

A Mark of Excellence

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Happy Birthday, Mark!



SON OF THE BEACH

Susan Young

Mark returned on September 17, 2002 in a new episode of *Son of the Beach*, titled 'Taco Lips Now'.

Mark has appeared in two previous episodes of the show produced by Howard Stern, guest starring as Rod Petrie, aka The Divine Rod. This time around, Ron has shed his cult leader robes for

a three-piece suit.



After the show's hero, Notch Johnson (Timothy Stack) is discovered to have been involved with the bombing of a village during the Vietnam War, he is arrested and put on trial for the crime. Although assured by his Colonel at the time (Lee Majors)

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that the village had no 'little children' or 'hot Asian women', Notch continues to have nightmares and flashbacks about the episode. He refuses to talk about the attack to his SPF-30 lifeguard crew and insists on representing himself at the trial.

Entering the courtroom with a swing of double doors, Mark as Rod announces himself as the prosecuting attorney.



'The Divine Rod!' Notch exclaims, 'but you're a master criminal, a pornographer, and a sex fiend!'

'Yeah, well now I'm a lawyer...' Rod tells him.

'Just when I thought you couldn't sink any lower!'

Rod explains that while in prison he learned how to be a lawyer from the best, as his cell was next to F Lee Bailey's. Rod then proceeds to make his case to the jury. Showing both the confidence of a top-notch attorney and the conviction of a one-time evangelical cult-leader, Rod declares Notch to be guilty of war-time atrocities and a 'Full Metal Jacka\$\$'.

Calling a Vietnamese woman (who's name Mark delivers with hilarious accent and precision) to the stand, Rod uncovers that Notch not only bombed her village, but also 'eat her Schnauzer and eat it good'.

The prosecution rests and although Notch questions himself into exhaustion, he's no match for Rod and the charges brought against him.



As the judge sentences Notch to 600 years in prison, Rod cannot hide his glee and with parting words says, 'So long, Johnson! Now you'll know what it's like to be stuck in the can!' Maniacal laughter slightly reminiscent of the Joker follows Notch on his way out of the courtroom.



This episode was the first of a two-parter, and it's of course wonderful to see Mark back on *The Beach*! I only have 2 complaints: one, Mark's screen time was shorter than his previous guest-starring episodes and two, it does not look like he will appear in the concluding half.

Still, I look forward to part two since the truth must be known about what exactly happened to the village of Tam-Pon...

Period.

Did You Catch?/Future Watch

Mark has been very busy the past three months. On 12 July, an announcement was made that Mark would be replacing Rod Steiger in the independent feature film, 'Constricted'. Mr Steiger's role was that of a small-town funeral director. Most of the film was shot in Jefferson and Dodge counties, Wisconsin during the months of June and July, under the working title of 'No Tomorrow'. According to a spokesperson, the film could take between six months and a year before it is released.

The storyline of the movie revolves around a thirty-six year old man who returns to his hometown, to discover his father has apparently committed suicide. The funeral director begins to be-

lieve the suicide is actually murder, and suspects the son.



In August, Mark was at the San Diego ComicCon, filming segments for his independent fictional documentary. The working title is 'Comic Book: The Movie'. Contrary to many reports and articles, it is *not* a 'mockumentary'.

The plot involves a Midwestern school teacher, and his biography of a golden age comic book writer/artist. He created two comic book characters back in the 1940's, Commander Courage and Liberty Lad. Mark created and drew these characters, in the preliminary stages, with finished art by Bongo Comics, (which also does the Simpsons comics). Many of Mark's voice-over talent friends are in the film, including Gary Owens (*Space Ghost*), Jim Cummings (*Earthworm Jim, Winnie the Pooh*), Rob Paulson (*Pinky and the Brain*), and Billy West (*Ren and Stimpy*). If you're fortunate enough to get hold of a copy of *Comic Buyers' Guide*, there's a picture of Mark with Stan Lee, talking about 'CB:TM'. I've not been successful in locating this issue of *CBG*.

Notes from the Editor

As we have for the past three years, in honour of Mark's birthday, the fan club has made a donation to one of his favourite charities, Children Helping Poor and Homeless People (CHPHP). For more infor-

mation about CHPHP, check out their website at www.chphp.com

While the website hasn't reflected it yet, a good bit of work is being done 'behind the scenes'. Various areas

will be updated as time allows, both in the members-only and in the general areas.



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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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