

GE NEWS



WOMEN TALK SCI FI

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Star Wars' Jake Lloyd
talks to GE

GE's youngest ever
correspondent

I met Geordie La Forge

GE's first ever
competition winner!



What does Anakin Skywalker
think of Darth Vader?

Check out Jake Lloyd's
interview to find out!



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GE News 2nd year in publication

THE FORCE IS WITH YOU, YOUNG SKYWALKER, BUT YOU ARE NOT A JEDI YET!



GE: Jake you starred in two movies at a very young age did you have a family background in acting and how did you get involved in a couple of major films?

Jake: A really persistent agent, a really persistent young me and luck I guess. I really don't know what to chalk it up to.

GE: So it wasn't your parents that wanted to get you in that sort of area?

Jake: No, my mom begged me not to do it.

GE: So at such a young age you wanted to be involved in film?

Jake: Two I wanted to be in a film with Arnold Schwarzenegger at two.

GE: Wow! Why Arnold?

Jake: Because I saw him in Terminator 2 and I thought he was awesome, and I was right. *Laughs*

GE: You worked with him in Jingle All the Way?

Jake: Yes

GE: How was it working with him?

Jake: It is the first time and only time that I have ever been speechless.

GE: Were you in awe?

Jake: Yeah!! He's eminence. *Laughs*

GE: And you were so little?

Jake: Yeah, and a dream come true and I felt I even asked too much to go to school after things like that happen.

GE: So you've met your icon early in life?

Jake: Yeah.

GE: So I guess that makes you think what is the next step?

Jake: No, I don't think that way. The unaimed arrow never misses, sort of idea. So I just go with it. I'm really laid back. I don't do drugs. *Laughter*

GE: So after Arnold you landed in an extremely iconic and one of the best loved movies of all time and you have played one of the most feared characters. How did you get it?

Jake: Two years of auditioning. I was too young and too small for the part to begin with. So I would go in every three to six months to see the casting agent and she would just talk to me. My agent kept hassling them and making sure that I was there. She's my Godmother now. She's awesome really sweet and sassy. She does both quite well. Anyways, I just kept going in. There's the screen test and I got pegged. I don't know exactly why.

Eugenia and I (Gerri) recently met up with Jake Lloyd who at a very young age played one of the most iconic characters in Sci Fi history. We had the chance to interview him at Supanova in Sydney, Australia. Jake is a very determined young man and knows what he wants to do in his life and how to get it. Read on to find out that no matter what age you are you can make decisions that can change your life. Jake talks about his time as Anakin Skywalker and what it was like to work in a movie franchise that some may say is the world's greatest so far!



Jake Lloyd at Supanova Sydney

GE: So had you watched the Star Wars movies beforehand?

Jake: Yeah I had. My parents were big Star Wars fans, my mom especially. Darth Vader was my favourite character when I first watched it because he seems such a kind hearted fellow. *(Said with tongue in cheek)*

GE: So why play a baddie?

Jake: Well he wasn't bad.

GE: He wasn't?

Jake: No.

GE: What was he?

Jake: Are you guys Trek fans or Star Wars fans?

GE: We are both.

Jake: Okay, the prophesise in the Star Wars movies is that he will bring balance to the force and he does. By Return of the Jedi he kills the Emperor, and he's brought balance to the force so he's ultimately a good guy. That's how I've always viewed it. He killed the Emperor so what's the problem with that. Even if he caused all this destruction he eventually created such a shift that was for the better. He could have done things a little differently but that's not it.

GE: So what are your memories of the filming? I would imagine you would have done a lot of the filming in the desert areas.

Jake: Really hot, really, really, hot. Most of my memories are what happened off the set. Kenny Baker is quite funny, he's always very funny. I don't want to go into any of the stories but he was very funny but I will give that as an aside and leave you hanging! My sister almost got stolen, kidnapped I believe is the proper word. It was chaotic, it was cool. London was amazing. I miss it almost every day living in London. I thought it was phenomenal.

GE: Did your parents come with you at this time?

Jake: Yeah they were there the entire time.

GE: How long did it take to film?

Jake: Six months.

GE: How long did you live in London?

Jake: I lived there for six months.



So what does Jake really think of the Darth Vader?

GE: Did you go to school or, did you have a tutor during that time?

Jake: It was during the summer so they weren't legally required to do it, so they didn't. So it was a lot of roaming around London and showing up on time onto the set.

GE: Then you did a couple of TV series like The Pretender and another couple of movies and then you stopped.

Jake: Yeah. I did that.

GE: You called an end to it?

Jake: Yeah.

GE: Why?

Jake: People camping on our doors and on our lawn and it just stopped being fun so why continue to do it. As a career opportunity I really didn't follow it through like I should have but that's not what I'm in it for. It's never been what I've been in it for.

GE: Do you still want to be an actor?

Jake: Half of me does, half of me doesn't. I think it's an admirable career, very difficult and challenging and there is a lot of soul searching involved so I dig that. I've always dug that. I prefer to work behind the camera at the moment.

GE: You are currently at university and are taking a year off, when you go back again what are you studying?

Jake: Film and psychology.

GE: What part of film?

Jake: Editing at the moment and I am in between editing and directing, I haven't decided which.

GE: So why psychology?

Jake: I really really need it! *Laughter all round*

GE: They do say you study what you need.

Jake: Yeah.



GE: You don't plan to become a psychologist?

Jake: No.

GE: So how much longer before you finish your degree?

Jake: About three years, probably, three, four, something like that. I haven't really scoped it out. I took a year off because I wanted to make sure I was doing the right thing.

GE: So in terms of directing, what type of film would you like to go into, documentaries?

Jake: No not documentaries. I do like editing documentaries though, that's fun. I've edited a few of my friend's documentaries. That's pretty cool. You never know how they are going to turn out and an editor really turns them around and I enjoyed that. I don't know, I don't really want to pick or choose. I kind of enjoy all of them.

GE: You're still relatively young aren't you to make choices at this point of time?

Jake: Yeah.

GE: And you've had a wealth of experience that a lot of people your age just haven't had?

Jake: Yeah and it's a pain in the ass.

GE: Is it really, in what way?

Jake: I was a PA on a set when I was first in school and it was the most chaotic ill run set I had ever seen in my life and considering what sets I'd been on it was horrible to see it. I didn't say anything about it and I did what I was supposed to, trying to do the best job I could. It is very strange to see what other people think things need to be organized and how. And how they treat each other when they are in charge especially at such a young age, they want to put each other in their place and stuff like that. That's why it was so awful to watch and eventually it stressed out the Director, she didn't get a good performance from the actors. There just seems to be so many little things you can do on a regular basis to make things better and she wasn't and it was just a shame. It was a harsh reality to face up to.

GE: So a good learning tool for you if you take up directing?

Jake: Very much so. I assume she's better for it if you have taken time to reflect, I know she did a lot of drugs so that may have been a problem.

GE: So are you planning any acting in the next three years while you are studying?

Jake: No. I think it is a requirement to do an acting course but I may bail on that or just do it and enjoy it.

GE: Can't you apply for credit for what you have done?

Jake: I don't know. I don't think so. And I never play that card anyway. I get to come to things like this (*Supanova Expo Sydney*) that's the only time I want to play that sort of card.

GE: Do you enjoy meeting fans.

Jake: Yeah I do, most of them are really cool. You get an oddball here and there and they are kinda cool in their oddball way. Actually they're pretty cool too. But it's enjoyable meeting everybody and just getting different stories, different questions, get a feel for who's watching what. I enjoy their company.



GE: Do you enjoy Sci Fi itself?

Jake: Yeah, sometimes. I like *Serenity* I'm a big fan of *Serenity*.

GE: Would you like to work with Joss Whedon?

Jake: I don't know, he seems a little crazy to me. Just a little, really capable, really fine director and creator, very talented. I would obviously grovel for the opportunity to work with him but yeah I don't know.

GE: Are you interested in writing things yourself?

Jake: Writing? I've written a couple of scripts. Me and my friend do that on our time off, we sit around and write stuff. I wouldn't say it's the greatest thing in the world and a lot of it is kind of offensive which I know is the in thing most of the time but I still don't really gel with it. It's fun. Just for fun.

GE: There's one thing about playing in a Star Wars movie you are immortalised because it's a Star Wars Trilogy. Is this something you think about? Star Wars will be around for a long time and you will be around for an extremely long time.

Jake: I don't know about that, I did smoke for a few years. (*tongue in cheek*) *Laughter*

GE: I suppose in terms of the iconic nature of the show you are a pop culture icon, do you think about that or not?

Jake: I try not too. Why think about it. Why dwell on it. Just be who you are and that what we admire most in our pop culture are the people who are willing to stand and just be who they are. So I'm not going to try and fight that one.

GE: Jake, thank you so much for spending time with us.

Jake: I enjoyed it. Kind of! *Laughter*



AND THE WINNER IS!



Autographs courtesy
Robbie Buonaccorsi
Culture Shock Events
Visit them at

www.cultureshockevents.com

WARREN JENKINS

Congratulations to Warren on winning a double autograph signed by both Dr Who (Peter Davison) and Turlough (Mark Strickson). We will be in contact soon with Warren on how he can get his prize!!



Check out the latest podcasts

[Podcast 9](#) Interview with Dr McCoy

[Podcast 10](#) Battlestar Galactica, ~ Richard Hatch



What I did in my holidays By Daniel Watkins Age 11



On Sunday, 30 August 2009 Mum, Dad and I set off to Scienceworks at Spotswood, Victoria by train. The train ride was fun, the walk to Scienceworks was long and upon arriving there was a long line of people waiting to enter the building. We lined up and waited our turn, which took about 20 minutes to reach the entry desk where we bought out tickets for the Star Wars Exhibition, the Planetarium and the Lightning Show.

The very first thing we did was go into the Star Wars Exhibition. The land cruiser of Luke Skywalker was the first thing that caught my eye. I couldn't wait any longer and had to take out my camera to take photos.

Walking around the exhibition I saw the costumes of the characters, Anakin Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Darth Vader and Mace Windu's. These were just a few that I saw. My favourite one was Anakin's costume.

There was a life sized Yoda, the costumes of the Wookies including of course, Chewbacca and a Woomba costume.

Models of the Millennium Falcon, an AT-AT, AT-ST, Imperial TIE Fighter, and other ships were on display.

I wandered around taking photos of everything. I got a good one of my mum with the Wampa costume. Mum returned the favour and took some of me with a Storm Trooper and Chewbacca.

A display of light sabers caught my eye. There were several different ones including Obi-Wan's and Darth Maul's. They were great to see up close.

The best part of all was meeting people who were dressed up as the characters from movies wandering around Scienceworks. There was Darth Maul, Padme, and a Jedi Hunter. I had my photo taken with Boba Fett and a Storm Trooper.

It was a great exhibition with lots of hands on activities as well. It was worth travelling to Melbourne to see it.

Daniel Watkins
Age 11

[Website www.genews-ezine.com](http://www.genews-ezine.com)



GE News likes to get them young and teach them the joys of Sci Fi. So we sent Junior Correspondent Daniel to the Star Wars Exhibition in Melbourne. Daniel gives a young fan's view on how exciting it is to finally get close to all of the things that we see on the big screen!

Great work Daniel can't wait for your next report!



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My Trek to see Geordie by Therese Watts



Therese at dinner with LeVar

Wow, what a weekend I had. Started off a tad jittery and I was really worried all of my planning was going to be for nought. Yep, I missed the train and had to taxi it to Murray Bridge (77 k's away). My disdain for mornings grew and I was even more surly than usual. But I made it and after a really nice shower and change of clothes I caught yet another Taxi to the Restaurant I was meeting some friends I had not seen in quite some time. Imagine my surprise to find the Guest of Honour was not me. I wasn't unhappy, though, when it turned out to be none other than LeVar Burton. "Surprise", said Scotty. Suffice to say, I was very surprised and had to compose myself before Scotty took me over to introduce me. I was so excited to be catching up with this group of people I had not even given much thought to anything else. That grin you see, took quite some time to shrink, LeVar was a really nice person and kept us all entertained until it was time for us all to rest up for the big day just hours away. People may call us many names (Geek is one!), but I now wear such monikers with pride because I have made more valuable and stronger friendships over the years attending Sci Fi Conventions. Next time someone gives you grief about your hobby, remind yourself of the many positives. The only downside to this was that I ended up spending more time catching up with everyone I barely spent any time with LeVar - NUTS!!



Therese at convention with LeVar

After enjoying a fantastically great night, I was surprised at how soundly I slept given the fun experiences I had that evening. These events were replayed in my dreams that evening peppered with hopeful Convention Day scenarios which clearly proved my exhilaration at being in Melbourne awaiting the opening of the doors to OzTrek09. In many ways, anyone could be mistaken in thinking that this was one of my first Conventions. In addition to excitement overload, I dare say such deep sleep was only possible because my day had been really really long and we found many reasons to toast some occurrence or other - I am seriously going to rethink my choice of toasting beverage next time. Perhaps something using only 2-3 yummy liqueurs rather than the somewhat potent concoctions we insisted on inviting into our bodies. The party continued the following day. Fortunately, as a veteran of many, many, Sci Fi Cons I was able to sleep in and time my arrival at the venue to make the most of the best parts of any Convention. I had plenty of time to peruse the Dealer tables, catch up with many people I had not already chatted with, participated in the Auction and then prepared myself for the Featured Event - LeVar Burton live on stage. Lisa and I got ourselves comfortable up in the back seats and were enthralled to be listening to this person we spent 7 years watching and admiring on our television screens. My personal highlight was LeVar singling me out as being the only person "To have the B...s to wear the visor" in his presence.



LeVar with Geordie
Look out for a podcast featuring an interview with Geordie!
www.womentalkscifi.com

I won't spoil any future Convention experiences you may have by giving you a blow-by-blow verbatim account of LeVar's Q&A session. I sincerely hope you take away from my little blurb the overall ambience and character of The Science Fiction Convention. For me, the opportunity to mingle with fame, especially fame earned from a much-loved cinematic vehicle is actually secondary. The chance to freely interact with like-minded individuals, have fun searching the Dealer Tables for that precious item only myself and people like me think is really cool is what the Convention is all about. The guest is the bonus. Conventions are responsible for most of my strongest and longest surviving friendships. It now seems like a mere fleeting moment of my history, but as you can see, I was not upset that we were stuck in this pose for quite a while as Photographer Peter changed the batteries in his camera ... mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm: -)



Check out who is coming to our shores in January - better get your tickets soon - they are selling fast. If you do wind up in Melbourne, come and visit me in the front row.

Shuttles in space



The Apollo missions were coming to an end NASA had to re-invent the Space Program as rockets that could only be used once were expensive. In 1972 they developed rockets that could be reused and the space transportation system (STS) or as we know them 'space shuttles' were unveiled. Instead of ablative heat shields that burnt away on re-entry, the shuttle would be fitted with insulating ceramic tiles that absorbed heat and were intended to be reused.

The first shuttle built was named Enterprise after the USS Enterprise from Star Trek. Originally to be called 'Constitution' a massive write-in campaign from Star Trek fans convinced the White House to name the shuttle "Enterprise" and many of Star Trek: The Original Series' cast members were present at its launch. Enterprise never made it into space but flew numerous flight and landing tests with it being launched from a Boeing 747. Enterprise is now on display at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Centre in Washington DC.



With initial testing completed, four further shuttles were manufactured named, Columbia, Discovery, Atlantis, and Challenger. In '81 Columbia was launched for the first official space flight by a space orbiter.

With any space mission there is always danger and in '86 millions looked on as Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff. The crew was lost along with the "Teacher in Space" project first participant, Sharon Christa McAuliffe, who was going to conduct a lesson to her class from outer space.

The program was suspended whilst the disaster was investigated with a new shuttle called Endeavour replacing Challenger in the fleet.

1998 saw John Glenn aged 77, a U.S. Senator and veteran of the Mercury program travel into space again on the shuttle Discovery. Glenn 36 years earlier was the first American to orbit the Earth. At 77 he is the oldest man to fly in space.

Tragedy struck again in '03 when Columbia broke up re-entering the atmosphere again the crew was lost and the program was grounded for two and half years before another flight.

Since then, missions have taken place and Australian born astronaut Andy Thomas from Adelaide has been on missions on Endeavour and Discovery.

September 2010 will see the end of the Space Shuttle program with all three remaining shuttles taking part in missions during that year. What will take their place? It seems there are five different vehicles ready to fill the shoes of these incredible machines. But you'll have to wait till the next edition of GE to find out what will be going up into the stars!!



Australia's own Astronaut Andy Thomas



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GIFTS FOR THE GEEK

OzTrek2
"Make it so!"
PATRICK STEWART
Melbourne, 30th January 2010 Sydney, 31st January 2010

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