



The New York Clone

The Official Newsletter of the NYLine
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TODAY

Sunset
6:48, 8:50

Weather
Sandstorms,
Uncertainty,
Transformation

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“Star Wars: The Magic of Myth” Opens at the Brooklyn Museum of Art

Steve Lorenzo

“Star Wars: The Magic of Myth,” the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit, blasted its way into the Brooklyn Museum of Art April 4, accompanied by a cadre of Imperial Stormtroopers from the Empire City Garrison, members of Star Wars NYC and C-3PO himself, Anthony Daniels. SWNYC members were invited

guests of the BMA to this special preview for museum members and press, having been involved with planning of the exhibit since July 2001.

The Brooklyn Museum is the final North American stop on this touring exhibit and, appropriately enough, it is also the largest presentation “Star Wars: The Magic of Myth” has ever received. Spread over 12 galleries on two floors, the exhibit is one of the most ambitious undertakings in the museum’s history, BMA Director Arnold L. Lehman said.

“This is one of those rare projects where every member of our 300-person staff has been involved,” Lehman said.

As an indication of the significance of its New York City premiere, Anthony Daniels took a break from promoting “Attack of the Clones” to open the exhibit. Previously, he had launched several

exhibits of “The Art of Star Wars,” including its Edinburgh, Scotland premiere March 24, but he had never attended an opening of this exhibit. Daniels said he was impressed by the presentation of Lucasfilm’s relics in the BMA, but he couldn’t understand why certain members of the media were fussing over the exhibit.

“This is the first time I’ve opened ‘Magic of Myth,’ and I must say I’m quite impressed,” Daniels said. “Anybody who says this doesn’t belong in a museum is too stuffy. George Lucas really has created a mythology, and nowhere is that more evident than among these other works of art.”

To show how “Star Wars” fits into the history of mythology, Exhibit Curator James Romano has created a “prequel gallery” to the main exhibit, using items from the BMA permanent collection to illustrate Joseph Campbell’s story of the hero’s journey. Art and artifacts in this gallery from Greece, China, Egypt, the Fiji Islands and India prove to be the inspiration for many elements of the “Star Wars” saga, including one item that is the direct precursor of the Tusken Raiders’ gaderffii stick. Arnold Lehman said the inclusion of these items demonstrates how George Lucas looked to both the past and the future for their inspirations when creating “Star Wars.”

“The continuity of these issues – myths and heroes – are what most of Western and Eastern



art are all about,” Lehman said.

After this glimpse into the past, the exhibit turns its attention fully to “Star Wars.” Romano said he wanted a striking item to open the main exhibit, but he wasn’t sure where to start.

“I didn’t know the difference between a rancor and a wampa,” Romano said. However, he remembered back 25 years to when he had taken his son to see the original “Star Wars.” He then realized how the exhibit had to begin.

“I remembered the star destroyer in that first scene,” Romano said. “It seemed to go on forever. And that’s how I wanted the exhibit to begin.”

The Imperial Star Destroyer from Episode IV fills the first exhibit gallery. A large-screen television plays the scene Romano used for inspiration, while the seven-foot star destroyer model stands nearby. Though it is encased in Plexiglas, the model stands in the center of the gallery, allowing a 360-degree view. In addition, a mirror sits at the base of the display, affording a look at the model’s detailed underside.

A 30-minute documentary featuring interviews with George Lucas, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, John Williams and Ben Burtt occupies the next gallery. The



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“The Magic of Myth”

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documentary examines the impact of “Star Wars” on world culture in the late 20th century, and it incorporates many of the scenes containing items that are on display throughout the rest of the exhibit.

In total, the exhibit features 25 costumes, 18 characters and robots, 27 models, and well over 60 paintings and drawings, from concept sketches and storyboards to full-fledged production paintings. Interspersed throughout the exhibit are didactics created by the Brooklyn Museum to show how the props, characters and ships in the “Star Wars” saga fit into Campbell’s story of the hero’s journey. With such titles as “The Call to Adventure” and “The Path to Atonement,” these instructional posters explain the importance of key events in the saga and how they relate to classic mythology.

The galleries themselves are arranged by film, starting with Episode IV, working through Episode VI and completing with Episode I. A poster advertises that after May 16, the final gallery will feature some new items that have never been seen by the general public.

While everybody is sure to have a favorite drawing, costume or model, a single Ralph McQuarrie production painting may be the key to the entire exhibit. Standing in front of the costume he first donned 25 years ago, Anthony Daniels points to the painting directly to the right of the display case. In it, a familiar protocol droid is taking his first steps on a rocky, sandy planet. Daniels first saw it on a wall behind George Lucas, after Lucas had invited Daniels to discuss a role in the new science-fiction movie Lucas was about to direct.



“I didn’t even like science fiction,” Daniels said. “But that Ralph McQuarrie sketch – the interesting thing is that’s what inspired me to take the role. That sad looking golden man looked back at me, and he made me realize this was going to be more than a simple space film.”

Twenty-seven years later, the image of that sad looking golden man is burned into the consciousness of men, women and children from four different generations. “Star Wars” obviously turned out to be no simple space film, and “The Magic of Myth” does an impressive job explaining why. It’s a must-see for anybody

who has ever enjoyed spending time in “a galaxy far, far away,” and it’s the perfect prelude to lining up for Episode II. 🗨️



Looking for clones in all the right places...

Mark Hedge

Whenever you tell people you are going on a three-month vacation, they will probably tell you it is the coolest idea since sliced bread. Tell the same people you're going away for three months to see a movie and they'll give you the "Are you mad?" speech. I got this when I explained to my family and friends that I was traveling 3,000 miles to see "Star Wars - Episode II: Attack

of the Clones." Is it necessary to do this? Perhaps not to the average person, but for me...yeah, it is!

I have been a "Star Wars" fan since I was four years old. The day I saw "Return of the Jedi" for the first time, something happened to me. It changed my young life, and I never looked at movies in the same way again. As a matter of fact, the movies of George Lucas greatly influenced my career choice, filmmaking. I owed George Lucas something.

Fast-forward 16 years...

To be totally honest, I had seen coverage of the "Star Wars" fan gatherings in New York, and on first impression wasn't that interested - the Los Angeles line was my main focus. That was where the real spark of imagination was, as far as I was concerned. Being 8 hours in front of California, I remember I was on a building site helping my father the moment my watch struck 8 a.m. That was when I knew "The Phantom Menace" was only seconds away from starting. I imagined what the scene was like on Hollywood Boulevard at that moment. And I had missed it...

It wasn't for another two months that the British population got to see the movie. And the excitement level had dipped slightly, because you can't help but be spoiled by an American audience that was first excited and then disappointed. I saw the movie 4 times on the first day, and to be honest, I was blown away at first -- undoubtedly excited to a level beyond anything a healthy, sane man should be. Later, though, I felt the film wasn't as good as the original trilogy. Or was it the film? No, the film was pretty much fine. It was something elsewhere, elusive. And then it clicked. It was the circumstances under which the film was presented.

I saw "The Phantom Menace" at the local multiplex, but there was no queue, no fanfare, no pomp and circumstance. The condition of the print was poor, it was slightly out of focus, the entire first reel of the movie was jumping up and down; reading the

opening scroll made me feel seasick just by looking at it, and to top it all off, NO THX!!! This is no way to watch a movie, especially one that I had been waiting for so long to see... It can all be put down to two very simple words: No atmosphere! Even at the UK's official release, with George Lucas in attendance, it just didn't have the same panache.

It was there and then I decided if I couldn't see "Episode II" in a quality atmosphere, one befitting a movie of this caliber, then I don't deserve to see the film at all. I made my plans. Then the unthinkable occurred.

Right before all our eyes, on live television, the World Trade Center was destroyed. I couldn't believe it. I had driven past these buildings only a year before in awe and amazement at their

size, and now they are gone. That was when the most awful question came out of my mouth, "Are we at war?" And we were.

Suddenly everything was in doubt. Could I be called up into action? Could this be the first strike in something that could escalate into World War III? Would I even live long enough to see "Episode II," let alone travel to see it? Eventually, I got a grip and realized I was being irrational. With that, the fear went away. But I knew that now, more than ever, I had to make this journey. Why? Because the best way to strike fear into those who set out to strike fear in others, is to fight back - perhaps not with bullets and bombs, but with routine, and normalcy. Sixty years ago, when Germany bombed England into submission, did it stop them? No. The British showed the world they were not going to be dictated to, and resumed as normal a life as circumstances would allow - much in the same way that the United States has done in the six months since it came under similar attack. Why? It's perfectly simple. There are things in this world worth fighting for.

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Was it Worth It?

Tom Minter

When people find out I flew to New York in May 1999 to see the opening show of "The Phantom Menace," they ask one question more than any other: "Was it worth it?"

Was flying 3,000 miles, spending £400 on a plane ticket, taking two weeks' unpaid holiday from work and sleeping on the sidewalk for three nights worth it for a movie? After all, I could have stayed in the UK and seen it two months later anyway.

My reasons for going and my explanations were simple: I'd waited 16 years for "Episode I," and no, I couldn't wait another two months. By the time it arrived in July, the story would have been completely ruined by spoilers on the Internet, TV, magazines - everywhere. As if it hadn't been bad enough before May! Besides, I was literally bursting to see it, so waiting an extra two months was not an option.

Recently, the question has changed: "Now that 'Episode II' will be released simultaneously in the US and the UK, surely this time you'll watch it at home?" Especially as, if you want to

get picky, you'll get to see it five hours before New York anyway.

Well, actually... no.

No? NO? They all cry. So, let's get this straight... You're now telling me you're flying to New York to see it AFTER it gets released in the UK? You've just lost your own argument! What happened to all this "can't wait another minute" stuff?

For "Episode II," it's like this: The opening of "Attack of the Clones" is an event - not a film, an event. It's about (and I quote Asax) being surrounded by people who know exactly how you feel about something not many people understand. It's about forgetting the real world, putting on your geek head and immersing yourself in a galaxy far, far away. Where else could you be and be surrounded by 1,199 people who know the significance of the

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NYLine: Spoiler Free Through Episode III!

Steve Lorenzo

Luke: Is the dark side stronger?

Yoda: No... no... no. Quicker. Easier. More Seductive.

—“Star Wars Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back”

Last month, fans got their biggest glimpse into the next installment of the “Star Wars” saga when somebody posted mp3 files of John Williams’ “Attack of the Clones” score to an Internet newsgroup. Fifty days prior to the film premiere and a month before the score’s official release on Sony Classical CD, fans could begin picking it apart note-by-note, putting together key scenes based on the track titles and John Williams’ use of leitmotifs from the previous four films.

Thrilling? Definitely! Among certain fan circles, this has created the biggest buzz since the name Jango Fett first appeared on the official web site. But is it really best for fans to have access to such key material prior to the film’s opening? Only time will tell.

What is clear, though, is that more Episode II information has been available for consumption prior to the film’s opening than perhaps any movie in Hollywood history. From shockingly comprehensive fan-based websites to Lucasfilm itself, the flow of information has been nonstop since pre-production began. Readers of web sites have known for almost 18 months all the key plot points, the characters who survive this film to appear in Episode III, and even the meteorological conditions under which certain scenes take place. A week at a time, George Lucas fed fans images from Episode II, and behind-the-scenes videos have given away even more secrets. If that wasn’t enough, two supporting yet vital characters graced the cover of Star Wars Insider, making newsstands and mailboxes a minefield for anybody trying to avoid such information.

Depending on personal philosophy, the knowledge obtained from all this available material may enhance the initial viewing by giving it more depth, or by eliminating expectations from personal speculation that differed from George Lucas’s vision. Still, the onslaught of information has stirred the notion that all this material may have come too easily, and that spoiler-filled viewers may pay the price

further down the line, perhaps at 12:01 a.m. May 16, 2002.

“Star Wars” fans in the 1970s and ‘80s didn’t have such worries. Sure, the occasional comic or novel got put on shelves a week or two early; only people seeking such items would be exposed to the information contained within. While magazines such as Starlog and Fantastic Films may have printed articles or photos prior to the release of “The Empire Strikes Back” and “Return of the Jedi,” none of those items gave away key plot points – in fact, an early preview of “Jedi” that appeared in US Magazine in February 1983 had a still photo from Endor with the rebel heroes surrounded by stormtroopers and an AT-ST. Everybody was visible except Luke, Lando and Han. Of course, Luke and Lando weren’t on Endor, but it wasn’t until the film was released that a little flap of fabric behind Chewbacca was from Captain Solo’s favorite vest. It was the best of both

worlds – fans got a glimpse of the film and one of its new vehicles, but they had three months to ruminate on the reasons three major characters were missing from that particular scene.

Sure, Bantha Tracks, the newsletter of the Official Star Wars Fan Club, would throw out a few photos to excite fans, and readers knew about Boba Fett and Admiral Ackbar long before their first appearances on celluloid. Even so, it was only enough to whet appetites for the main course. This time, with the indiscriminate release of information, the danger exists that many fans may have gorged themselves on hors d’oeuvres and will be too stuffed to enjoy the banquet when it finally arrives. Still, many fans have shown superhuman restraint and denied themselves the short-term thrill of spoilers, keeping in sight their enjoyment of the film itself.

It’s out of respect for these individuals that NYLine has a no-spoiler policy. During the line, please refrain from any conversations that may give away information that is not common knowledge to the general public, no matter how minute it may seem. Remember that character and planet names you have ingested over the past year and a half may feel like

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A Force to be Reckoned with

Andrew Jacobs

Editor’s note: Andrew Jacobs is the boss of our very own Yoda, David Creighton. His comments reflect a standard to which all employers should aspire.

I am not a huge “Star Wars” fan, but I am a huge fan of “Star Wars” fans. To be around a true disciple of the Force is to be engulfed in a force of positive emotion. I do not know what it is about “these people.” They watched a movie from 25 years ago, saw that it was something much deeper than just a film,

gathered themselves together and created a worldwide network that promotes science fiction, goodness in others, a universal force that permeates everything, and the belief that the forces of good will always triumph, over time, against evil.

I look at “our Dave” and see all of those characteristics compressed into one man. His being, his whole soul is focused on trying to not only be good and positive himself, but to surround himself with others like him. One reason he was drawn to come work for us, and why I hired him, was that we all share the same ethics of doing your job to the best of your ability, having fun doing it and being the best person you can be all the time.



“Our Dave”

Whether he is sitting at his command station of Macs and PC’s, making cheesecakes for the office or helping out someone who needs it, Dave is the prime example of not only what the Force can do but also what the Force should be. When the time comes for him to stand in line for this year’s movie, not only will I not stop him (although he will be sorely missed here), but we will also sponsor him. Because to support Dave is to be a part of the overall “Star Wars” experience, and that is truly a force to be reckoned with. 🍌

Looking for Clones...

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And I feel the right to see this movie is one of those things...

I am not going to cower on a passenger ship, refusing to fly out of fear of attack. I'm not going to stay at home and submit. I'm going to fly on a plane, rough it out on the streets, and do things that I would not normally do. I say, stand in defiance. I say, pull down your pants and shine your butts at the terrorists! I SAY CELEBRATE, THE WAY NEW YORKERS DO!

Imagine, one month from now, on the evening of May 15. Thousands of Star Wars fans, shouting, cheering, overcoming the fear and despair that loomed over everybody like a dark cloud! I will be there, movie ticket in hand, and handkerchief in pocket ready to wipe away any tears those sights inspire. Close your eyes, and imagine what it will be like. Some things in life are indeed worth fighting for. 🍌

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Was it Worth It?

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number 3263827? (Asax again)

I again want to relive and build on the memories and experiences of "Episode I." Who could ever forget the immortal 16-hour game of Star Wars Monopoly? Or Steve Lorenzo getting his butt kicked repeatedly at Star Wars Trivial Pursuit? Or Mario Romo turning up in full Darth Maul costume? The huge frenzy of opening night as the Ziegfeld signs were changed, the crowds began to mass and, as midnight drew ever closer, you looked at your watch at what seemed like every hour to see that only five minutes had passed. Just writing this stuff down gives me goose bumps and that special "Star Wars" shiver down my neck.

What about the perplexed and bemused faces of the business people on their way to work at 8 a.m. as they passed a patchwork of huddled bodies sitting on Darth Maul blow-up chairs and ridiculously uncomfortable loungers watching "The Empire Strikes Back" on TV?

In England I'd turn up, watch the film and go home. Yes, it would be exciting to catch the buzz of Leicester Square for a few hours before, and I have no doubts the movie will be great. The fact that I could call the Ziegfeld payphone after the show and gloat that I'd just seen "Episode II" and throw you a few unwanted spoilers would be just an added bonus! But where I watch "Episode II" has never been an issue. From the moment I stepped out of the Ziegfeld three years ago, it was never in doubt.

I booked my airline ticket yesterday. I'll be there from May 9 to 22. From the time I arrive until midnight of the 15th, I plan to spend as many hours as I can in line. Then from the 16th onwards I plan to spend as much time in the theatre as I can. The Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building will just have to wait.

The one thing I would like to do though is take a trip to Ground Zero to pay my respects to all the brave men and women of New York who lost their lives in September. I often think how many of them were looking forward to Episode II just as much as you and I, but tragically won't be here to see it with us. I think it's a great homage that the NYLine has incorporated the towers into its banner and it is a tribute to the spirit of New Yorkers that it's still full steam ahead, despite everything that's happened. This is just one more reason why New York is the only place to live the Episode II experience.

See you all soon. 🍌

Spoiler Free...

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common parlance, but some people still want to avoid them like toxic waste. People with new toys, books, CDs or anything that might result in spoilage are asked to please be discreet, and to offer other line members the opportunity to avert their eyes and ears or walk away before the unveiling.

While it's hard to contain joy and excitement about all things Clone, NYLine is all about creating a community of happy fans, and that is best maintained by ensuring mutual respect for all members, regardless of age, gender, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation and, perhaps most importantly, level of spoiler tolerance. Twenty-some days and nights of self-control aren't going to kill you any more than they did Josh Hartnett. But such restraint will earn the respect and gratitude of your fellow line members, and a great big THANK YOU from the NYLine staff. 🍌

**HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE EDITIONS OF *The New York Clone*?
SEND YOUR STORIES, NEWS AND ARTWORK TO: NYCLONE@NYLINE.ORG**

Ya gotta amit...

Sparks

Amit Saxena

I have a bad feeling about this. Ever since “Episode I” opened, George Lucas has openly divulged the fact that the next chapter in his big, sprawling space saga would be, of all things, an intergalactic love story (or “booty call,” if you will). Let me just say, this is NOT good. I will be the first person to declare, “Everything I need to know about life I learned from ‘Star Wars.’™”

But when it comes to affairs of the heart, I’m not exactly sure the advice the man in plaid dishes out will be what’s best for my interests. Don’t get me wrong, I have great faith in the boy. It’s just that...well I’ve flown from one side of this planet to the other and “Are you an angel?” still hasn’t quite worked for me. The problem is that Lucas could write the sleaziest pick-up line for Anakin to use and I’d somehow believe it’s all I’d need to get Miss Galaxy into my arms. Trust me... at this point I find it perfectly logical that one man could bring down an entire AT-AT, a goofy Gungan could take care of Droidekas that two Jedi couldn’t and an army of Teddy Ruxpins could wipe out an entire legion of the Emperor’s best troops. You’re looking at a guy who already thinks that any girl who is “trembling” or has “dirty hands” is deeply in love with me, but is just too afraid to admit it.

However, I suppose there’s nothing I can really do to stop this, for it seems Beardy McBeard is already putting the finishing touches on his version of “Romeo and Juliet” (“Romeo + Juliet” for you young’uns). And, indeed the madness has already begun. I’ve seen a couple of trailers and suddenly I’m flipping through the old phone diary for people I haven’t seen in a while just because I now have a way to respond when they tell me how much I’ve grown. Still, somehow I don’t know if looking at women in a way that makes them “feel uncomfortable” is what I really want to be doing. But young Ani did it, and look who he

ends up with.

Hmmm, perhaps I shouldn’t constantly be making the assumption that “Star Wars” is real. But I really haven’t found any reason to disregard that theory so I’ll probably see it through until the bitter end.

It should be interesting though, to observe what the effects are of this when it comes time for our little shindig in May. We all know that sparks are bound to fly among a group of similarly afflicted lazerbrains, stuck in proximity for hours upon hours. Our very own PR Protégé Jewels Green is expecting her own little baby Bossk sometime around Fan Day, all thanks to a sequence of wacky events that were initiated by the “Phantom Menace” line. And I know that I simply cannot be the only Lucas lackey out there, can I? Can I?? So, what’s spring fever going to look like out there on West 54th Street, I wonder? How many times am bound to overhear those five fateful words: “Hellooooo, what have we here?” How often will people be told that they look like they’re indigenous

to the Moons of lego? And of course, the biggest question of them all: Is anyone going to actually go for it?? At the moment it’s difficult to see, as that crazy future always seems to be in motion. We shall be patient, I suppose.

As for my own destiny, that’s in question too. Of course I have the added responsibility of dedicating my life to the line, and following all of the regulations that go along with it. There’s an age-old code stating that an organizer shall not know anger. Nor hatred. (Nor sleep.) Nor love. At least that’s what I plan on telling myself if this new brand of Jedi teachings doesn’t work out for me.

Ahhh, it’s a good thing I don’t have a sister. 🗑️

