

THE

EMPIRE PRESENTS

К С Ч О К Л С М

SKYWALKER

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SAGA



THE ULTIMATE CELEBRATION OF THE NINE-FILM EPIC

Abrams: I don't think you can overstate the power of *Star Wars* [*Episode IV—A New Hope*]. The narrative of that movie is brilliant: the propulsion of it, the unexpected nature of it, the way it makes you relate to two droids. It's remarkable how many things that movie does right. It's very easy to say that *Empire* has more going on aesthetically, more character depth, more revelation. But *Episode IV*, for me, will always be the more powerful. When we were shooting, the codename of *The Force Awakens* was 'Avco', which was the theatre in Los Angeles where I first saw *Star Wars*.

Kasdan: Everybody who saw it at that time, their life was changed by it. Everybody remembers the theatre they saw it in and what they felt.

Ford: It gave us an example of what can be achieved through courage and conviction and facing up to the struggles that are part of all of our lives. At the same time, it's all wrapped up in a fantastic world beyond our imagining. Much to my delight, it's been passed on from generation to generation.

Abrams: Being the temporary captain of the ship that George built is an honour, but the ship is larger than the man who built it. It became bigger than anyone, including George Lucas. While it began with him, it became the world's. I want this movie to touch people. I want it to make them believe again in the power of the world that George created. The power of the light side versus the dark side. The power of the Force. **JAMES DYER**

TEEDO

**KIRAN SHAH
ON PLAYING
THE BB-8-
STEALING,
LUGGABEAST-
RIDING
SCAVENGER
KING**

**When did you last watch the movie?**

Over a year ago. It's so good. This time round I was looking at the movie itself as an audience member rather than somebody who was part of it. What J.J. did was really brilliant.

What does *Star Wars* mean to you?

In the 1970s I nearly got into *A New Hope*. That would have been my first movie. But then Kenny Baker decided to come back to do R2-D2. They felt really sorry for me. Irene [Lamb, *Star Wars* casting director] got me an agent, and that's how my film career took off. When the movie came out it really blew my mind. I was about 20-something. It was totally different to anything else.

What's the question you get most from fans?

"How can you see through your mask?" The reply is, "If I'm lucky, I'll be able to

see." Most of the time I'm working blind. I was lucky with Teedo, the vision was not that bad.

Did you get to keep anything?

No! That doesn't happen anymore. I would have loved the spear that Teedo has. That would be really great to keep in my living room.

Have you met George Lucas?

I met him at the R2-D2 audition, and I've known him ever since. I met him next on *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*. He said, "Do you remember me?" And I went, "Yeah, I do!" He went, "Sorry about that." I said, "Don't worry about it." When I worked on *The Dark Crystal*, Lucas spoke to Jim Henson to ask to borrow me to test the Ewoks for *Return Of The Jedi*. The last time I met him was on *Rogue One*. He came round looking at everything in pre-production. **BEN TRAVIS**

