

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

Section 1

Controversy about a scene of Star Wars The 1997 Special Edition of Star Wars depicts Greedo firing a shot at Han Solo shortly before Han responds in kind. In the original 1977 release, Han is the only one to fire. This slow-motion clip shows the 2004 version, in which they shoot at nearly the same time. "Han shot first" refers to a controversial change made to a scene in the film Star Wars (1977),[a] in which Han Solo (Harrison Ford) is confronted by the bounty hunter Greedo (Paul Blake/Maria De Aragon) in the Mos Eisley cantina. In the original version of this scene, Han shoots Greedo dead. Later versions are edited so that Greedo attempts to fire at Han first. Director George Lucas altered the scene to give Solo more justification for acting in self-defense. Many fans and commentators oppose the change, feeling it weakens Solo's characterization. The controversy is referenced in the 2018 film Solo: A Star Wars Story. Scene[edit] Smuggler Han Solo (Harrison Ford) is cornered by bounty hunter Greedo (Paul Blake/Maria De Aragon) in a bar and forced at gunpoint to sit. While they talk about money Solo owes, Solo readies his gun under the table. Greedo tells him he has been "looking forward" to killing Solo for a long time. Solo replies, "Yes, I'll bet you have." The conclusion varies depending on the version of the film being watched.[1] In the original version, the film cuts to a shot of Greedo, followed quickly by flashes of sparks, a cloud of smoke, and the sound of a blaster firing. This is followed by a shot of Greedo from behind, slumping over the table. In the 1997 Special Edition, Greedo shoots first at Solo and misses due to Solo moving his head, and Solo returns fire, killing Greedo.[2]

Section 2

For the 2004 DVD release, the shots are fired at nearly the same time and Solo dodges Greedo's shot.[2] For the 2011 Blu-ray release, the scene of Solo and Greedo firing at each other was

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

shortened by several frames.[3] The scene was changed again for the version of the film released on Disney+ on November 12, 2019. In this version, using a close-up of footage already used a few seconds before,[4] Greedo says a line transcribed by fans as "maclunkey" or "ma klounkee" ("This'll be the end of you") before shooting at Han. The line may be a threat spoken in Huttese, as it is used that way by Sebulba in *The Phantom Menace*.^[5] Additionally, the reverse shot of Greedo being shot was removed, and new effects were used. The changes were made by Lucas before Disney acquired the franchise in 2012.^[6] According to Paul Blake, the scene was created as a result of Lucas having to cut a special effects-heavy scene introducing Jabba the Hutt^[7] due to budget and schedule concerns.^[8] The original version of the Greedo scene has grown to be considered iconic,^[6] while the Jabba scene, which was restored for the Special Edition and later releases, is generally regarded as superfluous.^{[9][10][11][12]} The original special effect was designed and carried out by British two-time Academy Award winning 'Dean of Special Effects' John Stears, who mounted the pyrotechnics to the Greedo character.^[13] Criticism^[edit] The change is one of the most controversial of many alterations made in the 1997 Special Edition of *Star Wars*.^{[1][14]} Many fans argued that it alters Han's initially morally ambiguous character,^[15] making his later transition from antihero to hero less meaningful.^[citation needed] According to *Variety*, "Fans lost their minds. It was an affront, the neutering of a badass."^[16] Fans have created fan edits of the original

Section 3

Star Wars films (such as *Harmy's Despecialized Edition*) to reverse Lucas' changes, especially the scene with Solo and Greedo.^{[2][17]} In a 2004 interview, Lucas responded to the criticism, saying, "To me, [the original movie] doesn't really exist anymore. ... I'm sorry you saw half a completed film and fell in love with it. But I want it to be the way I want it to be."^[18] He acknowledged the controversy by wearing a "Han shot first" T-shirt on the set of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the*

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

Crystal Skull (2008).[19] In a 2012 interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Lucas said: The controversy over who shot first, Greedo or Han Solo, in Episode IV, what I did was try to clean up the confusion, but obviously it upset people because they wanted Solo to be a cold-blooded killer, but he actually isn't. It had been done in all close-ups and it was confusing about who did what to whom. I put a little wider shot in there that made it clear that Greedo is the one who shot first, but everyone wanted to think that Han shot first, because they wanted to think that he actually just gunned him down.[20] One draft of the original script makes no mention of Greedo shooting at all, only Solo.[21][better source needed] In 2015, a replica of an early script for Star Wars was discovered in the archives of the University of New Brunswick library. In the script, dated March 15, 1976, Han shoots first.[22] In a 2015 interview, Lucas said: Han Solo was going to marry Leia, and you look back and say, "Should he be a cold-blooded killer?" Because I was thinking mythologically? should he be a cowboy, should he be John Wayne? And I said, "Yeah, he should be John Wayne." And when

Section 4

you're John Wayne, you don't shoot people [first]? you let them have the first shot.[b] It's a mythological reality that we hope our society pays attention to.[24] In 2020's The Star Wars Archives: 1999-2005, Lucas commented, "I never designed Han to be a ruthless killer. All the good guys shoot in self-defense. When I edited the scene in 1977 you couldn't tell who does what." [25] Paul Blake said in a 2016 interview: "Of course, it said it all in the original script, we played in the scene in English and at the end of the scene, it reads, 'Han shoots the alien.' It's all it says and that's what happened. It was very painful." Blake felt that Greedo shooting at and missing Solo at very short range made him appear inept, and that Greedo has more glory if he is "just blown away". [26] In 2015, legal expert John P. Gross argued that Greedo's behavior constituted a direct threat and

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

would warrant preemptive action in self-defense under U.S. law.[27] In 2014, when asked in a Reddit AMA, Harrison Ford replied, "I don't know and I don't care." [28] On the 2019 addition of a new line of dialogue, Blake said: I couldn't understand a word of it. (laughs) It confused me incredibly, but I've never understood anything about the movies anyway, particularly that. The convention I've just come back from, I had a million opinions from everybody. This new word! [7] In the 2018 film Solo: A Star Wars Story, Han Solo shoots antagonist Tobias Beckett mid-sentence, killing him. [29][30][31] Writers Lawrence and Jonathan Kasdan confirmed that this was a deliberate reference, and that the Solo shooting script specifies: "There can be no question that Han shoots first." [29][31] In The Lego Star Wars Holiday Special (2020), which features characters from different time periods brought together through

Section 5

time travel, an older Han from The Force Awakens asks the younger Han from A New Hope if he wants to shoot first during an encounter with Greedo. He replies, "After you." Both men open fire simultaneously, before Greedo can react. Notes [edit] ^ Later titled Star Wars: Episode IV ? A New Hope ^ In Red River, John Wayne's character, Thomas Dunson, shoots and kills a Mexican whose boss Dunson admits he is stealing land from. The Mexican begins to draw just before Dunson, who then says he predicted his opponent's move "By watchin' his eyes." [23] References [edit] ^ a b Deb, Sopan (May 3, 2024). "How Rebel 'Star Wars' Fans Saved the Original Movies". The New York Times. Archived from the original on May 3, 2024. Retrieved May 4, 2024. George Lucas wants them to fade into oblivion. But some fans spent more than a decade digitally restoring the original 'Star Wars' trilogy, preserving the movies as they were shown in theaters. ^ a b c Eveleth, Rose (August 27, 2014). "The Star Wars George Lucas Doesn't Want You To See". The Atlantic. Archived from the original on August 28, 2014. Retrieved November 19, 2015. In the original versions ... it's

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

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Section 6

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Section 7

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Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

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Section 8

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(1984) Ewoks:

Section 9

The Battle for Endor (1985) Television series Animated Droids (1985) Ewoks (1985) Clone Wars (2003) The Clone Wars (2008) episodes Detours (unaired) Rebels (2014) episodes Forces of Destiny (2017) Resistance (2018) The Bad Batch (2021) Visions (2021) Tales (2022) Young Jedi Adventures (2023) Live-action The Mandalorian (2019) season 1 2 3 The Book of Boba Fett (2021) Obi-Wan Kenobi (2022) Andor (2022) Ahsoka (2023) The Acolyte (2024) Skeleton Crew (2024) Characters The Clone Wars Rebels The Mandalorian The Book of Boba Fett Legends Knights of the Old Republic Music and audio Audio dramas The Story of Star Wars Audio novels Radio dramatizations of the films Compositions "Main Title" "The Imperial March" "Ewok Celebration" "Duel of the Fates" "Star Wars Theme/Cantina Band" Soundtracks Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back Return of the Jedi Ewoks The Phantom Menace Attack of the Clones Revenge of the Sith The Clone Wars The Force Awakens Rogue One The Last Jedi Solo The Rise of Skywalker Obi-Wan Kenobi Andor Other media Attractions A Galactic Spectacular Jedi Training: Trials of the Temple Star Tours The Adventures Continue Path of Jedi Galaxy's Edge Millennium Falcon ? Smugglers Run Rise of the Resistance Galactic Starcruiser Hyperspace Mountain Launch Bay Star Wars Weekends Where Science Meets Imagination Star Wars Celebration In Concert Hyperspace Lounge Documentaries The Making of Star Wars SP FX: The Empire Strikes Back Classic Creatures: Return of the Jedi From Star Wars to Jedi: The Making of a Saga Empire of Dreams: The Story of the Star Wars Trilogy Science of Star Wars The Legacy Revealed Star Wars Tech Lego The Yoda Chronicles Droid Tales The Resistance Rises The Freemaker Adventures Rebuild the Galaxy Merchandise Action figures Kenner list Hasbro Vintage Collection Transformers Pez Force Trainer Shepperton Design Studios Trading cards Vinylmation Other Video games list Books

Han_shot_first Wikipedia Content

reference books Star

Section 10

Wars Insider Comics list manga Legends characters Thrawn trilogy Shadows of the Empire
Galaxies Knights of the Old Republic The Force Unleashed The Old Republic The High Republic
Production George Lucas Lucasfilm Cast film television series Changes in film re-releases Han shot
first Filming locations Opening crawl Art Sources and analogues comparison to Star Trek Accolades
The Force Awakens Special effects of The Empire Strikes Back Duel of the Fates Light & Magic
Cultural impact Star Wars fandom 501st Legion Rebel Legion Religion Chewbacchus Jediism Jedi
census phenomenon Star Wars Day Star Wars and Other Galactic Funk Fan websites
Wookieepedia TheForce.Net Spaceballs Force for Change Chewbacca defense Yoda conditions
Death Star (business) Strategic Defense Initiative List of organisms named after the Star Wars
series Robot Chicken: Star Wars The Family Guy Trilogy "The Saga Begins" Space Janitors The
Force Awakens from Its Nap Rogue Not Quite One A Disturbance in the Force The Force is with
Cristal Beer Category Retrieved from
"https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Han_shot_first&oldid=1224568854"