

# A Mark of Excellence

Volume 7, Issue 3



25 March 2004



to shame any created super hero, he has made a name for himself in the comic book world as THE authority in classic comics. Naturally, when Timely Studios decides to remake "Commander Courage", a comic book hero of the World War II

Comic Book: the Movie is one film that is difficult to categorize. It is not an authentic documentary and it isn't a mockumentary - as some have tried to label it. It is a comedy, no argument there, but one with a message and topic dear to the heart of its creator, director and star, Mark Hamill.

skilled film crew as the scene war-rants.



The basis of the movie is the revamping of a past comic book hero into a modern day vigilante Hollywood style. As Donald Swan, Mark gets to poke fun at mega-mogue industry executives whose heartbeats sound like the ring of a cash register.

era, into a modern, machine gun wielding "Codename: Courage", they contact Donald, hoping to gain his support for the project. Swan has other ideas, however, as he sets out to convince them that the original is the best and save his beloved comic book character's persona.



A teacher by day, Donald is the stereotypical comic book geek in his off hours. Mild mannered enough

It is pure fun and entertainment, even for those who are not plugged into the comic book loop. Filmed almost entirely during the four day run of the San Diego ComicCon, CBTM runs true to the look and feel of a documentary, moving seamlessly back and forth between rolling, amateurish camera shots and the more fluid movement of a



The movie is rife with spot interviews with some of the most noted names in the comic book industry, including no less than the master artist and creator himself, Stan Lee. You will want to watch this movie several times just to catch all of the interesting little gags and spoofs



(several vocal and visual references to Star Wars, a mention of the Muppet Show and a tip of the hat to the independent movie Mark had just completed, "Reeseville", are among the easiest to spot). Cameos abound, including Bruce Campbell, Kevin Smith, Hugh Hefner, Ray Harrihausen, Peter Mayhew, David Prowse, Jeremy Bulloch, Bill Mummy and Gary Owens, to name but a few.

The film is very well put together, with nothing being slipshod or

glossed over. The acting is very well done, and fans of some of today's most well known voiceover actors will enjoy getting to see them in front of the camera for a change. Mark is great as Donald Swan, although playing a zealous fan of comic books may not have been a great stretch for him!



There are three hours of additional interviews, outtakes, behind-the-scene footage and commentaries in this two DVD set that should not be overlooked. You will also want to visit the movie web site, [comicbookthemovie.com](http://comicbookthemovie.com), where you can immerse yourself in what might be the most detailed back



story to a movie ever created. And take note of the soundtrack – it's worth the effort!

Cast:

Donald Swan – Mark Hamill

Leo Matusik – Billy West

Taylor Donahue – Roger Rose

Liberty Lass/Papaya Smith – Donna DeErrico

Ricky – Jess Harnell



Anita Levin – Lori Alan

Commander Courage/Bruce Easley – Daran Norris

Derick Sprang – Tom Kenney

Debbie Newman – Debi Derryberry

## Trivia Time!

We haven't had a trivia contest for a good while now. With the release of 'Comic Book: The Movie', I thought one would be appropriate.

First, the rules.

- 1) Entry must be time-stamped (e-mail) or post-marked (snail mail) by 12.01 am 2 May 2004.
- 2) One entry per fc member
- 3) You must be a current member

(as of 2 May 2004) of the IMHFC

- 4) You must answer all 3 parts correctly.
- 5) E-mail response to: [HdShroom@aol.com](mailto:HdShroom@aol.com)  
subject: Trivia Contest  
-or-  
Snail mail response to:  
IMHFC-Trivia Contest  
PO Box 287  
Grand Blanc MI 48439

USA

- 6) Any questions, e-mail [HdShroom@aol.com](mailto:HdShroom@aol.com)

Now, the trivia:

On one of the CB:TM dvd's, there is a scene with a vague reference to a previous project Mark has done. Name the speaker, the project, and what was said.

## Notes From the Editor

One of the more interesting aspects of having a constantly changing number of in-their-20's people living in the house with me, is experiencing their tastes in music and other entertainment. My sons have long been fans of Mark's voice-work, with only the oldest keeping up with most of Mark's on-screen work. So when I found myself surrounded by 8 other people when I popped in my CB:TM dvd (that I ran to Best Buy to purchase the day it came out-my pre-ordered copy came two days later), I must admit I was a bit amused. It was a gradual thing, as 1 or

2 came into the living room at a time, en route to going out somewhere, and settled in to watch. Then rather than continuing on with their previous plans, we all sat around discussing the parts we each liked best. Consensus here is that this was a good 'story' and over-all the cinema verite aspect was most appealing. I've ordered a few extra copies to give as pressies to friends.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the fan club made our annual donation to Mark's charity of choice,

Children Helping Poor and Homeless People, in honour of Mark's birthday. We received a lovely thank you note:



Non Amie Our Friends, Inc.  
Children Helping Poor  
And Homeless People  
(CHPHP)

2554 Lincoln Blvd. #522  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 940-4777  
(800) 333-4345  
Email: [chphp@earthlink.net](mailto:chphp@earthlink.net)  
Website: [www.chphp.com](http://www.chphp.com)

Receipt for Donation

Fed. Id. #95-4002431  
November 17, 2003

Sue Depping  
International Mark Hamill Fan Club  
P.O. Box 287  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Dear Sue and the International Mark Hamill Fan Club,

We truly appreciate your wonderful donation of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, which you have donated in honor of Mark Hamill's Birthday! Mark is truly a wonderful man. Through the continuing financial support that you and the International Mark Hamill Fan Club give every year honoring Mark, you are creating a living legacy perpetuating Mark's beautiful spirit of compassion for people in need.

With your donation, CHPHP is able to buy food for \$.14 a pound from the Los Angeles Regional Foodbank for a total of 357 of pounds of food that is always distributed free of charge and directly to homeless children and their families, to very, very poor people, and to senior citizens with enough money for rent but not enough money for food.

Recently, the Los Angeles Times published the results of a survey of 147 communities conducted by the National Coalition for the Homeless in which it ranked California as "the meanest" state in the nation in its treatment of homeless people. Los Angeles was found to be the fourth worst city and Santa Monica in the top twenty. Enclosed is a copy of this article.

With your help, CHPHP is and will continue to change this through direct service and through its educational outreach programs that change attitudes.

Thank you for honoring Mark by remembering those in need.

Very truly yours,  
  
Ron Taylor / Christine Schanes

Cc: M. Hamill

## Future Watch

Mark will be at the Empire-FanFest Con in Secaucus NJ, on 18 April 2004. He'll be there promoting *ComicBook:The Movie*. There is a general admission to the con and an additional cover charge for Mark's talk. For \$100 cash at the con, if you are one of the 100 fortunate pre-registered fans, you may choose one of 4 SW photos that Mark will personalise. The fee also includes a photo of you taken with Mark. One offer and pic per person; no personal imaging devices allowed. No other autographs will be

signed. He will also be donating a signed copy of *ComicBook:The Movie* for the charity auction. For more information, and to take advantage of the limited 'package deal', visit [empirefanfest.com](http://empirefanfest.com)

*Aero-Troopers* has been released! Mark directed the voice cast as well as narrated this. For more info, or to order the dvd, goto [www.crlightstore.com/aerotroopersdvd.html](http://www.crlightstore.com/aerotroopersdvd.html) The Creative Light store also has a number of other

Mark-related items for sale.

*The Wrong Coast*' will begin airing in Canada on The Movie Channel and Movie Central, 7 April 2004. No word yet when it will begin airing on AMC.

Mark has also begun work on a new Disney project, '*Super Robot Monkey*'. No other information is available at this time.

Look for '*Wizards*' to be released on dvd, 25 May 2004!



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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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