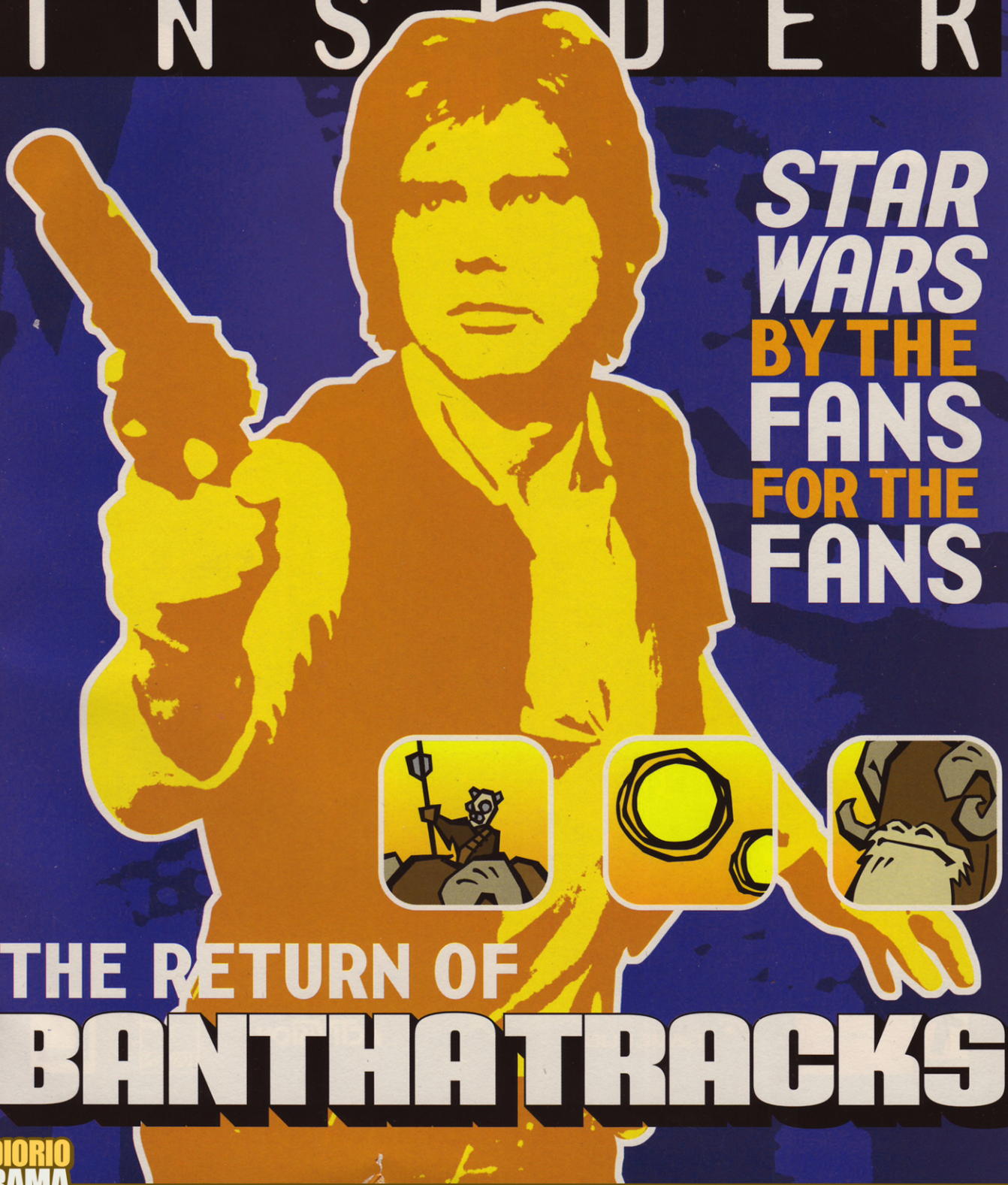


EXCLUSIVE *STAR WARS* FAN CLUB EDITION!

STAR WARS[®] INSIDER

*STAR
WARS*
BY THE
FANS
FOR THE
FANS



THE RETURN OF
BANTHA TRACKS

STAR WARS CELEBRATION II

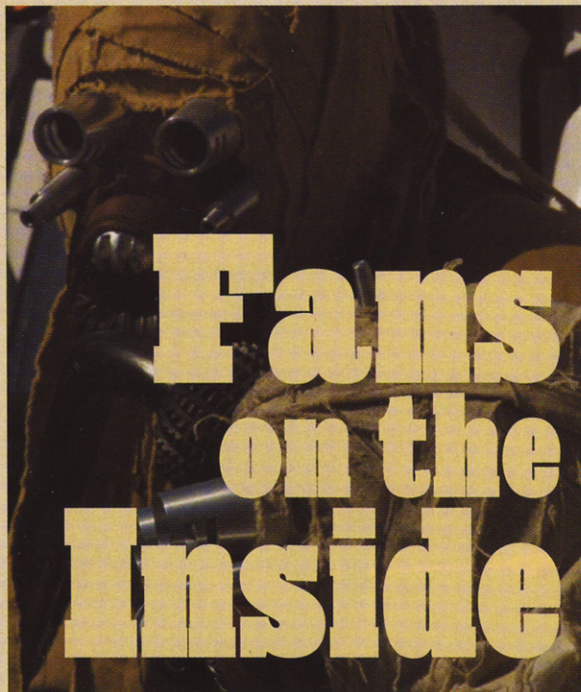


photo by Joseph McDonald

Celebration II is history. The Festival held last May in Indianapolis drew twenty-seven thousand fans to the Indiana Convention Center for three days of *Star Wars* fun. Together they enjoyed stage shows, celebrity appearances, and the Fan Film Festival. They walked, laughed, waited, watched, mingled, and shopped their way through the huge *Star Wars* event.

Some fans, however, spent less time relaxing and a lot more time working over the weekend—backstage, in the autograph area, on the exhibit hall floor, in the Archive Exhibit, and the *Star Wars* Kids' Room. They created spectacular costumes or volunteered their time to produce events for other fans to enjoy. *Star Wars* clubs were busy recruiting new members and sharing their enthusiasm with other organizations.

Maybe you can't imagine spending your next Celebration or other *Star Wars* event working hard behind the scenes. On the other hand, after you read about the experiences and encounters the Celebration volunteers enjoyed, you might change your mind. It's not too early to start planning your involvement in Celebration III. The spring of 2005 will be here before you know it.



photo by Joe Amaro

▲ Fans attending Celebration II created the buildings for the diorama.



photo by Joe Amaro

▲ Getting Mos Eisley ready for photographs on Sunday morning.

CELEBRATION II

BANTHA TRACKS
CELEBRATION II COVERAGE



Photo by Joe Amaro

▲ Mos Eisley space port moved to Celebration II last May thanks to fans and the Diorama Builders.

Bringers of Sawdust

The diorama builders

When master diorama builder Frank D'Iorio and his friend Lucie Trudelle showed up at the Indianapolis Convention Center two nights before the opening of Celebration II, they arrived in a van packed full of building materials, including 70 pounds of sawdust.

Why haul 70 pounds of sawdust and a vanload of building materials all the way from Ontario, Canada? The answer was soon obvious—to recreate the wretched hive of scum and villainy, Mos Eisley, at the Indiana Convention Center.

D'Iorio directed as a group of *Star Wars* fans constructed a 28' x 8' diorama of Mos Eisley over the course of the three-day weekend. The finished diorama had vessels, ships, action figures, buildings, creatures, and legendary locations like Chalmun's Cantina and Docking Bay 94.

Starting Wednesday night, D'Iorio and Trudelle, with help from local fan group The Indy Knights, painted podiums, assembled materials, and made runs to local hardware and art supply stores. They were ready for the show opening on Friday morning, but D'Iorio reported that construction started slowly.

"By 3:00 P.M. on Friday afternoon we had only two houses built. I was thinking, 'This is going to be a disaster,'" said D'Iorio. "By 4:00 P.M. people were trickling in. By 5:30 P.M. there was no more space at the table! Early on Saturday so many people had worked on buildings that we ran out of plaster bandages (used to adhere sawdust to the buildings). We started using paper maché. People who lived in Indianapolis were bringing in their old newspapers."

"We ran out of plaster bandages. We started using paper maché. People who lived in Indianapolis were bringing in their old newspapers."

Some of the Mos Eisley buildings were not quite dry on Sunday morning. "We all had our little hairdryers out, blowing on the buildings," said D'Iorio, "so they would dry and be ready for photographs and the drawing at noon."

Two lucky fans won the drawing and took home Docking Bay 94 and the Cantina. All the others who worked on the project over the weekend were invited to take home the buildings they helped construct.

Although D'Iorio considers building *Star Wars* dioramas a hobby, the detail and perfection apparent in his work makes the word "hobby" seem blatantly insufficient. "Passion" seems a much more fitting word. D'Iorio said he and his helpers received many thanks, in particular from parents who were grateful to be introduced to something fun they could do with their kids at home.

D'Iorio and a group of friends sponsored the costs of bringing all the materials to Celebration, and volunteered their time to create some terrific memories for *Star Wars* fans of all ages.

D'Iorio is always willing to help other *Star Wars* fans with their diorama projects. Novice and experienced builders alike can check out his

website: www.niubniubsuniverse.com. They'll find step-by-step directions on how to build all types of dioramas to display *Star Wars* action figures and recreate scenes from the films.

"It's the site I wish was there six years ago when I started building dioramas," said D'Iorio.

Not only is D'Iorio a master diorama builder, he is also a member of the Official *Star Wars* Fan Club. 🗡️

Go to www.niubniubsuniverse.com for step-by-step directions and photographs on how to build your own dioramas to display your action figures and vehicles.