

CINEFANTASTIQUE

December

\$5.95
CAN \$8.20
UK £4.15

STAR TREK

FIRST

CONTACT

TIM BURTON'S
"MARS ATTACKS"

WES CRAVEN'S
"SCREAM"

"DARK SHADOWS"
30TH ANNIVERSARY

"GODZILLA" 40TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECT

Volume 28
Number 6



D. Voigt

HOLLYWOOD GOTHIC

STAR WARS REVISITED

20 years after its debut, the film is due back in theatres on January 31.

by Chuck Wagner

Already the assault is upon us. At theaters around the country this summer, 20th Century Fox used INDEPENDENCE DAY to plant the seeds of STAR WARS re-release awareness. A trailer begins with a little television in the middle of the screen while a voice intones, "For the past 20 years, you've only seen STAR WARS like this." Then—boom!—the screen goes to full-size with the promise, "On Feb. 14 you will see it like this!" (The date was later pushed up to January 31, in order to accommodate the subsequent re-releases of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK and RETURN OF THE JEDI in February and March.)

For years, George Lucas has been promising us new STAR WARS films; at one point, he even claimed he would have the next trilogy completed by the end of the decade. But for now, the focus is on the re-release of the three completed films, which form the "middle trilogy" of Lucas' master plan. Refurbishment and enhancement on the trilogy cost \$10 million. By now you probably already know that Jabba the Hut will be on view and that digital effects are being used to augment and even replace effects from the original. (For a sneak peak, check out the currently playing IMAX documentary SPECIAL EFFECTS, which showcases some of the recreations.)

Meanwhile, the next trilogy, which takes place before of the events in A NEW HOPE, is supposedly being prepared; in fact, early this September, the start of preproduction was announced on the next film, which is supposed to shoot in London late next year for a summer 1999 release. Currently, it has not been decided whether 20th Century Fox will be involved in the new films. (Lucas may be waiting for the expected success of the re-releases to give him more clout for a better studio deal on the subsequent films.)

Why more STAR WARS? In a televised interview conducted



STAR WARS (above) will return to the big screen—followed at three week intervals by its two sequels. A new film is currently in pre-production.

some years ago, Mark Hamill said that George Lucas had an outline for 9 full installments (of which the current three films comprised parts 4, 5, and 6). Hamill had seen the outline and wouldn't comment on content, except to say that "Luke Skywalker would appear at the end of the ninth feature." Will Mark Hamill return as well?

"I've always been on a strictly need-to-know basis," Hamill recently told me. "I remember on the first

one asking, 'What happened to my father? What happened to my mother?' Now I look back and realize he [Lucas] was sort of beating around the bush and only letting on as much as I needed to know.

"He did say that in the last one, my character is sort of an Obi-Wan who hands Excalibur down to the new young hope," Hamill continued. "But I caution you: At one point we signed a contract for a fourth

continued on next page

THE X-FILES Leading Genre Emmy Winner

by Paula Vitaris

ER may have won Outstanding Drama Series at the 1996 Emmy Awards last September, but for genre fans, the real winner was THE X-FILES, which took a total of five statues when it added Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series to the four won the previous night at the Creative Arts Awards ceremony. GULLIVER'S TRAVELS tied with THE X-FILES for a total of five Emmys, the most awards given to any show this year. Also, THE OUTER LIMITS episode "A Stitch in Time" won for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama series, Amanda Plummer.

At the Creative Arts Award ceremony on September 7, Director of Photography John Bartley won an overdue award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Cinematography for the episode "Grotesque." Thierry J. Couturier and 12 colleagues at West Productions in Burbank won for Outstanding Sound Editing. Michael Williamson, also of West Productions, and three colleagues, won for Outstanding Sound Mixing for "Nisei." And guest star Peter Boyle won for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his performance in "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose." The only X-FILES nominees to come away empty-handed that evening were art director Graeme Murray and set decorator Shirley Inget, nominated for art direction on "Jose Chung's From Outer Space."

At the main ceremony on Sunday, September 8, THE X-FILES was up for three more awards. For the second year running, the show was nominated for Outstanding Drama Series, and Gillian Anderson received her first nomination as Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series.

Peter Boyle read the list of nominees for Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series and then announced the winner: Darin Morgan, writer of "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose," the episode for which Boyle had received his award a mere 24 hours before. "I didn't even hear them call my name," said Morgan, who had never met Boyle until he joined the actor on stage for his acceptance speech. "I just heard 'The Emmy

continued on next page

Short Notes

Robin Williams has committed to star in WHAT DREAMS MAY COME for director **Vincent Ward** (FLIGHT OF THE NAVIGATOR). An adaptation of Richard Matheson's novel, the story follows a man who dies in an auto accident and enters the afterlife but cannot reconcile himself to leaving his wife. ☞ **Matthew McConaughey** and **James Woods** join **Jodie Foster** in CONTACT for director **Robert Zemeckis**, based on the book by Carl Sagan about the global consequences of receiving the first extra-terrestrial radio message. ☞ The INDEPENDENCE DAY team of **Roland Emmerich** and **Dean Devlin** are considering a remake of FANTASTIC VOYAGE, the 1966 film about miniaturized scientists who go on a trip through a human body. Meanwhile, Devlin is adapting a live-action feature from the Disney cartoon GARGOYLES. All this and GODZILLA, too? ☞ Director **Guillermo Del Toro** (who debuted with the excellent CRONOS) is set to begin filming next summer on MEPHISTO'S BRIDGE, which he adapted from the novel by Christopher Fowler. **Martin Scorsese** will exec produce the tale of a frustrated designer who strikes a deal with an immortal being to get what he wants. Del Toro is also preparing MIMIC at Miramax/Dimension. □

continued from previous page

goes to Da-' and everyone leaped up and was screaming." The loudest screamer was his older brother Glen Morgan, a writer and producer on THE X-FILES. The elder Morgan happily kidded, "Of the great thrills in my life, Darin's Emmy was just a notch under Steve Garvey's Game Four home run against the Cubs in 1984."

The eight nominations and five wins represented a particularly sweet accomplishment for the show. Not only did it win in the creative arts categories that usually bring genre shows their only Emmys, but with the writing award, THE X-FILES broke through the glass ceiling to win in a category usually reserved for mainstream fare (Rod Serling won for THE TWILIGHT ZONE in 1961).

For co-producer and post-production supervisor Paul Rabwin, "It was great winning, especially for sound and camera work! West Productions submitted 'Nisei' because the teaser was great, and it was a very busy, complex episode."

Darin Morgan had no expectations that "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose," would net him a nomination, let alone a win, although he felt certain Boyle was a shoe-in. "Most people don't think of THE X-FILES as a writer's show; they think of it as a special effects, science fiction thing. It's looked down upon by mainstream



Peter Boyle, who had just won an Emmy for guest starring in "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose," hands a statuette to the episode's winning writer, Darin Morgan.

TV in several areas," he said. When his nomination was announced, his first thought was, "Oh God, I've got to get a tux," an outfit he found only slightly less constricting than the latex suit he wore when he played the Fluke-man in "The Host." But with the Emmy in hand, he admitted that he felt "good."

The list of nominees included some surprising omissions, including lead actor David Duchovny. "David got screwed," Morgan stated firmly. "At least John Bartley won. He should have won last year. You

look at the other shows and you go, 'Well, it's obvious that he should have been winning all this time.' My only complaint is they gave an award to the lead guest actor of the episode, and they gave an award to the writer of the episode, but they didn't even nominate the director, David Nutter. And if he directed both the actor and the script to an award-winning status, then he should have at least gotten nominated."

The lack of nominations for the show's directors is curious indeed. Morgan believes that Emmy voters won't give serious consideration to a series about aliens and the paranormal, citing the Academy's neglect of director Rob Bowman's work on his episode 'Jose Chung's From Outer Space' as an example. "That's one of the best-directed hours you'll ever see on TV. But there are people

who see a story with an alien and say, 'Oh, it's an alien thing,' and will completely disregard the content of the episode."

David Nutter, who directed the Emmy-winning "Nisei," as well as "Clyde Bruckman's Final Repose," credits the lack of nominations to the remoteness of THE X-FILES' shooting location in Vancouver and the fact that while the show's directors are members of the Directors' Guild of America, the assistant directors and production managers are members of the Directors Guild of Canada. "We're further away from the real action in Los Angeles where a lot of the voting takes place," he noted. But he was delighted with the "Nisei" and "Clyde Bruckman" wins, adding that "I feel like I got a little piece of the statue."

Darin Morgan, who has departed THE X-FILES to work on feature film scripts, watched a videotape of the Emmy broadcast after he got home. To his dismay, he thought he "looked and sounded like a Peter Sellers character—a cross between Claire Quilty in LOLITA and Dr. Strangelove. You see something like that and you say, 'Oh man. Never again. I'm going into hiding.' The biggest thrill was watching the reaction of all our producers. They were so goddamn happy. I've never seen all those guys that happy over one single thing. It was great just to watch." □

Obituaries

by Jay Stevenson

Joseph Biroc

The 93-year-old Oscar-winning cinematographer died on September 7 of heart failure. Among a varied career, he photographed several genre efforts, beginning with his first job as a full-fledged cinematographer on the classic, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946), which he shot with Joseph Walker. Other genre credits RED PLANET MARS (1952), DONOVAN'S BRAIN and THE TWONKY (both 1953), THE AMAZING COLOSSAL MAN and THE UNKNOWN TERROR (both 1957), THE BAT (with Vincent Price, 1959), and ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES (1971). He photographed several efforts for gimmicky horror filmmaker William Castle, including 13 GHOSTS (1960) and SHANKS (1974). He was also a favorite of director Robert Aldrich, for whom he photographed HUSH, HUSH... SWEET CHARLOTTE, for which he received an Oscar nomination. Biroc and Fred Koenekamp won an Oscar for THE TOWERING INFERNO. Biroc's other credits include BLAZING SADDLES and AIRPLANE.

Bibi Besch

Actress Bibi Besch, who played the mother of Captain Kirk's son in 1982's STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN, died on September 7 of cancer, at age 54. She also appeared in THE BEAST WITHIN (1982). □

Production Starts

BATMAN AND ROBIN

Director Joel Schumacher and writer Akiva Goldsman return to the Warners franchise, this one featuring current favorite George Clooney as the caped Crusader, replacing Val Kilmer, who replaced Michael Keaton. Also returning is Chris O'Donnell as Robin. New stars include Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze, Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy, and Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl.

DARK CITY

Director Alex Proyas follows up his debut on THE CROW with this futuristic science-fiction thriller, which he co-wrote with Lem Dobbs and David Goyer (ironically enough, the scripter of THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS). William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland, Jennifer Connelly, and Richard (ROCKY HORROR SHOW) O'Brien star.

STAR WARS

continued from previous page/ movie, but the time for that contract has expired, so it's no longer valid. Later, someone told me, 'Well, that was mostly for the merchandisers, to show that he could deliver the same cast if they wanted.' It gave him more bargaining power when he was making merchandising deals. So, I never really know. When I see him now, I don't talk to him about that."

It is speculated that the first three installments would revolve around "the Clone wars" which are mentioned in the original trilogy. It has also been a constant matter of lore that C-3PO and R2-D2 would be the *only* characters consistent throughout all nine movies—they are robots, after all. Of course, if the beginning trilogy is ever completed, that still leaves the final trilogy. It seems reasonably certain that the character of Luke Skywalker will make a cameo in the final STAR WARS installment. But is there a chance it will be Hamill playing the role? "My feeling is that ours [the first three STAR WARS films] had a beginning a middle and an end, and we weren't involved again except possibly towards the end wrapping it up," said Hamill. "This was in 1976, and I asked George Lucas when would this be. He said, 'Ahh, like 2011.' And I remember thinking at the time, 'Wow, it'd be great having a job lined up at the turn of the century! On the other hand, I don't know if I can commit that far in advance!'" After a warm laugh, Hamill added, "I'd do anything for George." □