

they're trying to tell me something." There's nothing wrong with my voice, it's just that a voice might not fit the part. I've just got to work on it. I want to establish myself more as an actor first, and then my martial arts, so that they'll take me for me. Acting is fun. I like to adapt and try different voices, different characters. That's what it's all about.

SO AT THIS POINT, YOU'RE READY TO SAY THAT IF THEY JUST WANT YOU FOR STUNT RELATED ACTING AND NOT YOUR OWN VOICE, YOU'LL PROBABLY PASS?

Yes. But with *X-Men*, everyone at 20th Century Fox and here on the production all appreciate that. They all know it wasn't my voice in *Star Wars*, but they liked what I did in *Star Wars*. So this is a chance to prove what more I can do. It started off as a small speaking part, but it has actually been more developed as it's gone along. Of course, I don't know how that's going to work within the final cut, but everyone's been fantastic on it.

DID YOU FEEL A LITTLE FRUSTRATED IN *SLEEPY HOLLOW* THAT THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY NO CHANCE YOUR FACE WOULD BE SEEN OR YOUR VOICE HEARD?

Yes and no, because I knew *X-Men* was going to happen next. It is frustrating in a way, because I want to say, "Hey, look, this is what I can do—I want to be in front of a camera—I want to be the guy that everyone sees." But I enjoyed what I did in *Sleepy Hollow*, so it didn't frustrate me. I do want to do more stuff, that's the only frustrating thing—but I think all actors have that. Anyone who's working wants to be at the top of what they do, and it can be frustrating if it is not happening when they want it to happen.

YOU'RE DEFINITELY OFF TO A FAST START. HOW DID YOU FEEL THE FIRST TIME YOU WALKED ONSTAGE AT THE *STAR WARS* CELEBRATION AND SAW ALL THOSE PEOPLE GOING NUTS FOR YOU?

Scared. I did Japan the week

before Denver—I had to speak and do a demonstration—so that warned me up for Denver. If I hadn't done that, I would have really been checking my pants—I would have had to change my underwear a few times, it would have been that bad. I would have been really nervous speaking in front of people, answering questions, to just have my personality out there. I wasn't used to that. But I got used to it, because everybody was really warm, and it helped with you and Anthony [Daniels]. Before doing Denver, I didn't really know Anthony. I really like Anthony, he's nice. I haven't been around to have a cup of tea with him yet because I've been busy this year, but when I get back after I finish with *X-Men*, we're going to hook up.

I was treating Denver like a competition—I was psyching myself up because I knew I had to demonstrate, and I wanted to give a good demo. You want to have a good response—so if everyone was silent when I walked out, that would have been worse. But everyone was rooting like at a football game, and that made me feel good. It was like a pop concert, and there was no hostility at all, not

"WITH DARTH MAUL, HE'S EVIL ALL THE WAY—YOU HAVE TO THINK EVIL."

that I saw. Everyone was just so nice, and eager. They're really dedicated fans, standing in the rain. I want to say a big thanks to all the fans just for being so warm and nice. I really enjoyed Denver. It was a blast. I've learned so much from meeting the fans.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

Just how much of an impression the character has on them, and when they meet me and say how much of an impression I've had on them as well—it keeps you humble. They're just so nice, so gracious. They say, "It's not just what you did with Darth Maul, but who you are as well," and that means a lot, for people I don't know to say that. It's really nice, because it makes you think of the sorts of things you do and what kind of jobs you take. You say, "I want to do good, because I want to give something to the fans as well."

YOU'RE A LIFELONG *STAR WARS* FAN YOURSELF, SO YOU PROBABLY FELT SOME KIND OF CONNECTION WITH THE FANS AT THE CELEBRATION.