

# A Mark of Excellence

Volume 2, Issue 2

25 December 1998

## 'Just Shoot Me!', 'Walking Across Egypt' to 'The Simpsons'...

Mark has been quite busy these past three months . Some of the projects he has worked on you may have already seen or heard on TV, others won't hit the shelves or screen until sometime in 1999.



Mark guest-starred on NBC's Tuesday night show, 'Just Shoot Me', playing himself . For those of us who may not be familiar with this series, each episode has at least 1 reference to the 'Star Wars' trilogy. One character, in particular, Finch, is a big fan. So when he goes into a local restaurant to pick up an order, and is told that Mark Hamill is right behind him, he goes into action. He immediately sidles over, pulls up a chair and insinuates himself in the conversation. Exasper-

ated at the continuing questions and interruptions, Mark finally blows, and Finch leaves—stealing Mark's fork at the same time.

The next day finds Mark at Finch's place of work, looking to apologise for the previous day's outburst. He spends the entire day following Finch around, constantly asking questions, and making a general nuisance of himself ('Tickle fight!'). Finch eventually erupts, then Mark quietly goes 'See?' And the answer to the ice cream question is 'Sorry, no. The Health Dept won't allow it.'



He did a voice-over on a recent 'The Simpsons' episode. Airing on 20 December,

'Mayored to the Mob' has Mark playing himself, Luke Skywalker and Nathan Detroit. How many of the



'in' jokes did you catch? Or the homage to Frank Nelson? Remember, 'Use the forks!'

November found Mark down in Orlando, working on the set of 'Walking Across Egypt'. Based on Clyde Edgerton's novel of the same name, he plays the uncle of Jonathan Taylor Thomas' character. Ellen Burstyn is also in it.. The director of this indie is Arthur Allan Seidelman, who has also directed 'Hercules in New York'. If you can, do

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## 'Just Shoot Me', 'Walking Across Egypt' to 'The Simpsons'

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read the book— and hope that the screenplay is a close adaptation!

While he was down there, Mark took time to place his handprints in cement at MGM Studios and did a brief question and answer session afterwards.

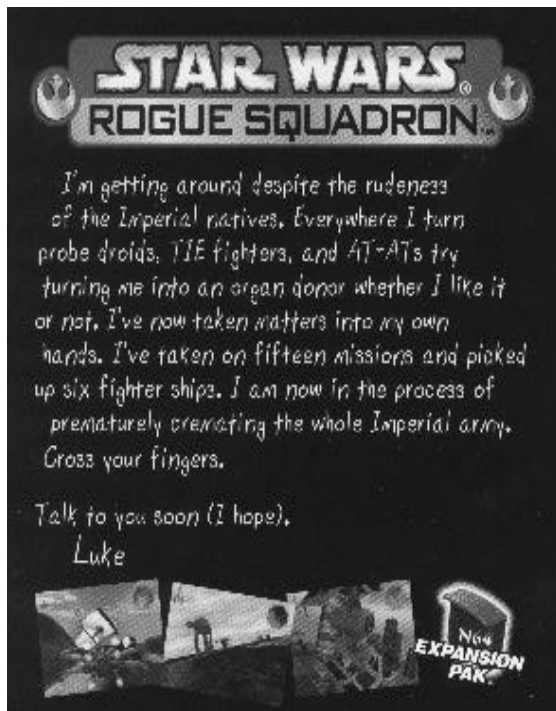
at the UCLA Medical Center. For six years now, the Starlight Foundation and Nintendo have teamed together to bring FunCenter units to over 600 hospitals worldwide, giving hospitalised kids a bit of distraction from the daily routine. To watch streaming video or hear an audio interview

with Mark, check out: [www.newstream.com/98-486.shtml](http://www.newstream.com/98-486.shtml)



Mark did voiceover work on the animated sequel to the film 'Prince of Egypt'. It will be a direct to video release.

When he has not been busy doing voice-overs, guest-starring roles, or on a shoot, Mark has been writing scenarios for the cd-rom game adaptation of 'The Black Pearl'. Unlike a movie, which is a linear progression, each scenario needs to have up to 8 different branches, depending on how the player has the character react to a given situation. Big time 'Choose Your Own Adventures'. Besides scripting several of the scenes, Mark will also be providing voices for some of the characters. Look for 'The Black Pearl' video game, by Access, to hit the software shelves sometime next October!



With the release of the new Nintendo 64/LucasArts game, 'Star Wars: Rogue Squadron', and in conjunction with the Starlight Foundation, Mark spent a good portion of 9 December

For the third year in a row, Mark will be participating in the 'Mark and Brian Christmas Show'. This dj team has, for a number of years, asked various celebrities to voice 1 or more characters in their performance of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Two years ago, I was told Mark gave a 'chilling' performance as the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Future. Last year, he was a wonderful Scrooge. He reprised his role of the 'Ghost of Christmas Future' in this year's rendition.

## Notes from the Editors...

Happy Holidays to all!

# Blast From the Past

Tina Lebelt

## MALLORY - CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

First shown: February 8, 1976



After an argument with his stubborn uncle, Joe Celli (Mark Hamill) takes off in his uncle's car - stopping to call his uncle to tell him that he has to live his own life now - he'll look for a job - that he already found a new apartment - that his uncle won't understand his reasons - that he had to leave -and that he only borrowed the car and will bring it back tomorrow. His uncle refused to listen; he wants to teach the boy a 'lesson'. Telling the police Joe had stolen his car, when Joe was stopped, he could not deny he was the driver... Joe is mistakenly put into a lock-up with hardened criminals. To them, Joe is too pretty. They don't believe that he has only stolen his uncle's car. They teach him that he's only a 'toy' there, still wet behind his ears, and that some

prisoners are attracted to him. They want more than just to watch him, making it very clear that he has to live with their 'rules'. They would even rape him if he should try to refuse - that he wouldn't have a chance because no one would help him - if that's the only chance for them to pay old debts. The boy needs a lawyer - so they put in an emergency call to Mallory (Raymond Burr) - he takes the job after some hesitation. His methods are a bit 'different' - it's not his attitude to give up - that got him some enemies. Mallory is one of the best lawyers and the Joe Celli's case would bring back his good reputation of the past - the fighter within him.

Unable to get the charge dropped, his first step is working to get Joe moved to a different cell. The day before Joe is moved, a fellow prisoner with old debts to pay traps him in a store room to make clear why he's in here and that he won't care to kill Joe if he should try to refuse again. In desperation, Joe fights back and strikes his assailant on the head with a clamp, killing him in self-defense. Mallory hears of that when he and Joe's uncle want to visit him in jail again. Only then does his uncle realize that he made a

mistake. Now he's willing to help Mallory - and his nephew Joe. After weeks of wheeling and dealing, Joe is cleared of the murder charge and released.

. Mark plays the part of this innocent, pretty boy who isn't as strong as his uncle believes he is - and yet he's strong in his own special way. There's changes in the character Mark plays - and he does it well. You believe the emotions - emotions of anguish shown on his face and in his eyes - being in his cell and hearing the voices of other prisoners - making their threats.

'Mallory' was a pilot for a TV show starring Raymond Burr.

## THE MAGICIAN - LIGHTNING ON A DRY DAY

First aired: October 30, 1973 , NBC

The opening scene of this episode is showing Ian



Keefer (Mark Hamill) lying asleep on his bed in a hospital room - and then woken up by laughter and applause. He gets up to search the psychiatric clinic for the source of these noises. A magician is performing a few tricks for some of the patients. Ian is watching all through the door's windows. His smiles shows that he's enjoying the show until the Magician (Bill Bixby) makes a woman disappear in a burst of flames. Suddenly Ian goes crazy - yelling and screaming hysterically and not able to tell why he reacts this way. The nurses and the doctor have a hard time soothing the boy - making him touch the woman he thought had died in the burst of flames he witnessed.

The Magician, Anthony Blake, learns that the boy was found two weeks earlier walking in the countryside unable to speak, no reaction to anyone or anything - except fire - fire that makes him hysterical. Tony Blake wants to help find answers to the boy's strange behavior. His task leads him to Elm Ridge where Ian was found. The folks there are hostile to him - destroying the tires of his car and the car's phone. Only the sheriff offers some help after some hesitation. Then he discovers the charred driver's license of an FBI agent in the ashes of a

burnt barn near the town. By now Ian has escaped the hospital - trying to meet Tony Blake. Tony asked him to tell him about the barn fire - which makes the boy hysteri-



cal again, weeping. Then he starts telling that he saw a man who burnt alive in the barn. Together with the sheriff and his daughter, they learn about a lady who started a laboratory in the cellar of her house, producing a kind of a drug for preventing aging. The drug has a side effect: it has already killed sixteen people. The FBI agent investigating the deaths was lured into the barn and killed by accomplices of the lady - right before Ian's eyes who was hiding in there. To get the lady into jail and the two teenagers back - the sheriff and Blake had sent them accidentally to the old lady thinking they'd be safe there - Tony had to perform some tricks of his magic with the help of the sheriff. Knowing the source for Ian's trauma the doctor can help and cure him so that he can return to normal life soon.

## **BRONK: LINE OF FIRE**

First aired: November 9, 1975, CBS

The episode begins with several teenage boys robbing a supermarket. They escape with a car and run over and kill a boy working for the supermarket. The investigator in this case is Bronk (Jack Palance). During the investigation they find a piece of red fabric under the car the teenagers fled with, which belongs to the shirt the dead boy was wearing. Then Bronk learns that the car belongs to a policeman - his former partner and friend - Frank (Eugene Roche) who has two sons - Kevin (Mark Hamill) and Ron (David Hall). Kevin is about fifteen years old, Ron about eighteen. The two boys are very close particularly since their mother died. Their father doesn't have enough time for the boys because of his job. In the garage Kevin finds a bundle of fabric with money inside, and realizes that his older brother is robbing supermarkets. He knows that a boy got killed and that his brother is responsible for this. But he keeps his mouth shut - he loves his brother - he just can't tell their father. Frank finds out about it anyway and confronts Ron. After an argument, Ron runs away, and Kevin tries to explain that Ron is a good boy.

Later, when Ron calls Kevin asking him to bring him the stolen money, Kevin hesitantly agrees, knowing where the money is hidden. As he is about to leave the house, his father arrives. Frank pleads to tell him where Ron is hiding - but can Kevin betray his beloved older brother? What will happen if another policeman finds Ron? The thought that his brother could get hurt or even killed convinces Kevin. Crying, he sags into his father's arms and tells him all he knows. Leaving Kevin at home, Bronk and Frank start their search. When they find him Ron shoots first and wounds his father. He tries to shoot again but Bronk, who took the back entrance, has to shoot, too, trying to save Frank's life. He killed Ron. Bronk visits Frank in the hospital - Kevin is also there because his father is now the only family member he has. He has to leave the room when Bronk enters - he just can't forgive that Bronk killed his brother. Bronk tells Frank that he can be happy to have a son like Kevin. Frank knows he would have done the same to save Bronk's life, but he can no longer work as a policeman. When Bronk leaves, Kevin comes back in - and in the final scene he sits down on the bed and holds his fathers hand.

## Future Watch

While a recent issue of the *Star Wars Insider* reports Mark has lent his voice to the animation remake of "Voltron", this is **not** true. He has done the voice of Uncle Frank for a new series, 'Stevie Stardust'. No info as to when it will air or what station will carry it.

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 has not been released at the present time.

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

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. As of this writing it does not appear it will be picked up for airing this spring.

"The Woody the Woodpecker Show" was to debut in November of 1998 on the Fox Kids Network. I have not received any reply to my inquiries to Fox as to why it has not. This animated series was to be updated and include 40 new

episodes each containing three 7-minute shorts. Mark will be providing voices to some of the characters.

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 there has been some interest in the project. 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](http://www.dhorse.com).

## End Hunger

One of our members was kind enough to send a photo of the t-shirt Mark designed for End Hunger. Look for their new website to be up by the end of January, at [www.angelwear.com](http://www.angelwear.com)



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

*Suzanne Askey/MHArchives*

These past few months have been hectic here and why the Head Shroom puts up with me I have not a clue.... This article was handed in so late...but on to what is new.

As always information is still hard to come by when it comes to Mark's work...but this much we can report:



"Wing Commander: Prophecy" the Collectors Edition in new packaging featuring some stills of Mark as Col. Blair is available. The Origin website at [www.store.ea.com](http://www.store.ea.com) has more information and some game demos available for download.



No news on "Hamilton" the Swedish action drama whose worldwide

rights were optioned by Capella films.

".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. The last episode I know that has aired was on September 5, 1998. I contacted TVI numerous times in the past year for information, but unfortunately they have never sent me the materials they promised. 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](http://www.tviweb.com)



Two episodes of "The Little Mermaid", that Mark lent his vocal talent to, re-aired this past October on the Disney channel.

The Batman/Superman Adventures are airing on both Cartoon Network and WB. Mark provides the voice of the Joker.

Mark was also an occasional guest on "Politically Incorrect".

"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.



Mark appeared as himself on the December 20<sup>th</sup> episode of "The Simpsons". The episode "Mayored to the Mob" featured Homer as Mayor Quimby's new body guard.



Appearing as himself on the November 24<sup>th</sup> episode of "Just shoot Me", Mark gave a very interesting portrayal of someone who was tired of being bothered by fans.

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

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*Hmmm... let's see: pretzels dipped, truffles rolled, twins taken home, 16 year old dropped off at work, can drop 17 year old at work on my way to work, 19 year old studying Japanese not video games, 1 jacket sewn, other still needs zipper, don't have to be at work for another hour.... Yeah, I can do it! E-mail checking time....*

We are still working at moving the website, and clearing up a few administrative details. It's difficult to mesh schedules, particularly at this time of year. We've decided on where we want to host the website, not an easy task. Specific criteria needed to be matched, including the ability to add more space to the site as needed. With all the projects Mark is working on, this is a major concern! The ability to set up a password-only area was a second necessary item. Another was the amount of traffic before we are zapped with a surcharge. A slight concern now, once the website is again accessible through [www.markhamill.com](http://www.markhamill.com), it could be a big problem.

When there is time, I have been working on a complete revision of the site. While not totally overhauled, it is now at the point where it can be published once we are on the new server. For now, you can access the current website at [www.tir.com/~rond/](http://www.tir.com/~rond/) Please remember that this URL is on a very small server, and therefore may NOT be posted in ANY folders or message boards! I've noticed that some people have forgotten this request. If you have a message board and someone posts this info, please take it down ASAP. When the site is transferred, there will be a notice and link put up on the current page.

Now for some questions....

- ♦ **Will Mark be in the prequels?**  
Nope, but his older son, Nathan, is in the first one.
- ♦ **Is he going to be at the official con in Denver next April? Is he going to be doing any cons or personal appearances in \_\_\_\_\_?**  
Sorry, at this time Mark is not doing any personal

appearances or cons. Keep checking the website for updates.

- ♦ **Can Mark write me back/be my penfriend/e-mail friend?**  
Unfortunately, due to his work schedule, Mark does not have time to personally respond to all the mail he receives.
- ♦ **Is Mark right or left-handed?**  
Left. In the various light-sabre duels, **Luke** fights right-handed because it is far easier to choreograph and shoot two right-handers dueling than a 'righty' and a 'lefty'. Trust me on this one.
- ♦ **I really want to be in 'The Black Pearl'! When is Mark going to hold casting calls?**  
Not for a while. The screenplay is being pitched, and interest is high. Currently, Mark is working on 'The Black Pearl' video game.
- ♦ **How tall is Mark?**  
Tall enough to fit into his clothes.

See you online!

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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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