

but I hadn't. So I've started collecting the books and I've already spent hundreds of dollars on it." On board from the beginning, Park has been watching the project take form. He plays Danny Rand, also known as Iron Fist. After playing all those villains, this is his first role as a hero. "It will be challenging," he admits. "Being the good guy for once will be a totally new experience for me." The movie centers around Danny Rand, a young man raised by mystical Asian monks after his parents are murdered by crooks. He

returns to the U.S. to seek vengeance for his parents' death. "He has acquired superpowers through the ability to control his chi, his bodily energy, into his fist and strike with the force of iron." *The Big Hit* director Kirk Wong has been signed to lead the movie, and



filming is scheduled to begin this fall.

Secretly, Ray Park had hoped that he could return to the *Star Wars* movies as Darth Maul, the character that made him famous. "For a long time I had stayed optimistic and would have liked to return in whatever shape or form. To thousands of fans, I am Darth Maul." But after George Lucas hadn't knocked on his door for *Attack of the Clones*, Park has faint hope for a possible appearance in Episode III.

"Star Wars and X-Men were physical roles that opened more doors for me. But I never went to drama school, so I still have a lot to learn."

"After all, Darth Maul got killed off, so, I think George Lucas has made his decision. I don't think he'll be bringing me back. I just have to think it was a good experience and a good time in my life." ☺



[RIGHT] Despite his other roles, Park is still best known to fans as Darth Maul—not that he minds. His duel with Qui-Gon Jinn was the first proof that Jedi from the prequels would demonstrate far more power and agility than they had in the Classic Trilogy.

The Essential Films of Ray Park

- Mortal Kombat 2: Annihilation (1997)
- Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace (1999)
- Sleepy Hollow (1999)
- X-Men (2000)
- Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever (2002)
- Coming soon: Iron Fist (2004)