey

Rey’s name was originally scripted as “Kira,” but during shooting in Abu Dhabi, director J.J. Abrams informed actress Daisy Ridley that he had changed it to Rey. A homophone of Rey is “ray,” a word often used to describe a beam of sunlight.

One should also not discount the Spanish word for king, ‘rey,’ which is a homonym, meaning a word that sounds the same but has a different meaning.

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WHO WAS UBER?

Other *Star Wars* names and their mysterious sources:



SNOKE

Possibly derived from the words "smoke" and "snake," either of which could be used to describe Supreme Leader Snoke's personality traits, the character was nicknamed "Uber" during production.



KYLO REN

Early on in the production of *The Force Awakens*, Kylo Ren had no name, only some placeholder initials "J.K.," which stood for Jedi Killer.



POE DAMERON

Poe Dameron is a combination of the moniker J.J. Abrams' daughter gave to her stuffed polar bear, "Poe," and the last name of Abrams' assistant.



MAZ AND ROSE

Maz Kanata was originally named "Rose," in tribute to Rose Gilbert, a teacher who inspired director J.J. Abrams. The name would be redeployed to Resistance maintenance worker Rose Tico in *The Last Jedi*.

10



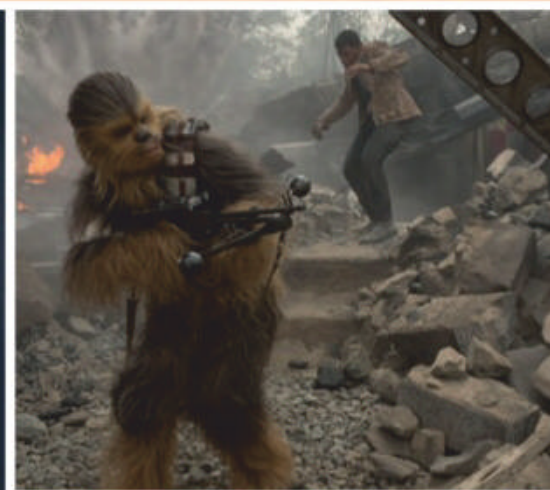
13



11



12



10 Obi-Wan “Ben” Kenobi

The subject of fan speculation for years prior to the release of *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* in 1999, some believed Kenobi's first name sounded like “OB-1,” and was a clue that he was the first in a batch of clones. The prequels proved this wasn't the case. In fact, Lucas had arrived at the name by marrying a number of foreign terms, most likely the three Japanese words: “obi,” which is a kimono sash; “wan,” which might be re-spelling of the honorific title “san”; and “ken,” which translates to “sword” or “saber.” His nickname “Ben,” however, has Semitic roots, and means “son” in Hebrew. This has particular relevance later in the saga, with Han and Leia's son, Ben Solo.

11 Wookiee

While recording wild track voice-overs for Lucas' first feature, *THX 1138* (1971), actor Terry McGowan ad-libbed a line for a masked policeman, saying “I think I just ran over a Wookiee.” His weekend service in the Army Reserves had made McGowan late for the recording session, forcing him to leave his duty meeting early and rush to the studio with buddy, Bill Wookey. His friend's name popped into his head when he was called upon to improvise some dialogue. Not only did the word “Wookiee” remain in *THX*, it stayed in Lucas' imagination for years, re-emerging as the name of Chewbacca's furry race.

12 Leia

Princess Leia Organa appears to have been derived from “Leila” on Lucas' original list, which is a Semitic name meaning “dark beauty” or “daughter of the night,” followed by a word that ties in thematically to the main conflict in the story, that of flesh and organs versus machines and technology. “Organa” is also a re-purposing of the name that Lucas initially gave to the planet Alderaan in early script drafts.

13 Finn

Poe Dameron gives Finn his name in *The Force Awakens*, using the first two letters of the young man's stormtrooper designation “FN” as the basis. Finn's operating number, 2187, has a real-life source, however, referencing both the cell block where Princess Leia was imprisoned on the Death Star, and Arthur Lipsett's 1963 Canadian montage film *21-87*, which influenced some of Lucas' student films.

14 Grand Moff Tarkin

Peter Cushing, the actor who portrayed Tarkin, himself questioned the meaning of his honorific. “I've often wondered what a Grand Moff is,” he said in an interview for Ted Newson's documentary *Flesh and Blood: The Hammer Heritage of Horror*. “Sounds like something that came out of a clothes closet.” Lucas claims he made the name up, though some believe he may have found inspiration in the ancient Roman king Tarquin, and the title of a country's leading jurist on Islamic law, the Grand Mufti.

15 Palpatine

The Emperor's name first emerged not in the movies, but in print, specifically in the prologue of the novelization of *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977). It would be 22 years later before film audiences finally heard the name of the villain portrayed by Ian McDiarmid, previously only known only as “the Emperor.”

Senator Palpatine's name is but one letter away from the name of Senator *Palatine*, a character in Martin Scorsese's 1976 movie, *Taxi Driver*. This is more than coincidence—it's Lucas' subtle homage to his friend's film. The senator's given name, Sheev, is a more recent construction, also emerging first in print in James Luceno's novel *Tarkin*. Reminiscent of shiv, a slang term for a knife, Sheev also brings the powerful Hindu god, Shiva the Destroyer, to mind.

16 Chewbacca

Chewbacca sounds very much like the Russian word for dog, *cobáka* (“Sobáka”). This lineage makes sense since the giant hairy character was inspired by Lucas' Alaskan Malamute, who used to ride shotgun in his car (and was also named “Indiana,” but that's a story for another time.)

Lucas, however, has said that he coined the name Chewbacca when making sounds for the species and rearranging them to form the character's name.

17 Skywalker

Skywalker is perhaps the most recognizable name in the *Star Wars* lexicon, to the extent that it is now the titular hook upon which the climax of a 40-plus-year story hangs in *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*.

However, Lucas originally called his main character “Starkiller,” a surname that remained in place well into the production of *A New Hope* until he decided to change it to Skywalker, which had also appeared on one of his earlier lists. “That I did because I felt a lot of people were confusing him with someone like Charles Manson,” Lucas said. “It had very unpleasant connotations.”

18 Padmé

Padmé is derived from the Sanskrit word for the lotus, “padma.” Also known as the water lily, this aquatic flower plants its roots in the mud of ponds and rivers and blooms above the water's surface. The lotus is sacred in many religious traditions, symbolizing individuals who triumph over great suffering on the path to enlightenment.

Padmé's adopted royal name, Amidala, shares similar floral significance in Italian, translating to “beautiful flower.” Finally, her family name, Naberrie, has an Egyptian homophone Nabirye, which carries all sorts of thematic implications in its meaning of “mother of twins.” 🍷

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STAR WARS INSIDER

WORLDWIDE

CELEBRATING THE SAGA



LEADING WITH LEIA

Endor-bound with camouflage cosplay fit for a Princess

When cosplayer Bekah learned that a life-sized Endor bunker and an AT-ST would be appearing at an upcoming convention, she knew that her next project would have to focus on Leia Organa's commando gear from *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* (1983).

"I was so excited, as the costume was always a favorite of mine," says Bekah. "I found a few patterns and

made some of my own, then got together a bunch of my friends with Endor costumes, and made it happen."

However, any cosplayer knows that a build is never truly done—as Bekah discovered shortly before the event. "I ended up hand-stitching the hem of the pants in a hotel room," she laughs. After the convention was over, the costumer considered ways in which she could

take her project to the next level, and since then has continuously honed her craft and worked to improve upon the ensemble that Leia wore on the forest moon of Endor. "I made my first non-stretch shirt, sewed my first zipper, and spray-painted a brand new poncho," she tells us. "I learned a lot about sewing and constructing patterns through Endor Leia."

Of course, the costume itself is only part of the cosplay experience. "Through Leia and the Rebel Legion I found the love of my life and friends who have become a second family," reveals Bekah. "Before this

INSIDER NEEDS YOU!

We want to hear from you! Tell us about your *Star Wars* experience. What made you want to become a fan? What have you done in the name of *Star Wars*? Tell us your *Star Wars* story by sending your photos, art, and letters here:

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group, I dealt with lot of anxiety, self-doubt, and depression,” she confides. “While I’m still battling with those, my friends and Leia have helped me through.”

Knowing the extent to which Carrie Fisher and Leia influenced her own life, Bekah enjoys acting as an informal ambassador to the next generation of *Star Wars* fans. “Whenever I see a little girl with two buns in her hair, I’m reminded that what I’m doing is making an impact,” she beams. “It’s keeping Carrie Fisher alive, and empowering the next generation of heroines, so I couldn’t be prouder.”

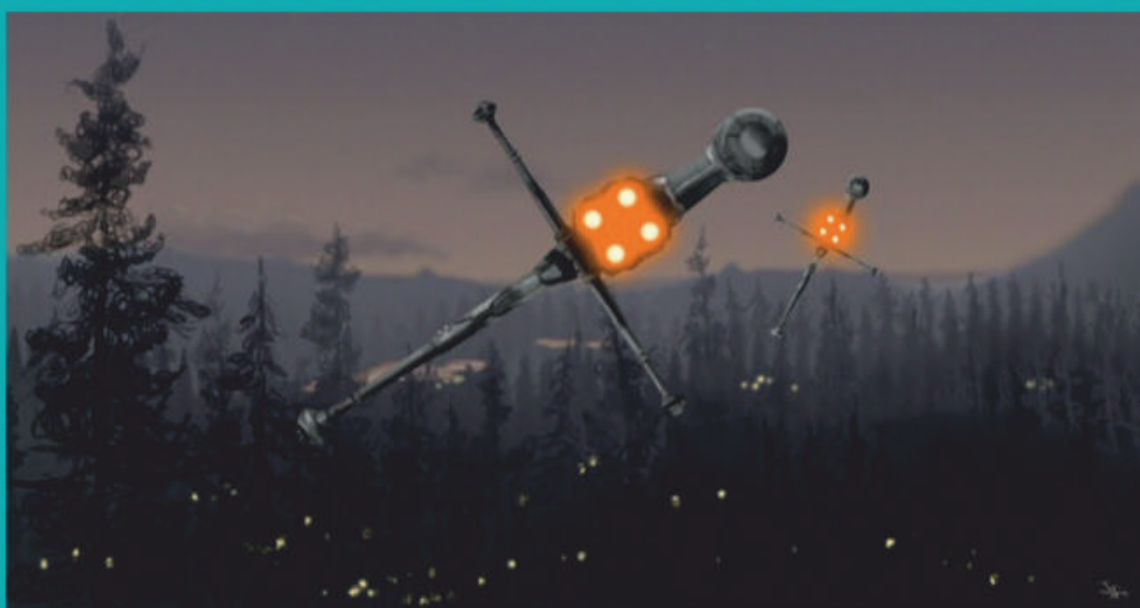
ARTISTS’ ALLEY

Talented *Star Wars* fans share their amazing drawings inspired by the galaxy far, far away....



01. FAMILY PORTRAIT AND TWO TUBES

Jasmin Schröder combines her interest in *Star Wars*, photography, costuming, and painting in a very unique fashion, by reimagining pictures of cosplayers, either taken by herself or given to her by the subjects, and turning them into beautiful paintings. Using watercolors on watercolor paper, Jasmin has painted a wide range of characters, including Benthic Two Tubes (right) and a family posing as a stormtrooper, a Jawa, and a Tusken Raider (above).



02. LAST FLIGHT OVER THE FOREST MOON

Inspired by a friend’s love for B-wings, Josh Ashley created this beautiful vista featuring rebel fighters performing a flyover for local Ewoks. “The image began with a gradient sky, and I added layers of terrain, lakes, and foliage after that, from back to front,” says the artist, who crafted the piece in Adobe Photoshop. The final touches included sketching the B-wings, adding in engine flairs, and illuminating the Ewok campfires.

BOUNTY HUNTERS

Scouring the galaxy for the stars of *Star Wars*...

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Meet the stars, show the evidence, win the bounty! Bounty Hunters is sponsored by Kotobukiya. Each issue's winner will receive a fantastic Kotobukiya *Star Wars* statue kit! To see more, visit www.facebook.com/kotobukiya



Introduced to *Star Wars* by his mother, Sebastien Chiu credits the franchise with helping him through difficult times when he was growing up. It was trooping with the 501st Legion that ultimately led to his encounter with Matthew Wood at Colorado Springs Comic Con.

Wood, who is best known for voicing General Grievous in *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005) and working in the sound department on numerous *Star Wars* films and television shows, made quite the impression on Sebastien. "The only way I could possibly describe meeting Matt was like the feeling one gets when seeing an old friend, despite never actually meeting him before," proclaims the fan. "What struck me was how humble he was. That's what had a lasting effect on me."

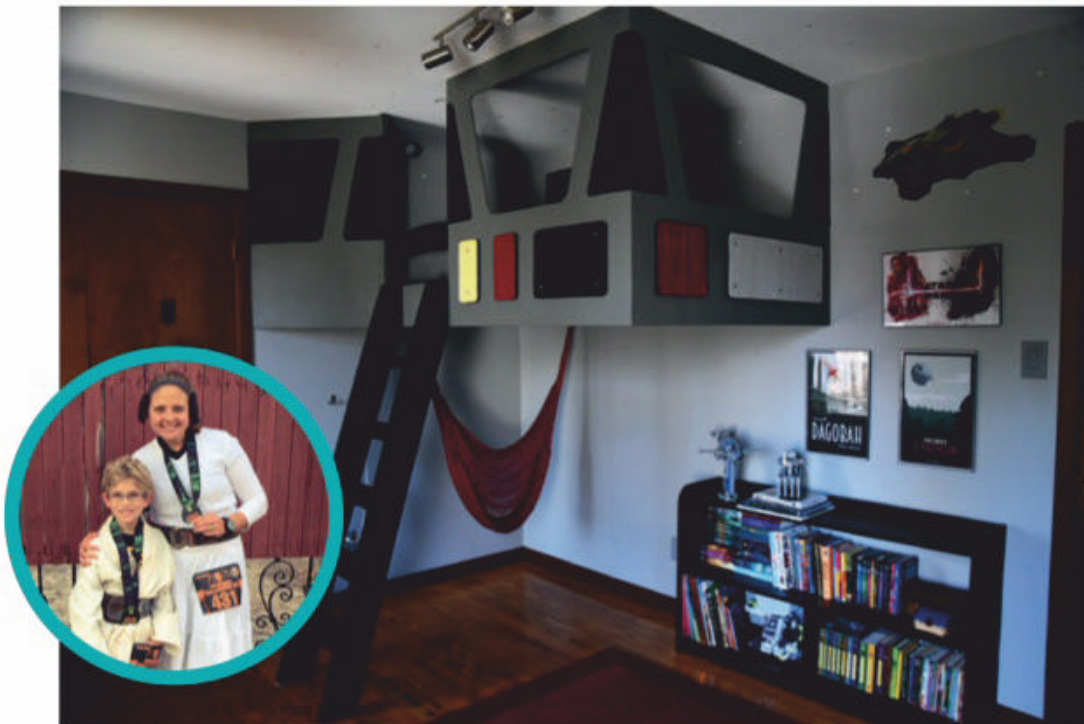
Sebastien, who hopes his keen interest in sound and music might land him a Lucasfilm internship someday, added, "Matthew is truly one of those people who simply never fails to inspire me and keeps me going daily."

01



01 Sebastien Chiu poses for a picture after receiving some invaluable career advice from Matthew Wood, the prolific *Star Wars* sound editor and voice of General Grievous.

WORLDWIDE



A LOFT FIT FOR A MOFF

Imperial interior design takes bedtime to another level

As one of their first dates back in 1999 included a trip to the theater to see *Star Wars:*

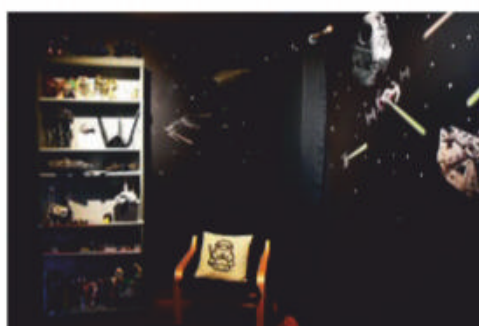
The Phantom Menace, the saga has always connected Danielle and her husband. So it's no surprise that their two children have inherited a love for the franchise. "My older son and I even ran a 5K race dressed like Luke and Leia," remembers Danielle.

When afforded the opportunity to design his own room, Danielle's youngest son elected to go for a *Star Wars* motif. "We love creating places and spaces in our house that spark our kids' imaginations while bringing them joy," affirms Danielle. Brainstorming sessions narrowed the family's options to an Ewok village or an Imperial Star Destroyer. Unlike at the Battle of Endor, however, on this occasion the Emperor's forces prevailed, and with an efficient design that would make even the great Grand Moff Tarkin smile, the family set out to

construct a loft that would supply the room with plenty of usable floor space.

The structure took about two weekends to build, with walls based upon a Star Destroyer's bridge. "We had to carefully map out the unique shape of the windows," explains Danielle. "The yellow and red rectangles are scraps of plywood, painted to mimic the random lights and control boxes on the bridge." The rest of the bedroom's walls were painted black and adorned with a variety of decals, glow in the dark stars, and *Star Wars*-themed art. "My son's favorite place to read is the red hammock chair. We also added LED lights under the loft, just for fun," says the mom of two. A hammock may not be regulation, but even a fleet admiral needs a place to relax!

The effort was truly a family affair that brought the foursome closer together. "Our son loves his room," declares Danielle, "and we loved doing it." Thanks to their shared love for *Star Wars*, mom Danielle confirms she and dad enjoy a special bond with their children. "It is part of our story, and now we are glad it is part of theirs," she proudly concludes.





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FIGURES

Snap happy fan makes his own *Star Wars* toy stories

Toy photographer Isaiah Takahashi was raised on the original *Star Wars* trilogy, but experiencing the theatrical release of *The Phantom Menace* holds a special place in his heart.

"It was seeing a new *Star Wars* film on the big screen," he recalls with glee. "I clearly remember the text crawl, and hearing the music. It gives me chills just thinking about it, even today!"

That thrilling experience still resonates with Takahashi, and the California-based toy enthusiast relives it by producing incredible images based on characters from the beloved saga, utilizing action figures from Hasbro's *Star Wars* Black Series range. One such photograph depicts an off duty moment for an Imperial Patrol Trooper, as introduced in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018). Isaiah humorously imagined that the

troopers' mundane downtime might include a refreshing snack consisting of fictional "Corellia Kreme" donuts and a *Star Wars* galaxy coffee. "The donuts are doll house pieces, while the mug and box are custom built," he explains. "Big thanks to my sister Faith for modeling the mug!"

Isaiah envisioned yet another scenario in which some First Order stormtroopers stand idly by and pose for a selfie as Kylo Ren and Rey face off in a lightsaber duel behind them. For other tableaus, the imaginative photographer drew inspiration from the most recent *Star Wars* films, such as Supreme Leader Snoke's Praetorian Guards and a courageous Enfys Nest. Isaiah artfully poses his action figures to capture just the right perspective with his camera. The photographer even added extra details to the leader of the Cloud-Riders in preparation for her photo shoot. "Enfys Nest was customized with paint, weathering effects, and new custom soft goods," he explains.

Photography serves as much more than simply an enjoyable hobby for Isaiah. "It has been an incredible journey! I have made close friends and met so many amazing people from around the world," he exclaims. The growing toy photography community continues to welcome newcomers each day, and the Californian is emphatic that anyone can have a go. "I encourage anyone who has any sort of camera and any type of action figure or toy to give it a try!" he suggests. 📸







INSIDE THE FALLEN ORDER

After the execution of Order 66, the Jedi Order has been extinguished, annihilated, with the few remaining survivors scattering, concealing their abilities and forging new lives as their only hope of survival. Enter Cal Kestis, hero of *Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order*, the new action-adventure video game from Lucasfilm and Respawn Entertainment.

Orion Kellogg, senior producer for Lucasfilm Games, and Aaron Contreras, the narrative lead at Respawn Entertainment, take us behind the scenes of the exciting new third-person game.

WORDS: KRISTIN BAVER

S *tar Wars Insider:* How does *Jedi: Fallen Order* employ the *Star Wars* storytelling tradition of the hero's journey, and the mythology of the galaxy as we know it?

Orion Kellogg: Authenticity is our north star. We know that where our stories end, the fans' stories begin, so it's important the world feels real and the characters feel relatable. Starting on his back foot, the call to action for our underdog hero, Cal Kestis, does feel similar to other great heroes like Rey, Luke, Anakin, ▶

► or Ezra, but to meet the challenges of his time, Cal's journey is bound to take fundamentally different twists and turns. What does it mean to be in the shadow of the strongest Empire we've seen? How does it feel to be without mentors and labeled a traitor? Where do you turn when you're being hunted? And why do you keep fighting?

Aaron Contreras: I'd also like to point out that Cal is not a "chosen one," and his fate and fortune are anything but certain. At the same time, he is absolutely made from the stuff of heroes, and we're very excited to share his story, with our own twist on the hero's journey.

How would you best describe the journey that Jedi: Fallen Order takes us on?

AC: It's the story of a young person living in dark times, who refuses to stop fighting for hope and justice, even if that choice means standing alone against tyrannical might. It's an action-adventure game, full of exploration and wonder, set across multiple planets, and brought to life by a diverse and delightful cast of characters. And it's a Jedi's story.

When we first meet Cal, he's a former Padawan who survived Order 66. How does that inform the plot that unfolds?

OK: From the day we started, the game's director Stig Asmussen had a clear vision. He wanted to tell the story of an underdog, someone fighting against incredible odds, that could make the player feel in lock-step with our character as they earned their victories.

AC: Cal's background gives him a specific perspective on the Empire. His whole world was torn apart when Order 66 was issued, and the trauma and loss of that experience informs his character.

The fact that his training was incomplete is also a perfect fit for a game that features character progression. It allows us to introduce different skills, Force abilities, and equipment over the course of the story, which our protagonist and the players can learn together.

What can you tell us about Cal's mission and his companions?

AC: We don't want to reveal too much about the plot, but I can say

"WATCHING CAL RISE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE SAW GERRERA TELLS US SO MUCH ABOUT THIS PERIOD IN STAR WARS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY ABOUT CAL'S JOURNEY."

ORION KELLOGG, SENIOR PRODUCER, LUCASFILM GAMES



02

that Cal joins a mission to restore the Jedi Order. He's recruited by a former Jedi Knight named Cere Junda, and her pilot, a cantankerous alien named Greez Dritus.

OK: All three of them aren't buying the narrative peddled by the Empire, that peace and military order are the same thing. They're questioning the way things are and the way things might be, and they rely on each other for the courage to ask those questions in a very dangerous time.

BD-1 is the latest in a long line of mechanical sidekicks. How would you describe Cal's relationship with the droid?

OK: It takes Cal some time to warm to the crew of the *Stinger Mantis*, but with BD-1 it's love at first sight. On the run for most of his life, Cal has been looking for someone to trust again, and who better to trust than a loyal little droid? BD-1 is an explorer's droid, and in many ways the hero of his own adventure—if you ask him, anyway.

AC: Cal's quest takes him all over the galaxy, and BD-1 is by his side every step of that journey. The friendship he finds in BD-1 is the first step in building a new family.

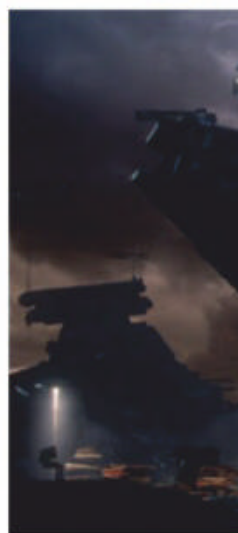
Cal visits familiar worlds like Kashyyyk, as well as never-before-seen planets. What's the rationale behind choosing such locations?

OK: Ultimately, planets are like

03



04



05



“JEDI: FALLEN ORDER IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG PERSON LIVING IN DARK TIMES, WHO REFUSES TO STOP FIGHTING FOR HOPE AND JUSTICE.”

AARON CONTRERAS, NARRATIVE LEAD, RESPAWN ENTERTAINMENT

supporting characters in *Star Wars*, characters that help our heroes tell the stories they were created to tell.

It felt only natural that we'd meet Cal on a backwater planet like Bracca, picking through his memories and the bones of fallen Republic cruisers. As he rises to tell his story, what better place to test his courage than in the jungles of Kashyyyk? Watching Cal rise to fight alongside Saw Gerrera tells us so much about this period in *Star Wars*, but more importantly about Cal's journey. We also knew that Cal would be wrestling with some questions about the Force. To have him digging through history in uncharted territory, literally in the ancient tombs of Zeffo, felt like exactly the path we needed for Cal's story to feel unique.

Learning to understand the Zeffo and their interpretation of what we call the Force is the heart of the game's journey. I can tell you that their history brings to light some incredible locations that we hope players will have a great time exploring—and some technologies that will challenge your perception of what's possible in *Star Wars*.

Fans of *Star Wars Rebels* and the Marvel comics are well-acquainted with the deadly Imperial Inquisitorius. How do these dark side practitioners play into the game's narrative?

OK: The Inquisitors are so much fun to work with. They're the perfect antagonists for this time. They're motivated by fear and controlled by power. And the ones we have in the game—including the Ninth Sister and the Second Sister—are really, really scary. If you're going to hide from them, you're going to need to be fast,

clever, and strong in the Force.

AC: The Inquisitors are also anything but loyal to one another. They view each other as threats and rivals, working together only when ordered or when it serves their own selfish goals. It also goes without saying that the Inquisitors hunt Cal relentlessly throughout his quest.

01 Cameron Monaghan plays Cal Kestis.

02 Former Padawan Cal uses the Force.

03 Forest Whitaker again voices Saw Gerrera.

04 Jedi: Fallen Order is set after the fall of the Republic.

05 The game is packed with lightsaber action.

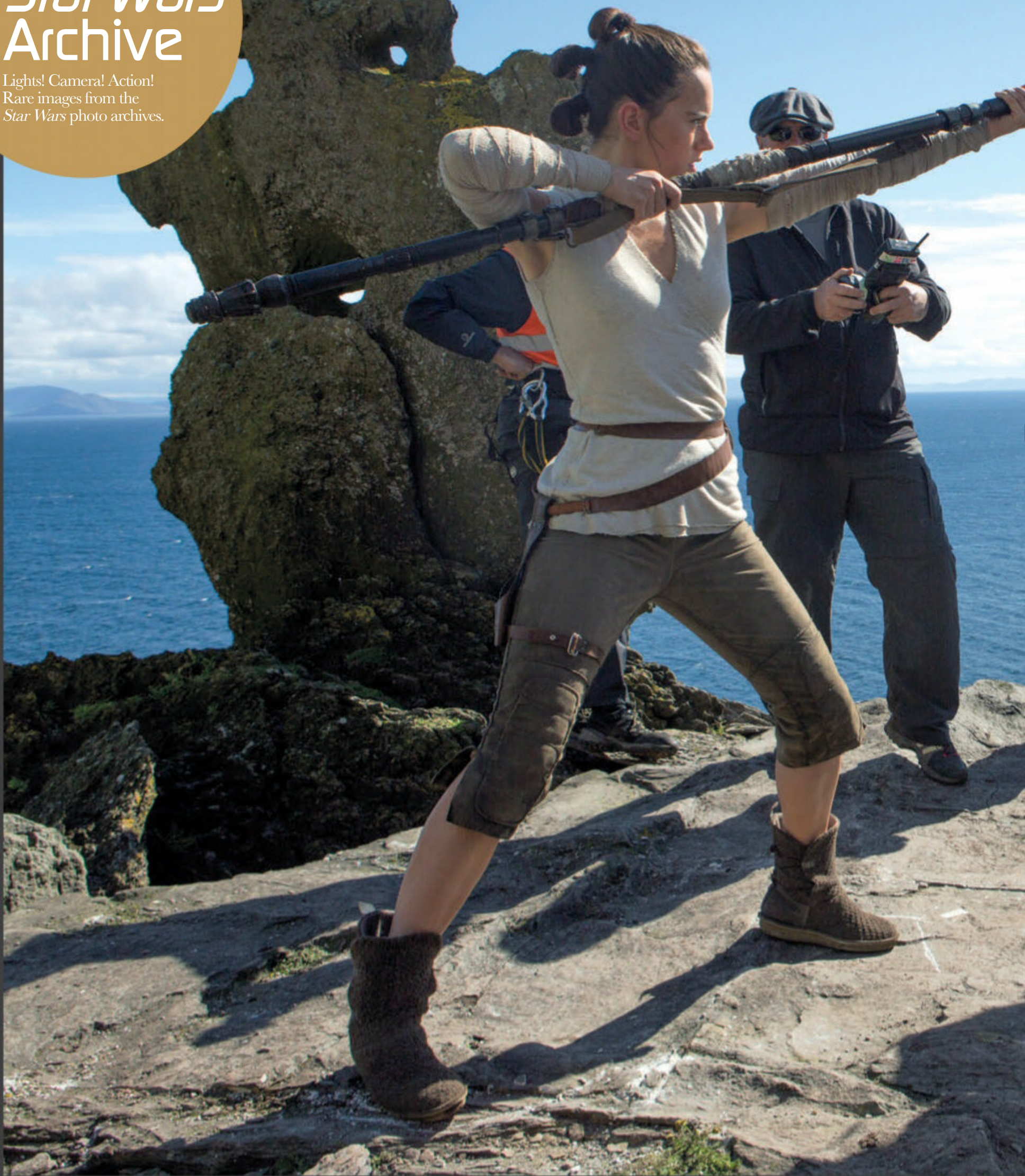
Many *Star Wars* fans grew up dreaming about becoming a Jedi. What do you hope they'll get out of the game when they get to experience it for themselves, first-hand?

AC: My greatest hope is that we make that dream come true for all of our players! I'm definitely one of those fans who grew up imagining how amazing it would be to wield a lightsaber and use the Force, as are so many of the incredibly talented team at Respawn and Lucasfilm.

OK: There isn't a more satisfying feeling in video games than drawing a lightsaber. We hope they feel the weight of the Empire, the call to action to rise against it, and the pull of the Force as they draw that weapon. This is an experience made from start to finish to help the players become a Jedi, to feel the Force, and rise up against the Empire. I really think Respawn is onto something amazing. 🙌

The *Star Wars* Archive

Lights! Camera! Action!
Rare images from the
Star Wars photo archives.





During filming on the island of Skellig Michael for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), director Rian Johnson positions Rey's staff to frame the perfect shot of Daisy Ridley's young Jedi in training.

Photo: Jules Heath

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STAR WARS

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

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THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

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Anthony Daniels

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