

"DARTH MAUL IS HARD. HE'S JUST HARD FROM THE MINUTE. HE'S COCKY—HE KNOWS HE'S GOOD."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH TIM BURTON?

Tim is really nice. Tim would pace up and down—he's completely different from George, because George is so relaxed. I really enjoyed working on *Sleepy Hollow*. But I didn't get too involved because I wasn't there everyday. I came in on a casual basis just to do my stuff. I did the stunts on that. I did the fighting, but I didn't do any horse work. I just came in and did my bit, and spoke to Tim and everyone else. I got to meet Johnny Depp, Casper Van Dien, and Christina Ricci, and everyone was so nice—no stress.

It was also nice because I worked with Nick Gillard, and some of the assistant directors were the same as on *Star Wars*—and some of the crew, and the catering. It was just like *Star Wars*. I felt really comfortable, like seeing the old family again. And it was filmed at Leavesden. The three movies that I did in England—*Star Wars*, *Sleepy Hollow*, and *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*—were all done at Leavesden.

YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WHOLE MOVIE INDUSTRY.

Yeah, I thought that was it!

PLUS, LEAVESDEN WAS PROBABLY THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU TO REUNITE WITH IAN MCDIARMID, WHO PLAYED DOCTOR LANCASTER IN *SLEEPY HOLLOW*.

Yeah, I saw him when we were working one night. This was before the release of Episode I, and he said to me, "We were doing the scoring, and you look fantastic! You look really good on screen and you have an excellent presence." This was before I came out to Denver, so I was like, "Oh, now everyone's seen it—I want to see it!"

YOUR FIGHTING AND SWORDPLAY AS THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN WERE AWESOME. HOW WAS YOUR HEAD REMOVED FOR THE FINAL SHOTS?

I wore a blue hood and a blue mask, so ILM would come later and take it out. I had little eye-holes, a bit like Spiderman.

WITH *SLEEPY HOLLOW*, YOU SEEM TO HAVE ESTABLISHED A CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH NICK GILLARD. DO YOU HAVE PLANS

TO WORK WITH HIM AGAIN ON ANYTHING SPECIFIC?

He hasn't called me, so I'm just trying to concentrate on my acting. But I'll always work with Nick. He called me in on *Sleepy Hollow* because this was swords again. He must have thought, "Oh, Ray's pretty good at what he does, I'll get Ray in." It was really nice working with him again, because I know Nick more now. I know how to work with him, and how he thinks.

WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE WORKING ON YOUR ACTING, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE TAKING ACTING CLASSES?

Yes. I'm doing workshops to improve on different dialects, and reading up on things, so that I'm more prepared for bigger and more serious roles. I think it's important, like doing my martial arts. If you just say, "I'm good now," and then you stop, you'll be just as good as you were—you're not going to improve.

DO YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO DO MARTIAL ARTS?

I make time for it. I'm still training five to six days a week and doing my gymnastics and weights, and my martial arts. But I try to space out sessions everyday so I'm not over-training, because I've got to work as well. But there's so much to learn and so much to improve, so you can never be good unless you keep yourself going. I would not stop. I wouldn't get complacent. I want to sharpen it and have it be good in *X-Men*. I think everyone has faith in me to come up with some good things.

SO YOU'RE COMING UP WITH YOUR OWN MOVES FOR TOAD?

Yes. No one is restricting me. They'll say, "Ray, you do this and we'll work together on it." But I know there are a few different fight scenes with different characters in this—it's not just going to be me.

IS *X-MEN* MORE OF AN ACTION FILM THAN *STAR WARS*?

I don't know, because *Star Wars* is action all the



way for me, because I was in the lightsaber duels, rehearsing everyday and working with Liam and Ewan and Nick.

DID THE FILMMAKERS SEEK YOU OUT BECAUSE OF *STAR WARS* OR DID YOU AUDITION?

They called me, so I'm sure it was from *Star Wars*. I went to see them in L.A. and did a little audition. I did a few lines, and I got the part. It's all exciting.

YOU MUST BE HAPPY TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO USE YOUR OWN FACE AND VOICE IN *X-MEN*.

I don't think I would have done it if it wasn't me. I knew they were going to dub my voice in *Star Wars*, but it was still an achievement. Still, if you keep getting acting roles where they keep dubbing your voice, you think, "Well, maybe