

A Mark of Excellence

Volume 5, Issue 4



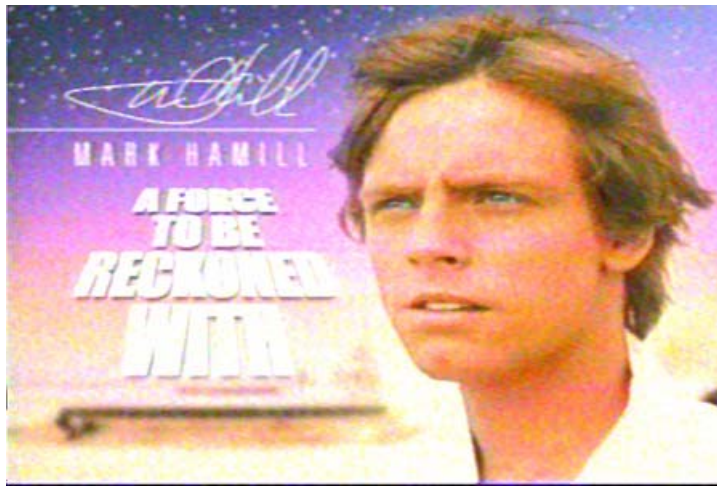
25 June 2002

Biography

On 21 May, 2002, Arts and Entertainment Network aired the *Biography* episode on Mark.

The current *Biography* shows are done with the knowledge and cooperation of the celebrity being spotlighted.

Featuring some family photos and video, along with interviews with family and fellow actors, Mark's episode was well done. Eric Johnson, cousin and co-author of 'The Black Pearl', offered glimpses of their childhood, and what Mark would get up to. And the photos were great. I loved the cowboy outfit :)



However, it was the segments with Linda Blair, Christine Ebersole, and Annie Potts each talking about working with Mark, that I particularly enjoyed. George Lucas added a few interesting comments as well.

But this episode did not just concentrate on Mark's past career highlights. Time was also devoted to several upcoming projects, including a fascinating one titled '*Monsters Wanted*'. Mark is producing, directing, and providing voices for several characters in this project, set to air on AMC in October 2002.

Overall, I feel this *Biography* episode was well-done. It being first aired during their '*Star*

Wars' week, there was a bit of emphasis on this particular part of Mark's very diverse career, but not to the point of overwhelming the program or being the focal point of the program. Mention was made of the car accident which occurred after principal shooting of '*Star Wars*' was completed. It was handled nicely, no sensationalism or undue emphasis on it.



As Snoopy in 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown'

Notes From the Editor

Members who check out the fan club members-only area on the website have no doubt noticed that it has not been updated for a while. In our increasingly spare time, we are slowly working to remedy this, and are hoping to have more issues of the newsletter online within the next several weeks.

In the general area, we are planning some other additions, and are also debating about switching the message board to a registered one. Unfortunately, we have had a number of very snarky posts from people who hap-

pen on the site, and realize they can simply post, without having to register first. Thanks to those members who have helped 'police' the board, btw! While we attempt to delete these posts as soon as we can, a registered board would eliminate the time-consuming problem.

If there is any online member who does not have access to the members-only area, please e-mail HdShroom@aol.com, subject FC Area Access. Include your first and surname, your e-mail address (please

make sure your account is set up to receive e-mail from the fan club!) and a username consisting of up to 10 alpha-numeric characters. Both my ISP and the hosting service have had problems, and while I think I have restored everyone, I want to be sure.

Lastly, if you would like to send a short birthday wish to Mark for inclusion in the September newsletter, e-mail birthday wishes@markhamill.com or snail to the fc address, attn. Birthday Wishes.

Did You Catch?/Future Watch

Mark's episode of *'Biography'*? Or some of his more recent voiceovers? I heard one on *'Dexter's Lab'* the other day.

Mark was invited to be one of the guests at the *Star Wars Celebration II*, held in Indianapolis 3-5 May 2002. He declined, due to a previous commitment. It seems he was going to be in Oakland, CA on 4th May, along with several other invited

guests.

As part of Oakland's 150th Anniversary Celebration, Mayor Jerry Brown presented Mark with a 'Key to Creativity' award on Saturday, 4th May. He was chosen to receive this award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the performing arts. Congratulations, Mark!

If you get Animal Planet channel, Mark has narrated

a documentary on bears. Look for *'Lynn Rogers: The Man Who Walks with Bears'*.

Have you wandered over to MSN's website to *'Outsmart'* Mark yet?

Remember to keep a lookout for Mark's appearance on a new episode of *'Son of the Beach'*.

Blast From the Past

In 1986, Mark participated in a number of charity events. Two notable ones were the Hands Across America Rally, on 25 May, and the Jerry Lewis Labour Day Weekend Telethon. He was part of the opening day activities for Captain EO, at Disneyland, and was one of the celebrities in the Broadway Applauds Lincoln Centre. He also recorded 'Norby, the Mixed-Up Robot' for Caedmon Records, doing all the character voices himself.

He played the producer Gordon Miller in the revival of farce, *'Room Service'*, at the off-Broadway Roundabout Theatre.

Miller is desperately wanting to put on the play *'Godspeed'* (the history of America as seen through the eyes of a Polish immigrant). He has the director, and the cast, and the venue, a theatre in a Times Square hotel. What he lacks is a backer.

Along with the budding playwright, they are all ensconced in the White Way Hotel, with Gordon trying to find ways to avoid them all

being evicted. His brother-in-law, Joseph Gribble, is the hotel manager, and is anxious that the \$1200 hotel bill be paid. It seems a hotel investigator is on his way to find out why all this free-loading is going on. The bill is that high because, lacking money for food, Miller happens on the idea of using room service for meals. Again and again. Of course, this avenue dries up when it becomes apparent the bill cannot be paid.

In trying to stave off the omnipresent threat of being evicted, Miller resorts to embroidering on the truth, hocking other people's belongings, including two stuffed owls and a moosehead, using a stopped cheque for funds, and having someone fake their own death.

One of the funniest scenes in the play is, after eighteen hours without food, they manage to nab a breakfast meant for someone else. At breakneck speed, Gordon, the director, Harry, and the playwright, Leo, consume the food with absolute lack of table manners. Leo chugs

down a pitcher of milk.

In order to get out of their hotel room, now being guarded, Gordon decides that Leo needs to be sick enough to need to go to hospital. Leo fakes a suicide attempt, and the man from the collection agency panics when coming on the scene. Thinking Leo took poison, and not wanting adverse publicity, Wagner declares they will try the usual poison remedies. Nothing seems to work, Wagner is about to ring the police, when Leo suddenly makes a dash to the bathroom. Shock all around. Miller accuses Wagner of making Leo ill.

The play ends with a board member coming in, who loves the play, and wants it to run for a good long time. Wagner is promoted to the Boston branch of the agency, Gribble is likewise promoted, and Miller and all associates, including the cast, can stay on at the hotel.



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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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