

By Troy Maben
Of The Print

George Lucas has done it again! He has created another fast paced, far out film in his continuing Star Wars Adventure, "Return Of The Jedi."

First we saw the introduction of such things as the empire, the rebellion, and the ever-familiar characters of Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and many others, in the first great film, "Star Wars." Then audiences were left hanging at the outcome of the second film, "The Empire Strikes Back," in which evil Darth Vader (Boo hiss) gained the upper hand over the rebellion and froze hero, Han Solo, in carbonite. Now the new Jedi film answers all the questions of the last film, ties up loose ends, and presents a new array of characters and dazzling special effects, all combined to make a more fulfilling film.

Even though the film has been out for a week now, from the looks of the lines in front of the theaters I'm sure most people have not been able to make it to the ticket counter yet. So it wouldn't be very nice of *The Print* to give away what happens in the movie.

Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia Organa go to the desert planet of Tatooine to rescue their frozen pal, Han Solo, from the evil clutches of mean and ugly Jabba the Hutt. Meanwhile the rebel alliance learns that the evil emperor has gone to oversee the construction of a new and more powerful Death Star that would mean certain doom for the alliance.

The story takes the audience from the musty hall of Jabba the Hutt, to the Emperors throne room aboard the new Death Star, to the forest moon of Endor, where small Koala Bear-like creatures ruled the forest.

I should also mention that the film does not leave the audience hanging over the outcome

"Jedi" carries on "Star Wars" quality



Luke (Mark Hamill) and Leia (Carrie Fisher) prepare to swing to safety from the top of Jabba's desert sail barge. Photos courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox.

waiting for a sequel. The ending is complete and wraps up the middle of three trilogies. George Lucas plans on making nine films in all, and the familiar characters that we have come to know so well come to

a stop with "Return of the Jedi." The next big blockbuster Star Wars film will take place before the characters of Luke,

Han, and Leia are born. It will be episode one.

The special effects in "Return" are simply superb. You'll have a hard time just seeing all that flashes before you on the screen of the magnificent space battles and the chase scenes of flying speed bikes through giant redwood trees on Endor. The confrontation between

Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker is destined to become a classic scene.

The acting is so much better in this third film also. In fact, Lucas went to great lengths to show how much Luke has grown since the last film. The first introduction the audience has of Luke is a Hologram image in Jabba's court. Spunky robot, R2D2, displays the image which shows a much older looking Luke Skywalker, self assured and a Jedi Knight.

Princess Leia is also more in depth in this film than in the past two. She was previously portrayed as a tough young girl, but in "Return" we see a more sensitive and mature character.

Han Solo's part stays pretty much the same and Harrison Ford plays him with the same smug, smart alec attitude that has delighted Star Wars fans for six years. In one scene in the forest on Endor, Luke tells Han to sneak up on some storm troopers, and says, "Be quiet!" Han turns to Luke with a big grin and replies, "Hey, it's me." Should Luke worry? Han steps on a twig and gets decked by a storm trooper.

And we musn't forget good old Darth Vader. His character is introduced with the same evil approach that makes every kid in the theater (as well as some adults) cringe in their seats. But also in this film we see a new side to Darth Vader (hint, hint) that I won't tell you about--you'll have to go and see for yourself.

Even though you may hear some reviews that say this film borders on mushy, or that the story is overdone and shallow, pay no heed. I assure you that this is the best of the Star Wars films to date and the ending truly fits this long awaited finale. It's totally unexpected, and a pleasant surprise.

So get going, grab the popcorn, and be prepared to venture back a long time ago to galaxy far, far away.



R2-D2 is turned into a waiter in "Jedi."

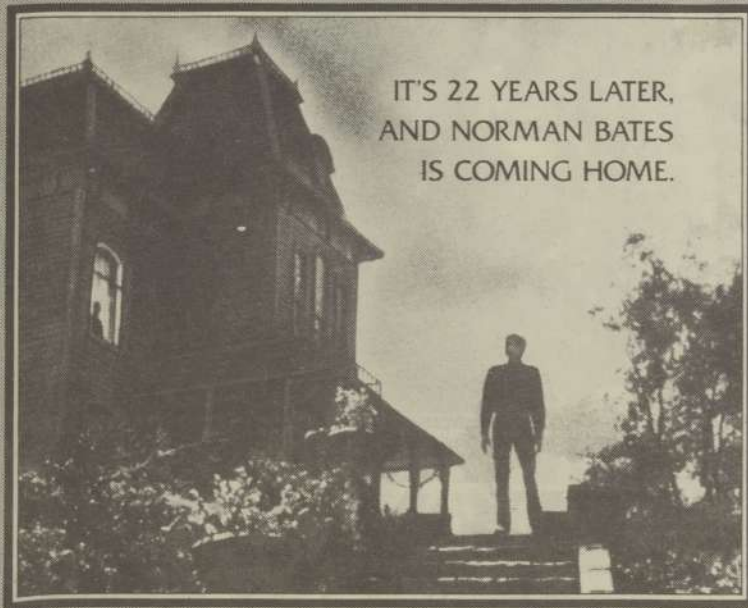
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