

E... F... A... C... E... O... F... DARTH MAUL



samurai, and martial arts. I wanted to be able to do the stuff you see in movies."

The line between film and reality blurred for a while when Park made a bet with a schoolmate that he could jump in three somersaults over a 10-foot fence. "I really believed I could do it," says Park. The bruises on his body eventually got him back to reality.

Park has been taking classes in martial arts since he was seven years old, specializing in Northern Shaolin Kung Fu. By the age of 14, he added Wushu and kickboxing to his repertoire. He began to compete in tournaments and, at the age of 16, won Great Britain's martial arts national championship in his category. Selected as part

of an elite group to train in Malaysia, Park went on to win tournaments around the world.

As a Scotsman in London, Park was teased constantly for his accent, which made him quickly adapt to the local idiom. "I still speak in a Scottish accent with my parents, but otherwise I sound like any other guy from London." Park's adaptation was so complete that, while filming *The Phantom Menace*, Ewan McGregor had no idea Park was a fellow countryman. "He didn't know I was Scottish until I brought my Dad on the set and the two of them spoke," Park laughs.

Long before he played hard-edged characters like Darth Maul, Park learned to toughen up when, at the age of 18, he was attacked