

# A Mark of Excellence

Volume 7, Issue 1



25 September 2003

## Happy Birthday, Mark!



With all the great things happening for you now it looks like you already have life by the tail! Enjoy today to the fullest! — Kari

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARK!

Clearly this is a going to be a great year for all us fans, and I hope it is a fantastic year for you!

And, since Kari invited us to be silly, or sappy, or something like that, here's a few hugs and kisses!  
Xxxooo — Susan

Sending you my heartiest greetings and all the best on your birthday, Mark! You make the world sunny for me, really.  
Hug -- Simone

Wish I could give more, but I've got only this



Our best, our kindest, our cordial greetings from afar! — Markoman

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday!!! — Leia S

Many happy birthday wishes, Mark! And a huge 'thanks' for being the true main source of many of our vivid imaginations!

Definitely looking forward to your 'brainchild' CBTM in January and keeping my fingers crossed for that Tony award come next spring. — Ty

Happy Birthday, Mark!

I may forget the birthdays of fellow friends and family members, but somehow I always remember yours, Mark-May your birthday be a memorable one. Thank you for the wonderful work that you do each year. You've inspired me more than you'll know. Thank you — Jen

## Notes From the Editor

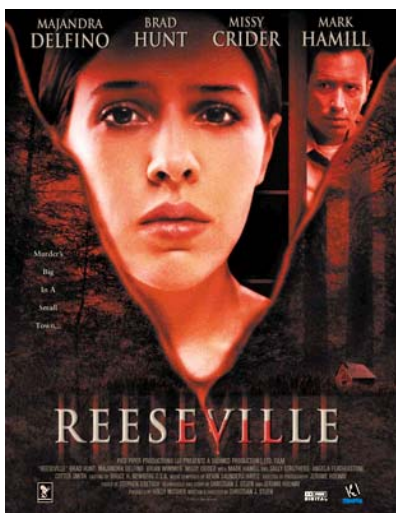
As we have done for the past few years, a donation in honour of Mark's birthday has been made to his charity of choice, CHPHP (Children Helping Poor and Homeless People). For more information about this organization, please visit their website, [www.chphp.com](http://www.chphp.com). In the

past, Mark has participated in a number of fund-raising events, including a celebrity mini-golf tournament. Happy Birthday, Mark!

And just a reminder, if you are planning to see 'Six Dance Lessons', particularly in the first couple of weeks

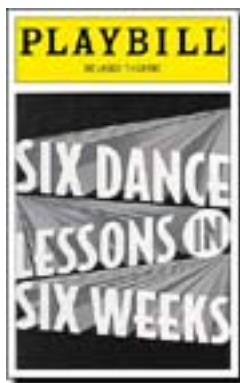
of the run, do post a note in the official thread on the website. I do go to NY often....

## Mark's Done What?!/Future Watch



Remember "Reeseville", the murder mystery flick in which Mark plays a coroner who suspects that the suicide of a local man is anything but? Earlier this year the film debuted at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, CA, where Mark's performance was hailed as "perfection". Breaking news is that 'Reeseville' will be the opening night film for the Milwaukee International Film Festival, 6 November 2003, 7.00 pm, at the landmark Oriental Theatre, 223 Farwell Avenue. The festival runs 6-16 November. For more information, go to [\[fest.org\]\(http://fest.org\).](http://milwaukeefilm-</a></p>
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"Thank You, Good Night", winner of the Best Feature Film award at the 2001 Tampa Bay Film Festival, has been picked up for distribution by Riley-Sterrett Films, Inc. We hope to have more information about the release of this film soon.



Mark is currently in rehearsals with 2001 Tony nominee Polly Bergen for the Broadway premiere of "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks". Previews begin October 7 at the historic Belasco Theatre and opening night is set for October 29. The closing is open-ended at this point. Here's hoping that it becomes a long running, successful project!

Remember – if you are planning to see SDLISW and haven't already added your name to the official

thread on the fan club web site message board, please do so. And just a gentle reminder, while Mark appreciates the consideration and time taken to pick out gifts for him and his family, he would prefer that money be used to support a charity. That would truly be his favorite gift!

The latest news on 'The Wrong Coast' is that it is scheduled to air on 3 December. 2003, 8.00 pm on AMC.

Look for 'Comic Book: The Movie' dvd set to hit the shelves in January 2004. Mark was at the San Diego ComicCon in July 2003, participating in a panel on Friday night. It was so popular, people were turned away due to lack of room!



# Castle In the Sky

Japan 1986, English Version  
Release 2000

Starring: James Van Der Beek, Anna Paquin, Mark Hamill, Cloris Leachman, Mandy Patinkin



From the mind, and storyboard, of Hayao Miyazaki, Japan's master of animation, comes a tale of childhood innocence and grownup treachery.

Sheeta (Anna Panquin) is a young orphaned girl with a special gift – a brilliant crystal pendant that possesses magical powers, which only she can unlock. Trying to escape the clutches of a relentless government agent, Muska (played by Mark Hamill), and a band of flying pirates (led by Cloris Leachman's character, Dola) Sheeta falls from an airship. Her plunge toward earth is softened by the crystal, which causes her to float unharmed to the ground and into the arms of Pazu (James Van Der Beek), a young boy whose goal is to find a mythical flying cas-

tle in order to restore his deceased father's good name. The pair set off on a quest fraught with danger, intrigue and magic as they discover the truth about Sheeta's heritage and the legendary Castle in the Sky.

For an animated movie geared toward children, this two hour long film is interesting enough to hold an adult's attention. The animation is beautifully rendered - almost to the extreme. You may find yourself admiring the details of the artwork when you should be following the storyline. The actors do a superb job of blending both eastern and western voice-over styles as well as masking their own voices. Mandy Patinkin, Cloris Leachman and Mark Hamill are all but unrecognizable as their respective characters' voices, Louie, Dola and Muska.



Mark's contribution to this movie is his innate ability to pull out vocalizations that fit his characters perfectly. Muska is a tall, fair-haired man who appears accustomed to tailored clothes, first-class passage and having his orders

promptly carried out. His tone is slick and highbrow, moving easily from honey coated entreaty to scathing threat without missing a beat. Even at his most sinister, Muska still looks, and sounds, smooth and aristocratic. However dapper, this villain proves time and again that he will stop at nothing to gain the magical crystal and the power that Laputa, itself, offers. He's is believable, and despicable, despite his good looks and suave sophistication. Or perhaps, because of them.



In typical fashion the voice-overs were dubbed individually, something that is discussed in "Behind the Microphone", part of the special features section of the DVD. The special features are a great addition to the movie, as is the storyboard section on the second disk. Several of the actors, including Mark, talk about their experiences in rendering the voice-overs for the English version as well as their relationships with their characters.



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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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