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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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A Mark of Excellence

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Corvette Summer

A Restored Classic- Susan Lin



Am I talking about a car, or a movie? Both! It's *Corvette Summer*, and it's out on DVD! By now this may not be news to you, since it was released in August, but I'm here to tell you if you haven't already picked up a copy, it's worthy of a place on your holiday wish list. After all, many of us could use a little summer sunshine right about now, and this movie definitely delivers it –

But that may not be news to you, either. *Corvette Summer* is, after all, a logi-

cal early step on the must-watch list for any Mark Hamill fan serious enough to...oh, say, join a fan club or something. A major motion picture with Mark in the lead? Why, yes, I think I'll take a look!

No doubt many of you already have over the years. But that look becomes much more fun when you can do things like pause with crystal clarity on your favorite frame. May I be so bold as to suggest that when Kenny stands atop the discarded signs to dejectedly watch his beloved Stingray

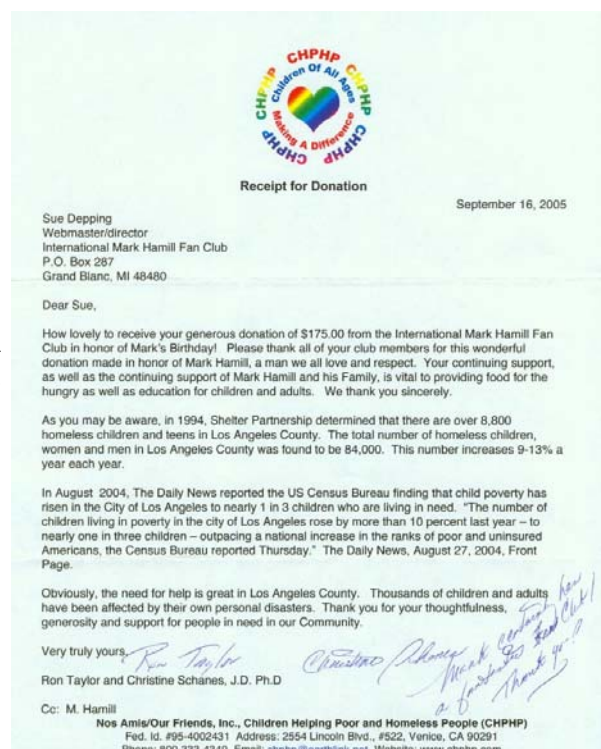
speed off into the distance, you take some extra time to admire the scenery?

And then there's the ease of instant replays. To watch the hilarious maneuver as Kenny leaps, limbs splaying, from behind a mailbox onto a startled cyclist once is to burst out laughing, but to watch it twice is to be amazed and impressed by Mark's no-holds-barred style. Throughout the movie Mark gives it his all – and what a lot he has to give! Kenny is a fully-realized character in Mark's capable hands as he rises to the challenge of a surprisingly demanding role. Watch the way he stumbles and slides out of an oil barrel, or charges full-tilt down the street, or nervously tries to untie his shoelaces – with his teeth. Mark's intensity never wavers; it fills not just the action

Notes from the Editor

Peace and joy to all this holiday season. As I write this in mid-December, more snow is falling. Much to the grandpuppy's delight, we received almost 9" of snow earlier this month, and another 2" have fallen. When she sees one of us putting on a pair of gloves, she is *sure* we are going outside only to throw snowballs for her to catch and eat.

We received a lovely thank-you letter from CHPHP (Children Helping Poor and Homeless People). Thanks to a couple of very generous fc members, our donation in honour of Mark's birthday to his charity of choice, was \$175.00!



Did You Catch?/Future Watch

Rumours still abound concerning who will be picked to play the Joker in the next edition to the *Batman* franchise. Mark is a favourite with many. Two other actors people are mentioning are Sean Penn, and Michael Keaton,



Did you know Mark was one of the actors auditioned to play Hank Hill on *King of the Hill*?

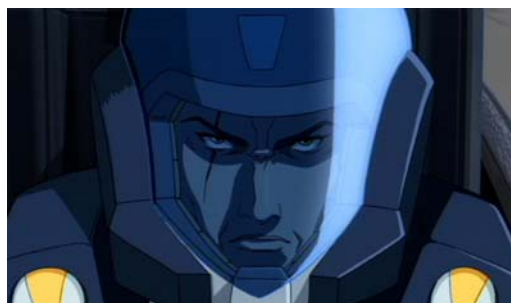
Mark directed one of the segments in the *Revenge of the Brick* trailer from LEGO on the *Star Wars: Clone Wars Volume II* dvd.

For those of us fortunate enough to have seen Mark either in the Coconut Grove or Broadway staging of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, we will need to make do with our memories. Sadly, Mark will not be repeating his performance as Michael Minetti, the gay dance instructor, in the film version of this project.

Mark at the *Jonathan Winters is Turning 80 and You're Invited* celebration?



will be a straight-to-DVD release. Expected to hit the shelves sometime during the second quarter of 2006, Mark voices the character Commander Taylor. A brief synopsis: the people of Earth are now liberated, and a search begins for the lost SDF-3 and Admiral Hunter.



scenes but the quiet moments of truth, for this is a movie with more than just car chases and chuckles. Mark even gives Kenny a voice; listen as he composes aloud his letters to his teacher. "Dear Mr. McGrath..." It's a hint of his voice-acting genius. Without Mark's face in the frame, you don't hear Mark at all. You hear Kenny, and in true teenage style, his is a voice simultaneously full of confusion and determination.

For those of you who don't know the story – and I did count myself among you until a couple of years ago – our hero is Kenny Dantley, (for a chuckle, check out the way Kenny's name is listed in the closing credits), a high school senior whose sole passion is his shop class project: restoring a junked Corvette Stingray to gleaming candy-apple-red life. On its maiden voyage, the dream machine is stolen., and with nothing more than

DVD RELEASES

Star Wars: Clone Wars Volume II was released on 6 December 2005. Mark directed a segment in the LEGO *Revenge of the Brick* trailer!

a tip from a stranger – "Yeah, I've seen it; it was in one of those big casinos, on a mirror going round and round" – Kenny is off to Las Vegas in hot pursuit. Along the way, he meets Vanessa (the also-superb Annie Potts), a hooker-wannabe who's outfitted herself and her van with wigs, water bed, everything she needs – everything except customers, that is. Too bad all Kenny has in his pocket is a "lucky" two-dollar bill....

Two-dollar bills. Are those still around any more? First released in 1978, *Corvette Summer* will definitely give some of you flashbacks, and make the rest of you think of *That 70s Show*; it's a little more "of the moment" than some movies, and so there's no shortage of inadvertent retro-humor to be enjoyed in here: the clothes, the hair, the cars, the disco-style soundtrack, even little things like the "Go Metric!" signs plastered on the walls of the classroom (and, hey,

we had desks just like that in my high school!); all of it adds a new layer to the fun.

What the movie no longer has is the grainy washed-out look of an old 70s videotape, which is what would best describe the rental copy I saw. On DVD it looks good, very good, and that's reason enough to update your library. Really, the only reason, because there aren't a lot of bonuses on this release – the only one is a theatrical trailer, along with the standard-issue language and scene selections.

Well, that, and as I mentioned before, the added power of your stop-on-a-dime DVD remote. Yes, this is a movie that – dare I say it? – is even more fun when you can drive it yourself!

