

# BANTHA TRACKS

JOURNAL OF THE OFFICIAL **STAR WARS/LUCASFILM** FAN CLUB

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



**STAR  
TOURS**  
Disneyland

*With the wave of a light saber, George Lucas and Michael Eisner officially open STAR TOURS. Seconds later, sparks flew and a blizzard of mylar confetti filled the sky.*

## INSIDE:

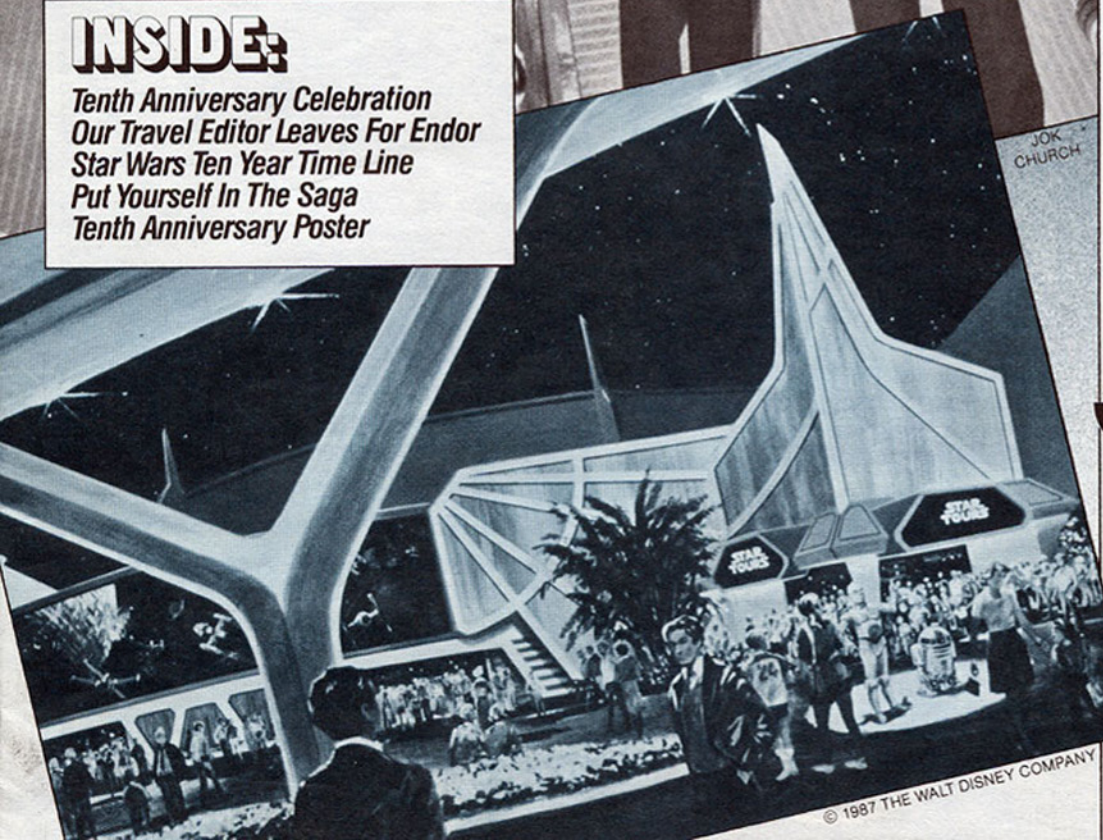
*Tenth Anniversary Celebration  
Our Travel Editor Leaves For Endor  
Star Wars Ten Year Time Line  
Put Yourself In The Saga  
Tenth Anniversary Poster*

## GALA STAR TOURS RIBBON CUTTING AT DISNEYLAND

*Not With Scissors—With A  
Light Saber*

**S**parkes shot and smoke poured into the air as STAR WARS characters danced across a huge stage set up at the entrance to Disneyland's Tomorrowland for the grand opening ceremonies of STAR TOURS — George Lucas' thrilling new attraction that puts you in the STAR WARS Universe.

DARTH VADER watched as the EWOKS defeated the Empire's Storm Troopers, all live and on stage — watched and recorded by hundreds of video crews from all over  
*continued inside . . .*



JOK  
CHURCH



*STAR TOURS (continued)*

the world. The stage quickly changed to become the MOS EISLEY CANTINA, complete with a scene stealing all-alien jazz band. C-3PO and R2-D2 wandered through the cantina looking for George Lucas and Disney Chief Michael Eisner. As the jazz band parted the audience saw Lucas and Eisner had been seated at the bar completely unnoticed until C-3PO pointed them out.

A space suit attired Mickey Mouse joined by Minnie brought Lucas and Eisner a light saber. The two of them used it to cut the ribbon, and officially launch the first flight of STAR TOURS. As the audience applauded, clouds of

*Michael Eisner and George Lucas go over staging just before the fanfare's start.*



JOK CHURCH

mylar confetti showered the whole scene.

Among the first passengers on the STAR TOURS' StarSpeeder 3000 were Voyager pilots Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan who had just finished their historic around-the-world non-stop airplane flight.

# STAR TOURS Disneyland

They were joined by astronauts Deke Slayton, Gordon Cooper, and Mrs. Betty Grissom.

Thousands of people were ready and waiting for that inaugural flight. The line to board STAR TOURS reached from the entrance of Tomorrowland, down Main Street USA, out the front gate and into the huge Disneyland parking lot. STAR TOURS can take 1700 people an hour on their trip to ENDOR, so that long line in, quickly became mobs of smiling people leaving STAR TOURS, ready to get back on line for their next trip.



JOK CHURCH

*Mickey Mouse welcomes two new friends to the Magic Kingdom, R2-D2 and C-3PO.*

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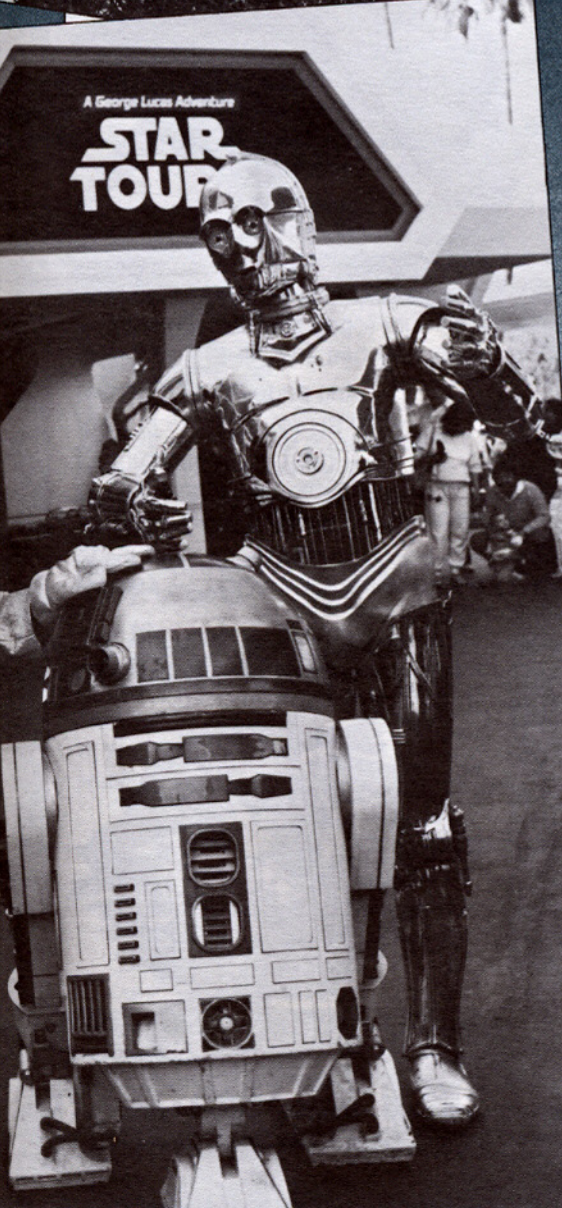


*Threepio and Artoo, looking for George in the midst of a recreation of the MOS EISLEY CANTINA.*

HOWARD ROFFMAN



More than a dozen radio stations did live broadcasts from the STAR TOURS opening such as this one with ILM's Warren Franklin as an interview guest.



## FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY

*The Who's and How's of Building STAR TOURS*

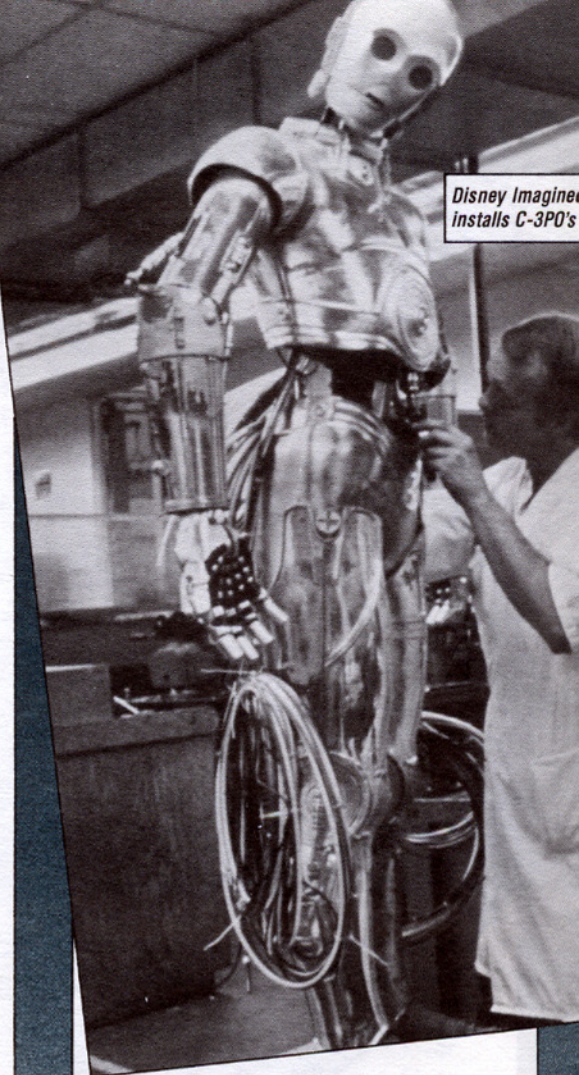
**B**ringing the STAR WARS adventure to Disneyland was no small venture, as the two year collaborative effort of George Lucas and Walt Disney Imagineering will attest.

The Tomorrowland attraction that would evolve into STAR TOURS began in early 1985, when George Lucas met with key Disney management to discuss the possibility of George's involvement with new concepts for Disneyland. BANTHA TRACKS announced this in issue number 27, two years ago.

Soon ideas were flying between Lucasfilm in Northern California and Walt Disney Imagineering in Southern California. Everyone agreed that their goal was to bring together the STAR WARS Saga with the technology of a flight simulator, usually used to train new pilots.

Disneyland's Chief Designer Tony Baxter participated in the early discussions with George and acted as his co-director on STAR TOURS. "We were fortunate to have such an imaginative mythology to work with," said Baxter. "It made the challenge of expanding it to three dimensions a very exciting and rewarding experience. In some ways we actually had more creative freedom than you would with a feature film."

STAR TOURS had writers just like a film, too. Walt Disney Imagineering Show Co-producer/Writer, Tom Fitzgerald, describes himself as a STAR WARS Fan. It's true! BANTHA TRACKS met with Fitzgerald and Baxter in Tom's office in Glendale, California. The room is littered with STAR WARS art books and its walls are filled with photos of STAR WARS characters. Among his prize pieces is an autographed picture of Anthony Daniels as C-3PO. Fitzgerald is so taken with the STAR WARS Saga, he lined up at 5 a.m. at the



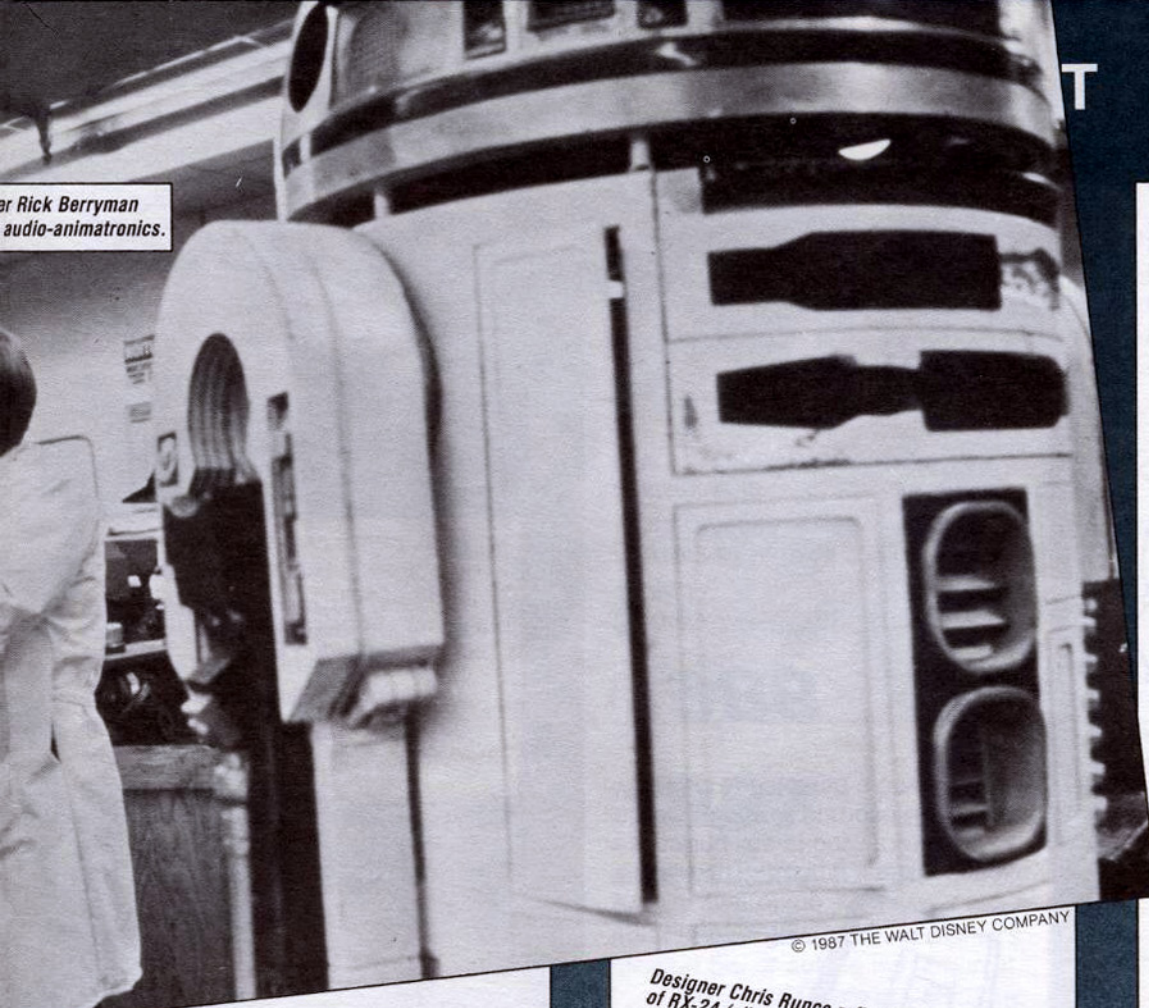
Disney Imagineering installs C-3PO's

Egyptian Theatre to see the first Los Angeles screening of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. Originally, Fitzgerald contributed four concepts for STAR TOURS — including a concept of the attraction as a JEDI training device — for George's review.

In 1985, Baxter and Fitzgerald joined Lucas and a group of designers from Industrial Light & Magic for a story session at Lucasfilm in Marin County. One thing that happened there, Tony said, was an interesting observation from George. He told them every time somebody goes to Disneyland they expect everything to work out as planned, completely safe with no foul ups. George came up with the opening fiasco for STAR TOURS, a series of accidents, contrary to the things you might expect as a Disneyland attraction. Guests think they're off to see ENDOR, but the real "tour" turns out to be something altogether different.

After that initial meeting Baxter and Fitzgerald went back to their Sausalito hotel room where Tom says, "We spent the night pinning up story cards with plot elements, special effects and simulator motions in a grid sequence on the wall." By the next morning, they had hammered

er Rick Berryman  
audio-animatronics.



was building a new C-3PO he needn't have a replacement silver leg. It could be gold like the rest of his body. But after some discussion, the STAR WARS Fans won and it was decided to build C-3PO exactly the way he appeared on the wide screen.

Anthony Daniels flew in from England to demonstrate C-3PO's distinctive motions and to record the sound on his parts of the sound track. Daniels told BANTHA TRACKS it was "incredible" to see C-3PO from the *outside*, as the animatronics duplicated his movements exactly. When Lucas first saw C-3PO he told Baxter and Fitzgerald, "That is C-3PO; he is finally a Droid." Both agreed; explaining the fine point that other audio-animatronic characters at Disneyland duplicate living beings, while C-3PO is truly a robotic character — a Droid, made *more real* by the adaptation.

Our impression of STAR TOURS is that it is a ground-breaking form of entertainment because as a viewer you're also a participant, actively involved in the goings on. You get to be IN the STAR WARS Universe. Or, as they say at Disneyland, *Now The Adventure Is Real!*

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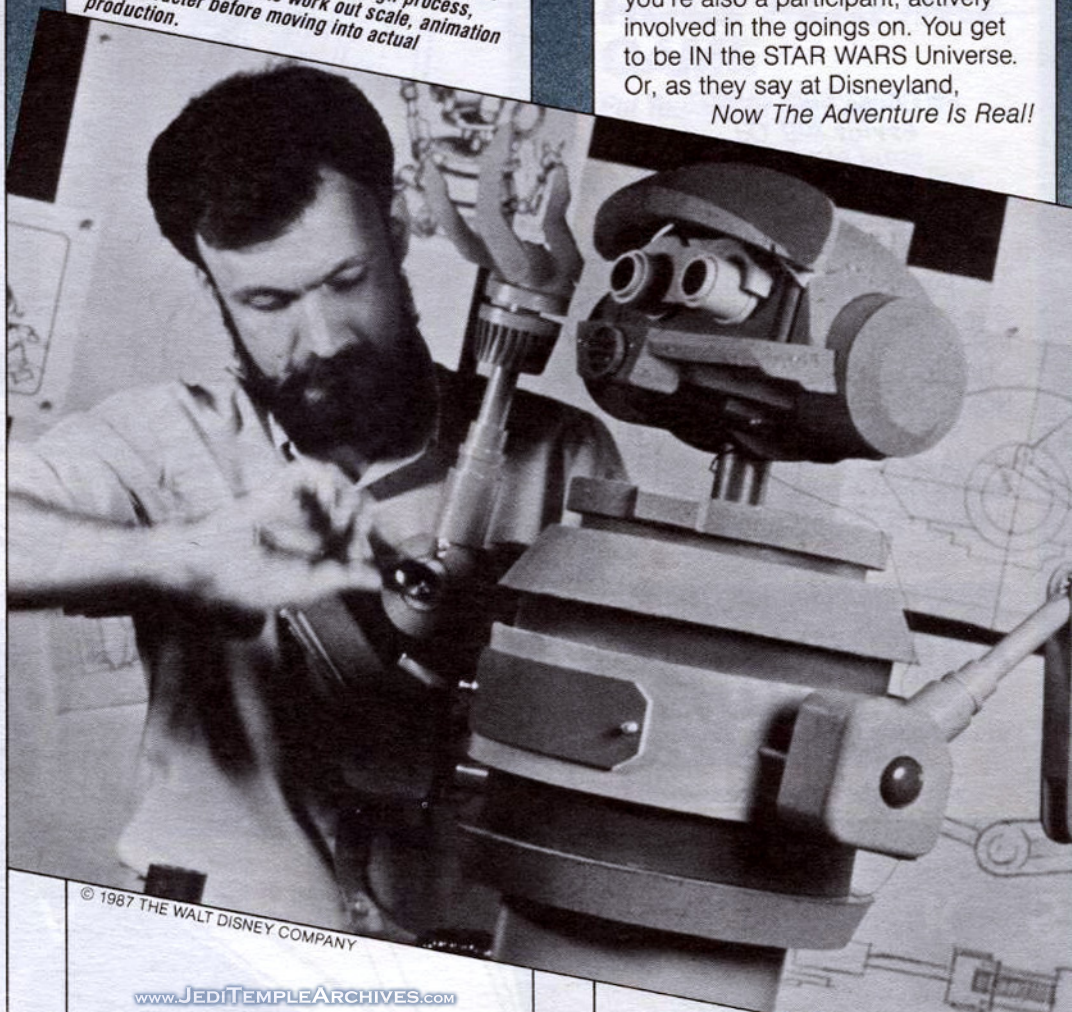
Designer Chris Runco refines a foam study model of RX-24 (alias REX). Models like this were vital elements of the STAR TOURS design process, enabling Imagineers to work out scale, animation and character before moving into actual production.

out a first draft concept for STAR TOURS.

George came up with a new character, the pilot who turned out to be Rex, our rookie. Rex began as a "cosmic bus driver," a counterpart to the wisecracking Jungle Cruise guides in Disneyland's Adventure Land.

With a complicated story board and first draft refined, Lucasfilm's ILM and Sprockets divisions got to work as did Walt Disney Imagineering. ILM's Dave Carson headed up the project which resulted in *the longest special effects sequence in filmic history*. Sprocket Systems Sound Designer Gary Summers went to work creating the multi-channel sound track. Lucasfilm Archivist David Craig opened his cache of STAR WARS props for the project which even involved casting new pieces of the DEATH STAR's surface detail.

Meanwhile in Glendale, the Disney people were hard at work building the StarSpeeder 3000 as well as real animatronic Droids. Little details from the trilogy were faithfully replicated in STAR TOURS. For instance, one of C-3PO's legs is silvered, obviously because it had been replaced some time ago and a matching gold leg was unavailable. Since Disney



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## GREETINGS FROM ENDOR

*Having Wonderful Time—  
Wish You Were Here*

**A**long with astronauts and 'round-the-world pilots, BANTHA TRACKS took one of the first rides on STAR TOURS. It's right at the entrance of Tomorrowland. As we passed through the doors we found ourselves inside a large space port. It seemed like a cross between an airport and a rebel base from STAR WARS. An overhead screen displayed the high points of touring with STAR TOURS — an intergalactic touring company set up in the days following the defeat of the Empire. Using 40 passenger StarSpeeder 3000 space craft, the STAR TOURS company offers a sightseeing excursion to the MOON OF ENDOR. As we entered the Maintenance Hangar we were able to inspect the maintenance and repair of a StarSpeeder 3000. C-3PO was on hand to welcome the guests while R2-D2 was busy at work making final repairs on the craft. As usual the two long-time friends didn't exactly see eye to eye on everything. There was a rather telling scar on the side of the StarSpeeder, a scorched gapping gash that looked an awful lot like a blaster attack.

As Threepio and Artoo argued about how much to tell us about those big black marks, we went on to the Droidnostics Center — a STAR WARS Droid factory. While droid parts were carried overhead on a conveyor belt, Droids were taking apart and putting together other droids. One of them casually men-

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tioned that he would never get into a StarSpeeder 3000, safe in the knowledge that we couldn't hear anything he said. His comlink was turned off — *he thought*. Only it wasn't, and we heard it all!

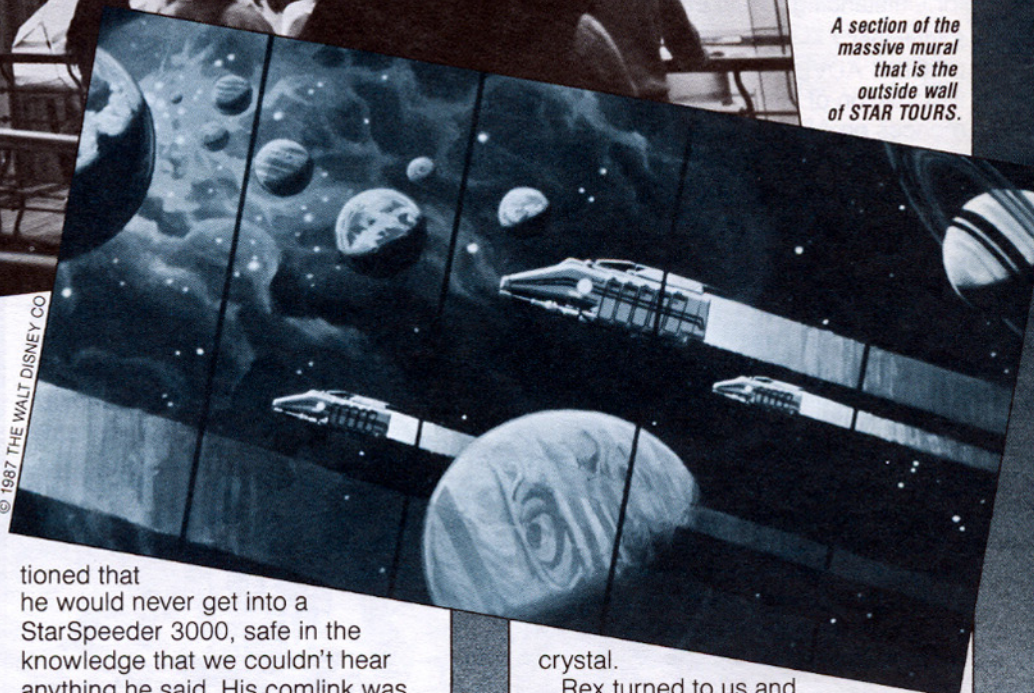
It wasn't much of a confidence builder. And taken with the battle scars we've just seen, it was nearly enough to make us forget about our excursion to ENDOR. But, it was too late. Our StarSpeeder 3000 stood ready and waiting to take on passengers.

After being instructed in intergalactic flight safety, we stowed carry-on luggage beneath the seat, buckled our safety belts and watched as the doors sealed shut.

Our pilot was RX-24. Rex for short. He welcomed us and got a take-off clearance from control. Our flight — ST-45 — began well enough, but in just seconds we had taken a wrong turn and been catapulted into the vastness of space. It got worse. Quickly. The StarSpeeder was sucked into a field of icy comets which struck the ship. The only way through it was literally to go *through* a mammoth ice

In the STAR TOURS Maintenance Hangar R2-D2 repairs your StarSpeeder 3000 while C-3PO offers guests a diplomatic welcome.

A section of the massive mural that is the outside wall of STAR TOURS.



crystal.

Rex turned to us and said, "I know this isn't on the tour . . . but it's pretty exciting isn't it?" When he turned around he and we found the new trouble he'd flow us into — an Imperial Death Star in a sector still held by the Empire. Rex seemed to panic and the StarSpeeder tumbled towards the surface of the huge battle station.

As the StarSpeeder darted and wove its way across the top of the Death Star, Rex screamed, "Hold on tight folks, we're going to take a slight detour." Dodging laser blasts, we narrowly escaped almost certain destruction when Rex finally rocketed us away into hyperspace and safety.

Seconds later the StarSpeeder went into sub-light speed and touched down, skidding into a landing bay. A monitor clicked on with the image of C-3PO who was obviously unaware of what had just happened. He turned to us and said:

*"We do hope you enjoyed your tour to ENDOR, And will come back soon . . ."*



SPOTLIGHT

**STAR WARS—  
THE FIRST  
TEN YEARS  
1977–1987**

*From STAR WARS  
To STAR TOURS*

A long time ago, at a desk far far away, George Lucas sat down to write his STAR WARS screen play. As we know, the rest is history. Lucasfilm's research people went through their files to extract a large part of that history for the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the STAR WARS Saga. BANTHA TRACKS calls it the

TEN YEAR TIME LINE.

**1977**

**May 25** — STAR WARS released nationwide in the U.S.



**August 3** — R2-D2, C-3PO and DARTH VADER place their footprints in cement at Mann's Chinese Theater, Hollywood.

**Summer** — The STAR WARS novelization is reprinted at the rate of



100,000 copies per week. To date in 1987, the novelization has sold between five and six million copies. The first edition of the book, printed in November 1976, is now a collectors item demanding as much as \$250.

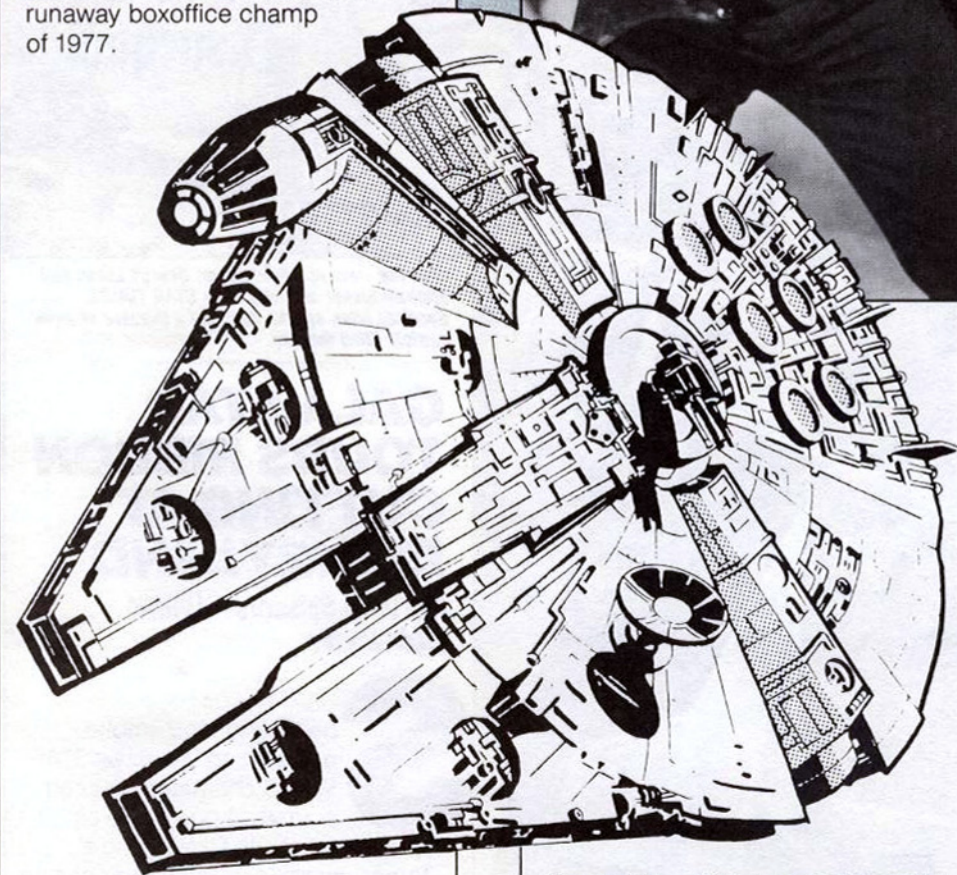
**September 16** — THE MAKING OF STAR WARS airs on ABC-TV.

**September 30** — 20th Century Fox's stock hits high of 24-5/8. Price prior to opening of STAR WARS was 11-1/8.

**November** — Kenner issues "Early Bird Certificates" to U.S. retailers for STAR WARS merchandize that can't be shipped before Christmas. The coupon guaranteed delivery of 4 action figures in early 1978.

**November** — STAR WARS concert at Hollywood Bowl conducted by Zubin Meta.

**December** — STAR WARS is the runaway boxoffice champ of 1977.



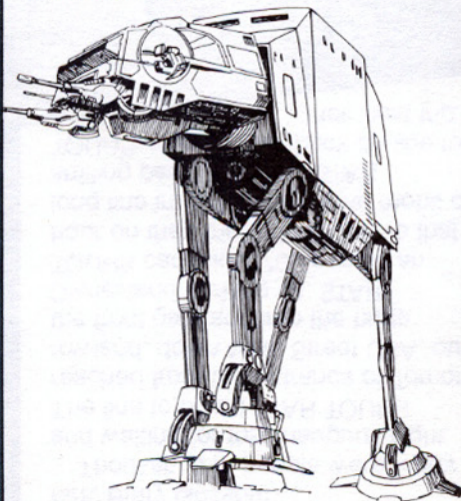
**1978**

**January** — The first shipments of STAR WARS toys arrive in stores.

**February** — John Williams receives three Grammy Awards for his STAR WARS music.

**February** — STAR WARS receives ten Oscar nominations.

**April** — STAR WARS wins seven Academy Awards for the year 1977: Best Art Direction; Best Sound; Best Film Editing; Best Visual Effects; Best Original Score; Best Costume Design; and a Special Achievement Award to Ben Burtt for Sound Effects Creation.



**May** — STAR WARS first anniversary poster is issued.

**July** — The Official STAR WARS Fan Club issues its first newsletter.

**July 21** — STAR WARS is re-released for the first time.

**November 17** — THE STAR WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL airs on CBS-TV featuring CHEWBACCA & THE WOOKIES.

**1979**

**March 5** — THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK commences photography in Finse, Norway, and later in England, through September 24.

**March** — The STAR WARS comic strip by Russ Manning begins syndication through the L.A. Times in 214 newspapers.

Special Effects for EMPIRE are created at ILM all through 1979 into the spring of 1980.

**August 15** — STAR WARS re-released for the second time.

**November 11** — The Art of STAR WARS book is published starting a unique publishing trend. The "Art of . . ." books from all three films remain in print even today in 1987, years beyond the theatrical life of the films which is highly unusual.



**December** — Between 1977 and the end of 1979 the total number of science fiction books published, both hardcover and paperback, more than doubled as the result of the success of STAR WARS. All the STAR WARS books become a fixture in the Science Fiction list of titles.

**1980**

**April 29** — C-3PO appears at the season opening of The Boston Pops, John Williams' debut as conductor of the Pops.



**May 19** — DARTH VADER makes the cover of TIME Magazine.



**May 21** — THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK is released nationwide in the U.S.



**May** — The soundtrack album of STAR WARS has already sold 3 million copies by this date and the paperback novelization over 5 million.

The novelization of EMPIRE has already sold 2 million copies by the end of the first week of the film's release. It was #4 on the New York Times paperback bestseller list on May 18 before the film's release.

The soundtrack of EMPIRE has sold 800,000 copies at same point.

Adweek claims on May 12 that Kenner had retail sales of \$100,000,000 on STAR WARS toys in each of the years 1978 and 1979.

**May** — EMPIRE breaks 125 out of 127 house records for opening day, a new industry high for the highest single day per theater gross representing completely sold out business.

**June 9** — YODA makes the cover of PEOPLE Magazine.

**July 7** — Four of EMPIRE's stars make the cover of PEOPLE Magazine.

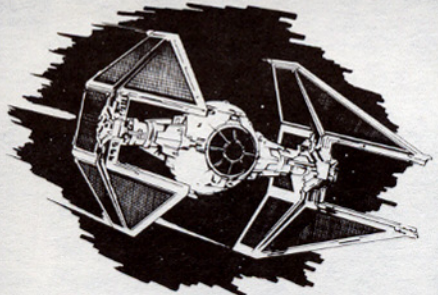


**July 22** — Mark Hamill and others make the cover of US Magazine.

**August 31** — The EMPIRE soundtrack album has already sold one million copies.

**September 22** — SPFX: The EMPIRE STRIKES BACK airs on CBS-TV.

**September 26-27** — A space music concert held at La Miranda Civic Center in California, accompanied by a light show, featuring John Williams' STAR WARS and EMPIRE scores along with other scores from Science Spectacular"). (Called "A Space Spectacular").



## 1981

**January** — YODA is parodied on the cover of MAD Magazine.

YODA is among others on the cover of LIFE Magazine's special Year In Pictures issue for 1980.

**April 10** — STAR WARS is re-released for the third time.

**April** — EMPIRE wins two Academy Awards (for the year 1980) for: Best Sound and Special Achievement for Visual Effects.

**June 11** — Variety reports STAR WARS tops the \$1 million mark in video rental income and becomes the first video cassette to earn a Golden Videocassette Award for this achievement.

**July 4** — Time capsule is placed in the foundation at Skywalker Ranch. Included in the capsule is a microfilmed list of the STAR WARS Fan Club's members.

**August 13** — STAR WARS is re-released for the fourth time.

**November 19** — EMPIRE is re-released for the second time.

**June 6** — Carrie Fisher and JABBA THE HUTT make the cover of PEOPLE Magazine.



**June** — LIFE Magazine features "The Father of the JEDI," a cover story about George Lucas and his creations.

# THE FIRST STAR WARS TEN YEARS

**July 31** — EMPIRE is re-released for the first time.

**September 5** — The STAR WARS Radiodrama begins on National Public radio, 13 episodes in all.

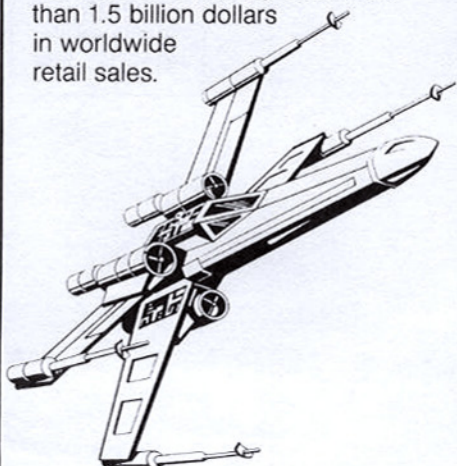


## 1982

**January** — Principal photography begins on RETURN OF THE JEDI in England, and later in Smith River and Death Valley, Calif.

**May** — STAR WARS comes out on video cassette.

**May 16** — L.A. Times article reports that products from STAR WARS and EMPIRE have already sold more than 1.5 billion dollars in worldwide retail sales.



## 1983

**February 17-18** — The EMPIRE STRIKES BACK Radiodrama, a 10-part series commences on National Public Radio.

**February** — STAR WARS shown on cable TV.

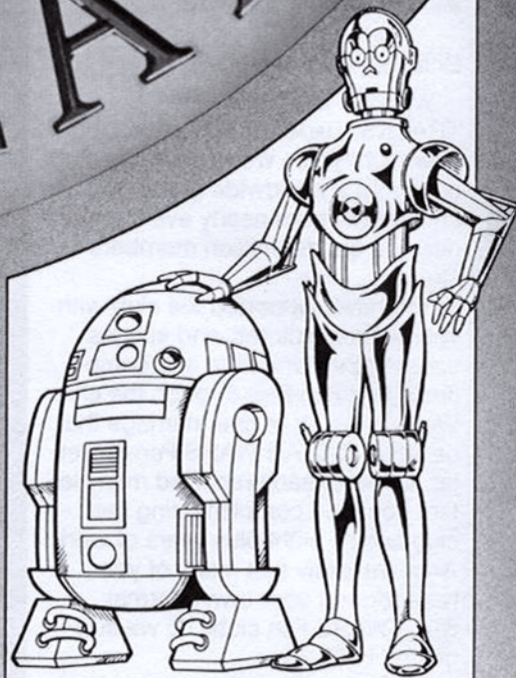
**May 23** — George Lucas makes the cover of TIME Magazine.

### STAR WARS RETURN OF THE JEDI

**May 25** — RETURN OF THE JEDI is released nationwide in the U.S.



JEDI breaks the industry record for a single day with the largest opening day gross in history (to-date), \$6.1 million. The film grossed \$45 million by the end of the first week.



**June 11** — The New York Times Best Seller List includes 5 JEDI books at the same time. The JEDI Storybook is #1 on the hardcover list; the JEDI Novelization is #1 on the paperback list and 3 other titles appear on the trade publications list. This performance smashes all sales records set by the first two films.

**June** — B. Dalton Bookstores, the largest book retailing chain in the U.S., announces that the JEDI novelization sold more copies than any book the store has ever carried.

STAR WARS merchandise from the first two films only has so far generated over \$2 billion in retail sales by this date.

**July/Aug.** — Rolling Stone Magazine publishes an interview with George Lucas. JEDI characters appear on the cover.

**November 21** — CLASSIC CREATURES: RETURN OF THE JEDI airs on CBS-TV.

**December 3** — FROM STAR WARS TO JEDI: THE MAKING OF A SAGA airs on PBS.

## 1984

**January** — Lucasfilm donates R2-D2 and C-3PO to the Smithsonian Institution.

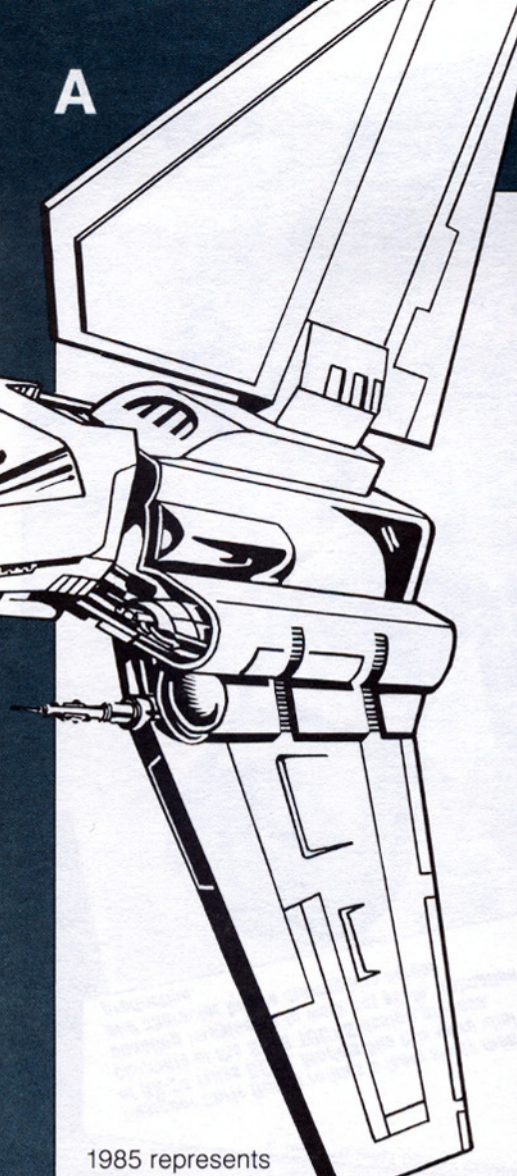
**February** — STAR WARS shown on network television.

The Official STAR WARS Fan Club reaches its peak membership at 184,046 members worldwide.



**April** — RETURN OF THE JEDI wins an Academy Award (for 1983) for: Special Visual Effects.

**May 16** — George Lucas and Steven Spielberg place their footprints in the cement at Mann's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.



1985 represents the 7th year of the STAR WARS Kenner line, the longest selling line of boys toys in history. (For this purpose STAR WARS is considered a boy's toy.)

## 1986

**February 1** — EMPIRE shown on cable TV.

**February 25** — JEDI comes out on video cassette.

**September 13** — THE ALL NEW EWOKS second season of animation commences on ABC-TV.

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**November** — THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK comes out on video cassette.

**November 25** — THE EWOK ADVENTURE airs on ABC-TV as a made-for-TV movie.

## 1985

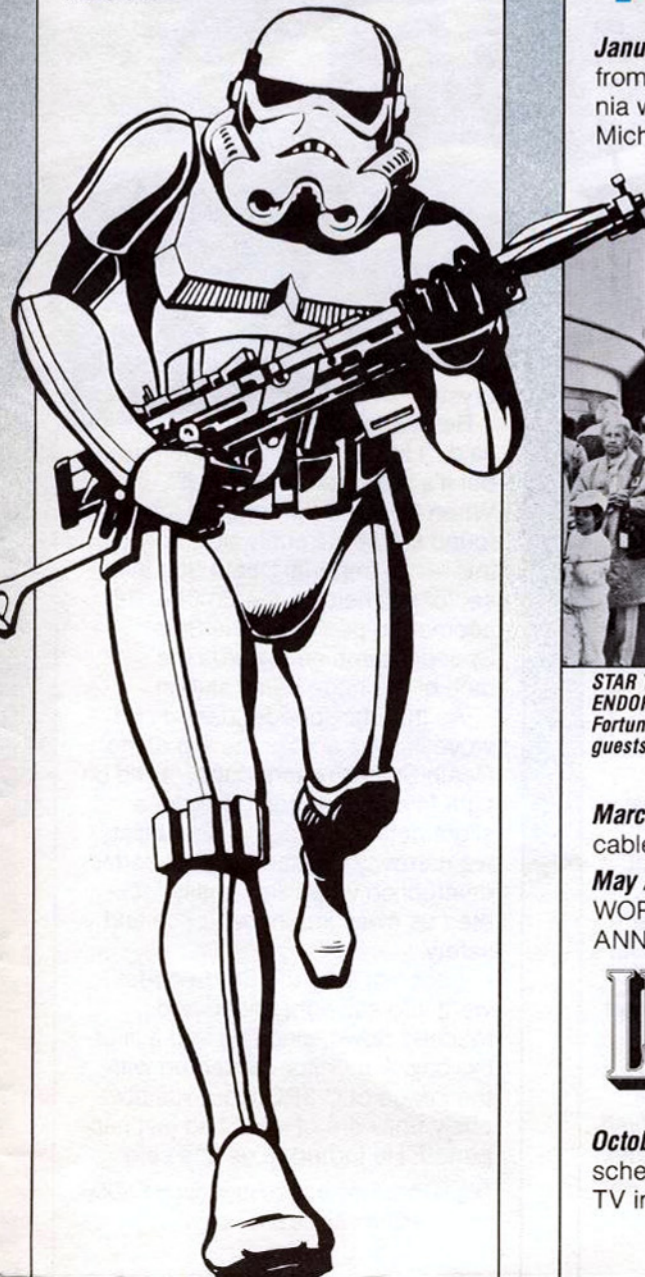
**March 28** — First triple-bill screening of the trilogy (STAR WARS, EMPIRE and JEDI) in a one-day eight-city event.

**March 29** — RETURN OF THE JEDI is re-released.

**September 7** — THE EWOK ADVENTURE wins an Emmy Award for Outstanding Visual Effects.

**September 7** — THE EWOK & DROIDS ADVENTURE HOUR, the first season of animation, commences on ABC on Saturday mornings.

**November 24** — EWOKS: THE BATTLE FOR ENDOR airs on ABC-TV.



## 1987

**January 9** — STAR TOURS blasts off from Disneyland in Anaheim, California with George Lucas and Disney's Michael Eisner cutting the ribbon at the Grand Opening Ceremony.



STAR TOURS passengers awaiting their trip to ENDOR. The line reached out the front gate. Fortunately, STAR TOURS can accommodate 1700 guests an hour.

**March 1** — JEDI will be shown on cable TV.

**May 25** — LUCASFILM AND THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF STAR WARS.



**October** — EMPIRE tentatively scheduled to be shown on network TV in the U.S.

## STAR WARS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Special Commemorative Poster

LFL NEWS

Artist John Alvin has been commissioned to create a special tenth anniversary poster for STAR WARS. Alvin's past work has included posters for the films E.T., COCOON, GREMLINS, and SHORT CIRCUIT. The 10th anniversary poster will be marketed through comic book specialty shops, at science fiction conventions and by mail order. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Mind's Eye Press  
P.O. Box 491449  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

## STAR WARS TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

A Celebration of The First Ten Years



Ten years ago Memorial Day Weekend, STAR WARS burst across the wide screen. To mark this date, CREATION CONVENTIONS Presents STARLOG Salutes STAR WARS — A 10th Anniversary Tribute to George Lucas and the Galaxy Far Far Away which he created. Produced in association with Lucasfilm Ltd., the three-day convention will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 23, 24 and 25, 1987 at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel on Century Blvd. in Los Angeles, near the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Plan to attend this once in a lifetime celebration. As of press time, the three-day event is set to feature:

- ★ Daily screenings of the STAR WARS Trilogy.
- ★ Personal appearances by STAR WARS Stars.
- ★ Presentations from INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC on special effects.
- ★ Displays of original STAR WARS models, props and film artwork.
- ★ A STAR WARS Costume Contest.
- ★ A no-minimum-bid auction of STAR WARS rarities.
- ★ A STAR WARS Trivia contest.
- ★ A giant STAR WARS sales room.
- ★ Previews of upcoming Lucasfilm projects.

For information on rates, room reservations, registration or other 10th Anniversary Salute questions, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Creation/STAR WARS  
249-04 Hillside Avenue  
Bellerose, NY 11426

## STAR WARS ROLE PLAYING GAME

Put Yourself In The Saga

West End Games is in the final development stages of a STAR WARS role playing game which should be available this Fall. If you're new to RPG's, picture a game in which you become someone else. In an RPG, each player becomes a character in the abstract universe set up by the game. Your character comes complete with a list of talents, inclinations, strengths and fears. You have to figure out what your character would do in a situation and then take action. Meanwhile, your opponents are busy with the problems and challenges of their own characters. With its rich cast of well known characters the STAR WARS role playing game should be a big hit. Look for it this Autumn. For more information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

West End Games  
Dept. Star Wars RPG  
251 West 30th Street  
New York, NY 10001



