



JANUARY 2005 • ISSUE #5
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The New York Clone

The Official Newsletter of the NYLine
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TODAY

Sunset
6:58, 9:35

Weather
Uncertain
Always in motion is the future

NYLine **E** **3**

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NYLine Returns to 54th Street For Final Stand-A-Thon

By Steve Lorenzo

NYLine has secured permission from Clearview Cinemas to hold NYLine III in front of the Ziegfeld Theatre from April 30 to May 19. While final booking is always subject to change, NYLine organizer Suzanne Sousa has met with representatives from Clearview, and the theater chain is on board for the Ziegfeld to

reprise its role as the base of operations for the 19-day event.

"With the release of the final installment of the 'Star Wars' saga, NYLine and Clearview Cinemas are very excited at the prospect of another fan-driven Stand-A-Thon for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation at the historic Ziegfeld Theatre," Sousa said. "The Stand-A-Thon at the Ziegfeld Theatre has become a New York City tradition and 'Star Wars' fans from throughout the tri-state area and from around the country and from around the world will come together for 19 days for what promises to be a wonderful sidewalk celebration!"

The Ziegfeld has been home to "Star Wars" premieres since the release of the special editions in 1997, and it has always been considered the logical choice as the location for NYLine to hold its Stand-A-Thon.

"The mission of NYLine has always been to secure seats for an opening-night show in a theater with a screen and sound system that meets our demanding standards," Sousa said. "In New York City, the Ziegfeld really is the best venue to serve as a backdrop for the pop-culture phenomenon that NYLine has become over the past six years."

NYLine III will kick off Saturday April 30 at 11 a.m. and will maintain a presence on the 54th Street sidewalk between Sixth and Seventh Avenues until camp is broken late in the

afternoon of May 18.

The 350 members and staff of NYLine will be holding a Stand-A-Thon, raising money from sponsors for each hour they spend in front of the Ziegfeld. For the first week of the Stand-A-Thon, three four-hour shifts will be held from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The line goes 'round the clock starting at 11 a.m. Friday May 3, adding a fourth four-hour shift

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Photo by Steve Skoff

The line starts here: Members of the 1999 staff gather on the stretch of 54th Street sidewalk that would be at the head of all three NYLines.

NYLine and the Ziegfeld: Standing in the Footsteps of a Showbiz Giant

By Steve Lorenzo

For many "Star Wars" fans and members of NYLine, the history of the Ziegfeld Theatre begins Jan. 31, 1997, when the Special Edition of "A New Hope" first roared across its screen. However, the history of the Ziegfeld is rich with show business legends. Some of the biggest names in motion picture and theatrical lore

can be traced to the Ziegfeld Theatre and the man for whom it was named, Florenz Ziegfeld.

Born in Chicago in 1867, Florenz Ziegfeld burst onto the New York show business scene in 1896, having created an international scandal by stealing singer Anna Held from the Folies Bergere to appear in his Broadway production of "A Parlor Match." Held and Ziegfeld married, and eventually she convinced her husband to produce a Broadway revue in the style of her former Parisian employer, with dancing showgirls in elaborate, titillating costumes. The Ziegfeld Follies of 1907 would be the first in a string of eponymous productions that ran in various

New York theaters over the next 24 years.

Most productions of the Ziegfeld Follies appeared on 42nd Street at the New Amsterdam Theater, which is still in use and is now home to Broadway's "The Lion King." The list of talent employed by Ziegfeld during the Follies era reads like a "Who's Who" of early 20th Century entertainment figures, including George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Will Rogers, W.C. Fields and Fanny Brice (whose life as a Ziegfeld star would become the subject of the hit musical that launched the career of Barbra Streisand, "Funny Girl").

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NYLine and the Ziegfeld

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Ziegfeld used the success of the Follies to finance the building of a Broadway theater on the corner of 54th Street and Sixth Avenue. While Ziegfeld earned fame and fortune through the Follies, arguably his most important contribution to show business opened at the Ziegfeld Theatre in December 1927.

While most theatrical productions of this era were confections in the vein of the Ziegfeld Follies or pastiches of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, "Show Boat" was an ambitious undertaking. Daring to present a plot that addressed such serious issues as racism and alcoholism, "Show Boat" also entertained audiences with songs by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II that are now considered classic Americana, such as "Ol' Man River" and "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man Of Mine."

Ziegfeld's production of "Show Boat" ushered in the era of the modern Broadway musical, and continues to be produced – most recently on Broadway in a Tony-winning revival that opened in 1994 and ran through 1997. The production was adapted into a movie on three separate occasions, first in 1929. The 1936 film was helmed by "Frankenstein" director James Whale, and the most famous version, released in 1951, starred Ava Gardner and Howard Keel.

The impact Florenz Ziegfeld had on show business continued long after his death in 1932. In just one example, performers including Billie Burke (Ziegfeld's second wife) and Frank Morgan, who honed their careers performing in Ziegfeld productions, later were reunited with Ziegfeld lyricist E.Y. "Yip" Harburg on the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz."

After Ziegfeld's death, publisher William Randolph Hearst foreclosed on the Ziegfeld Theatre and leased it to the Loews chain for use as a movie palace. For a brief period in the 1940s and '50s, the Ziegfeld once again became a showcase for Broadway productions, including the hit "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," which was eventually adapted into a Hollywood star vehicle for Marilyn Monroe.

After a stint in the 1950s as a studio for the Perry Como show on NBC television, the Ziegfeld played home to a handful of flop musicals in the early '60s; a sad denouement for what had been such an illustrious showplace. It closed its doors permanently in 1965; in 1966 the Ziegfeld Theatre was torn down to be replaced by the Fisher



The 1927 production of "Showboat" at the Ziegfeld Theatre was the most ambitious theatrical entertainment of its day.

Brothers building and the sidewalks that have been a home to NYLine since 1999.

The "new" Ziegfeld Theatre opened in 1969 with a tribute to its namesake, including screenings of "The Great Ziegfeld" and "The Ziegfeld Follies," and a champagne reception for the surviving original "Ziegfeld Girls." Memorabilia from various Ziegfeld productions and busts of Ziegfeld's most prominent stars were installed in displays throughout the lobby and concession area, where they remain to this day.

A state-of-the-art theater featuring six-channel stereo, the Ziegfeld quickly established itself as a favorite for movie fans and studios looking to showcase their best films in New York City. A sampling of the films that either premiered or received high-profile revivals at the Ziegfeld in the 1970s and '80s turns up a number of classics, Academy Award winners, and a few titles that may have particular interest to "Star Wars" fans:

- "The Sound of Music"
- "2001: A Space Odyssey"
- "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
- "Apocalypse Now"
- "The Muppet Movie"
- "Raiders Of The Lost Ark"

The Ziegfeld maintained its status as an "event" movie house, even as other showcase theaters around Manhattan were being divided into twin and multiplex theaters in the 1980s. With the closing of the Loews Astor Plaza in August 2004, the Ziegfeld is now the largest single-screen movie theater in New York City. 🎬

NYLine Returns to 54th St

Continued from page 1

and a "graveyard shift" from 1 a.m. to 8 a.m. To help members begin planning their line experience, a tentative shift schedule can be found at www.nyline.org.

Each shift on the schedule carries a point value; shifts that occur during weekdays and graveyard shifts will carry a greater value than shifts on weeknights and over the weekends. Throughout the Stand-A-Thon, NYLine members will be involved in two competitions – to accumulate the greatest number of points and to raise the most money for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. Prizes and special benefits will be awarded to the top point-earners and fund-raisers.

Every NYLine shift will feature at least one scheduled event. Some

events will be centered on competitions, such as "Star Wars" board game and trivia tournaments. Other events will be more social in nature, allowing line members to get better acquainted and to discuss the shared passion that has brought them to 54th Street. Announcements and discussions of prospective events can be found on the new NYLine message boards, nylineboards.org.

Because of insurance restrictions, NYLine will be limited to 350 members, including staff. Priority registration and shift selection will be given to those who have responded to the NYLine survey. Registration dates, rules and other information vital to the survival of NYLine participants will be available first to New York Clone subscribers. 🎬

Begun, the Online Line-Up Has

By Simon Diaz


2005 is here and it's officially a Star Wars movie year! The road to the release of the last new film in the Star Wars saga is winding down to its end, which for us will be on 54th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues. But while the real-world

line begins on April 30th at 11 a.m., the online lineup has already begun on our brand spanking new message boards at www.nylineboards.org.

This is your place to hang out on the line NOW and make plans, make friends, and get to know everything you'll need to know to be ready for the sidewalk in April. Start out by registering and lurk to your heart's content. When you're comfortable, introduce yourself at "The Bike Rack" in the discussion section. The Bike Rack is at the head of the line on 54th Street, so it's the natural place to start on the boards.

You can check out announcements about specific activities taking place during specific shifts, announced every week from here on in, so you


can plan to be on the Line for your favorite shifts right when you register. Explore various areas of the boards, where you can reminisce about lines past if you're a returning member, or find out about all the Line's in-jokes and history, so you'll be an instant "part of the tribe" if you're a newbie.

Spoiler and Non-Spoiler speculation areas for generally going nuts in anticipation of the movie are set up for your geektasmic pleasure. And as you post, watch your "rank" increase through the various levels, starting from "incidental passerby" to the coveted NYLine-oriented higher ratings that come with becoming "one of us." Come on over now, and get to know the Line Staff and each other today! 

Where were you in '99 and '02?

By Karen Grenke



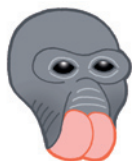
Were you on the NYLine? Was there a video camera in your hands? If so, we want you! Actually, we want your tapes. If you have footage from any of the previous Lines, please contact production@NYLine.org or send digital or VHS copies to The NYLine, Yorkville Station, PO Box 6065, New York, NY 10128. All tapes will be returned. 

To the Future, the Horizon...

By Simon Diaz

Top Ten moments to look forward to in 2005

10. Finally! A chance to use your golf-sized Taun We umbrella. A lot.
9. Playing Star Wars board games *al fresco*.
8. Sleeping on the sidewalk with visions of lightsabres dancing in your head.
7. Reminiscing about when Walrus Man was just plain old Walrus Man, without being looked at funny.
6. Becoming "scruffy-looking."
5. Getting a pizza delivered to you in the street.
4. "OMG, I have that shirt!"
3. Finding your first bag of Star Wars potato chips at the deli at 2 A.M.
2. Getting passersby to donate into the Starlight Cup by singing "Yub Nub."
1. May 19, 12:01 a.m. 'nuff said.



THE NEW YORK CLONE

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I Walk the Line

By JediRob

Forget Campfires and Canoes –We’ve Got Sith Lords and Street Vendors

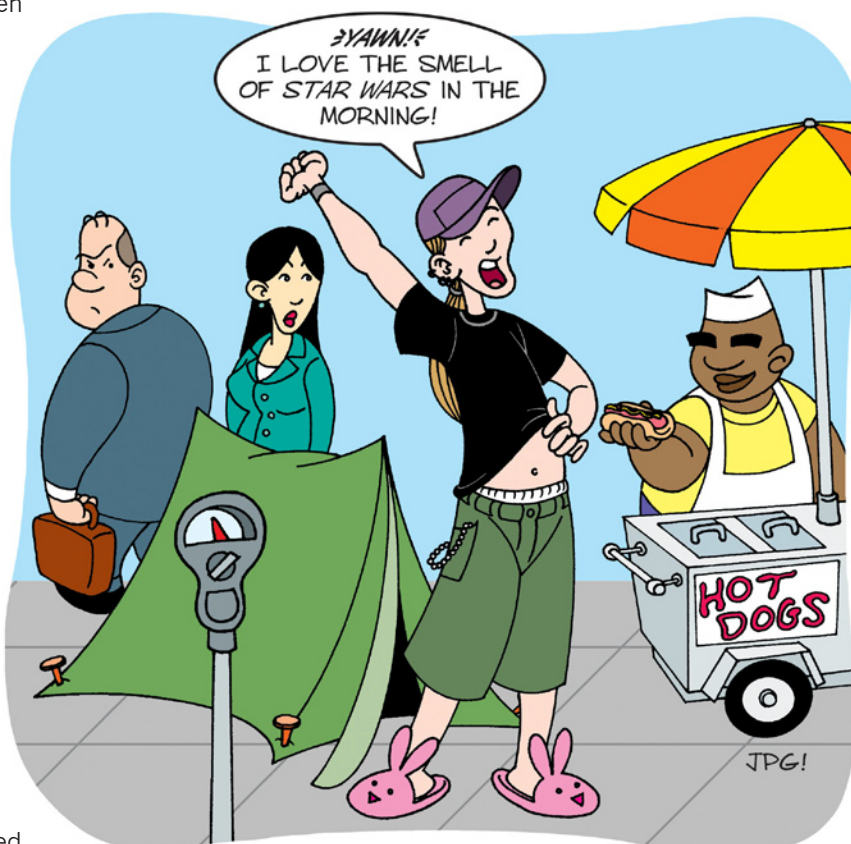
I was going to kick off this column with a witty look back at 1999, the year when this all began for us. A retrospective of political and pop cultural events, all with a tint of irony and tongue-in-cheek humor due to the fact that it wasn't really that long ago. But then I remembered VH1 already did that with "I Love the '90s." (Curse you, Michael Ian Black!) So I'll just skip all that poodoo and

get on with it. This is when it began – six years ago in January 1999...

Now of course this is not where it *all* began. It all began for each of us very differently. For myself, like many of you, there has never been a world without "Star Wars." I was born at the end of the '70s, raised in the '80s, stumbled through the '90s and am now here in the whatever we call these years. (Halfway through and we've still got nothing!) But in regard to this particular event, I will paraphrase the novel about my favorite magician: I am born. I grew up. I waited in line for "Star Wars."

January 1999 is when I first started investigating and becoming involved with the plans for what would become our NYLine. A massive undertaking it was, spread throughout the whole country. Fan interest boiling for 16 years, everybody wanting to be first, myself included. I remember telling people what I was going to be doing, and at that time no one was surprised at all. On a personal level, I was younger, in college, didn't really have a whole lot to do with my time and, of course, was a huge nerd. There was also the fact that everyone was excited about this film, and gaining tickets to a first screening was extremely difficult.

In the years since and up to the present I'm asked, "Are you going to do that standing in the street thing again?" Now when my answer is a resounding, "YES, OF COURSE," I am met with disbelief. The gathering "buzz" in January 2005 is nowhere near that of 1999, for a number of



Art by John P. Green

reasons that we need not go into. And again, on a personal level, my motivations for wanting to participate are not the same as they were six years ago. But they are just as strong.

I could tell you about all the wonderful people I've met as a result of the line, the life-long bonds and weddings and babies and blah blah blah blah booooooooooooooring. The thing that keeps bringing me back is the experience itself. Of course, there's the aspect of a group of people coming together who have this common interest, and more or less living together for a few weeks, and getting the chance to really let loose on something they really enjoy. But, there are conventions for that all the time. The outlets for us geeks are out there, and it's not too difficult to find brethren to bask in RPGs and

continuity-dissecting glory. What I *can't* do all the time is wake up, unzip a tent, step out onto a midtown Manhattan sidewalk, take my big morning stretch as hundreds of people rush by throwing me strange looks, buy myself a hot dog, take a few more steps, sit down and watch "Star Wars." I've never liked camping, never been a big outdoors guy. (Imagine that – a "Star Wars" geek who's not outdoorsy.) I know lots of people who go camping and enjoy it. More power to them, but it's not for me. But I only know a very few who do what I do. Very few go camping in New York City.

The city is what makes our line so unique. I've lived in the city my whole life, I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and every day it makes me happy to look out the F train windows near Smith and 9th streets. As I said earlier I've never had a world without "Star Wars." I've also never had a world without this city. Two ever-present constants in my life, and over the last six years they've been brought together twice; one more to go. So, come this May, you damn well better believe I'll be there again, for every possible minute I can – waiting for the final chapter in my favorite film series, and enjoying my city. So I hope to see everyone there one last time – old friends, new faces, even a couple kids who weren't alive way back when we started doing this. (Krikey!) So come say hi...we'll talk about "Star Wars"... and have ourselves a gyro... 🍌

Ya gotta Amit....

By Amit Saxena

Gettin' Zieggy With It After Hours on the NYLine

I love the nightlife. And I've GOT to boogie. This is why I prefer to spend my evenings at the historic Ziegfeld Theatre, where the bright center of our universe is the magical array of lights produced by a Barco D-Cine DLP digital projector. With its velvet-covered walls, fine dining, and a ladies room featuring stalls as far as the eye can see (or so I've heard), Studio 54th Street

is the place to be when the lights go down in Manhattan. So join me on a journey across the stars and into the future, as we take a look at the excitement and glamour that's in store for you when you do an overnight shift with us. Welcome to the NYLine - where we keep our blast shields down during the day, but we wear our sunglasses at night, baby.

Let's start on an average night - say it's Tuesday May 10, and you're ambling up the street at 1 a.m. for your first graveyard stint, thinking that this is not going to be pleasant. What will you find there? Only what you take with you, of course. If you're willing to let go of your conscious self, you'll find we're full of surprises. Do you remember the Outlander Club from "Attack of the Clones"? It was the happening little social establishment where Zam Wessel's arm had a date with "Star Wars" destiny. Well, consider our entertainment district on the sidewalk to be somewhat like that, except with better video games. NYLine staffers even dress in a similar fashion to the Outlander waitresses. It's a well known fact that a TPM line member named Sisqo was so inspired by our own Steve Lorenzo's appearance on the line that he penned a hit song about it the following year. What you may not have heard is that the original chorus to his thong-related song went "He had dumps like an AT-AT / Thighs like Ric Olie / Baby move like 2-1B/All night long/Let me see that thong." It's true, you know.

But I'm deviating from my present course...

What? What did you say? You're waiting for "Star Wars," so where are all the stars? All you have to do is pick up your visual scanning. The hottest names in Hollywood have been seen at the line, schmoozing, networking and doing all that other hot stuff that hot celebrities do. We're talking names like "Sister Sister" stars Tia and Tamara Mowry, local TV weatherman

Lee Goldberg, and Margaret Towner, whom you might remember from her role as Anakin's sandstorm-foreseeing friend Jira in a little movie called "The Phantom Menace." Some lesser-known personalities have also shown up around the line, such as Kevin Smith, Martin Sheen and Paul McCartney. Let me tell you, I felt like a part of my childhood dreams had come to sweet fruition when I met Jira, though.

And all of this is just on a standard overnight. We also have some special occasions when we really blow the roof off the tent. As the clock hits midnight on May 8, we celebrate our PR Princess Suzanne's birthday, and that night usually ends in an incoherent mix of Jawa gibberish and her native Portuguese, with a lot of strange and hazy memories to follow. Also, we usually have cake! And if

you're in to the Goth scene, then you won't want to miss out on the most bloodcurdling night of them all - The Holiday Special Viewing Party. It's... quite the thing to see.

But I'm just hitting the tip of the iceberg. When it comes down to it, the overnights are really about the little things. Like the magic moment when the streetlights turn off around 5 a.m. Or getting your shoelaces tied together when you fall asleep. Things like huddling together for warmth and never speaking of it again, or soliciting Starlight donations from prostitutes. And what good night's sleep could be complete without awakening to a television reporter seated on your sleeping bag? So please do join us for the most intimate of times on the line, the overnight. There's no better way to prepare for the "dark" tone of ROTs than to sit on a pitch-black sidewalk with a group of your fellow geeks. Because just like "Star Wars," all the spectacle, all the technology and all the thongs are great, but in the end, it's really about the people. 🌌



Art by John P. Green