

RAY PARK:

BEHIND THE



The Stunt-Man-Turned-Actor Talks Fame and Anonymity, Survival Skills, and Getting His Own Stunt Double

By Gabriela Tscherner-Patao



He may very well be one of the best-known actors you have never seen. From his role as Darth Maul in Episode I, to his gig as the Headless Horseman in *Sleepy Hollow*, to his appearance as Toad in *X-Men*, Ray Park has remained something of a mystery with his face obscured beneath alien, monster, or mutant makeup. "The true *Star Wars* fans recognize me anyhow," he marvels. Thanks to his characters' disguises, however, Park still enjoys some privacy. "I'm not getting chased down the street like Tom Cruise, thank God."

Not having a well-known face didn't hinder Park's career as a stuntman and actor in Hollywood. "I never thought I'd get a part in

a big movie," Park confides. "I was a shy kid with a cockney accent. I only dreamt about Hollywood."

The Scotsman had no idea how big his character would become. "In the beginning, when I saw a picture of Darth Maul in some magazine, I would buy ten copies. I wasn't aware of the scale of it." Today, *Star Wars* fans all over the world know Park's name, if not his face.

MAKING OF A MENACE

Park was born in 1974 in Glasgow, Scotland, but his family moved to London when he was seven. "My Dad and I were really into Bruce Lee," he recalls. "I loved anything that had to do with ninjas,

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