



APRIL 2005 • ISSUE 8  
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# The New York Clone

The Official Newsletter of the NYLine  
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## TODAY

Sunset  
8:27, 8:46

Weather  
Ironically charged atmosphere  
prevails, persisting for 3 weeks.

NYLine **E** **3**

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Stay current on  
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New York City!

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how to line up!

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## Your Destiny Awaits...

## At Long Last, We're Headed to the Ziegfeld!

By Steve Lorenzo

**Here we go again! In what seems like a matter of weeks, 35 months have passed, and we're feverishly making final preparations for that magic moment April 30, when the duct tape is**

laid down on the 54<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk, the tent goes up and NYLine III begins!

For some, this will be a reunion. Veterans of the 1999 and 2002 NYLines will see old friends long gone – some for the first time in three or six years. For others, this will be an entirely new experience. Perhaps you saw us on the news or some other TV show three years ago and were drawn to being a part of the insanity. Maybe you weren't old enough to spend nights on the town in NYC in '99 or '02. Or maybe you simply came to the realization that your life would not be complete without having participated in a "Star Wars" line in Midtown Manhattan.

Whatever your motivations, whether you're coming from the Bronx or Brazil, over the next three weeks a small patch of sidewalk outside the Ziegfeld will be your home. Prepare to pull up an inflatable Darth Maul chair and stay a while – we've been expecting you!

For the past 18 months, NYLine staff members have been setting events into motion that all lead to the Ziegfeld and opening night of "Revenge of the Sith." Having pulled off a successful line in '99 when none of us knew each other, and having repeated that success in '02 with the still-fresh horrors of 9/11 creating obstacles nobody expected us to overcome, we knew NYLine III would have to be a party for the ages.

With that in mind, our

hyperdrive motivators have been set to .5 past light speed. Hopefully, you'll notice the difference from the moment you sign in for your first shift, when you receive your NYLine Welcome Kit. Through such sponsors as Dark Horse Comics and Del Rey books, we'll have some fun surprises for you, as well as a Survival Guide that you'll want to keep handy throughout your stay on the line.

If you thought the tent we had in '02 was luxurious, you won't believe what we have planned this year! Should the forecast not favor us, torrential downpours will no longer be a crisis situation once our "permanent" camp is erected May 6 – thanks to our generous friends at Geek Squad and the Chelsea Piers, we plan to have a setup that would make even a stay on Kamino as cozy as Shmi's hovel on Tatooine!

Because we'll have shelter that's significantly more durable and the elements won't be as much of a variable, we've been able to program many more line events. In fact, every single shift will have a scheduled event, though participation will always be voluntary – this is a line party, not summer camp. Sometimes you'll simply be

able to hang out and watch "Star Wars" cartoons while eating free Kellogg's "Star Wars" cereal. Other events will involve actual participation, such as our board game and trivia tournaments. Still others, such as the Outlander Club Party on the line's opening night, provide the opportunity to get to know your fellow fans. Whatever the event, each shift will have a prize; sometimes just by showing up you'll go home a winner – if you chose to go home at the end of the shift, that is!

We hope these little extras will inspire you to greater heights as well. NYLine has always been about helping the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, and this line is no different. If you haven't already done so, please consider taking the time to download a Stand-



During a rare moment of sunshine on 54<sup>th</sup> Street, NYLine staff members Amit Saxena, Dave Creighton and John Green check out what we considered luxurious accommodations in 2002. Just wait until you see what we have planned this year!

Photo by Matt Simantov

A-Thon form from our Web site ([nyline.org](http://nyline.org)) and finding some people to sponsor you for the time you spend with us. The top fund-raisers will receive prizes, and the total money you raise will be used in conjunction

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Chapter

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[www.slsb.org](http://www.slsb.org)

The Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation is grateful to all of you participating in NYLine's "Stand-A-Thon." We are excited and anxious for the launch of the Ebay auction on April 21, and the start of the line on April 30!

As you may know, moneys raised through the Line's fundraising activities will go toward Starlight Starbright's Fun Centers Program. Fun Centers are mobile entertainment units containing a flat-panel screen, DVD player and a Nintendo GameCube system, in an enclosure that rolls right above the bed of a hospitalized child. They have been updated with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and come equipped with a variety of DVD and Nintendo GameCube games. Hospital staff members use Fun Centers as tools of distraction during long hours of dialysis or chemotherapy, and during long periods of waiting for treatment or surgery. Further, hospitals find that when children utilize Fun Centers post-operation, their requirement for pain medication is reduced.

As a Line member, you can raise money for this important program in many ways. One method that is often overlooked is corporate matching gifts programs, through which companies match donations made by their employees. In order to find out if your company has a matching gifts program, you can contact your corporate contributions or community relations department, or visit their website. This is a somewhat simple way to double your money!

Throughout the "Stand-A-Thon," we hope you will feel comfortable speaking about Starlight Starbright, its mission and its programs to friends, other Line members or passers-by on the street. The mission of the organization is to brighten the lives of serious ill children through imaginative and resourceful programs and services that empower, educate and inspire.

We have many varied programs. Our Hospital Grants program is designed to help Child Life Programs within hospitals. Our Hospital Happenings program funds entertainment in hospitals such as clowns and musicians, while our Kids Activity Network funds events outside of the hospital that children and their families can attend such as ball games, movies and live performances. We also grant once-in-a-lifetime experiences to children who wish for items like new computers or vacations.

On behalf of the over 200,000 tri-state area children whose lives we touch each year, thank you, and best of luck on the Line!

*Brightening  
the lives  
of seriously  
ill children  
and their  
families*

starlight ★ starbright  
children's foundation

# The Streets of Midtown Aren't To Be Traveled Lightly... Without this Guide

By B. Jason Roer

**You made it – welcome to the line! With just three weeks left before the big show, I bet you're as excited as I am! Of course, three weeks can seem like an eternity when you're waiting for a new "Star Wars" film – or if you're wandering around lost, unable to find a hot meal or the latest issue of Entertainment Weekly. So here's some valuable information to make your stay on**

our favorite stretch of New York City sidewalk as fun-filled and action-packed as possible. As a veritable Yoda with two NYLines under my belt, it's time to pass the knowledge on to you, my young padawans. Only you don't have to carry me in your backpack, just this handy little guide!

First things first: for the Jedi it is time to eat as well! You can't be having any fun when your belly is yelling at you. Below is a list I've compiled of a plethora of sit-down restaurants (when you want your seat on something softer than sidewalk), followed by some quick fixes (fast food, so you can plant yourself back on the sidewalk ASAP). Some of these establishments deliver – just give the address as 139 W. 54<sup>th</sup> St. It works... really!

## Restaurants

- ▲ **Lou's Café** – 53rd Street & 6th Avenue, SW corner. Good choice for breakfast and lunch, but a little pricier than some of the others.
- ▲ **Au Bon Pain** – 55th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues, north side.
- ▲ **Tad's Broiled Steaks** – 50th Street between 6th & 7th Avenue, north side. Check out their lunch special: \$6.99 for a strip or sirloin steak, potato or rice, garden salad and garlic bread!
- ▲ **Bagel and Bean** – 828 7th Avenue, between 53rd & 54th Streets. (212-262-6340)
- ▲ **Ray's Pizza** – 7th Avenue between 53rd & 54th Streets, east side. (212-974-9381)
- ▲ **Star Diner** – 7th Avenue & 54th Street, SE corner. (212-245-3030)
- ▲ **Fluffy's Café and Bakery** – 855 7th Avenue between 54th & 55th Streets. Breakfast, lunch and yummy desserts! (212-247-0234)
- ▲ **Mars 2112** – 1633 Broadway at 51st Street. Blast off to a Martian eatery, just minutes away from the Ziegfeld. It's not 5-star dining, but

the nitrogen-based atmosphere will bring warm feelings to any true geek's heart.

- ▲ **Pick A Bagel** – 57th Street & 7th Avenue, SW corner.
- ▲ **Pax Wholesome Food** – 57th Street & 7th Avenue, NE corner. Great salads and wraps!
- ▲ **Applejack Diner** – 55th Street & Broadway, SW corner. Great all-around diner; you can get anything there!
- ▲ **54 Broadway Café** – 54th Street & Broadway, NW corner. All purpose feeding frenzy! They've opened a Japanese Udon Noodle Bar - \$4.99 a bowl, available Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The manager assures me this café is open 25 hours a day, 8 days a week, and you just can't argue with that service!
- ▲ **Seeda Thai II** – 309 W. 50th Street between 8th & 9th Avenues. Thai/Vietnamese – one of the best in the area. (212-586-4040)

- ▲ **Ruby Foo's** – 49th Street & Broadway, NE corner. Expensive, but one of the best restaurants going! Save this one for the end if you have some money left over!
- ▲ **BOS** – 55th Street & 8th Avenue, NE corner. Great Chinese! Superb! Amazing vegetarian hot and sour soup! Get a lunch special – you'll have enough for dinner. (212-582-8887)
- ▲ **Bread Factory Café** – 935 8th Avenue between 55th & 56th Streets. Great soups, salads, wraps and you guessed it – breads! Awesome bakery too! (212-586-2221)
- ▲ **Wondee Siam** – 9th Avenue between 52nd & 53rd Streets. Absolutely the best Pad Thai in the area! You must go there at least once while you're here – of course they deliver, so why not let them do all the foot-work? (212-459-9057)

## Quick Fixes

- ▲ **Starbucks** – 6th Avenue between 53rd & 54th Streets, east side.
- ▲ **KFC/Pizza Hut/Dunkin Donuts** – 50th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues, north side. Next to Tad's Broiled Steaks.

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Some of the locals from Mars 2112 check out the '99 NYLine.



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- ▲ **Sweet and Sour** – 7th Avenue between 53rd & 54th Streets, west side. Ice Cream! Candy!
- ▲ **Stage Star Deli** – 55th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues.
- ▲ **55 Street Deli** – 55th Street & 7th Avenue, NW corner. (212-333-5993)
- ▲ **Burger King** – 777 8th Avenue, between 47th & 48th Streets. Where you can get the cool “Star Wars” tie-in toys!
- ▲ **Ranch 1** – Broadway between 53rd & 54th Streets, next door to “Late Night with David Letterman.” Chicken sandwiches and wraps. Almost healthy! (212-262-7171)
- ▲ **Roy Rogers** – 53rd Street & Broadway, SE corner.
- ▲ **McDonalds** – 51st Street & Broadway, NW corner.
- ▲ Another **Starbucks** – 51st Street & Broadway, NE corner. They will soon control your brain waves and bodily functions!
- ▲ **Blimpie** – 55th Street & 8th Avenue, SW corner.
- ▲ **Wendy’s** – 8th Avenue between 55th & 56th Streets, east side.

Of course, after two weeks of fast food and Manhattan prices, you may decide you just want to pick up some groceries and make something tasty for yourself. Believe it or not, Midtown has supermarkets! Also, you can never have enough breath mints, deodorant and Jar Jar bandages, so you’ll be happy to know where to find the nearby drugstores.

## Supermarkets and Drugstores

- ▲ **Ernest Klein and Company International Supermarket** – 6th Avenue between 55th & 56th Streets, east side.
- ▲ **Associated Supermarket** – 57th Street between 7th Avenue & Broadway, north side.
- ▲ **Westerly Natural Market** – 54th Street & 8th Avenue, NW corner. A



You never know when your extra copy of “Star Wars” Trivial Pursuit will come in handy, so why not bring it along?

- gem of market. It’s one of my favorites in the city.
- ▲ **Gristedes Supermarket** – 54th Street & 8th Avenue, SW corner.
- ▲ **Duane Reade** – 56th Street & 6th Avenue, SE corner.
- ▲ **Duane Reade** (again) – 57th Street & Broadway, SE corner. This one’s open 24 hours a day and has a one-hour photo lab.

Hopefully you’ll be taking lots of pictures on the line of all your new friends and during the exciting events. If you still use film and you’d prefer not to trust your precious negatives to a drugstore developing machine, you can check out these fine establishments.

## Photo Shops

- ▲ **1-Hour Fromax Photo Systems** – 56th Street & 6th Avenue, NW corner.
- ▲ **Kodak Image Center** – 7th Avenue between 53rd & 54th Streets, west side. Next door to Bagel and Bean. 30-minute film processing.

And you’re going to need to get all the latest “Revenge of the Sith” products, right? Here’s a list of some shops you might peruse for all the Star Wars goodies and some other tidbits you might want.

## Geeky, Techy, Touristy

- ▲ **Smoke Scene** – 54th Street & 7th Avenue, NE corner. Sculptures, toys, action figures, comics, magazines, postcards, gum, candy and trading

cards, and all just down the block from the line!

- ▲ **FYE** – 51st Street & 6th Avenue, NE corner. Get the Episode III soundtrack May 3!
- ▲ **New York Attitude Gift Shop** – 7th Avenue between 54th & 55th Streets, just north of the Smoke Scene. For anybody bursting to fill up on NYC paraphernalia.
- ▲ **CompUSA** – 57th Street & 8th Avenue, NE corner.
- ▲ **Radio Shack** – 57th Street between 7th Avenue & Broadway, north side. To convert your PlayStation to run off a street lamp in the wee hours of the night!
- ▲ Another **Radio Shack** – Broadway between 54th & 55th Streets, west side.

If you’re feeling really adventurous and want to branch off into such remote sections of the city as the infamous East Village, here are a few “Star Wars”-related places you might want to visit.

## Geek Pilgrimages

- ▲ **Love Saves the Day** – 7th Street & 2nd Avenue, NW corner. The first and most important stop on this list! It is absolutely the coolest store with all sorts of old toys – everything from “Star Wars” and G.I. Joe (not just the ‘80s action figures mind you, but the ‘50s and ‘60s 12-inchers too) to the Smurfs, “Nightmare before Christmas,” and more! They also have vintage clothes and other fun things. Definitely worth your time. Take the N/R train to the 8th Street Station and then walk east along St. Marks Place to 2nd Avenue. Turn right, and one block south you’ll find it!
- ▲ Speaking of **St. Marks Place**, while you’re visiting, you might want to poke your head into **St. Marks Comics** (new and used), **Kim’s Video** (new and used DVDs from around the world), and **Multimedia 1.0** (where you might just be able to pick up any vintage game from that old Atari “Empire Strikes Back” cartridge with the AT-ATs to those awesome handheld arcade versions of Donkey Kong and PacMan).
- ▲ Next to Love Saves the Day is **Sushi Park** – 121 2nd Ave., between 7th & 8th Streets (you’ll see it – the outside facade

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is all bamboo). It's not "Star Wars" related, but the prices are great and the food is even better! I highly recommend it. I go every time I'm down there.

- ▲ Continue with the Japanese motif by going upstairs to **Toy Tokyo** – 121 2nd Ave., second floor. Make sure not to blow all your cash at Love Saves the Day, because there's more "Star Wars" fun to be had here! It's a very cool place that has all sorts of American toys and Japanese imports. Elijah Wood has said how much he loves Toy Tokyo, and if you can't take the word of Frodo himself, what sort of geek are you?
- ▲ Planning to dress up as your favorite "Star Wars" character opening night? You'll find everything you need at **Halloween Adventure** – 104 4th Ave., between 11th & 12th Streets. Take the N/R train to the 14th Street/Union Square Station and then walk down Broadway two blocks until you see its Broadway entrance. Show the staff your NYLine badge anytime during the line, and you'll get a 10 percent discount.
- ▲ Love Saves the Day has cool vintage toys, and Toy Tokyo has awesome imports, but what if you just need the latest domestic toys and comics? Then it's time to hit **Forbidden Planet** – 840 Broadway at 13th Street. Take the N/R train to the 14th Street/Union Square Station and then walk down Broadway one block. Show the staff your NYLine badge anytime during the line, and you'll get a 10 percent discount.
- ▲ You want to check out the granddaddy of all toy stores? Why not check out the newly re-designed **F.A.O. Schwarz** – 767 5th Ave. at 58th Street. From the Ziegfeld, just walk over to 5th Avenue, turn left and head up 4 blocks to 58th Street. Very cool new design. I'm still partial to the huge floor-to-ceiling clock, but we can't have everything, I guess. Don't forget to check out the downstairs. They have this huge lounge area now with big, comfy couches and a gigantic plasma display where you can always find a flick on.

- ▲ **Toys R Us** – 44th Street & Broadway. It was "Star Wars" central for Mid-night Madness; stop by and find out why! Take the 1/9 train from 50th Street to 42nd Street/Times Square and walk north 2 blocks. Or just walk the whole way – head south on 7th Avenue for 10 blocks and bear left when it intersects with Broadway. Be sure to check out the indoor Ferris wheel!

Of course to do all this really cool stuff, you're going to need cash – Republic Credits are no good out here! Below is a list of banks in the surrounding area.

## Banks & ATMs

- ▲ **Chase** – 57th Street & 8th Avenue, SE corner.
- ▲ **CityBank** – 56th Street & Broadway, SE corner.
- ▲ **North Fork Bank** – 56th Street & Broadway, SW corner.
- ▲ **Amalgamated Bank** – 55th Street & Broadway, NW corner.
- ▲ **Bank of America** – 52nd Street & Broadway, NW corner.
- ▲ **Wachovia** – 54th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues – right behind you!

And finally, here's a little checklist of all the little things you may consider bringing along for the ride.

## Odds and Ends

- ▲ It can get kind of chilly at night or during the day when the sun hides behind the tall buildings of Midtown, so don't forget something warm to wear – consider **hats and gloves**, especially if you're going to be doing an overnight shift.
- ▲ Conversely, it can get pretty darn hot during the day, so make sure you have **something light to wear** as well. It's always smart to layer, so you can peel things off as things heat up during the day, and put them back on when it gets chilly at night. 54th Street can go from Tatooine to Hoth in a matter of hours, so be prepared!
- ▲ If you're going to do a sleepover and you have room for it, a **sleeping bag** will do you wonders. It's cleaner than a tauntaun carcass, and you'll stay cozy for the few hours of shut-eye you may get.
- ▲ Bring some **earplugs**. You'll want them for the overnights. You'll get enough of us during the day – we won't be offended if you tune us out at night.
- ▲ Bring that **iPod** or whatever music device you might have.
- ▲ **Toothbrush and toothpaste** – You never know when you'll be on national TV, and do you really want last night's pizza stuck in your teeth? (I sound like mom!)
- ▲ **Raincoat** – Though we wish this weren't so, rain does fall from the sky from time to time. In 2002, it fell most of the time. Better to be prepared.
- ▲ **Umbrella**. See above.
- ▲ **Sunscreen** for those bright, sunny days that we hope to have in great quantities.
- ▲ A **baseball hat** wouldn't hurt.
- ▲ **Sunglasses** to hide your sleep-deprived eyes (and block out those savage rays from our life-giving star).
- ▲ **Board games**. Always a crowd-pleaser.
- ▲ **Pad and paper** to write home to loved ones (oh wait, this isn't summer camp?)
- ▲ Any **portable video game system** you may have.
- ▲ **Camera** – and lots of **film** or a few **flash cards** – you never know when a photo-op will pop up!
- ▲ The **book** you happen to be reading currently.
- ▲ **Cell phone**. Contact the outside world every once in a while. They have interesting things to say. Sometimes.
- ▲ If you have a portable **battery-powered fan**, it could prove useful on blistering days. You'll also make lots of friends!
- ▲ Lots of enthusiasm! Bring your **energy** – we're going to have an amazing time this year with plenty of great activities and events.

If, for some reason, you haven't found what you need here, don't be afraid to ask me (or any of the local line members) any questions you may have about what to do and how to get there. See you real soon, and enjoy your stay on 54<sup>th</sup> Street! 🍷

## An Outlander's Guide to Navigating the Bright Center of the Universe – NYC

By Ryan McKenna  
with additional reporting by B. Jason Roer

**So you're coming in from out of town, yes? Some of you are coming from other states, some from other countries, and a few of you will be arriving from the Outer Rim territories. If this is your first visit to the Big Apple then please**

read on... if not, then *this is not the article you are looking for... you can go about your business... move along, move along...*

It's true – NYC can have a strong effect on the weak-minded. So make sure you keep yourself informed and updated on the best ways to get around. The most important things come first – if you are flying into one of the three airports that directly serve NYC, here's how you get to the Ziegfeld Theatre.

### Newark-Liberty International

The easiest way to get to NYC from the Newark Airport is with AirTran. The trains go directly to Penn Station; from there you can get a transport (subway, cab) to 54<sup>th</sup> Street, or wherever you're going. More information on the service can be found at <http://www.airtrainnewark.com/>

To drive from Newark, take the New Jersey Turnpike north and follow signs for the Lincoln Tunnel. Bear left after the tunnel, and turn left onto Dyer Avenue, which you'll follow until you reach 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Turn right on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and drive to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn left on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and drive uptown to 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right on 54<sup>th</sup> Street, and after you've crossed Broadway and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, start looking for the tents and lightsaber fights.

### Kennedy International Airport

If you're one of our international visitors, chances are you'll be arriving at Kennedy. Public transportation options are available, and can be found at <http://www.panynj.gov/aviation/jfkpubtransframe.html>. Also, if you want to take a taxi from JFK, the fare is a flat rate of \$45 (plus tip) to anywhere in Manhattan.

Driving from JFK, take I-678 north toward the Grand Central Parkway. Take the Grand Central towards LaGuardia Airport/Triboro Bridge. Stay on the Grand Central, past Shea Stadium on your left. The parkway will split a few times... stay on target. You'll know you're headed in the right direction if you go past LaGuardia Airport and it is on your right. Once you've passed it, follow the directions from LaGuardia to reach the bright center of the universe.

### LaGuardia International Airport

Public transportation options can be found at <http://www.panynj.gov/aviation/lgapubtransframe.htm>. Depending on traffic, a cab ride from LaGuardia to Midtown Manhattan will cost approximately \$20 to \$25 (plus tip).

If you drive from LaGuardia, take the Grand Central Parkway west towards the city. Exit at Astoria Boulevard and follow the signs for the Queensboro (59<sup>th</sup> Street) Bridge. Use the *lower* level of the bridge, and exit onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Take 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue downtown to 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right on 55<sup>th</sup> Street and follow it to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn left onto 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

staying in the left lane for one block. Turn left onto 54<sup>th</sup> Street, and look for the Jedi in front of the hot dog cart – you'll know you're in the right place.

### Parking

If you are a Hutt gangster and can afford a rental car, or you're just driving into the city from your home, you might want to take a moment and figure how much you're going to spend on parking. Sure, you'll find plenty of places to park your car in and around the Ziegfeld – the theater sits atop a parking garage. Problem is, most of 'em cost more than you could possibly imagine. There's no long-term parking for private automobiles on 54<sup>th</sup> Street, so a garage is your best bet. If you arrive before a certain time, usually 8 a.m. you'll get a break on long term. Plan to spend at least \$50/day on parking at the Midtown garages.

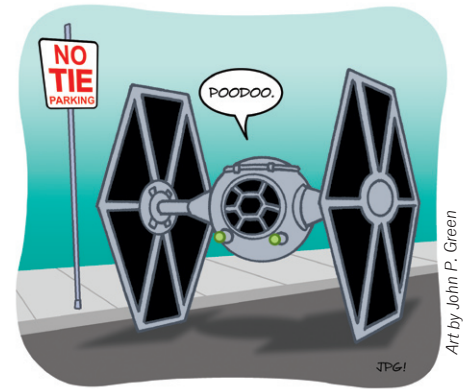
But, as Obi-Wan Kenobi might say, there are alternatives to parking in the expensive Midtown lots. Garages in Queens are only a 25-minute subway ride to the Ziegfeld, and you can park in those for a more reasonable \$15/day. One such garage can be found at 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Queens Boulevard, a half-block from the 46<sup>th</sup> Street station for the #7 train. Take the Manhattan-bound #7 to Queensboro Plaza, transfer there to the N/W and ride three stops to the 57<sup>th</sup> Street Station. If you board at the front of the train, you'll emerge on 55<sup>th</sup> Street; simply walk south to 54<sup>th</sup> Street and then turn left and walk east until you find the Ziegfeld.

If you feel the urge to tempt the dark side and use metered parking in the city streets, you will do well to visit <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dof/html/parknyc.html>. Here you will find the detailed rules on parking in NYC. Learn them, know them, live them, make them a part of your psyche or you will end up have to spend an obscene amount of money (and at least a half-day away from the line) to get your car out of impound after it has been towed. Don't laugh, it happened to a line member in '02, and he could have seen "Attack of the Clones" at the Ziegfeld 37.5 times for what it cost to regain possession of his car!

### Ground Transportation

For those of you, who will be arriving in NYC by train or bus, you will arrive at one of three locations – the Port Authority, Grand Central or Penn Station.

If you arrive via the Metro North trains, you'll find yourself at **Grand Central Station**. Find the subway and take the Shuttle (S) Train to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street/Times Square. Once there, hop the N/R/Q/W train and follow the instructions in the next paragraph to get to the Ziegfeld.



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If you come into the city by bus, you'll end up at the **Port Authority** on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Follow the signs to the subway and walk through the underground passage to N/R/Q/W train at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street/Times Square and take it uptown to the 57<sup>th</sup> Street Station. If you board at the end of the train, you'll emerge on 55<sup>th</sup> Street; simply walk south to 54<sup>th</sup> Street and then turn left and walk east until you find the Ziegfeld.

If you come via Amtrak, the LIRR or New Jersey Transit trains, you'll arrive at **Penn Station**. Simply take the 1/9 Train to the 50<sup>th</sup> Street Station. The first thing you'll notice is a pretty nifty Alice In Wonderland mosaic on the station walls. Then, when you get above ground, you'll walk east one block to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Once you're on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn left and head north until you reach 54<sup>th</sup> Street. At 54<sup>th</sup> Street, take a right (east) and come find us at Ziegfeld. We'll be the ones with the fake lightsabers.

Below is a list of the nearby subway trains and their entrances/exits. Keep this handy if you decide to explore the city and want to return to a station near the Ziegfeld:

- ▲ **F Train** – Northwest and southwest corners of 57th Street and 6th Avenue; northwest corner of 56th Street and 6th Avenue; southwest and southeast corners of 56th Street and 6th Avenue
- ▲ **1/9 Train** – Northwest/east and southwest/east corners of 50th Street and Broadway
- ▲ **B/D/E Trains** – North and south corner of 53rd Street on the East Side of 7th Avenue
- ▲ **N/R/Q/W Trains** – Northwest/east and southwest/east corner of 55th Street and 7th Avenue and northwest/east and southwest/east corner of 57th Street and 7th Avenue
- ▲ **C/E Trains** – Northwest/east and southwest/east corner of 50th Street and 8th Avenue

Whatever you do, make sure that you get yourself a MetroCard. If you are

planning on staying in the area for a number of days I recommend the 7-day unlimited ride pass. For complete information on MetroCards, subway maps and schedules, visit the NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority website at <http://www.mta.info>

**Accommodations**

I'm coming from Washington, D.C., but have family in the suburbs so I won't have to find a hotel room. Not that it's a big deal; if there is one thing the NYC area has, it's hotel rooms. That said, you might want to shy away from getting a room in Manhattan. They are pricey, small and, oh, did I mention pricey?

Some of you may have hotel rooms reserved, but if you don't and you want to save some dough, you might want to think about booking a room in New Jersey. I know what you're thinking...New Jersey? What a desolate place this is! Well, if sleeping someplace desolate helps you save some coin for a second or third viewing of "Revenge of the Sith," then why not?

A room in nearby Jersey City goes for about \$67 a night. Sadly, none of the hotels I perused serves droids or lists blue milk on the room service menu. From the hotel, you can walk to the PATH trains, which will take you to 33rd Street in Manhattan. From there you can take the **N, R, Q, or W** trains, from the 34th Street Station up to 57th Street and 7th Avenue. Walk three blocks down and one block over (just listen to the sounds of lightsabers clashing, or more specifically, people *making the sound* of lightsabers clashing). That's one option of many.

Another option for a bed might be to check out the number of hostels in the city. Believe me, there are plenty around and most can fit four people on the low end and ten-plus on the high end in a room. Prices are usually between \$25 and \$75 a night; you'll pay more for hostels closer to Midtown, private rooms and a rooms with private bath. If you're not afraid of a little communal living, you can really economize. At the very least a hostel is a good option if you just need a break for

a few hours and want to squeeze in a hot shower. For more information on New York City hostels, check out <http://www.hostels.com/us.ny.ny.html>.

**Etc...**

For you sports fans, the **Yankees** are away during the week of the premiere, but the **Mets** play at home. For those of you who will be in town for the weekend after the premiere, a special treat...THE SUBWAY SERIES. That's right, the Galactic Civil War of NYC will take place when the Mets and Yankees meet up May 20, 21 & 22 at Shea Stadium in Queens.

If you are looking for something a little less loud and sweaty, I highly recommend the Museum of Radio and Television. Located only two blocks away from the Zieg at 25 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> St., it has become one of the most visited attractions in the city. More information can be found at <http://www.mtr.org/>. During the month of July, the museum will be screening "The *IN*-complete History of Monty Python's Flying Circus" which coincides with the Broadway premiere of the new musical "Spamalot."

There are of course, the regular attractions of New York City. The Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Museum of Natural History/Hayden Planetarium, Central Park, etc. If I had to pick my absolute favorite? I'd have to say the Intrepid. It's the Navy's equivalent of a Star Destroyer, parked right along the Hudson River along the West 50s and very easy to get to – just start walking west until you see the big boat!

All of this assumes you *have* free time during your stay. Remember, you've made a commitment to the NYLine order, a commitment not easily broken. But if you feel the need for adventure, the biggest thing to keep in your head is to *not* be intimidated. Know where you want to go before you begin your journey, and don't be afraid to ask the subway attendants for direction – they will be more than happy to help you (even though they might not appear to). Remember, there *are* alternatives to fighting and, most importantly, do not fear – we all know where that leads... 🍷

## Does This Cape Clash With My Lightsaber? Being Fashion-Forward on the NYLine

By Karen Grenke

**You've got your MetroCard, water, snacks, sleeping bag, inflatable chair... You're ready for the line. But something's missing. What could it be? Threads, sweeties! Not just clothes, but the right clothes – cool and occasion-appropriate. It is New York City, after all. And it's not just New York, it's "Star Wars." Get out your checklist and make sure you're prepared.**

First, we need to keep the weather in mind. Weather. Ugh... the bane of any fashionista's life. Here we run into the curse of 54th Street. Cuz the weather can be... shall we say *different* on 54th Street. Let's put it this way – it's a friggin' wind tunnel. Even when it's delightfully warm elsewhere, 54th Street will be colder. So bring a jacket. What kind? Packable. Waterproof. Black, so as not to clash with your other fashion-forward items. Black goes with everything, right? Just ask any Sith Lord.

Footwear comes next. Think comfy, sweeties. This is not the time for stilettos, and trust me, I would know. How about some Darth Maul inspired black and red sneakers? You know, the slipper style numbers? (They were inspired by Darth Maul, right? I swear. Or perhaps I just have "Star Wars" on the brain).

Now, as to the actual ensembles: obviously you'll need a range of rockin' "Star Wars" T-shirts. If you have past NYLine T's, bring 'em on out! What about picking up some fab new John Green designed T's at CafePress (<http://www.cafepress.com/nyline.nylineb.nylinec>)? Now that's hot! And girls, get the ladies T's – trust me baggy is out this year.

Here's a little tip especially for the gentlemen: look at your T-shirt – where are the shoulders? Are they **BELOW** your actual shoulders? If so, you're wearing a size too big. Size down, my friend. The ladies will love you for it, I promise. This whole baggy shirt thing makes me crazy, but maybe that's just me. I'm old. I know those young whippersnappers like the big sizes, but pretty please? You're not a hip-hop star. Or maybe you are. If you are, wear 'em big. Fine.


Let's talk bottoms next. No, not those kind of bottoms. Get your mind out of the gutter, silly! Chic and functional jeans are good. Perhaps a pair of shorts when it's magically warm. Us women-folk can spice things up with

a skirt or two. For the daring – try layering a skirt over your jeans. You look awesome, baby!

Now some of you are coming straight to the line from work. I have one word for you: change. NYLine is your time to relax and have fun, so ditch that suit, honey. And no necktie headbands.

For my final note: remember you most likely will be on camera at some point. Your best friends, co-workers, Mom and some ex you haven't seen in forever will inevitably see you, so wear what

you'd want to be seen in. Frankly, dress for that ex and show 'em what they're missing. The press loves to talk to us all when we're wearing something "Star Wars," so if that's your bag, go for it! But don't forget to talk about The Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. I kid. Actually I don't – give the kids some love.

Speaking of love, I say all of this with love. Love, people. We're here to have a blast and raise some cash, so be comfy, be happy and, above all, be stylish! May the Fashion-Forward be with you! 

MAN!  
54TH STREET  
IS COLD!




### Your Destiny Awaits

*Continued from page 1*

with the time you spend on the line to calculate your spot when we enter the Ziegfeld for the midnight premiere of "Revenge of the Sith."

You won't be alone in your fund-raising efforts. In addition to the Stand-A-Thon and the cups we'll use to gather cash donations from the curious masses who pass the line, we've found another way to raise money for this very worthy cause. NYLine has collected a unique array of "Star Wars" and NYLine memorabilia that Starlight is auctioning via eBay through May 17. From the NYLine Liberty Jedi custom-built completely from Lego by artist Nathan Sawaya to an embroidered "Episode III" shirt for Lucasfilm VIPs donated by Steve Sansweet, each item for sale is special way of commemorating NYLine and the final film in the "Star Wars" saga. All proceeds from the auction and your fund-raising efforts will go towards Starlight Fun Centers for NYC hospitals, thereby turning our "Episode III" experience into a lasting gift for children throughout the area.

As a final note before packing up and heading over to the Ziegfeld, this marks the last issue of the newsletter until after the line. For updates between now and May 19, be sure to check our Web site. When we've watched "Revenge of the Sith" to our heart's content and recovered fully from the line, we'll be back to wrap things up with a final issue of the Clone sometime this summer. From everybody at NYLine, thank you for your interest or participation in the line, and we look forward to seeing you on the sidewalk over the next three weeks! 

Art by John P. Green



## You Gotta Amit...

### Jira, Angelina Jolie and Cheetara's Shift 29 Tent Secrets? You *Must* Be Joking!

By Amit Saxena

**So... You've finally made it to the line. After months of physical and emotional preparation, and several tests of your spirit at local tree-caves, you find yourself standing on the pavement outside the Ziegfeld, ready to face the trials... Hey, how ya doin? Welcome home!**

If you're a first-time NYLiner, it might be a little overwhelming to take this first step into our much larger world. Like Luke walking into the cantina you may be taken aback initially by creatures large and small, laughing and sharing stories. Please accept my apologies if at first everything you hear on the line sounds like Geonosian clicks and whistles. Sometimes we forget that over the past six years, many have developed what may seem like our own special language. After sharing numerous memories and inside jokes, I can see why someone new to the family might get a little overwhelmed by casual references to "string finger" or "Chez Dagobah." Allow me to be your protocol droid, fluent in some ridiculous number of communications. Together we'll try to shed light on some NYLine history and ensure that nobody feels left out after arriving on 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Of course my sound effects aren't up to snuff, and I'd never be able to tell all of our stories, but here's a short list to serve as a primer!

**Yomega Yo-Yo's:** In 1999, one of our sponsors was the famous yo-yo company, and its High Performance Yo-Yo team of Dan, Eli, and Ryan was on-hand daily to teach us the art of the Yo and hand out free samples to every member. What started out as a passing interest quickly dominated our destiny, consuming us and leaving many a line member with the dreaded "string finger" from non-stop yo-yo sleep-offs.

**Jira:** We've had a most impressive array of celebrities pass by the line in its 6-year history – Paul McCartney, Martin Sheen, Spike Lee, Kevin J. Anderson, Lee Goldberg, Tia and Tamara Mowri, Kevin Smith, and so on. But one sticks out to me, and that would be Margaret Towner, who stopped by in '99, told us she was in "Episode I," but didn't say as whom. When I found out that she was Jira, I realized it's a good thing I hadn't

known, or I might have fainted right there!!

**The Roach:** The gang sits down at a deli in the general vicinity of the Zieg, ravenous, and orders food. When Karen Grenke's comes, a large roach crawls out of her burger and onto her salad. She looks at the roach, the roach looks at her. Pause. She screams. Loudly. We all promptly leave said deli and our legal counsel Vinny Terrasi argues all lawyer-like with the staff. Have we been back? Umm...eww. And if you hear a collective screaming "NOOO!!" when you say you're going to a deli around the corner and down the street, now you know why.

**Movie Premieres:** During both previous lines, at one point we've had to break down camp to allow the Ziegfeld to roll out the red carpet for star-studded premieres. As we stood by and tapped our watches, wondering when we could finish that game of "Star Wars" Monopoly, the likes of Julia Roberts and Richard Gere strolled past to promote "Knotting Hill" in '99 and "Unfaithful" in 2002. Ahh, we were used to the cameras already.

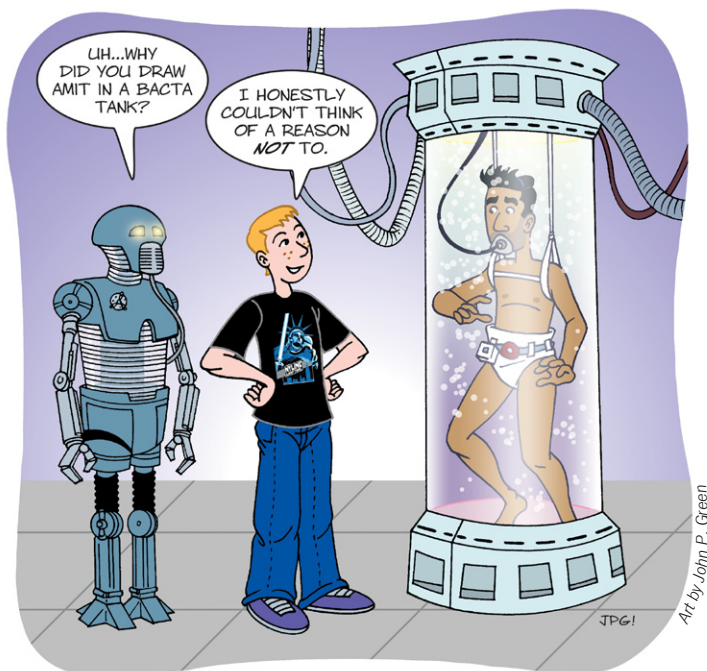
**Birds:** In '99, the day before the "Episode I" line, a bird crapped on my jacket. In '02, during the line, a bird crapped on my Mets hat. In my experience there's no such thing as luck. But it's supposedly good to be baptized in this way, and I think the success of both lines proves it. Still... I've been doing my best not to look up this year.

**Death Star Bellies:** Back in '02, our own Jewels Green was pregnant with the now brilliant and adorable AJ Green. Jewels is always a huge nerd, but back then she was a REALLY huge nerd – so much so that the only logical thing to do with her belly was paint the Death Star on it. So John Patrick Green did, and at least 15 people followed by making comments like "look at the size of that thing!" Will the dreaded second Death Star put in an appearance this year? Yup... she's pregnant again!

**Shift 29:** The first-ever overnight shift on the NYLine in 1999 was a memorable one...except nobody really can remember much about it. Coinciding with Suzanne Sousa's birthday, supposedly some interesting goings-on unfolded at a nearby pub, Faces and Names. I, of course, watched over the camp like a good astromech. Still, enough fun and merriment continued through the night that Matt Simantov named his video production company "Shift 29 Productions."

**"The Egyptian" or "Egg Cream":** The Hot Dog vendor who's always at his post in the area near the Ziegfeld.

*Continued on page 10*



**You Gotta Amit...***Continued from page 9*

Present for both lines, his bright smile would liven up the most tired member after three straight overnights. "MOOSTARD?? PEPZSI?? ZHANKYOUV. ERYMUSCH!"

**Our Home This Is!:** The NYLine camp has undergone many incarnations. In '99 we didn't have any tents, with the exception of a few tarps propped up by a broomstick. But we did have a van...we called it Echo Base and we'd update the Website and watch the "Episode I" tone poems in there. By '02, we had our canopy – Echo Base 2 at 139 W. 54<sup>th</sup> St. We also had another makeshift shelter that we used to keep ourselves dry when there was a lot of moisture (which was all of NYLine II), that we called Chez Dagobah. In addition, some members brought tents, which were often shared. Things went on in there that I don't know about...we call them "tent secrets."

**Rocky Horror Phantom Menace:**

When UGO staff members pulled up to the Ziegfeld in their amazing truck with built-in plasma screen to show us "Episode I" in the hours before the "Episode II" premiere, I don't think they envisioned having line members jump in front and act out the entire movie. But then, they don't know us very well, do they?

**Robert/Lincoln:** Always touchy subjects, but ones that we can probably discuss at length if so desired. Robert was an NYLine organizer in '99 who...kind of disappeared. At the same time some of our line stuff disappeared. Lincoln was the head of countingdown.com and ran the LA line in '99. He also... kind of disappeared. At the same time some other people's stuff disappeared. Or so it is said. It's a long story. If only we'd known back then to not let Gungans give emergency powers...

**Angelina Jolie:** In '99, the movie playing at the Ziegfeld as we waited for "Star Wars" was "Pushing Tin," which starred John Cusack and Angelina Jolie. In '02 "Life or Something Like It" was our warm-up act, featuring Edward Burns and the Tomb Raider. If anybody asks us what we're doing as they pass by the line, a common answer you might hear is, "We're just waiting for the Angelina Jolie movie."

**The Holiday Special:** A true NYLine

tradition, and the only time most of us will willingly subject ourselves to the 96 minutes of soul-sucking pain that is the "Star Wars" Holiday Special. It's a rite of passage, and the only way our members can get their padawan braids chopped off...if they make all the way through alive, of course.

**Line Mom:** At the heart of every home is a caring mother, and even Shmi herself would take a bow to our own Line Mom, Lynne Lipton. Not only would she bring us food, do our laundry and tape tributes to George Lucas that actually made it to the big man himself, but she was also the voice of Cheetara on TV's "Thundercats"!!

**Mars 2112 and Dallas BBQ:** These restaurants near Times Square vicinity are a part of NYLine history. In '99, Mars 2112 was a sponsor, and an entire legion of their most flamboyant aliens, dressed in fluorescent pinks and oranges, stopped by the line to soak up the media and bring us some Peanut Butter and Banana wraps for lunch. Dallas BBQ is a staple amongst line members and staff, dating back to the eve of the '99 line began. Be wary if you're looking for root beer and not excuses – if you're on the second floor, you might not get it, since the root beer fountain is located on the ground floor. A handful of us unofficially kicked off the '02 line there, and if tradition holds, we'll be back on April 29.

**The Bike Rack:** The symbolic head of the line, and a Ziegfeld staple. The bike rack will always be in our hearts as the representation of our home. In a way, we're all like the bikes, chained up to the rack, enjoying the view, ready to pedal into the theater when the time is right. In another way, it's just a cool bike rack that's always around.

**Whip It Out Wednesday:** In '99, a radio station had a little stunt going where women would drive around town and flash bystanders in the streets of NYC. They made it a point to drive by our line. Some of the people were, uh...well, think of Jabba's dancer who wasn't Oola. It was...educational.

**Epic Duels:** This board game was played religiously on the '02 line by many of our members. At one point, from the back of the line, Jon Simantov phoned his brother Matt who was at the front. He wanted to sign in for the next shift without

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getting up from the ongoing game.

**Star Wars Dating Game and Twister:**

Two ill-fated events from '99. The Dating Game was derailed more so by the absurdity of its premise than by our lack of social skills. Twister fell apart because in making the board, nobody realized that the colors were supposed to be aligned in rows. The board looked cool though; it had "Star Wars" characters on it!

**Spaghetti-O's:** Back when nobody knew of the legacy of our own "Yoda Dave," a.k.a. dexter, he first began making friends by sitting at the back of the '99 line and sharing the Spaghetti-O's he brought in a thermos. It would get mighty cold at times during the night, and that thermos came in handy more than R2-D2 in a sticky situation.

**Residue:** For each line, we demarcate our designated standing areas by putting down duct tape on the sidewalk. Over the course of three weeks, this tape becomes one with the concrete. When the time comes to remove the tape, the sidewalk retains its essence in the form of a sticky, visible residue. Whenever we pass the Ziegfeld after a line has finished, I can often be found with my face pressed up against the sidewalk in an attempt to "see the residue."

That's just a small sampling of the stories you'll hear referenced on the line. Rest assured, though - new inside jokes are created every day. Soon you will be the one putting together some strange amalgam of words incomprehensible to most, but meaning the world to anyone else who speaks NYLine III! 