

THE MAKING OF

STAR
WARS

EPISODE I

May 1977



George Lucas

*Writer
Director
Creator*

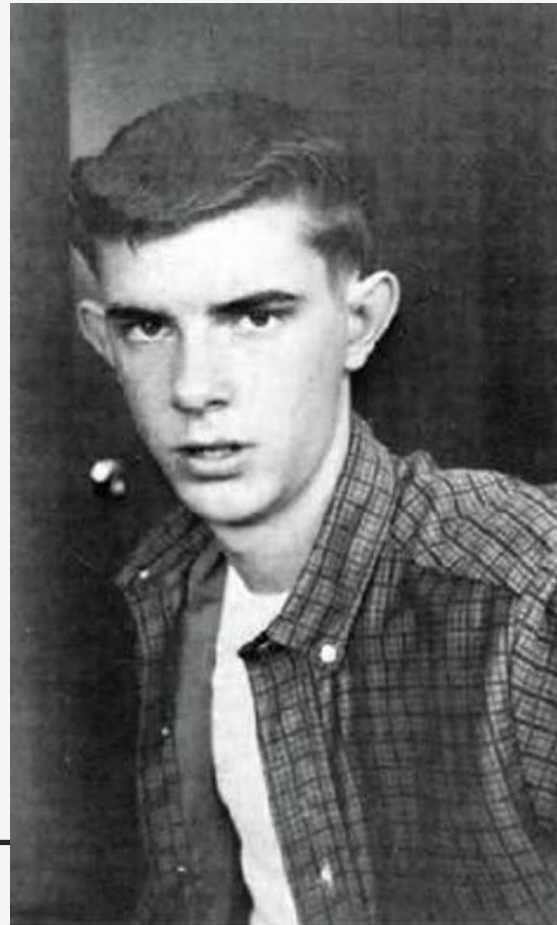


Alec Guinness, George Lucas

Modesto, California

*Thomas Downey
High School
Class of 1962*

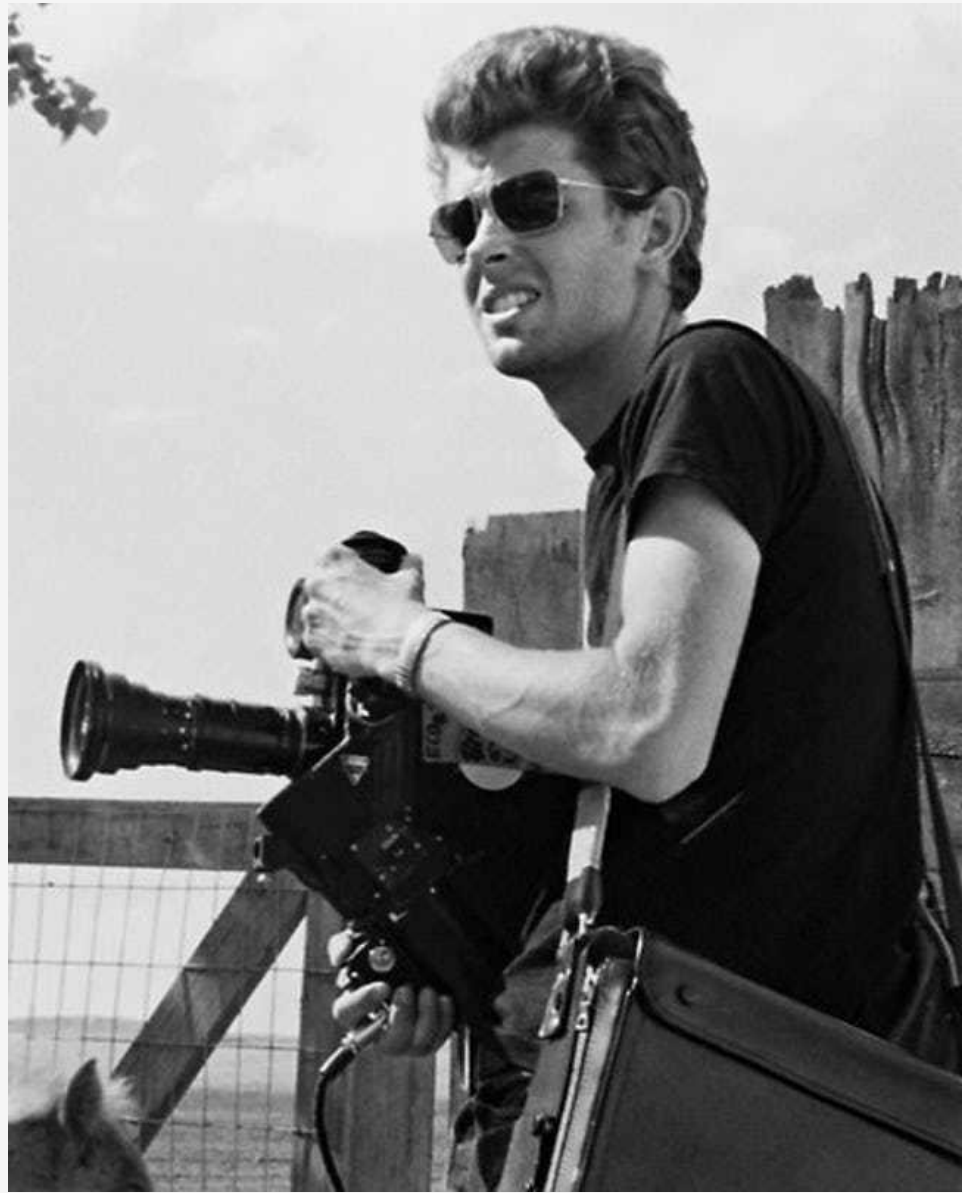
Teenage George Lucas



Youth Survives Crash

Just what part in saving his life the roll bar, arrow, and a safety belt played is not known but George W. Lucas, Jr., survived this crash yesterday. The high-

way patrol said the safety belt snapped and Lucas was thrown from the car, which was slammed into the tree by another vehicle in the collision.



USC film school

Discovered foreign & art films

Award-winning student film
*Electronic Labyrinth:
THX 1138 4EB*

Cameraman on *Grand Prix*
and *Gimme Shelter*



American Zoetrope

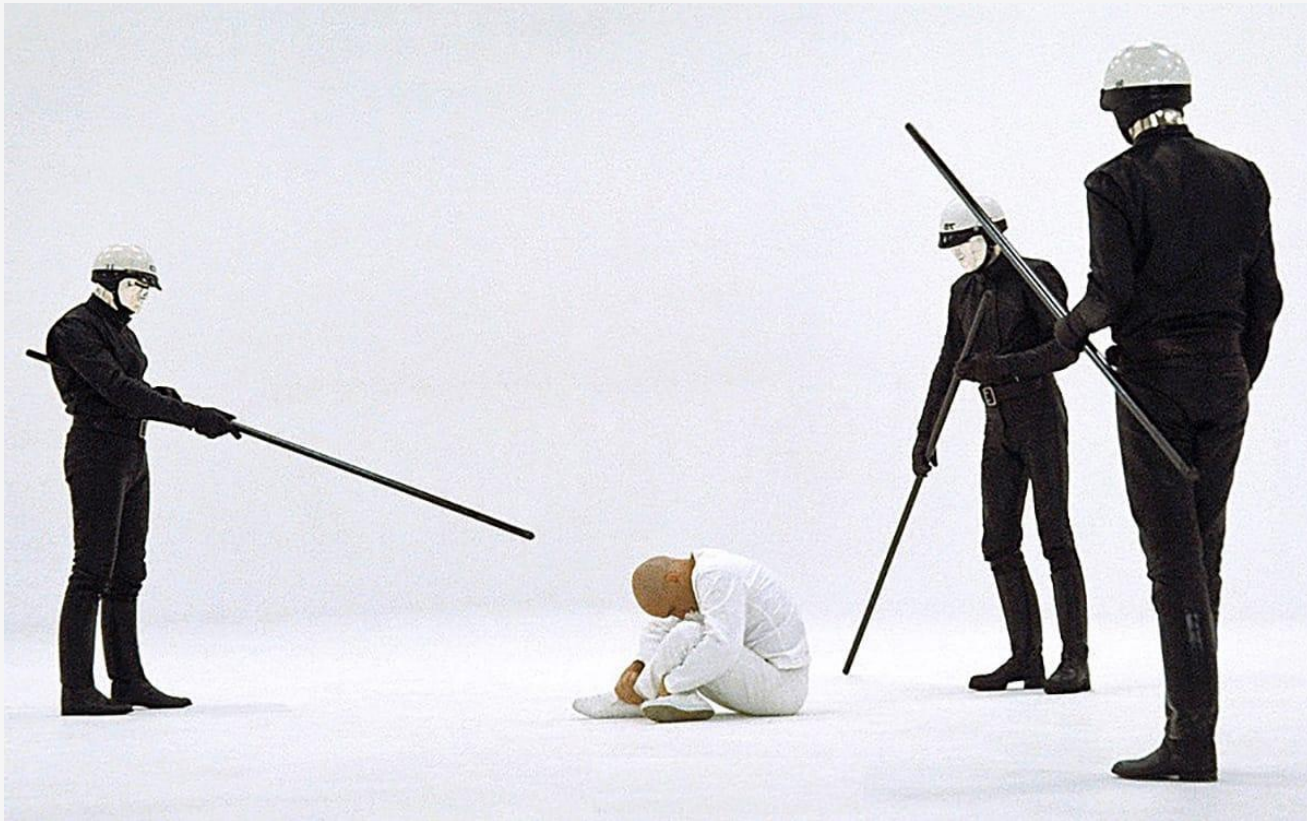
Founded American Zoetrope with
Francis Ford Coppola, 1969



George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola

THX 1138

1971



<https://www.tcm.com/video/1119668/thx-1138-1971-i-need-something-stronger/>

American Graffiti

1973

Budget \$777,000

Box Office \$140 million

Earned 180.9 times its budget

Golden Globe for Comedy



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ijh-zxmhkZI>

An idea for a space movie

A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away....

Saturday Morning Serials



Flash Gordon (1936)

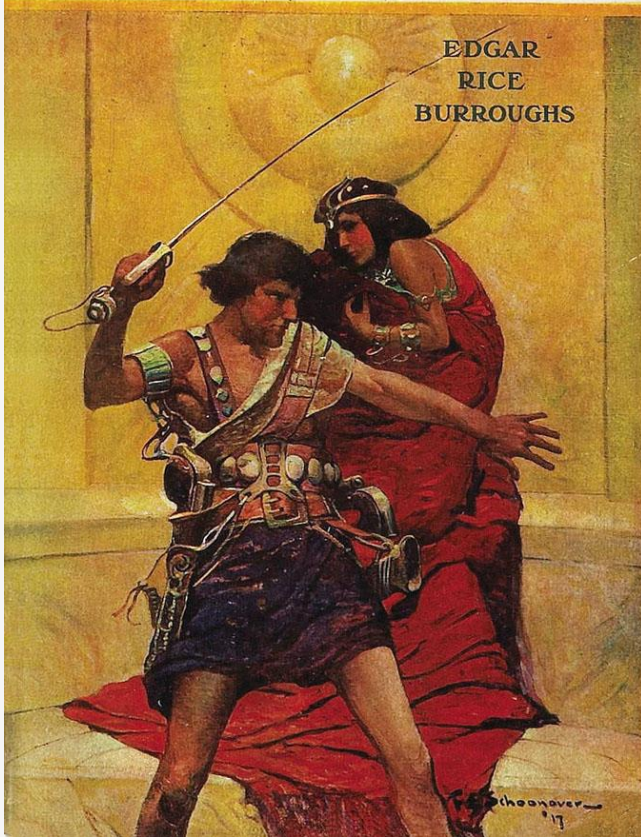


Foreword
CHAPTER ELEVEN
TORCH and Sonja, Ming's agents, confined in prison cells in Barin's palace, escape to the radio room, overpower the operator and communicate with Ming.

Science Fiction

A Princess of Mars

EDGAR
RICE
BURROUGHS



PROLOGUE

AS IT WAS IN THE TIME OF THE OLD GODS--THE
TITANIC STRUGGLE FOR THE FATE OF MANKIND IS
TO RAGE ONCE AGAIN!! THE NEW GODS WIELD
GREATER POWER-- FOR IN OUR DAY, IT'S WE WHO
LIVE IN THE DARK SHADOW OF
THE OUTCOME!

I HEAR YOU,
ORION! THE
BATTLE BEGINS!



DON'T MISS
THE OPENING BLASTS
OF THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE
OF THE NEW GODS...

ORION
FACES THE KING OF EVIL--

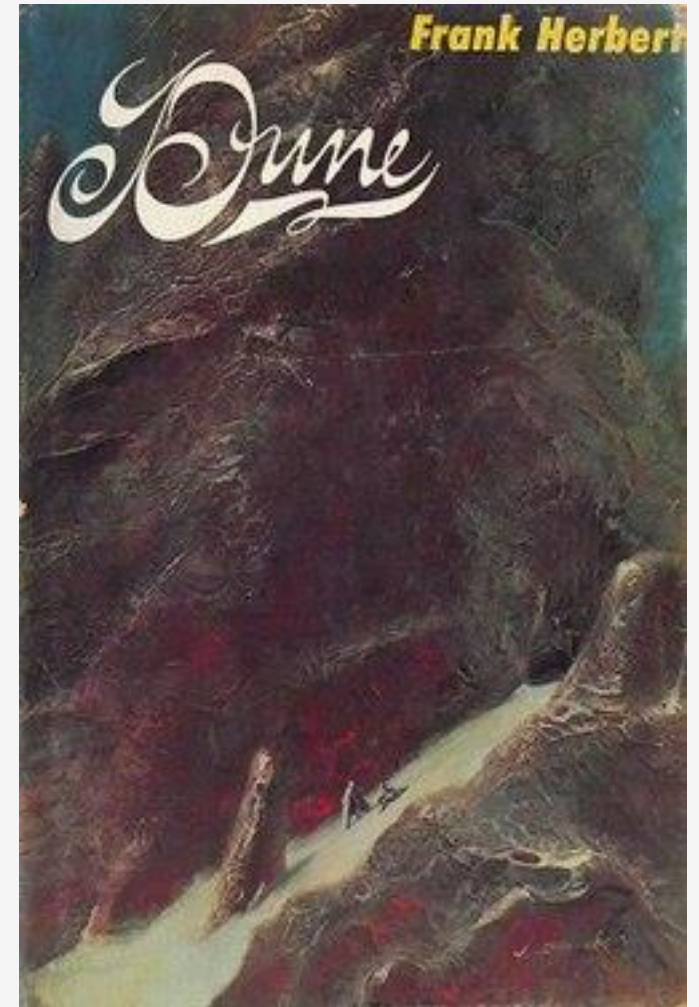
O'DEADLY DARKSEID!

AMIGO

23

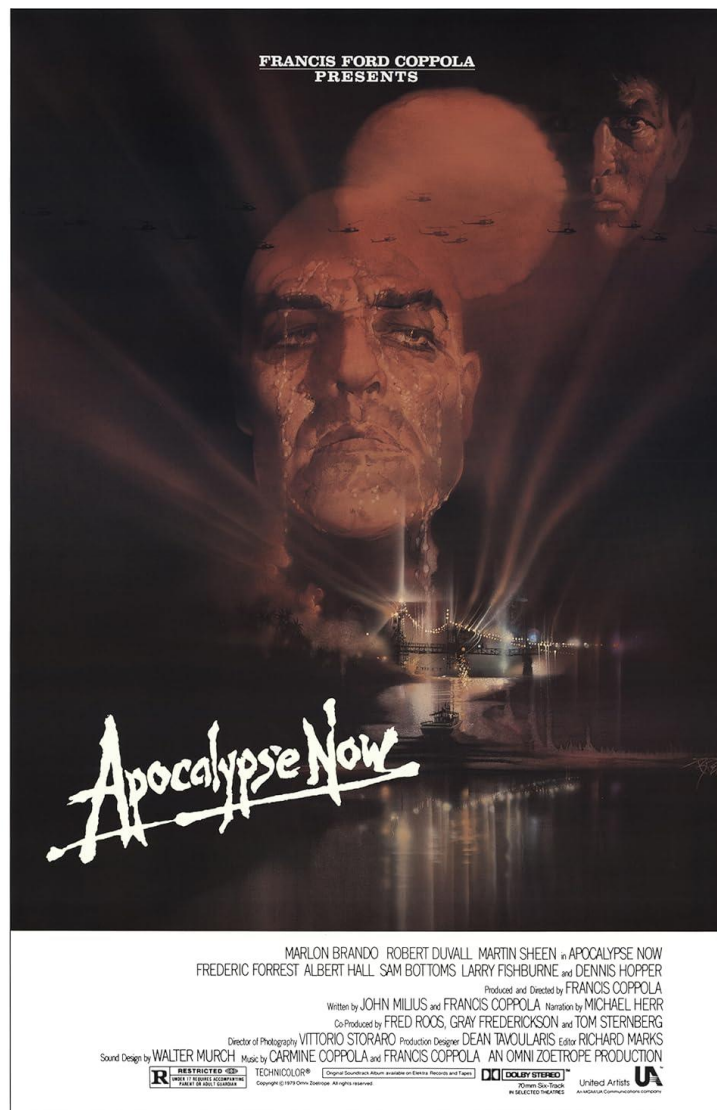
Frank Herbert

Dune



Comic Books

Vietnam War



Hotrod Racing

Art Films



Akira Kurosawa



Seven Samurai (1954)



The Hidden Fortress (1958)

Jean-Luc Godard



Arthur Lipsett



20th Century Fox

Fox executive
Alan Ladd Jr. is
only one who
believed in Lucas'
talent

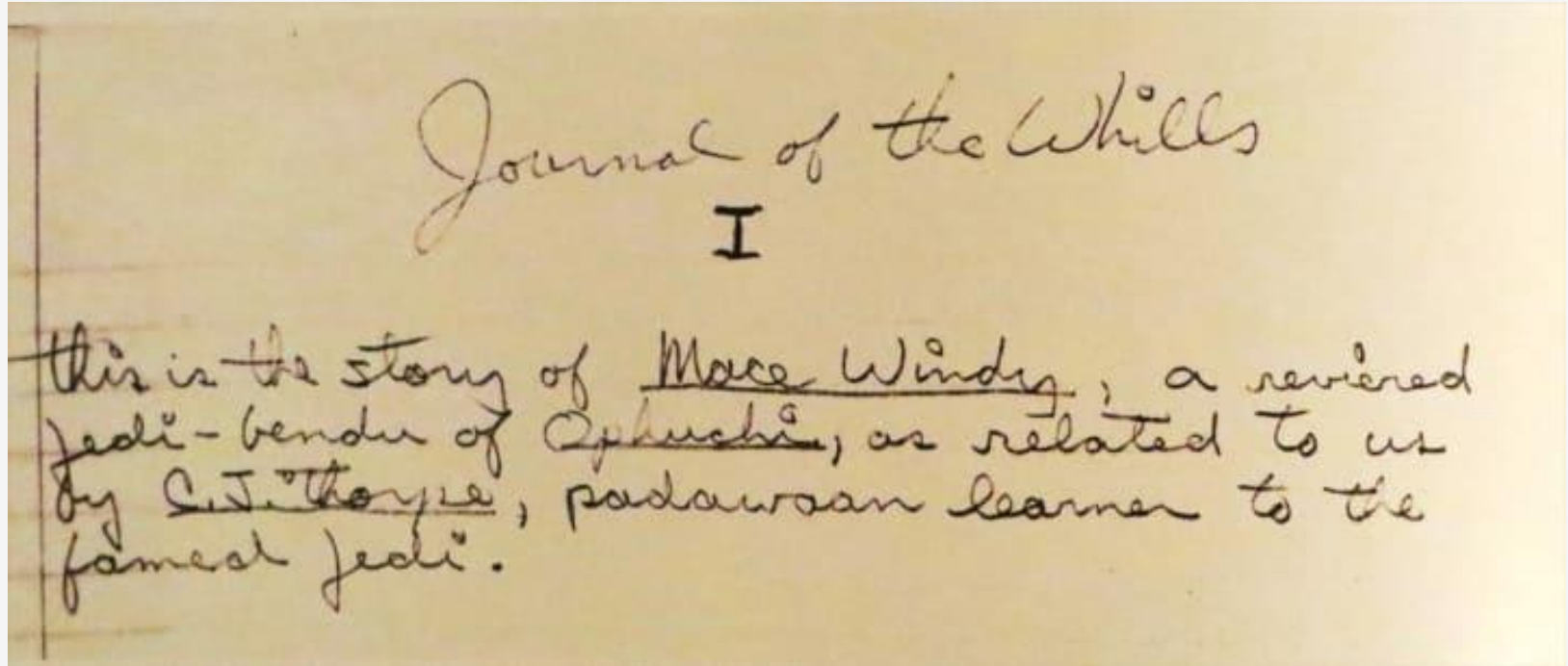
Lucas paid
\$150,000 director's
salary

He turned down
boost to \$500,000
for sequel and
merchandise rights



Star Wars First Draft

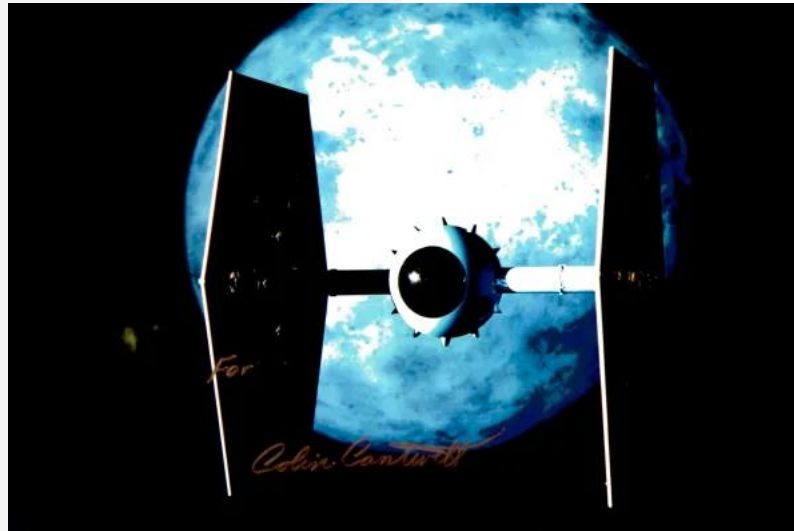
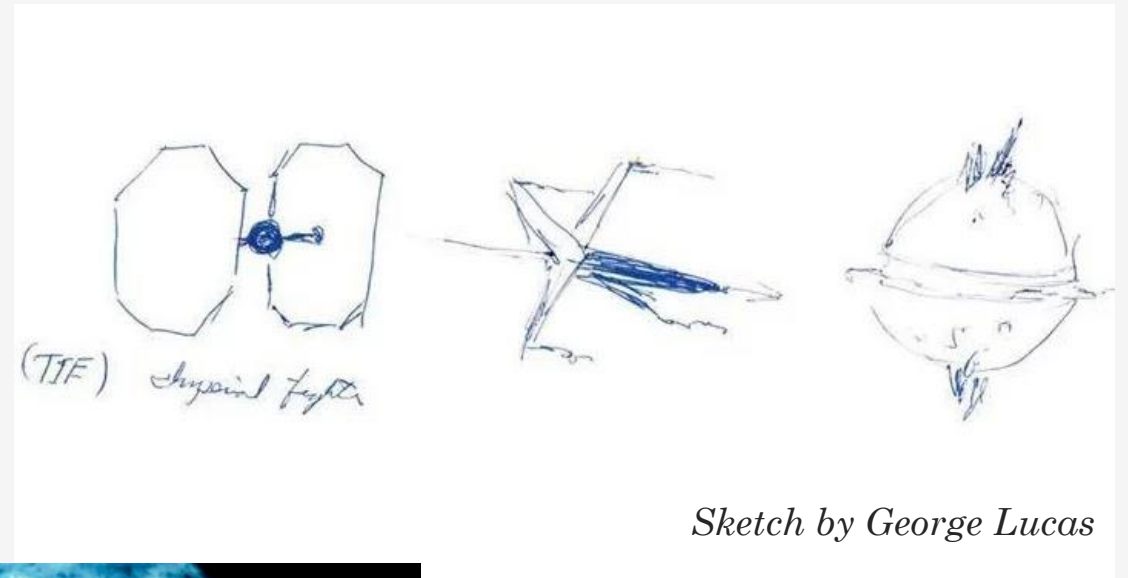
Lucas realized the story
was too grand, decided to
start in the middle



Colin Cantwell



Concept art by Colin Cantwell

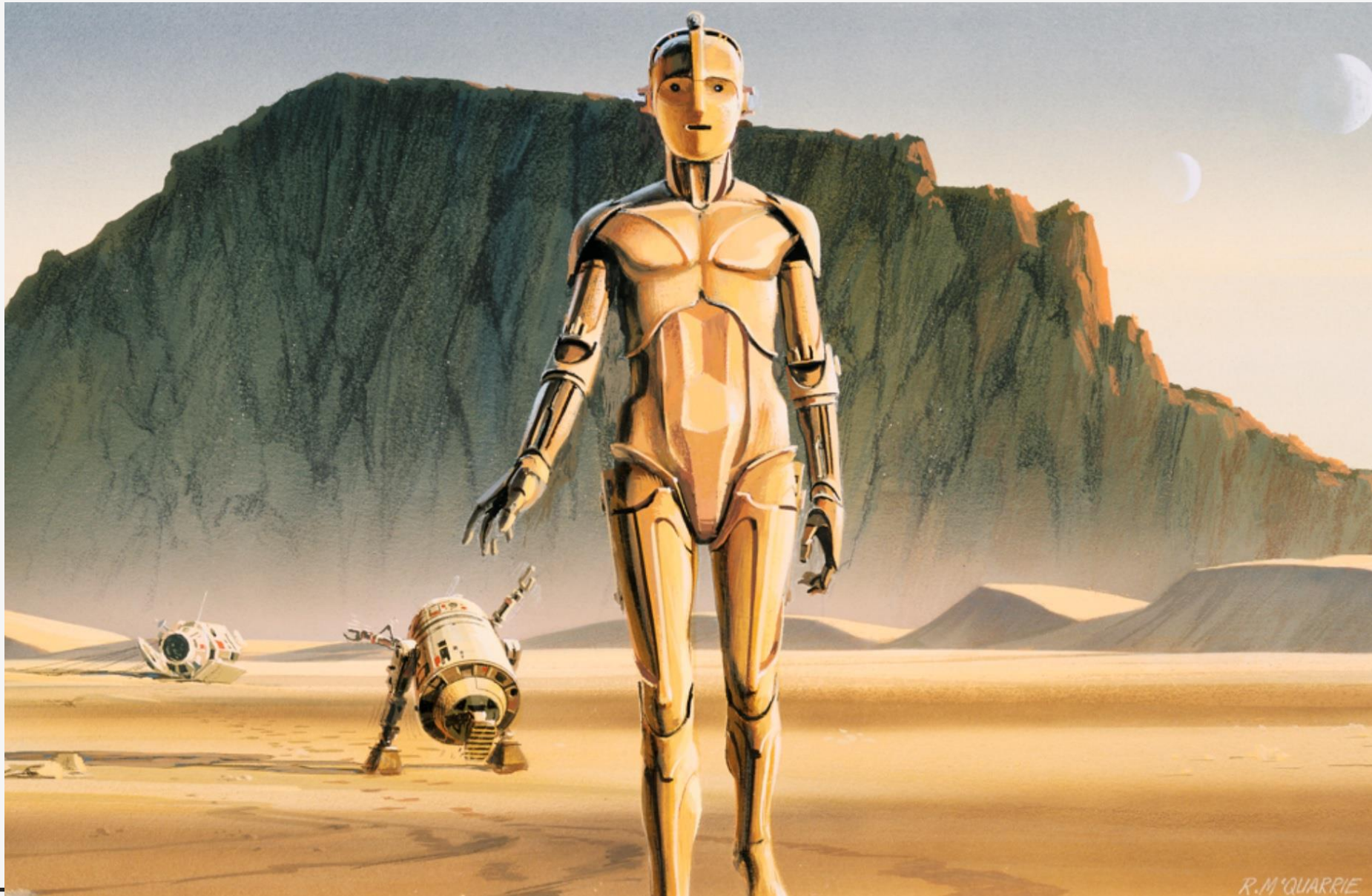


Ralph McQuarrie

Created concept art to help visualize
the ideas to sell to the studio

Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie





Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie



Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie



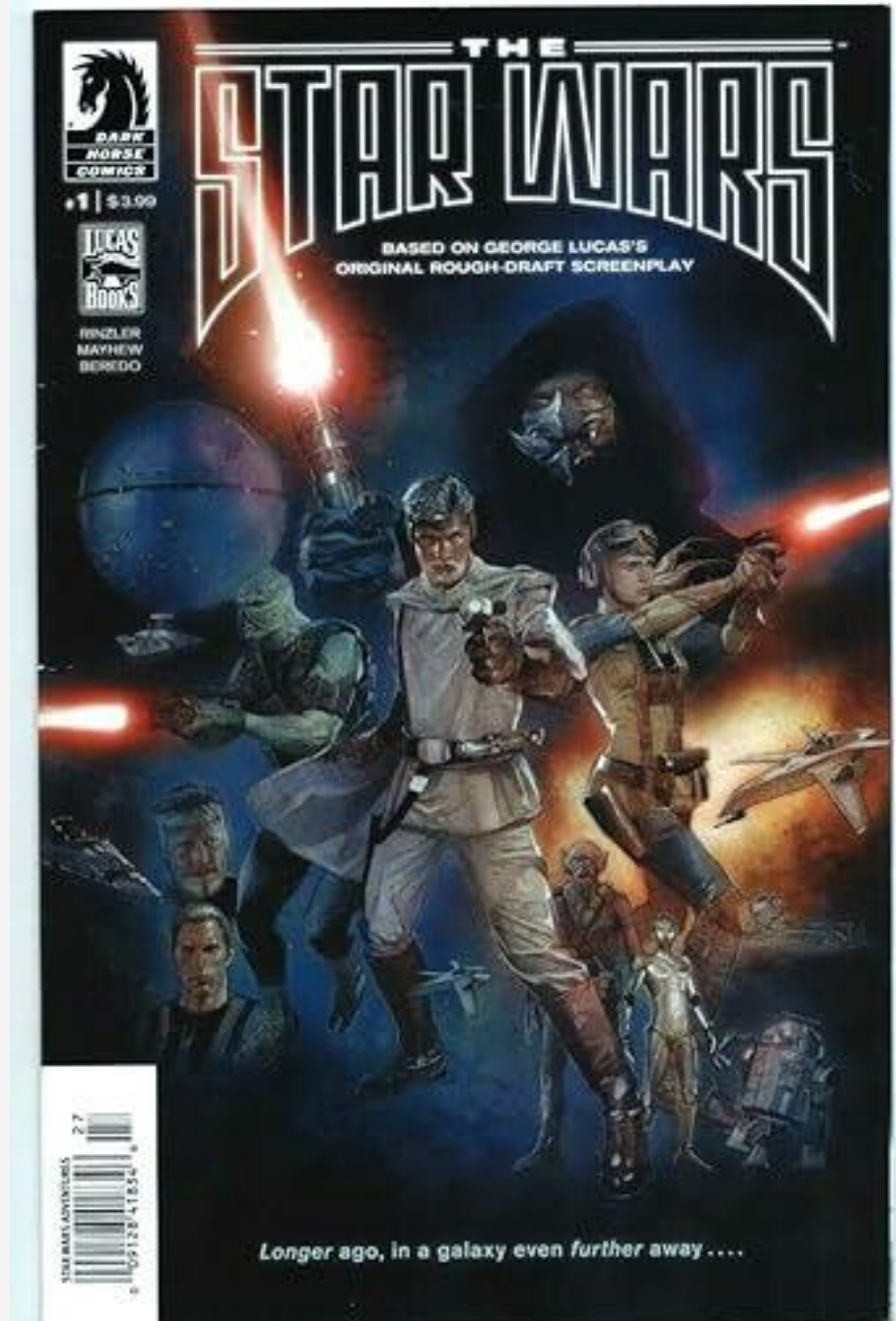
Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie

The Star Wars comic book

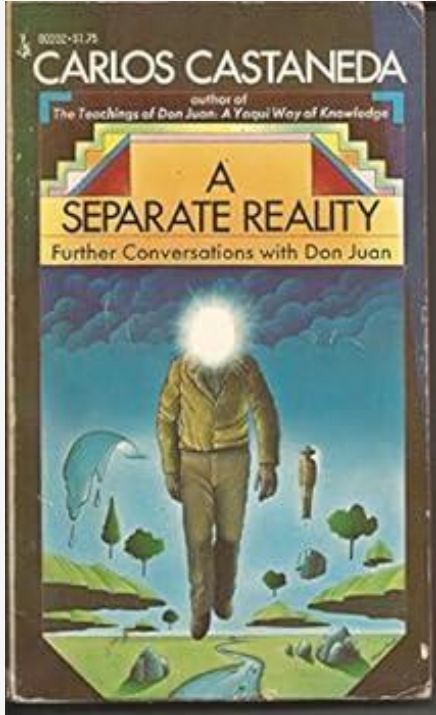
Based on Lucas' rough draft

Adapted by historian J.W. Rinzler

Published 2013



The Force



“It’s an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together.”

“May the Force be with you.”



Characters

Characters greatly evolved
through the many drafts



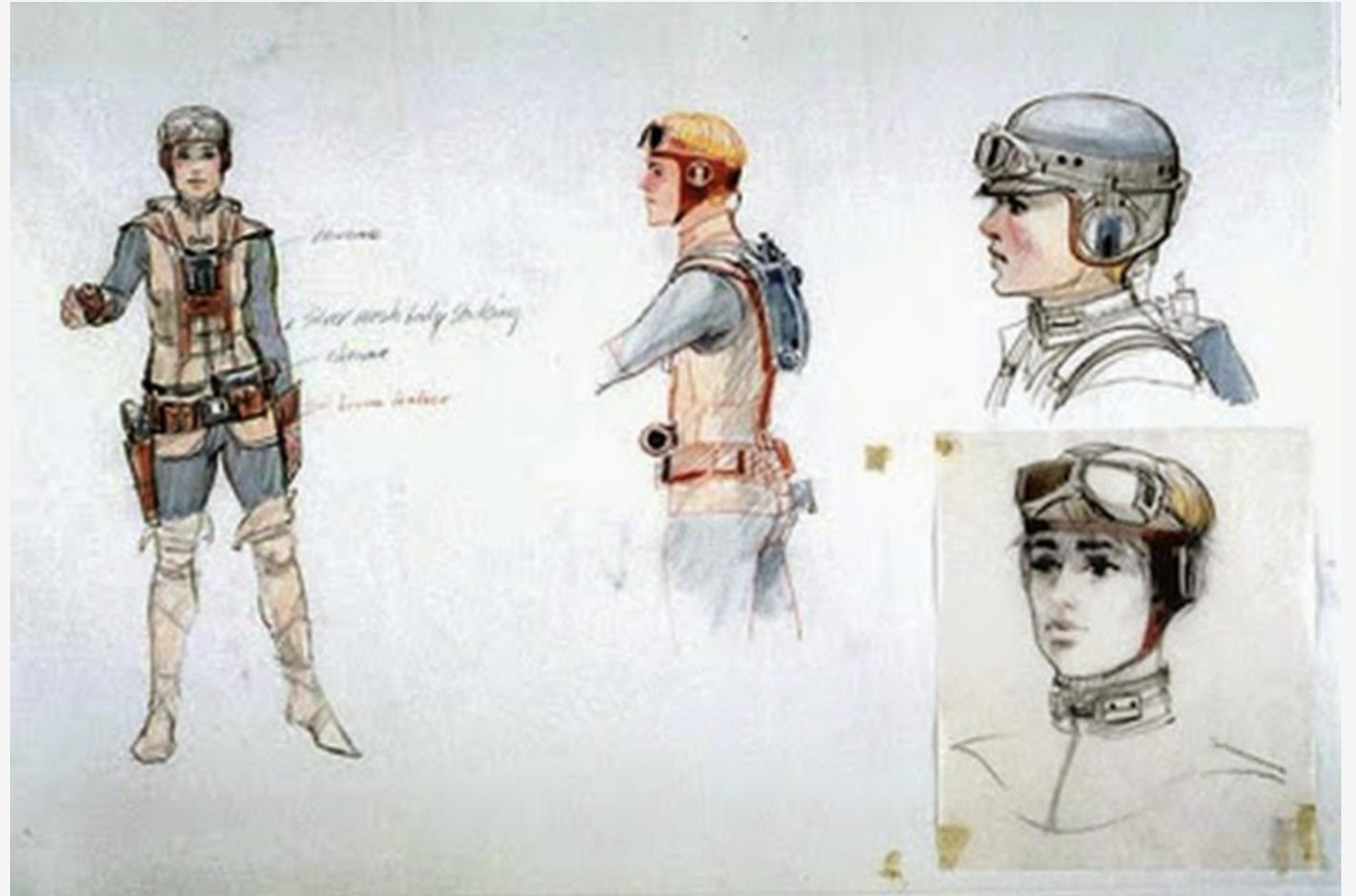
Luke Skywalker

Annikin Starkiller &
Deak Starkiller,
sons of Jedi Kane Starkiller

Older general named
Luke Skywalker

Briefly changed to be female

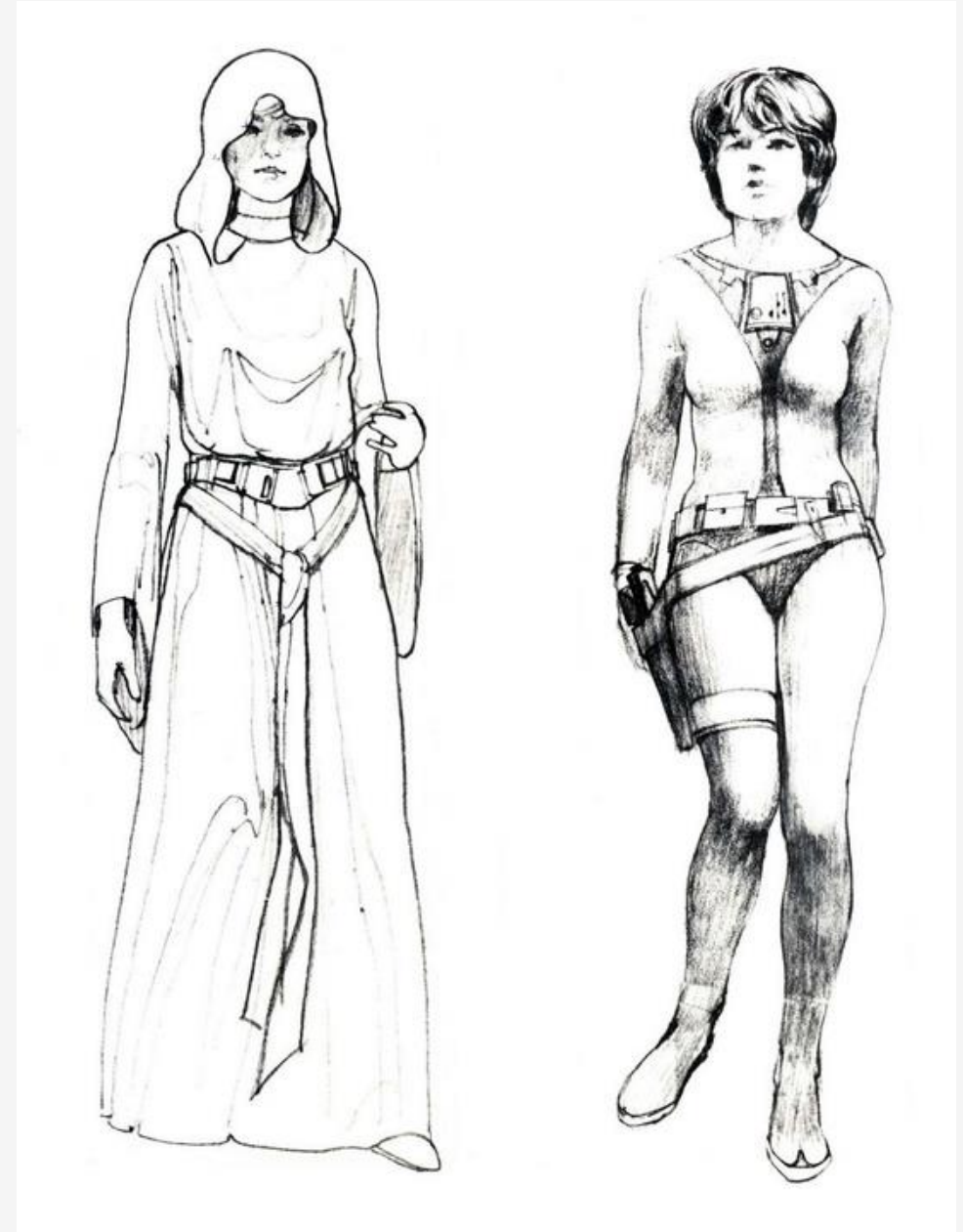
Luke Starkiller



Princess Leia

Early drafts, a spoiled teenage princess

Strong female hero:
before Ripley, Buffy, Xena



Han Solo and Chewbacca

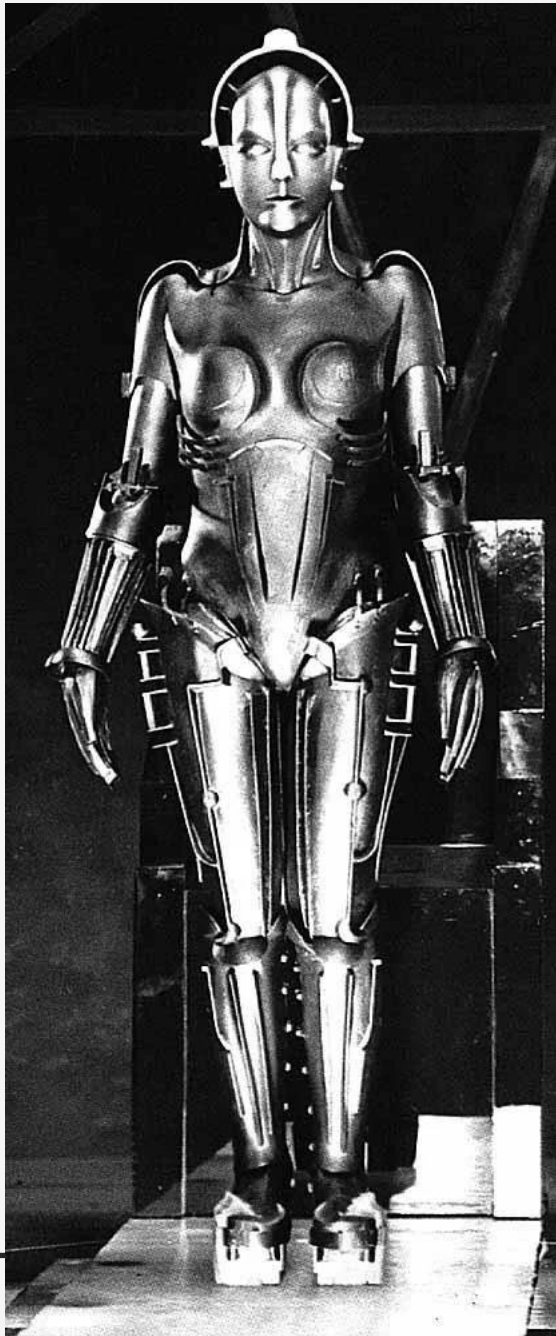
Han was green alien with no nose and gills

Han as a Jedi Bendu

Han as a space pirate

Chewbacca inspired by Lucas' dog, Indiana





Metropolis (1927)



Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie

C-3PO & R2-D2

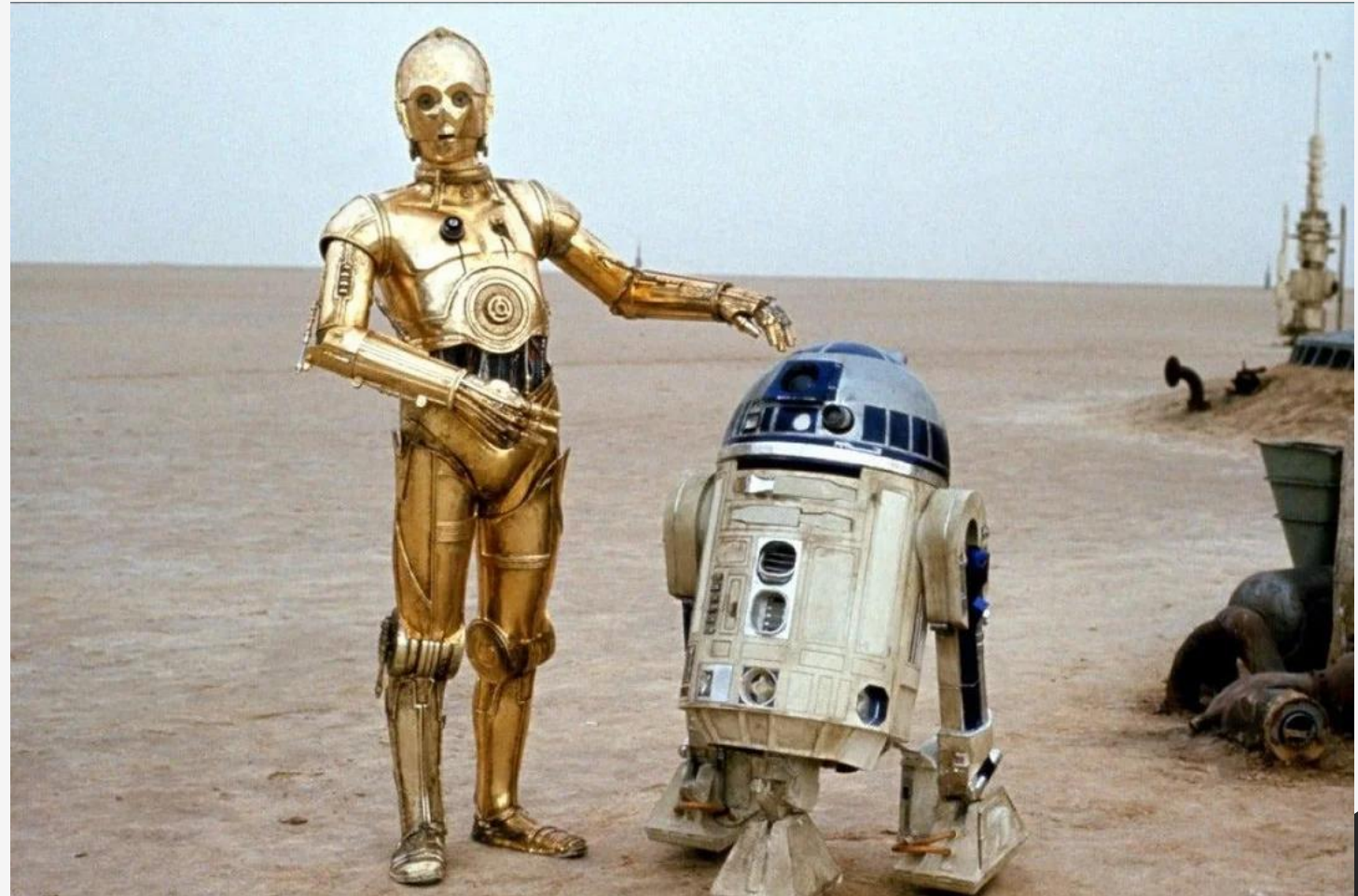
Inspired by peasants in
The Hidden Fortress

Story told from droids' POV

Threepio – Metropolis robot

R2 D2 – reel 2, dialogue 2

Droids sparked popularity of
robots in 1970s



Anthony Daniels (Threepio), Kenny Baker (Artoo)

Darth Vader

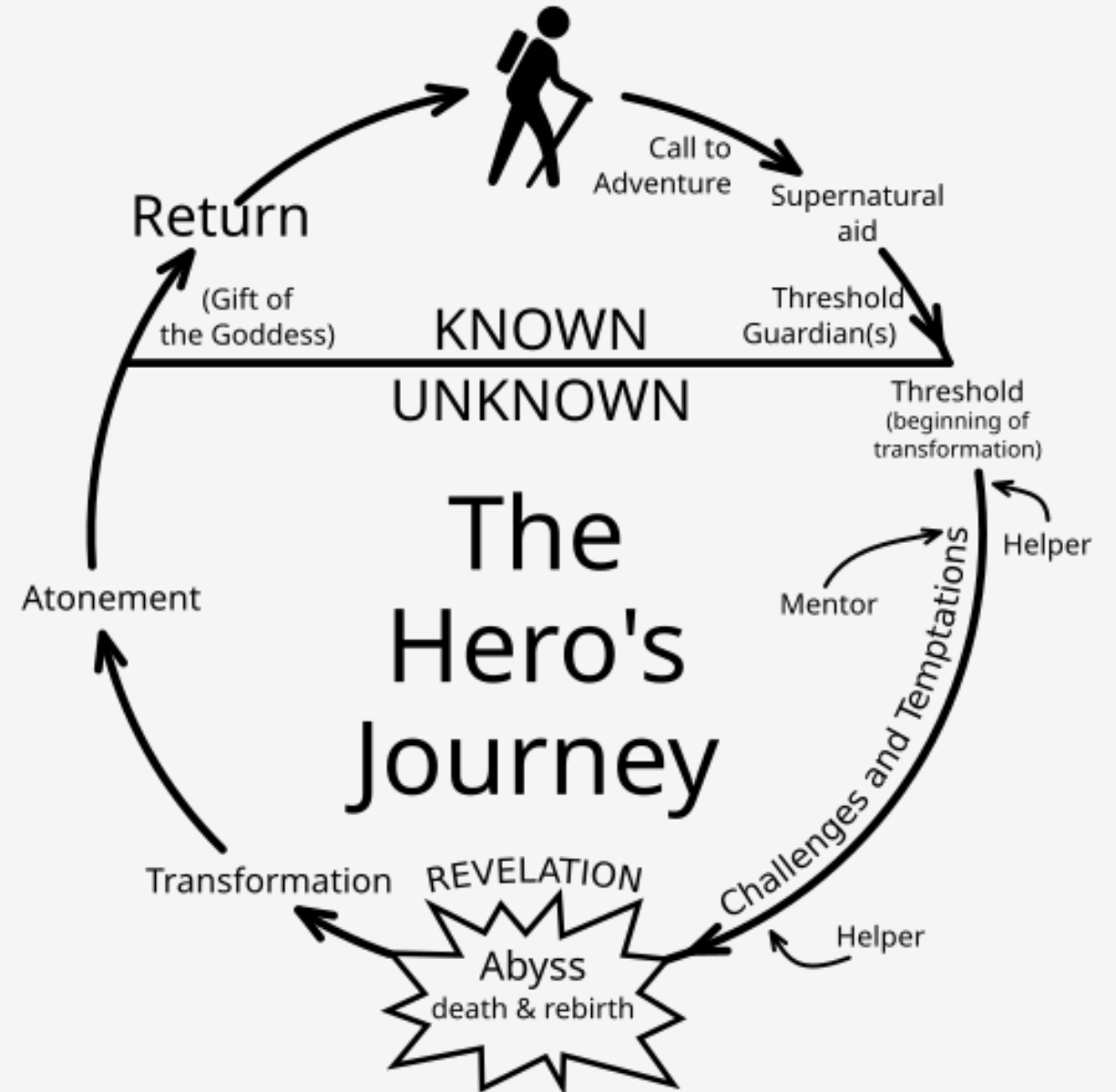
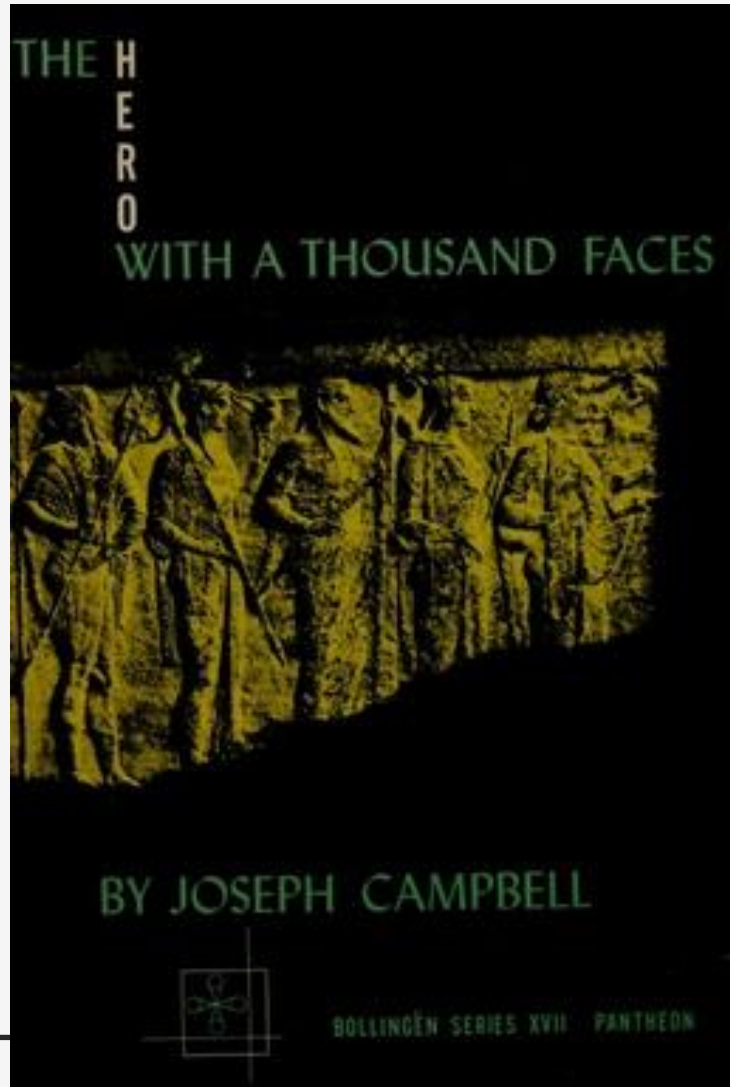
Separate character from
Luke/hero's father, Kane

Kane Starkiller was cyborg

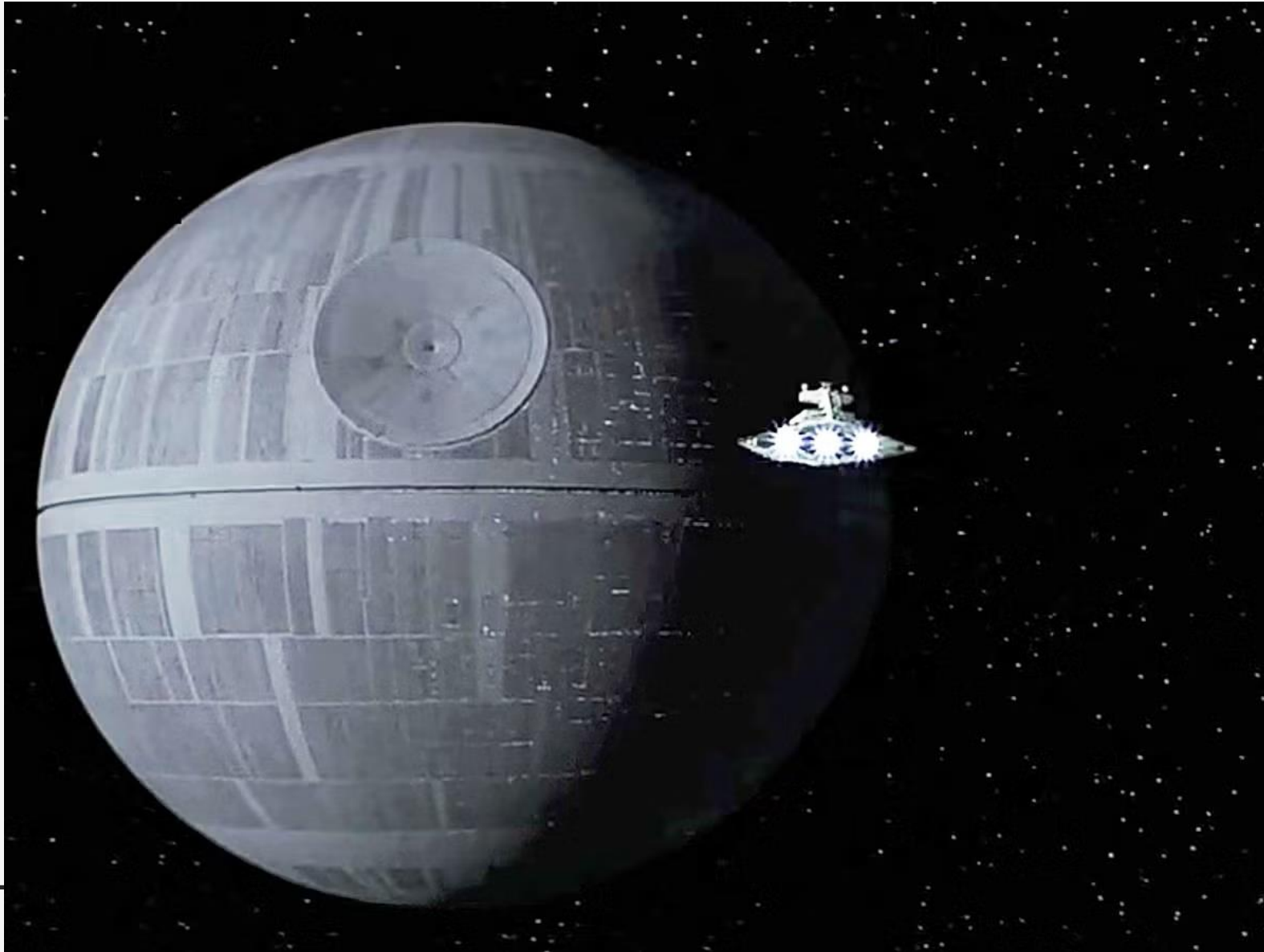
Samurai, German helmet,
space mask helmet



Joseph Campbell



Intermission



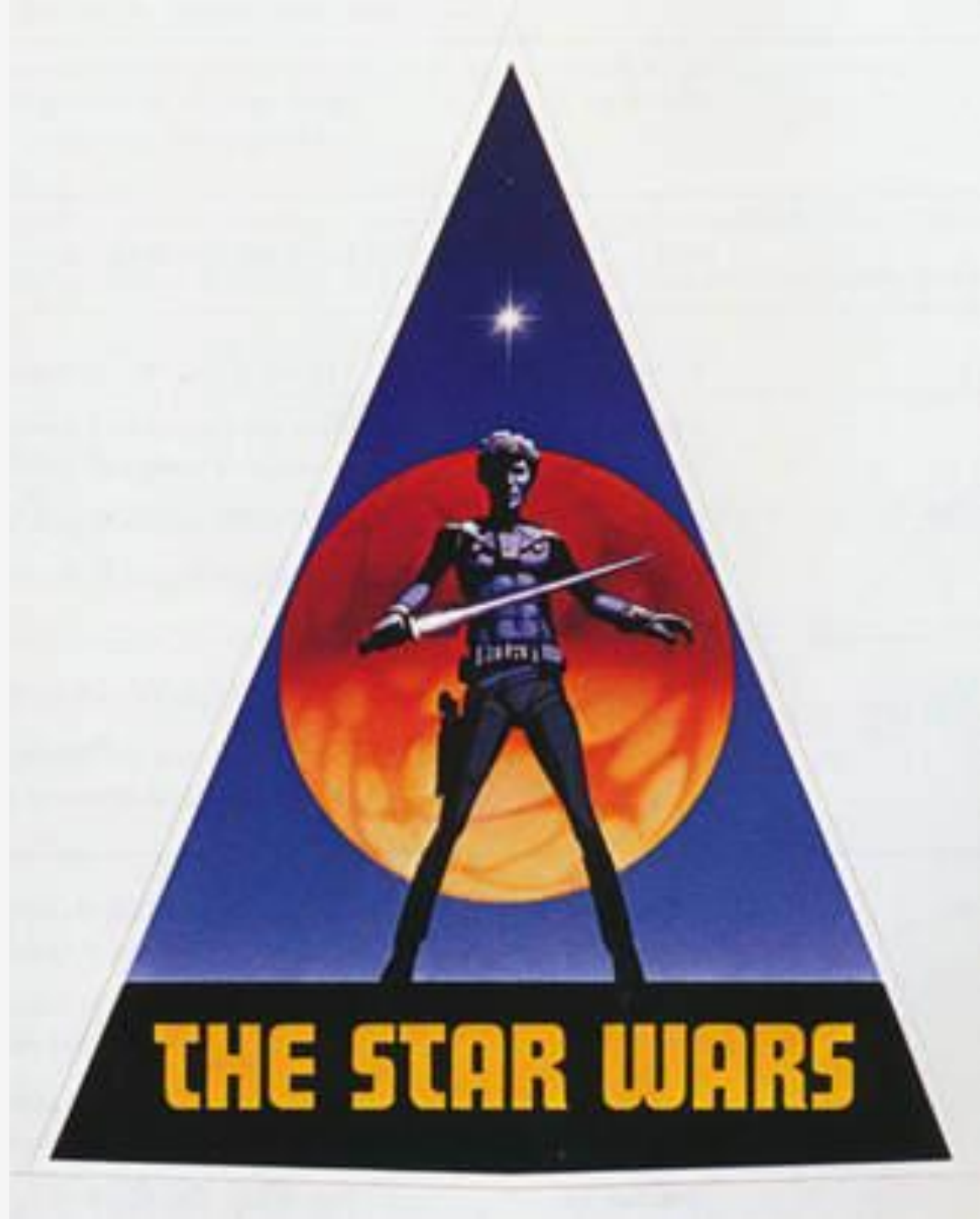
Star Wars

Written and directed
by George Lucas

Produced by Gary Kurtz

Budget \$11 million

20th Century Fox



Casting the trio

Shared casting session with Brian DePalma's *Carrie*

Lucas didn't want actors he'd worked with before

Auditioned sets of three to find the best chemistry

Leia – Jodi Foster, Cindy Williams

Han – Christopher Walken, Al Pacino, Perry King

Luke – William Katt, Robby Benson, Kurt Russell



Casting the trio

Luke Skywalker – **Mark Hammill**

Princess Leia – **Carrie Fisher**

Han Solo – **Harrison Ford**



C-3PO & R2-D2

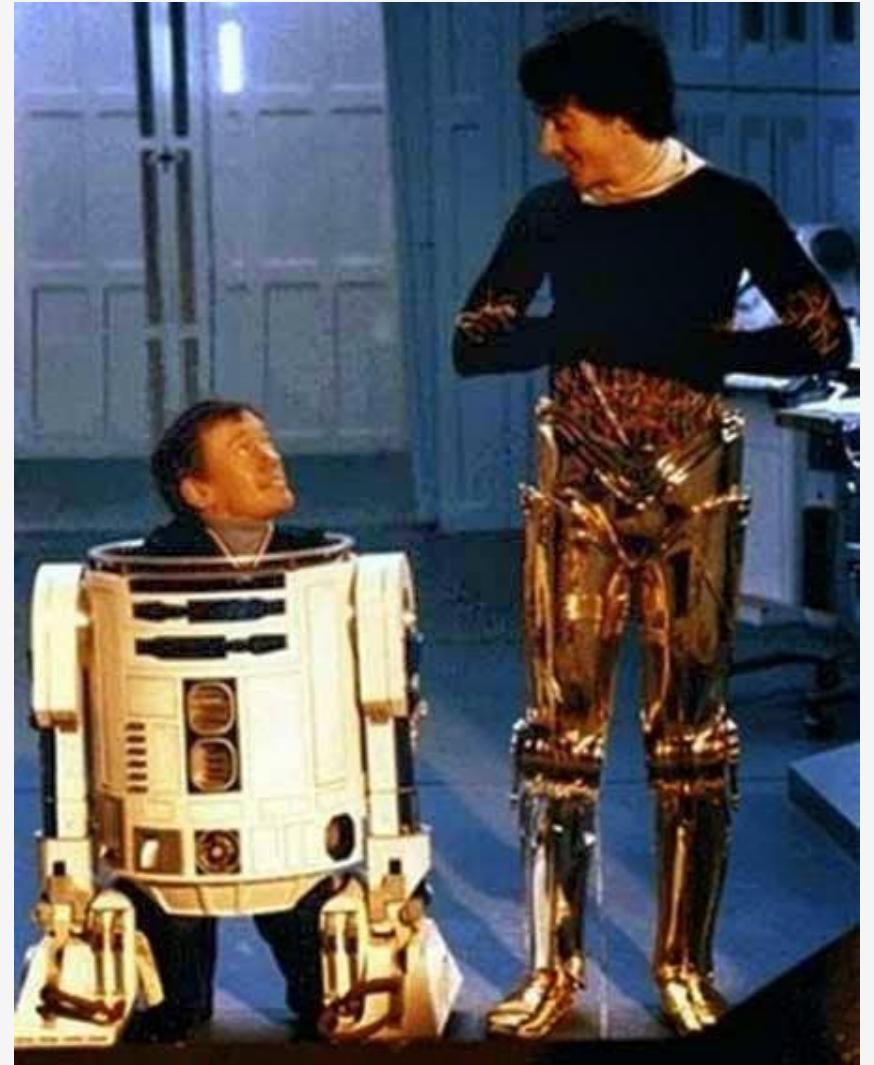
Threepio – **Anthony Daniels**

Voice was to be dubbed, like used car salesman

Artoo – **Kenny Baker**

Mechanical prop sometimes

Crew often forgot they were in the suits



Kenny Baker (Artoo), Anthony Daniels (Threepio)



Peter Mayhew
(Chewbacca)



David Prowse
(Darth Vader)



James Earl Jones
(voice of Darth Vader)



Alec Guinness
(Obi-Wan Kenobi)



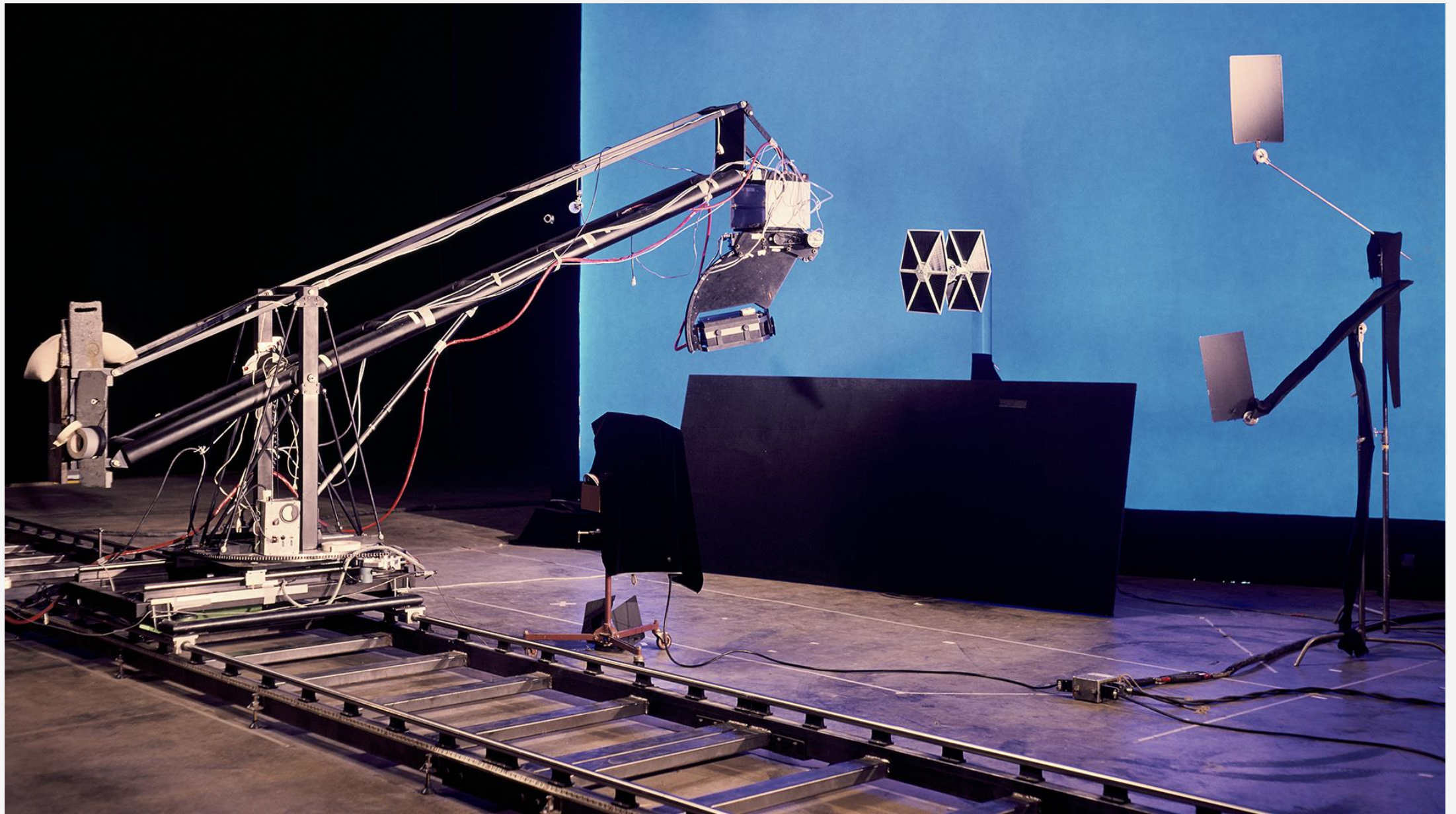
Peter Cushing
(Grand Moff Tarkin)

John Dykstra

Needed a way to make spaceship
flight more dramatic on screen

Dykstra developed motion
controlled camera system,
Dykstraflex





Industrial Light & Magic

Lucas started his own
special effects studio to make *Star Wars*

Started in Van Nuys, CA

Special effects shots

Star Wars: 365

2001: A Space Odyssey: 205

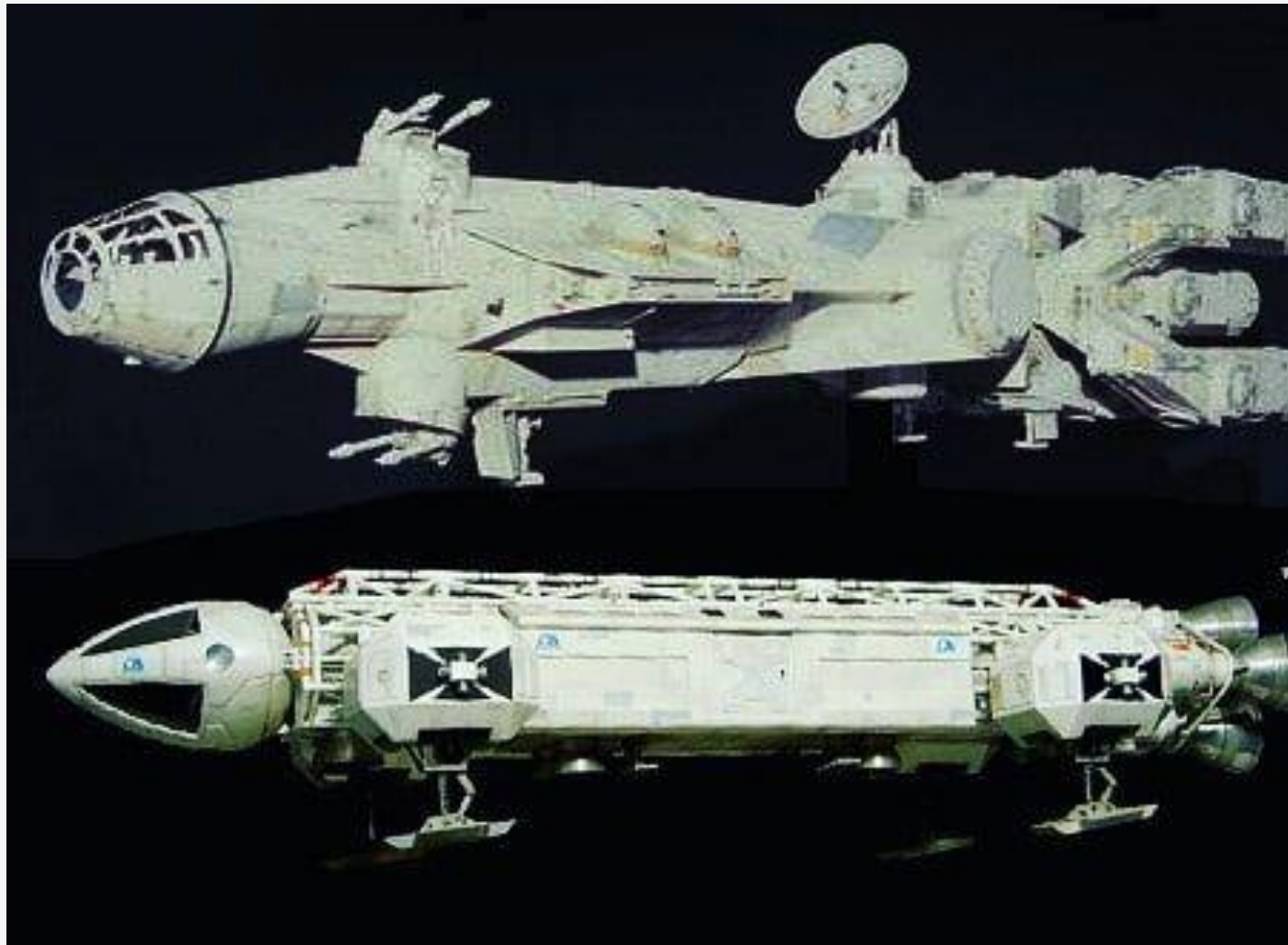


Millennium Falcon

Han Solo's starship

Original design was elongated,
scrapped as too similar to
the *Eagle* from *Space 1999*

Repurposed as Princess Leia's ship
in opening scene



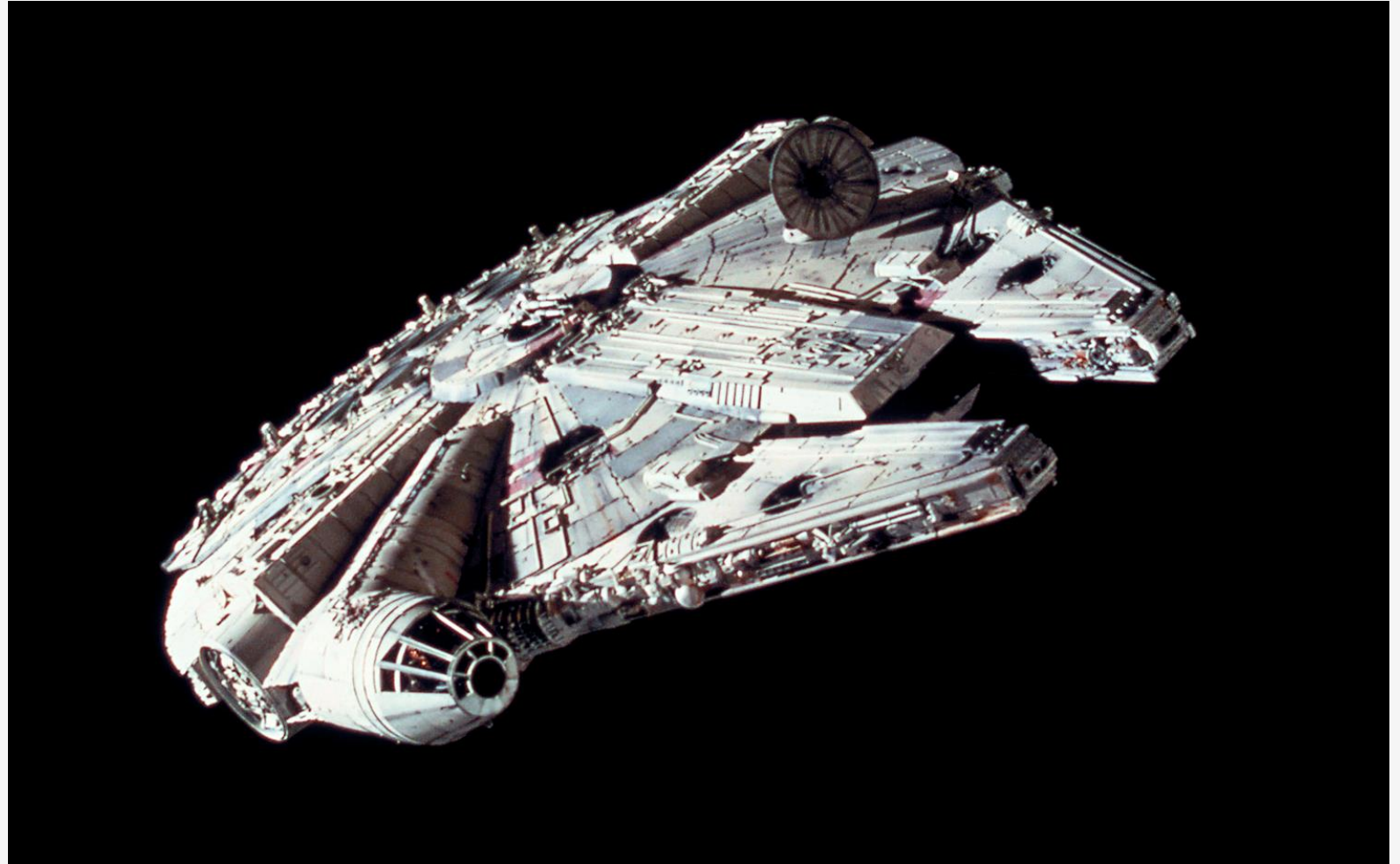
Original Millennium Falcon (top), Eagle from Space 1999 (bottom)

Millennium Falcon

Joe Johnston redesigned it

Flying saucer with
a bite taken out of it

Johnston later directed
Honey, I Shrunk the Kids
Captain America



Millennium Falcon

Filming in Tunisia



Tatooine



Elstree Studios in London

Mostly British crew

No one understood
the film



Killing Obi-Wan

Lucas realized Obi-Wan did
nothing in final battle

Loss of mentor is a part
of hero's journey

Had to persuade Guinness to stay



George Lucas directing Alec Guinness

Ben Burtt *sound designer*

Sound effects for:

Chewbacca's growl

Artoo's beeps

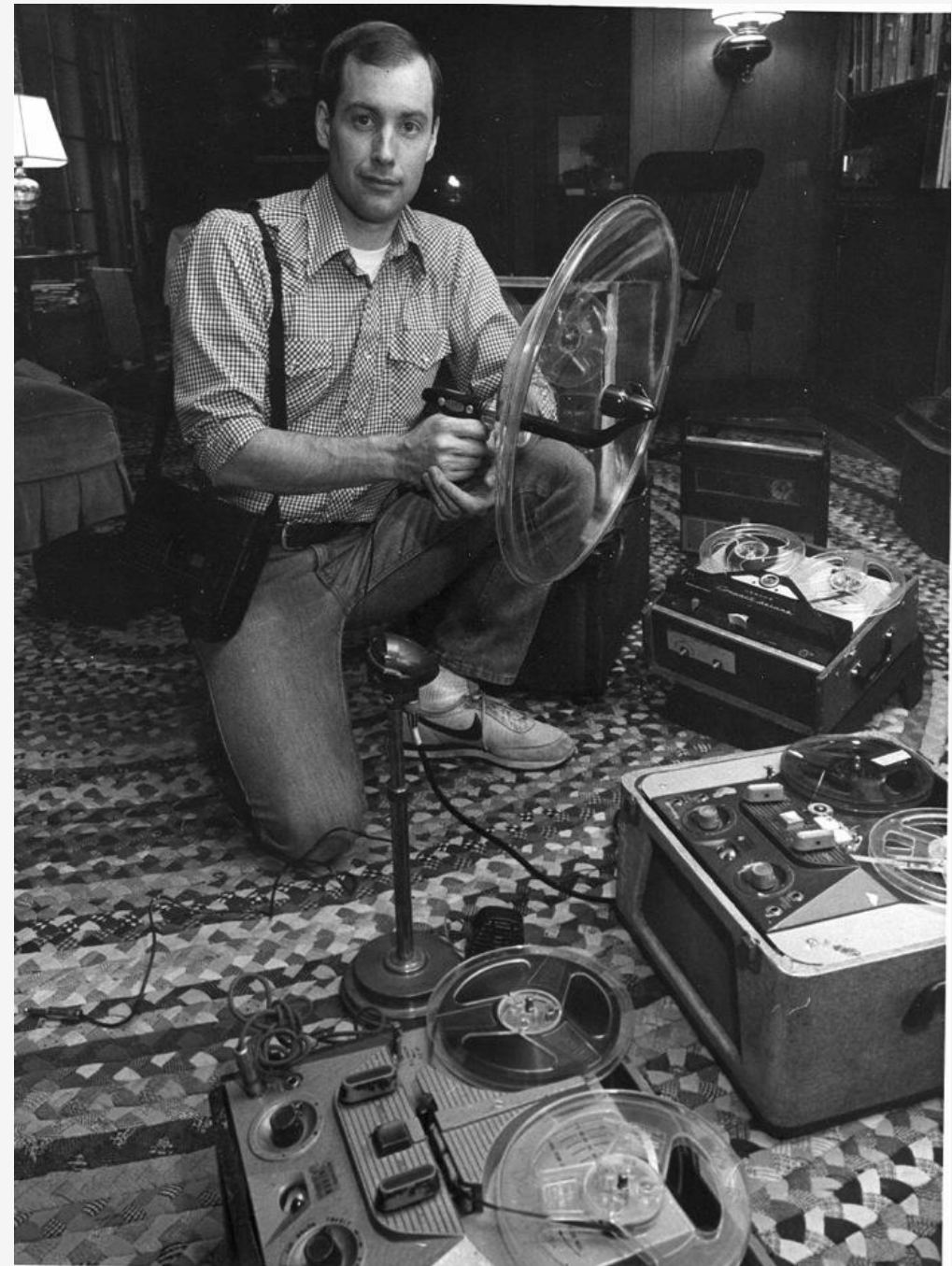
Darth Vader's breathing

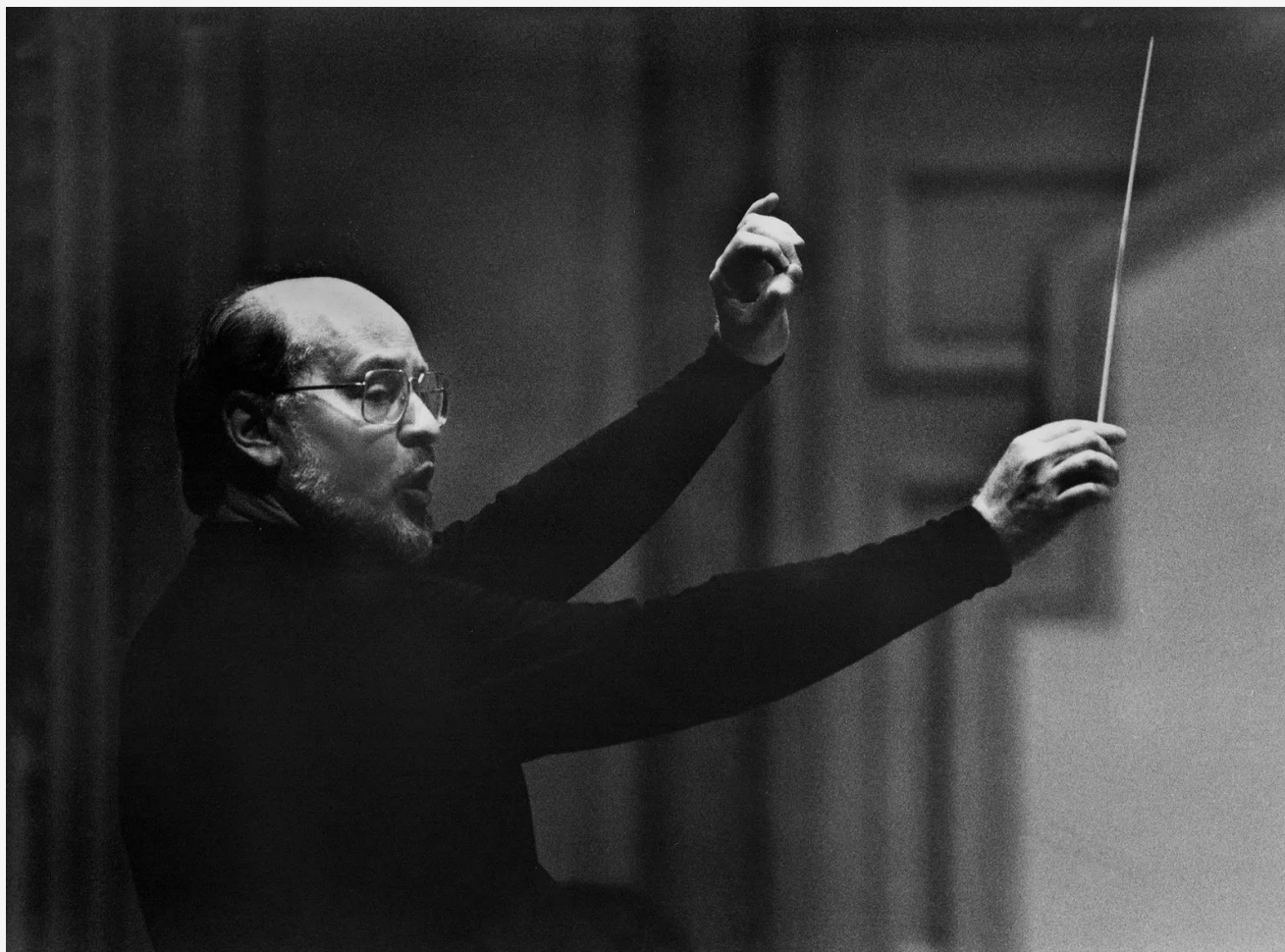
Lasers

TIE Fighters screech

Lightsabers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZj1mYLC7ho>





John Williams *composer*

Suggested by Steven Spielberg

Grand symphonic music was
becoming rare in movies

Created themes for characters

His music completed *Star Wars*

Behind schedule

One year from deadline, all the
money spent, 1 sfx shot completed

Lucas hospitalized for chest pains
due to the stress

Only sfx shop in the world
that could do the work



Creatures

Stuart Freeborn designed
Chewbacca, Yoda

Freeborn sick, unfinished
Cantina creatures

Rick Baker added masks he had
created, including Cantina Band





Cantina



First screening for friends

Lucas' filmmaker friends

Steven Spielberg, Brian DePalma

Saw rough cut, few sfx, no music

Most hated it

Only Spielberg saw potential



Dogfights from WWII photos used in place of spaceships



Editing

Editors Marcia Lucas,
Richard Chew, Paul Hirsch,
overseen by George Lucas

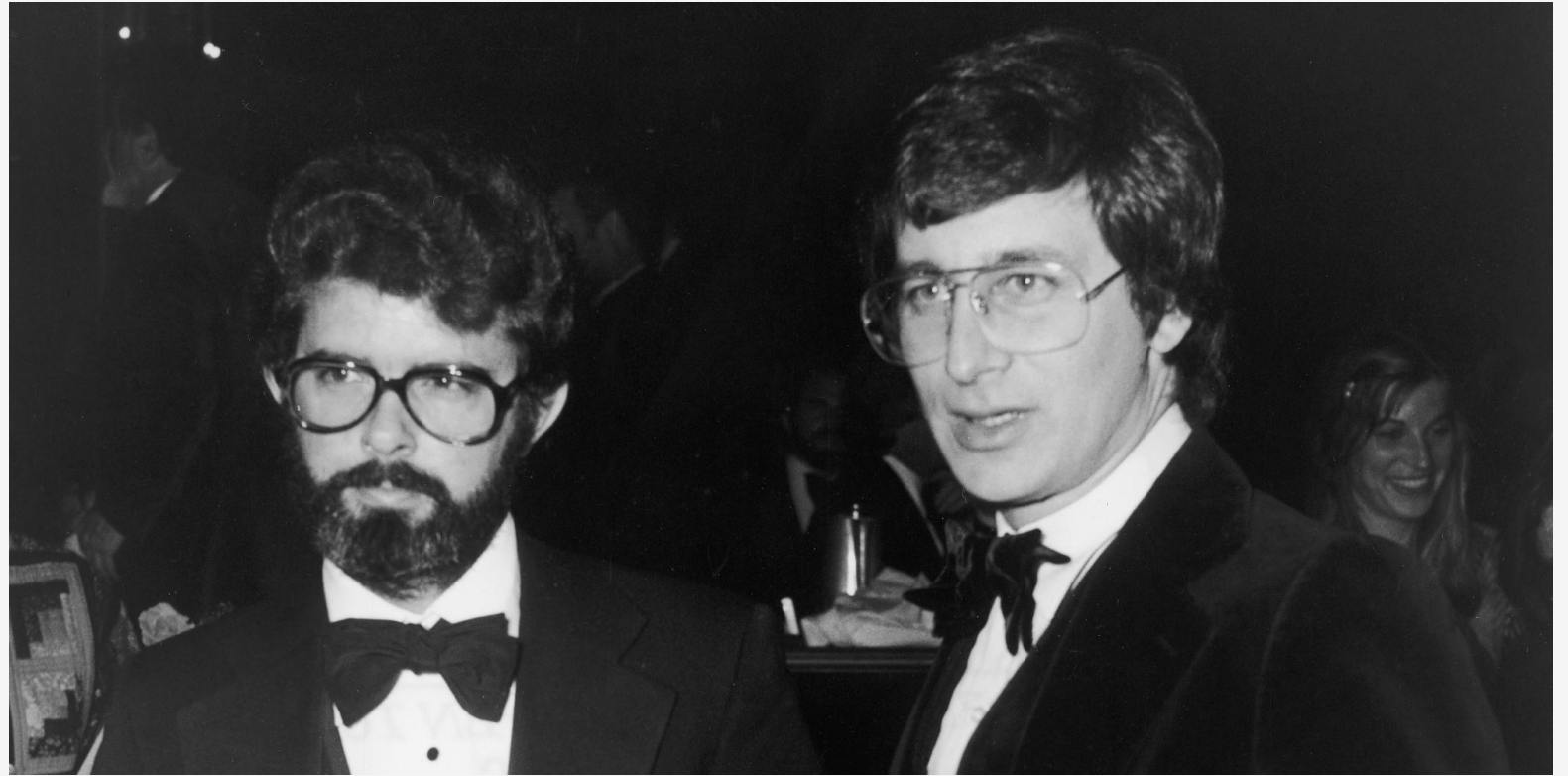
Lucas kept tinkering up
until the film opened

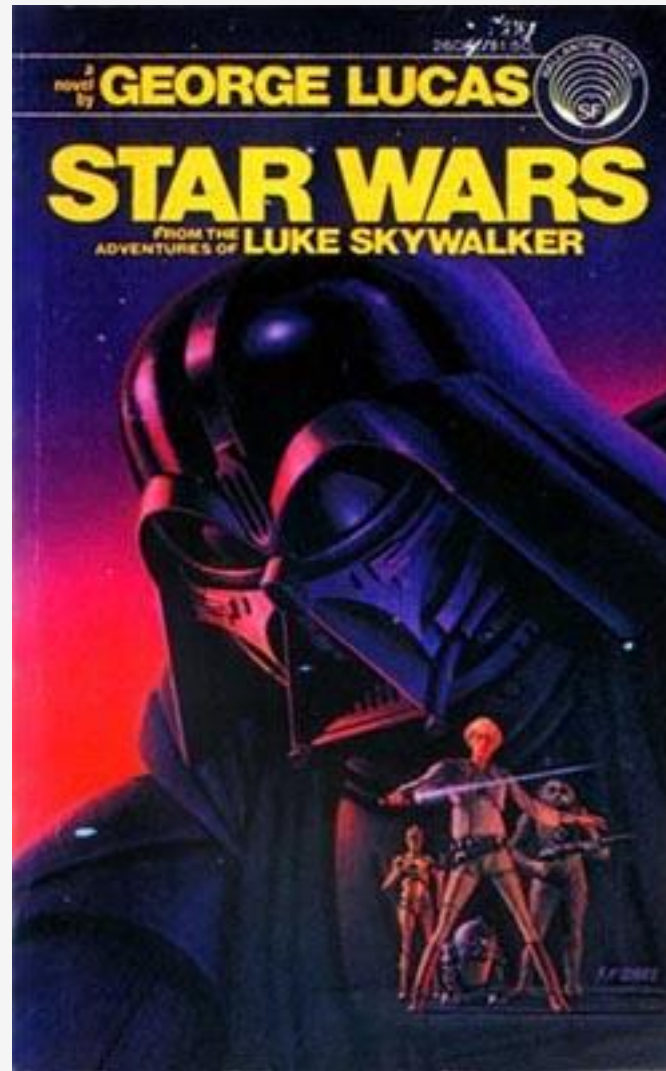


Lucas and Spielberg

Traded shares of
Star Wars and
*Close Encounters of the
Third Kind*

Vacationed together in
Hawaii when *Star Wars*
opened, May 1977





Box Office

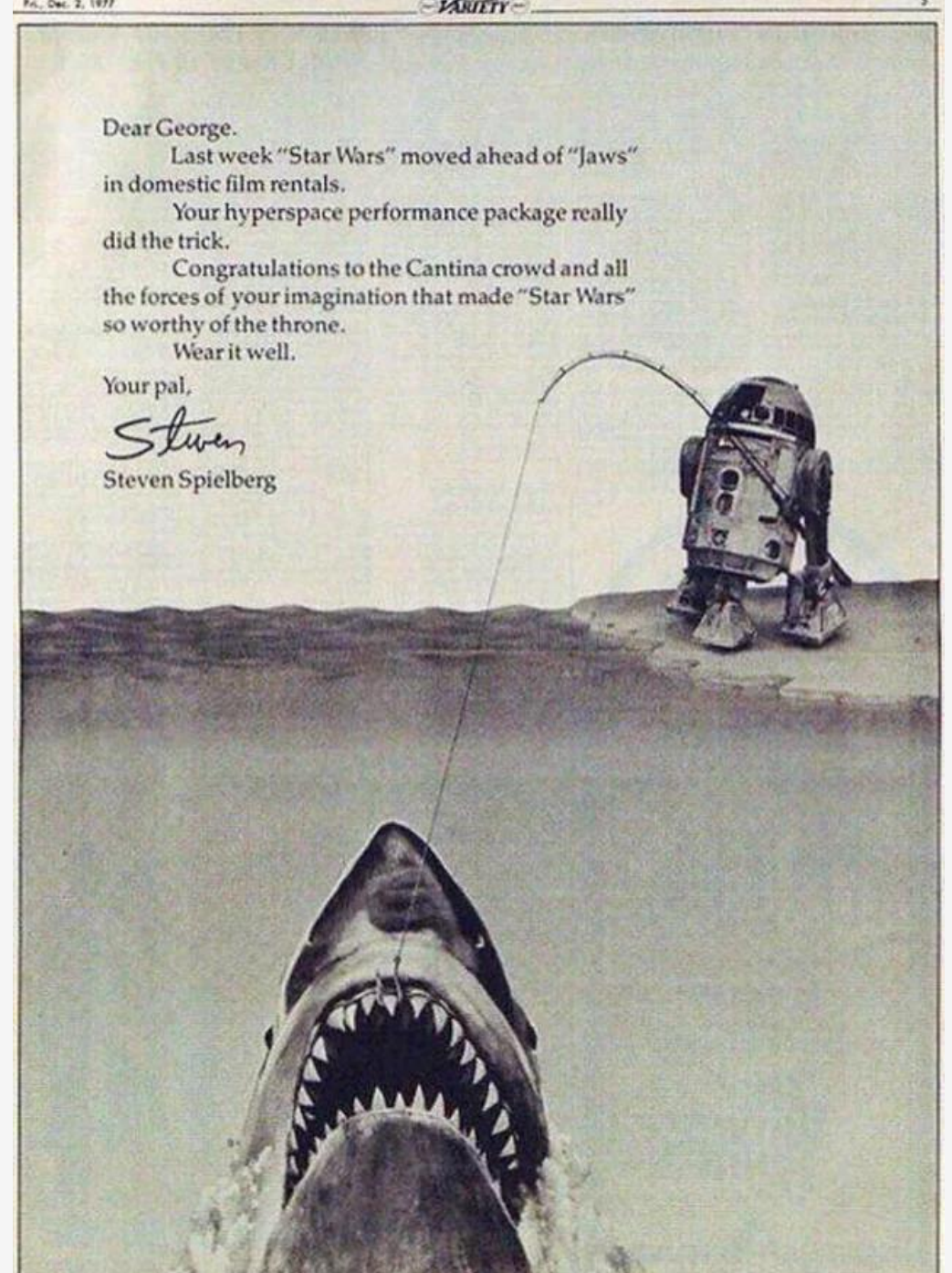
\$307 million original run

\$460 million lifetime

Passed *Jaws* to be No. 1 until *E.T.* (1982)

Adjusted for inflation: \$1.6 billion

2nd only to *Gone With the Wind*



Academy Awards

Wins:

Art Direction

Costume Design

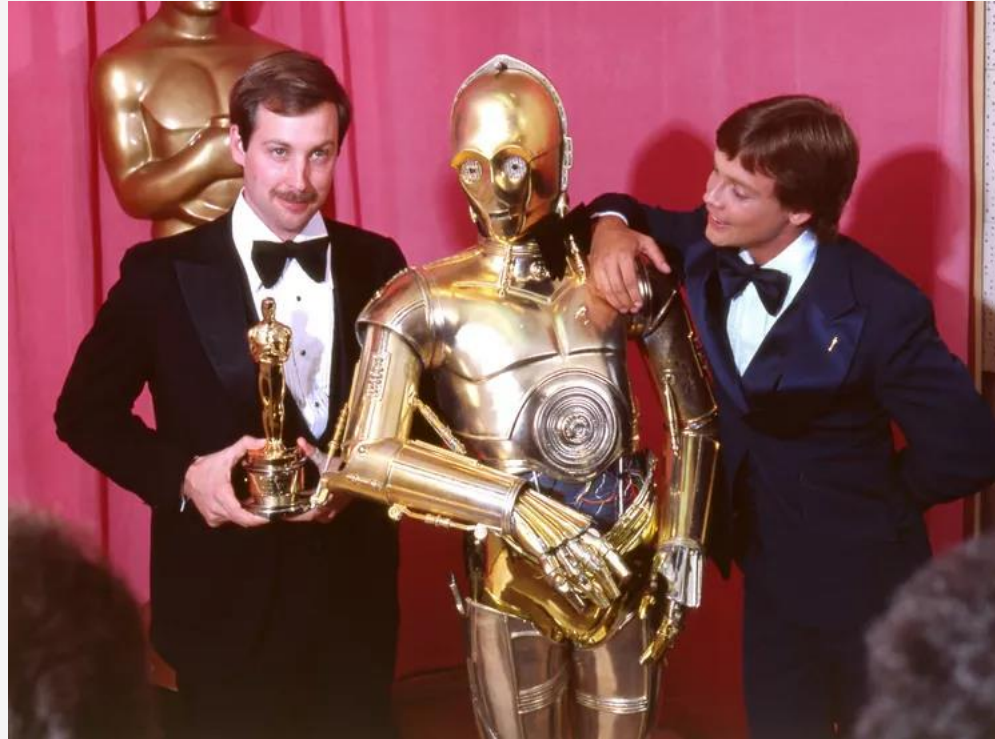
Film Editing

Original Score

Sound

Visual Effects

Special Achievement in Sound



Nominated:

Best Picture

Best Director

Best Supporting Actor

Best Original

Screenplay

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yixG8pfncOs>



[https://www.reddit.com/r/StarWars/comments/17lvey1/the original trailer for the empire strikes back/](https://www.reddit.com/r/StarWars/comments/17lvey1/the_original_trailer_for_the_empire_strikes_back/)

COMING SOON

THE MAKING OF

The iconic Star Wars logo, featuring the words "STAR" and "WARS" in a bold, yellow, outlined font. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight slant. The logo is centered within a black rectangular box.

EPISODE II