

A Mark of Excellence

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Nadia Markalova

It's a movie for kids and young teenagers, sort of a "The Last Starfighter" thing. Still... I'll fill you in on the story.

Some evil guys from another planet came to Earth and set up life to... merely eat it when it grows large enough. Like we grow pigs and cattle to kill and eat later. But there is another life in the Universe that also came to Earth to protect the newly born life.

Anyway, the warriors for the good side died in a battle and their ship sunk into the sea. But their souls were free and flew away... to be reborn when the time comes in the bodies of two teenagers and an adult named Bob, who is played by Mark.

While the kids are trying to learn about themselves and the knowledge they possess, the adult is kept in a

madhouse (remember the Trickster?). The first sight of Mark in that madhouse outfit does remind one of the Trickster, though the character is completely different. The kids and the comic books' creator, who discovered the mad guy and stole



his story for his hit comic book, help their leader to escape from the madhouse. Sadly however, he's killed while trying to retrieve the spaceship from ever-dumb military forces. With the help of a not-so-dumb officer, they get their ship and lift off just in time to save our poor planet. They do so very well,

with that junky comics writer-artist replacing Mark.

We have some sort of expression in Russian, saying "It's good but too little" meaning "I liked it but it was not enough for me, I want more". In this case I want more of Mark, whose character is killed off 20 minutes after his initial appearance in the film. He was good as ever though. I think he is also narrating the opening story, I may be mistaken, though, as sound was dubbed.

Note:

Greenlight Entertainment has not answered any e-mail from us as to when and where 'Laserhawk' is being released. For some reason, this information is not on their website, either. We do have know that it is available on videotape in Russia, with commercials on television featuring it! It has also been released in Germany and the UK.

Notes from the Editors...

It has been a fairly quiet time this summer, for the fan club. A great relief to both of us, as our home lives were anything but! There are parts of July and August I would just as soon wish had never occurred, and would sooner forget about totally. Convincing a teenager that 'Space Cadet' is not a career option at this point is not an easy task.

One of the questions that we seem to be constantly asked is 'When and where will Mark be making a personal appearance or a guest at a con?' Due to work commitments, particularly concerning 'The Black Pearl', at this time Mark is NOT making any personal appearances or doing any cons.

Work on the new website continues to slowly go on.

The published one is still on the temporary site, www.tir.com/~rond/. Please remember that this is a small server and cannot handle heavy traffic, so this address may not be posted on any newsgroups or in any folders.

And by the way,

Happy Birthday,
Mark :-)

'Watchers Reborn' Is Out on Video!

Mark plays Detective Jack Murphy. He has basically wandered around in a haze for the past few years, stemming from when he was unable to rescue his wife and child from their burning home. Along with his partner, Gus, Jack is called out to investigate a rather grisly murder at the local zoo, and meets the female scientist?researcher?, Dr Grace Hudson, at the local research lab. Taking a walk, Jack finds a golden retriever, who has escaped from said research lab. Gus is adopted by the dog (those of us who have dogs know that this is how it goes, not us adopting the dogs <G>), and is later mysteriously killed. All clues point to something not human. Jack

takes the dog home, and subsequently realises the dog understands everything he says, and can write his name ('Einstein'), in gravy, on some newspaper. Yes, it gets better. <G> Jack calls Grace to come over and check out a wound Einstein has gotten. Leaving his house, Grace and her SUV get attacked by 'The Other'... Einstein's counterpart. She survives, and persuades Jack to stall for time with the local cops. They then semi-destroy the SUV, and head up to Jack's cabin, to hide out from the Feds, who are planning to capture The Other, and kill Einstein, Jack,

and Grace. (Told you it got better.) There is a bit of a twisted ending to the film, which I will not reveal. The movie is rather gory in parts—it wouldn't be a Corman film if it wasn't, right? So beware, if you are squeamish. I would definitely recommend seeing this video, if only to watch Mark's incredible facial expressions. As always, they speak volumes.



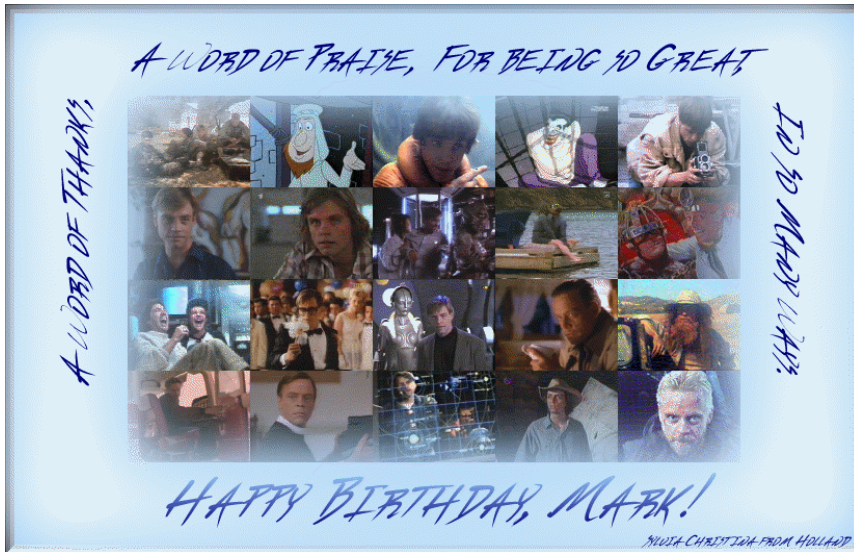


Happy Birthday, Mark!



Dear Mr. Hamill, I tried my best to come up with some sage wisdom (I'm a couple years older than you) but cannot beat a comment made by George Burns a few years ago. 'It isn't a matter of age, but experience and some are just more experienced than others.' The only thing I could possibly add would be forget the 'birthday' part and just concentrate on the HAPPY. All my best wishes to you and yours!

Sincerely,
Penny S. Holdren



Roses are red
Violets are blue
Here's a birthday kiss
From me to you!
XX Janet XX

Happiest and best returns of the day to my favorite, Mark Hamill! Long may you prosper! God bless you! Happy Birthday, Mark!

luv
pat
Pdh

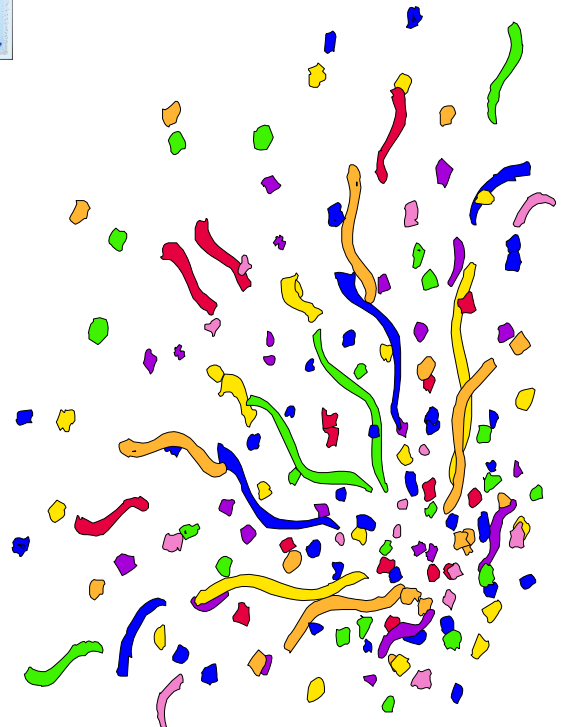
Dear Mark - all the best, luck and health - Christiane Struck

To One Terrific Person!!
Mark hope you have a GREAT DAY!!
Best Always and Thank you for all you have done and are going to do in the future! :-)

Louise Heckert

Wishing you a wonderful day,
full of simple joys - the kind of things
that make the fondest of memories.
And may it be shared with those you love most!

Happy Birthday!



Blast From the Past Michelle

Eric 1976

directed by James Goldstone
Based on Doris Lund's book about her son.

It is the story of Eric Swenson (*John Savage*), a star soccer athlete who discovers he has leukemia. Eric struggles with the disease and becomes determined to live his life to the fullest in the time he has left. Mark portrays Paul Swenson, Eric's younger brother. Early on we are given images to hint at a strong, positive relationship between the family, and between these brothers in particular. Paul even displays over his bed a poster of Eric, in a classic soccer action shot, so we can easily imagine he looks up to his older brother, almost as a hero. In the role of middle child Mark can be seen during brief segments of 'family moments' throughout the film. However, his prominent scene comes when Eric, while treating his brother to a stop at their favorite fast food drive in, finally admits to Paul that he has leukemia. In a very short period of time, Mark gives an outstanding performance as he displays the rampage of emotions that young Paul is experiencing. Shock, anger, pain, and even the first signs of realization for what lie ahead can be seen as Paul

bolts from the car, physically strikes out when Eric catches up with him, and then finally breaks down in his brother's arms, pleading between sobs, "Please don't die."



During the remainder of the story Mark has opportunity to give the viewer a glimpse of what it's like to be an older adolescent who has to face the fact he may lose his brother and friend. Mark does this very well. Paul is often seen offering support and comfort, however subtle it might be, to other members of the family. And his moments with Eric are always just the right mix of sincere affection and the slightly strained jocularity that sometimes comes in such tense situations.

As the story ends with Eric dying, Mark again fills the role of caring brother wonderfully. Simply telling Eric that he was "a wonderful brother, the best," Paul then offers a comforting embrace to their little sister - he'll have to be the stronger, older brother now.

THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO **1975: 'POISONED SNOW'**

'Snow' - just another word for heroin - white like snow but deadly.

Detective Turner and his girlfriend are working undercover in the junkie scene of San Francisco, trying hard to arrest of some of the dealers. Turner has to let his girlfriend investigate because he has a meeting with his ex-wife. She wants to talk with him about their son - Andrew (Mark). Andrew is causing his mother some trouble. He's not the best at school, and his mother doesn't like his 'friends'. She also complains that her ex-husband has too little time for Andrew, and asks him to talk with their son. Andrew stands a few steps away, playing with a small wooden piece. He can imagine what his parents are talking about. When his father is talking with him, it seems his thoughts are with his girlfriend. He believes all the lies and promises Andrew is telling him - especially about his 'cold' and why the boy needs money again.

Turner blames and accuses himself that it was his fault that his girlfriend got killed by a junkie while he had to deal with all these

family problems - that he wasn't at her side. His hatred for the dealers and junkies is growing with every minute. They are nothing more than dirt and garbage for him - worthless to live. So he plans his personal revenge by buying cyanide - a poison you actually use to kill rats - in a drugstore. He gets information where to find one of the dealers and that he has a charge of 'snow' hidden in his car. While his partner is hunting down the dealer, Turner has the time to mix the poison with the snow. Then he tells his partner there weren't any drugs in the car. A few days later the first junkies die, poisoned by cyanide. Stone and his partner are looking for the source for this. Dealers and junkies are scared - they, too, want to know the source. His rage and thoughts of revenge, combined with the loss of his girlfriend clouds Turner's mind more and more. Willingly he gives his son more money - only a bit surprised what he needs it for. Finally he finds the guy who shot his girlfriend - but he's already dead. He feels like the winner - that the guy got what he deserved. Only belatedly does he understand the message about his son. Andrew is on the way to the hospital - poisoned by cyanide. It takes him awhile till the truth breaks it's way into his clouded mind - that he

killed his son. And yet -the junkies are still garbage for him - including his son as his partner said. The winner and hero, Turner, though he was became the loser who lost all.



1976: 'INNOCENT NO MORE'

A gang of criminal youths pulls a series of robberies. During one of them an old lady dies of an heart attack. Two of the boys are caught fleeing the scene. One of them is Billy Clark (Mark Hamill), son of a rich builder. Lieutenant Stone (Karl Malden), is angry that these youth gang crimes are going unpunished by the Juvenile Court System, and growing more violent. So he decided to attempt to catch and try the entire gang as adults while the attorney of the Wilson's family is optimistic about getting Billy free as soon as possible.

The story focused on one of boys - Billy. He's an 16 year old innocent looking boy. The investigations provide a totally different picture of him: a life of violence against his classmates at school.

Stone allows bail for Billy while the other boy has to stay in prison, hoping Billy would lead the police unwillingly to the hideout of the rest of the gang to get them all - which he does. The captured youths, including Billy, are then prosecuted as adults for their crimes. The string of Billy's guitar finally breaks his neck even though his mother tried to protect him. And the husband of the killed old lady has to realise that he can't violence fight with violence because he tried to shoot Billy.

TV Guide summarises this episode as: "Stone (Karl Malden) pushes to get teenage gang members - who have made a mockery of the juvenile court - tried as adults."



It's hard to recognise Billy in the opening scene of the robbery because all of the boys are wearing masks. And it's even more difficult to believe that he's one of the gang. You see him as the neat and nice boy with that absolutely innocent look while talking politely with the policemen.

'Mark's Done *What?!?!'*

Suzanne Askey/MHArchives@aol.com

These past few months have been filled with new releases and repeats of a good deal of Mark's work. Unfortunately I still have very little luck in obtaining reliable information on Mark's current work. Even after contacting most the production companies of his various projects I have been able to find out very little... but this much I do know



"Wing Commander: Prophecy" continues to be available, look for it at a lower price than the original \$50. The Origin website at www.store.ea.com has more information.

"Hamilton" the Swedish action drama worldwide rights were optioned by Capella films, hopefully this will lead to a theatrical and/or video release in the United States. Mark's role as 'Hawkins', a vicious smuggler of nuclear weapons, who is trying to obtain them from the former Soviet



Union.

Mid- June, Mark was one of the guests on "Politically Incorrect".

".Com" continues to air on CNBC and BRAVO sporadically. New programs that were slated to air starting in April of 1998 were not shown as of this writing. One did air on September 5, 1998, unfortunately for me, I did not know about it in time to tape it. For information on the series and on "My Kids" also produced by the Fort Lauderdale based TV Interactive, and hosted by Mark, is on their very informative website at www.tviweb.com

The Batman/Superman Adventures are airing on both Cartoon Network and WB. Mark provides the voice of the Joker. The premiere episode entitled "The Batman/Superman Movie" that was shown on television as "The World's Finest" was released

to videocassette in late August. Look for it at MediaPlay.



The two episodes of "The Little Mermaid", that Mark lent his vocal talent to also aired this past July on the Disney channel.



August was also a month that saw Mark as a guest on The RuPaul Show. As of this writing I have not seen this interview of sorts but I can assume it was interesting.

The comic series "Lost Heroes" in which Mark has lent his likeness to is now available in a few select Comic shops.

Future Watch

The release of Wildstorm Productions "Gen 13" an original animated video. Voicing the character of Threshold, Mark completed voice-over work during the summer of 1996. This too was not released at the present time, but was shown at the Chicago ComicCon.



"Watchers 4" part of the Roger Corman Presents series on ShowTime was re-titled "Watcher Reborn" and was released direct to video in late July. Available as a special order through Suncoast video. Mark takes the role of a detective as well as co-produced the film. Note for the squeamish: bits of it are gory.



The animated "Sinbad: Beyond the Veil of Mists" is now in post-production, at present there is no scheduled release date.

Voice-over work on a feature Disney film that Mark worked on is also in post-production.

The CBS pilot "It's True", based on a comic book about a television show that reports on the paranormal, completed filming in March. Mark played the role of a set of twins and a grandmother. At present it does not appear to be airing this fall.

The motion picture "Laserhawk" is available on videotape in Europe..



"The Woody the Woodpecker Show" is set to debut in November of 1998 on the Fox Kids Network. This animated series will be updated and include 40 new episodes each containing three 7 minute shorts. Mark is voicing Buzz Buzzard.

Also in the works is a joint project with Bill Mumy of "Babylon 5". The script and concept, with a working title of "Outpost Omega", has been pitched and interest in the project is high. No further information is available.

"The Black Pearl", with it's rights optioned by Rehme last year in October, is also in the process of being offered to prospective producers. Available in Trade Paperback (ISBN # 1-56971-274-3) through Dark Horse publishers. Contact them at 1-800-862-0052 or at their website at www.dhorse.com.

Note:

Due to lack of interest, **Swap Corner** has been discontinued. Thanks to those that participated.

Trivia:

answer from last issue:

Mark's middle name is Richard.

New question:

Name another well-known actor who co-starred in 'Streets of San Francisco'.

(These questions are just for fun- please do not e-mail the answers to HdShroom! Thanks.)

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The Last Word...

A Mark of Excellence is the quarterly newsletter of the ***International Mark Hamill Fan Club***. Yearly dues are \$15 US, and include 4 consecutive issues of the newsletter, a membership card, and special mailings as appropriate. For more information, please send a SASE to:

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Submissions, including photos or original artwork, are welcomed; final editing is the discretion of the editors. If you wish your photo or artwork returned, please enclose a sase, and attach your name/address on the back of your submission.

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