

# *A Mark of Excellence*

Volume 5 Issue 1



25 September 2001

**With best wishes,  
from your many fans world-wide,  
Happy Birthday, Mark!**



# 'Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back'

*Billy Williams*

**Warning:**  
**SPOILER ALERT!!**

Despite the obvious parallel in the title and logo with "The Empire Strikes Back", I went to this movie without knowing that Mark was in it. (My teenage son talked me into going). The film is full of gross and crude humor, which may appeal to you or turn you off...very few will be neutral.

The title heroes are parodied in a comic (graphic novel) as Bluntman and Chronic. When they learn that a movie will be made of their characters, that they will not share in the earnings, and that they are being ill spoken of on the internet movie chat, they set off...with no money... for Hollywood, intending to stop the film. After many adventures along the way, including an encounter with Carrie Fisher, they arrive at Miramax Studios.

After being chased all around the studio, they manage to switch places with the actors portraying their characters, who are hauled away by the guards



and officers who have been chasing Jay and Silent Bob. Then, during a take on this movie within a movie, Mark makes his entrance as Bluntman and Chronic's enemy, Cock Knocker. There ensues, of all things, a lightsabre battle, during which it appears that Mark still has all his quickness and agility from his "Star Wars" days...even as he warns his adversaries "not to fool with a Jedi Master". Indeed, it becomes obvious that Mark really enjoyed playing this part, or just put everything into doing his best work, or both. Unfortunately, from his character's viewpoint, he eventually loses the battle to an inspired Jay. More importantly, he loses his hand (where have we seen that before?) , and the way

he says "not again" before he storms back to his room gave me my best laugh of the movie.

Evidently, Kevin Smith, who wrote, directed, and starred in the movie as Silent Bob...felt this scene to be so impor-

tant that he announced Mark's entrance on the screen in bold writing..."Hey kids, it's Mark Hamill" so all would know right away. Mark's costume indeed bore little resemblance to Luke Skywalker, but as the scene went on, I honestly think I would have done more than just suspect it was Mark. The point is, if this movie was made for laughs, Mark's scene had the best in my opinion. I think it was because, big or small, Mark works at being the best he can be.

For the movie as a whole.. well, I would prefer the inspiration of "Walking Across Egypt", but then where would we be without some good laughs?

## Blast From the Past

### Amadeus

#### Touring Company:

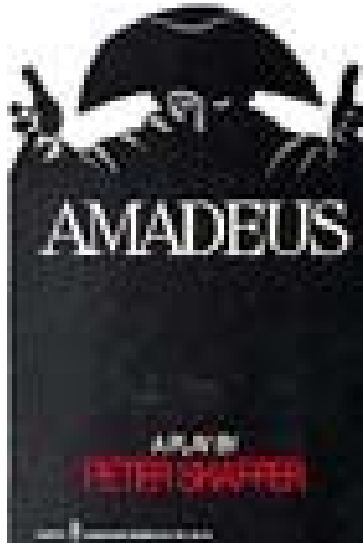
9 Dec 1982– 27 April '83  
 Played Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Baltimore Approximately 300 performances

#### Broadway:

28 April 1983– 1 Aug '83  
 Broadhurst Theatre  
 109 performances  
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Peter Shaffer's award winning play is based on the relationship between Mozart and Antonio Salieri. In later life, Salieri claimed to have killed Mozart with poison. The two act play focuses on the period between 1781 and 1791, from Salieri's point of view.

Mark originally tried out for the New York company of 'Amadeus', and was put on stand-by. Peter Firth was able to get his green card. Mark was offered, and accepted, the lead in 'Elephant Man'. The producers kept him in mind, and when the part of



Amadeus opened up in the touring company, Mark auditioned. He did approximately three hundred performances before being called to Broadway. He did another one hundred nine performances before the play closed.

Preparing for the role had Mark visiting Vienna, learning to play the piano, and reading biographies of Mozart, to get a sense of the foul-mouthed, immature genius.

To the apparent surprise of most critics reviewing the touring company's various openings, Mark put on a very creditable performance. As one put it, 'From his first swift entrance as the boisterous brat composer, he obliterates all "Star Wars" identification and becomes instead the very childish genius who Shaffer wishes to portray.'

Prior work commitments made Mark unavailable to be cast as Mozart in the film version of 'Amadeus'. The role was filled by Tom Hulce, who has said he based his Mozart on Mark's stage interpretation.



## TIME Squad



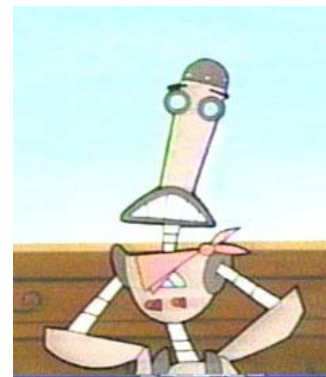
I was finally able to catch an episode of 'Time Squad', and in short, I'm out to get a new vcr that has a working timer! Two cartoons per half hour episode, I came in on the middle of the first, an alternate universe where Abe Lincoln ran around with his cabinet members, pulling pranks on people. Larry 3000 (Mark's character), Otto, a young boy voiced by Pamela Segall Adlon, and Officer Toddrussel (Rob Paulson) need to show him the error of his ways,

and get him back in line with history. Pulling a series of time-honoured pranks in quick succession, culminating in the delivery of a dozen anchovy pizzas, has Abe declaring 'I don't know what kind of sicko would do this'. The good guys talk with him, Abe thanks them, and tells them he'd never stopped to think what it was like for the victims of his shenanigans. He then declares he's off to pick up Mrs Lincoln 'and head over to the theatre for an evening of light entertainment.'

The second segment ends with Blackbeard and his pirates donating 10% of their pirating profits to saving the oceans and reef

relief. Blackbeard's parrot notes that 'Doing good is it's own reward.'

Grab a tape, set the vcr timer for Cartoon Network Friday nights 9 pm ET! This is definitely a good series- wonderful family watching together stuff. A bit of history, a moral at the end of the story, and good fun and laughs throughout.



## Future Watch

Mark has been busy with the final re-writes of his VIP episode. They were casting it earlier this month, and shooting was to start soon after.

A good reason to haunt the local comic shop: Mark is writing a Simpsons' 'Treehouse of Horror' for Bongo Comics.

"Thank You Goodnight" has made it out of post-production. Reports from an early screening are that Mark's the best thing in it! :)

And did you happen to catch Mark on 5 September's 'Politically Incorrect'? He was on along with Jane Chastain, Rev Al Sharp-

ton, and Aisha Tyler.



## *Notes From the Editor*

The events of 11 September 2001 continue to unfold as more information is found and released.

We hope you join with us in expressing our sincere sorrow. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the victims and survivors, as well as with those involved in the rescue efforts. Several of us have been directly affected by the attacks— a fortunate call in to work early, a decision to change plans, a relocation only days earlier.... Some of us are still waiting news on friends.

There are a number of charitable organizations accepting donations to help those in need, including one to send supplies of food, treats, and boots for the rescue dogs and other animals in need. The Gracie Foundation, 1627 Main St 7th Floor Kansas City MO 64108 or 1.888.535 DOGS M-F 8 am– 6 pm CT.

By now, I'm sure many of you have seen the new website is up and running. Many, many thanks to all who have contributed to it over the years. Special thanks to Tina for all her hard work in her free time. And to Jeannine, and Lynn for extra work done at the last minute. Things may not go smoothly, but we certainly had a few laughs along the way to getting it all accomplished. One can never say 'done' particularly with a website, so do keep checking back.

One of the changes we made concerns back issues of the newsletter. This issue not only celebrates Mark's birthday, but is a personal milestone for my former co-director Suzanne, and me. It was five years ago Labour Day weekend that we discussed with the Hamills, and subsequently took over, the running of Mark's previous sanctioned fan club. From the start, we both

agreed we would not try in any way to make money using Mark's name or the club. Membership dues have not been raised since we took over. They were, in fact, reduced, along with the slight name change.

With that in mind, at our meeting in May, the staff and I decided, commencing with Volume 5, Issue 1, whenever a new newsletter comes out, a corresponding old issue will be available for any and all to read in the general area on the website. Thus, Volume 1, Issue I is now accessible.

Continuing a tradition begun three years ago, on behalf of the IMHFC members, a donation in honour of Mark's birthday was made to **CHPHP (Children Helping Poor and Homeless People)**. This is Mark's charity of choice, and both he and his family have been involved with it for a number of years. Check out their website at [www.chphp.com](http://www.chphp.com)



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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, access to the fan club area on the website, and special mailings as appropriate.

Submissions, including photos or original artwork, are welcomed; final editing is the discretion of the editor. 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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