

The Menacing New Yorker

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Official Newsletter of the Countdown NY Line

February 26, 1999

Second Issue

Days Until Line Up 54

Theaters To Be Announced!

Getting closer to knowing...

By: Robert Cartagena

Well we have it from unconfirmed sources that the **Theater Release List** is due out the week of March 1st and we are all holding a collective breath as we wait to find out where we will be making our home for the following weeks. It is crucial that we have a theater at this point in the game being that we have many technical logistics to still work out (like ordering an ISDN line which takes five weeks for installation) among other things. There are local merchant issues as well. We want to form alliances with the merchants to provide the best food, equipment, shelter, etc. for

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From The Administrators Desk.....

By: Michelle Hadlow

Hello All,

The New York crew of dedicated volunteers has been hard at work over the last couple of weeks. By the next newsletter you will be inundated with information, but for now, here is what we can tell you.

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy getting all of the legal aspects of our event worked out. Documents and waivers of all kinds had to be drawn up, documents for

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Happy Trailers...

By Mike Gent

I just finished watching the teaser trailer again (don't ask how many times I've seen it, I've long since lost count), and I have to talk about the overpowering effect of those two brief minutes of sight and sound.

I remember the first time I saw it: mid-November at the Ziegfeld, right before Meet Joe Black. Yes, I was one of not so many that day who were fortunate enough to have "special access" to the pre-release of the trailer. I have to admit that I was a bit skeptical. Would the "new" Star Wars measure up to the firmly established Lucas legacy? Could new characters have the undeniably successful on-screen chemistry of Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, etc.? Was I just too old and too jaded to feel the magic of a fantasy world that so captivated me as a younger, purer being?

I didn't have to wait very long to get answers to my

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Lets all give a big hand to those who have joined the line!

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the theater, for our number one sponsor and for you the line members.

Suzanne, our PR Princess, has completed a media kit that is now being prepared for distribution to various media sources and to more potential Sponsors. The media has already taken a large interest in our group and we have only just begun. Keep an eye on Suzanne's column for updates on that. All we await now is a theater, and if all goes according to plan, by the next newsletter we should have that all set. From this point forward the one to watch is our man Abbas. As our Line Logistics coordinator, he has the monumental task of figuring out the who's and how's of this event. Coming very soon will be a detailed plan outlining what you will need to do in order to get your opening day ticket.

As you probably already know, our goal is to make this a fun, friendly, party for all. That means we need cooperation not only from the theater, but from the City of NY as well. One of our newer volunteers, Giovanni, is working on keeping the city informed as to our plans. Once the theater location is officially announced he will be making sure the local police precinct is aware of our group and our plans as well.

So as you can see there is a lot involved in making this happen, but we have a good crew doing our best to cover all the bases so that May 21st will be an unforgettable experience for all of us, so stay tuned.

Michele
Aka R2D2

The PR Princess

By Suzanne Sousa

"Be calm," Yoda told her. "Through the force, things you will see, other places, other thoughts, the future the past..." Suzanne closes her eyes, takes a deep breath and says, "I see a line, a huge, swerving line with people laughing, punching away messages on laptops, making funny faces and reciting movie lines into webcams... There are several men holding TV cameras with reporters asking questions of the "Line People", many of who are wearing long robes. I also, I also see people sparing with lightsabers and others dancing to some sort of Ewok rhythm or is it the percussion section of the Max Rebo Band?" "Ah," Yoda exclaimed, "Always in motion is the future..." This Jedi vision may just be a working of my imagination, but I am positive that the reality will not only be better but be on an AWESOME, HYPERSPACE level!! As PR Princess, my goal is to hype up the NYLine and create a HUGE buzz, along with our counterparts in California and Canada, around the momentous celebration taking place around the release of Episode I! I envision the media coverage coming in several waves – the announcement of a theater location, a possible bi-coastal press conference with the Starlight Foundation, a media

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our dedicated line people. There are many people counting on this decision to be made so we can move from the planning stage to the doing stage. These are just a few minute details on my shoulders at this point but, as we have said in previous newsletters we move on in faith.

All I can ask of those who read this is to pray for us and "use the force" on our behalf.

May the Force Be With Us All!

And now for something completely technical...

By Bobby Friske

Robert wanted me to drop a line to you fine New York people, so here goes. A short introduction: I'm Bobby Friske, the technical co-ordinator for the <http://countingdown.com/starwars> event. I'm 31 (going on 15). I've seen SW, ESB, ROTJ countless times (I know, we all have). I am the person doing the monthly KROQ interviews. My primary job during the event is to setup/maintain the computers, web cams, IRC chat, etc and (try) to make sure all goes well on the technical front.

Now for the technical info that I know you're all craving. As you may or may not know this really is an international event that's going to be broadcast over the Internet. Probably the biggest event of its kind up until now. While we're inline people from all over the world will be able to log on to our site, see us live (thanks wincam.com), ask us questions and chat with us in real time. We're working on a "countdown TV" show that will be broadcast from different lines at different times. Of course, during the real premiere we'll focus on the Mann Chinese theater, but the plan is to give everyone equal time at each line. All lines will be online during the whole 30 days. Someone surfing our page can click on the coronet line and see what's happening there, or click on the Mann Chinese and see Lincoln doing his thing, or click on the New York line and see Suzanne doing "the salute". You get the idea. Our organizers are working extremely hard to pull this event together.

Keep in mind, this event is for all of us. If you have any suggestions for the technical team, the PR team, the lead organizers, etc, let us KNOW. We want everyone to be happy and have a great time. After all, that's what George Lucas has stated Star Wars is all about, A good time.

Thanks for your time...

Bobby Friske

Countdown National Technical Coordinator

Here's where we stand:

New members this past weeks: 27

Total members: 89

Pushing The Envelope / F.A.Q

Here, you can read a little about people's excitement and enthusiasm about the Lineup event as well as get answers to questions that just might be on the top of your "questions to ask Roberto" list. If you would like to contribute a little statement (up to about 100 words), please feel free to contact me. Just remember we reserve the right to edit your question before we print it.

Peter Stogios <peter.stogios@utoronto.ca> wrote:

"Hi there, I came across your "lineup" website and I couldn't help but feel extremely disgusted in what you are doing. What do you possibly hope to get out of waiting A MONTH perform this movie? Do you not have a job or even a semblance of a life?

Don't get me wrong, I'm a Star Wars fan too, but I'M NOT WAITING IN LINE FOR A MONTH! It's a sad state of the world if people are willing to go to these lengths for a movie. Why don't you spend your time doing something to contribute to society, like volunteering at a charity or even getting a job? I'm really disgusted, I think I'm going to throw up right now. Maybe I should puke into a bag and bring it to your stupid lineup and POUR IT ON YOU! Not like you'll notice it, you'll be dirty from not having showered for weeks!

From a concerned EDUCATED AND EMPLOYED human being,

Peter Stogios

p.s. I welcome any intelligent rebuttals you have to this argument."

Dear Peter,

I do have a full-time job. I have probably spent more hours doing community service than you ever will in your whole life. If you read the site more carefully, you would have read that only a few of us will be out there at a time, meaning that we will be taking shifts to stand in line (a day at a time). No one is going to be out there for the whole month. Finally, we are working in conjunction with the Starlight Foundation collecting money from corporate sponsors based on how many hours we are in line, with the Starlight Foundation receiving all our proceeds.

Perhaps next time you'll inquire more into a person's or group's plans before making rash and offensive judgements.

-Jarvis LA Line Coordinator

Peter's letter was printed "as is" including all grammatical & spelling errors. Also anyone wanting to comment on Peter's letter should e-mail him directly. It is greatly encouraged - Editor in chief.

PR PRINCESS...continued from page 2

blitz on April 21st and absolute total coverage for the week and day of May 21st, plus everything else that may happen in between! I definitely plan to draw attention to Countdown.com, its connection to the NYLine and the Voila.com sponsorship. I will also work to feature coverage on individual line organizers, the female fans of the NYLine and our international visitors! This is going to involve much faxing, calling, e-mailing and coordination between myself and Robert and the crew at Countdown.com. Things will be absolutely crazed but it will all come together in a great "John Williams" inspired crescendo!

Suzanne
Aka Red 1

HAPPY TRAILS...continued from page 1

questions. And the answers I got did far more than assuage my fears. The answers I got affected me so intensely that for a moment I became my younger, purer self; I temporarily slipped out of my life and forgot that I had a career to build, bills to pay, people to please... When I saw the Lucasfilm logo flash across the screen, when I felt the awed silence descend upon the crowded theater, and when I sensed that semi-paralyzing tingle creep along my spine, I knew I had nothing to worry about, and I quickly murmured my thanks to the powers that be.

Needless to say, what followed were two minutes of the purest delight. Those who have seen what I have seen (and at this point in time, who hasn't?) know exactly what I'm talking about.

As most of you are aware, quite a fuss was made over the die-hard fans who paid their \$7-\$9 for a movie ticket and left immediately following the first showing of the trailer. However, in my humble opinion, the true testimony to the power of those two shortest minutes of Star Wars history was made manifest in that core group of fans who endured the three longest hours of Brad Pitt history simply to catch another glimpse of cinematic perfection.

In any case, long ago on that chilly November evening as I turned my back on the movie screen and made my way home in a cloud of giddy speculation, I was pretty sure that I wasn't going to make it to May. Well, now that May is weeks away, I feel my strength returning. And with the imminent release of a new trailer next month, I am confident that I have survived the cruel "Winter of my discontent" and will soon enter into the Spring that must never be forgotten.

Mike Gent can be seen here regularly on
The Menacing New Yorker

HelpWanted Ads

There are several positions needing to be filled for our NY line crew to be complete, if you see a job you might be able to fill please contact us at:

Nyline99@hotmail.com

Subj: Help wanted

Volunteer's Help Wanted

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

We are looking for a technically savvy individual who can work with out supervision to help us get our technical issues sorted out. This person should have PC as well as server experience Web authoring a plus. This person would have to work out the logistics of getting power and telephone connections for connectivity into the Internet as well as keep the laptops and computers on the line functioning. You will be working with our main Technical coordinator as well as with the National Technical Coordinator.

Please contact us if you think you can fit the bill.

Volunteer's Help Wanted

LINE LOGISTICS ASSISTANT

We are looking for a someone to assist our Line Logistics Coordinator in resolving line issues and help shape the way the line will be organized. Duties will include:

Line Shift organizing

Food delivery coordination

Sponsor Contact and managing of sponsored Items

Contest creation and implementation

and many other things...

If you are organized and think this position would interest you please contact us.

Sponsors Wanted

We are currently looking for Corporate sponsors. If you know any organizations that may be interested in donating equipment, services or funds please have them contact Louis Chang.

Phone: (212) 407-5872

E-mail: nyline99@hotmail.com

Subj: Sponsors

Logistically Speaking

By Abbas Rezvi

All right here are the latest news from the front...

First of all thanks to all of you who have responded. The response has been overwhelming, we all underestimated the number of fans out there willing to spare a bit of their time to take part in this event. And I would also like to thank the number of fans living outside the US who will be flying over and joining the fun (let's hope there won't be any pilot strikes or worse: a Star Trek movie for the in-flight entertainment!).

So far we are in the process of designing a shift schedule. We will ask each one of you to choose shifts that will be suitable for you during the 30 days preceding the opening day. The duration and timing of these shifts are yet to be determined. We are also designing a point system. The more shifts you do, the more points you collect (sorry no air miles here!). You will need to reach a minimum of points to be eligible for admission to the screening of Episode I. Any points collected above the minimum will entitle you to other prizes. But please remember all of this will be done in the spirit of Fun. As always, feel free to e-mail me with any questions or suggestions.

See ya !

Abbas

Line Logistics Coordinator

Keep Pressing!

In this section, you can read about what the media has said about us recently!

Countdown.com was given a mention in today's USA TODAY Dated February 26, 1999 in the Weekend Section.

Keep that press coming Suzanne!

You can contact Suzanne Sousa @:

Nyline99@hotmail.com

Attn: PR Princess

FAN FEEDBACK

Robert,

Thanks so much for the copy of "The Manacing New Yorker". It was so cool!!!! I'm VERY IMPRESSED by the quality and professionalism you guys have. I'm completely intimidated! My talents don't run in that vein. I again offer to do something like bake for the line. Please sign me up as a member. If there is anything small, or medium you need done or whatever, please let me know. I'm more than glad to help in any way.

Thanks again,
Judy Mastrangelo

You're welcome Judy -Editor in Chief

Well, we have reached the end of our Third issue of **The Menacing New Yorker** newsletter!

Hope to hear from you soon! See you in two weeks!

Contact Robert at: nyline99@hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER

Unless otherwise specified, proposed line-ups at theaters are considered UNAUTHORIZED and are not officially sanctioned by any movie studio, production company, theater chain or individual theater. If at any point the appropriate bodies agree to authorize and participate in a line, that line will be publicly declared an AUTHORIZED line.

Aside from specifically authorized lines, Countdown: The Ultimate Fan Site and Countdown to Star Wars only provide the forum for organizing lines, and do not accept responsibility for participants who meet and congregate on said sites. Those who choose to involve themselves in lines do so completely at their own risk.

NY LINE VOLUNTEERS:

NY LINE COORDINATOR & EDITOR IN CHIEF

ROBERT CARTAGENA

AKA RED LEADER

NY LINE ADMINISTRATOR

MICHELLE HADLOW

AKA R2D2

PUBLIC RELATIONS & ASST. LINE COORDINATOR

SUZANNE SOUSA

AKA RED 1 OR PR PRINCESS

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

AYAZ ASIF

AKA RED 2

SPONSOR RELATIONS

LOUIS CHANG

AKA RED 3

EDITOR

VINCENT TERRASI

AKA RED 4

LINE LOGISTICS

ABBAS REZVI

AKA RED 5

CITY LIASONS COORDINATOR

GIOVANNI JARIMILLO

AKA RED 6

ALL AROUND SUPPORTER AND GREAT GUY

MICHAEL L. GENT

AKA RED 7

Questions To The Man

Submitted By: A.G.

If I had a chance to meet George Lucas, I would **DIE** to ask him the two following questions:

He and Isaac Asimov are probably the 2 greatest visionaries of the past half-century. Asimov painted a Galaxy ruled by Humans, with ****NO**** other form of intelligence (the question of whether he was right is actually the conclusion of the Foundation saga).

Lucas painted a Galaxy with a multitude of intelligent life forms. I'm just wondering if :

1) The two of them met and if Lucas was influenced by Asimov and if so in which direction?

2) "A long time ago, in a Galaxy far, far away"... a long time AGO?? Can anyone explain this?

If you have any insights into these questions please email me at:

Nyline99@hotmail.com Subj: Question to the man