

Do you think we've seen the last of Darth Maul?

I think you've seen the last of me playing Darth Maul. They might get someone else to play it or do a different Darth Maul. As far as I'm concerned, I think Darth Maul's dead. He's done and dusted.

Exactly a year after Episode I was released, you were back on the big screen in another blockbuster, *X-Men*. Did you enjoy being a part of that film?

Yeah, it was a good experience. I've got to admit I worked hard on that film, but not as hard as I did on *Star Wars*. But then I was doing a lot more fighting on *Star Wars*. I also found it easier on *X-Men* because of my experience on *Star Wars*.

It was a totally different movie, but the director [Bryan Singer] and the producers were big fans of *Star Wars*. They were also really nice and cool. Everyone was so cool. It was fun. I wish I had done more in the film skill-wise, but then there's always the second or third one.

Is it true that you were initially reluctant to play Toad in the movie?

I was a bit sceptical at first. I wasn't too sure I wanted to play a character called Toad! When I originally auditioned for the film, I auditioned for a character called Pyro, who could manipulate flames. And then when they said about Toad, I didn't think it was glamorous and I didn't think it would let me use

my skills in the same way. Also, Toad didn't do much in the original script, and I didn't want to be in the movie just because I did something else and can be a name from that movie. But then the story changed and Toad became a bigger part.

There was a lot of prosthetics at first, and I wasn't too keen on that either. But I talked to the producers and director and showed them I could still look evil and funny and geeky without prosthetics.

It was a fun character. I used my martial arts background again, because we do animal styles in Wu-Shu. So I played

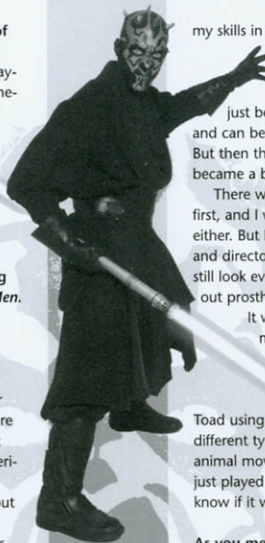
Toad using all different types of animal movements. I just played about. I don't know if it worked, but I think it did.

As you mentioned earlier, a second *X-Men* movie is already in the works. Are you excited about reprising the role of Toad?

I can't wait. Now that I know what Toad is about and feel comfortable with him, it would be great to play him in the second film.

Your main project right now is another comic-strip movie, *Iron Fist*, in which you will play the heroic martial arts expert Danny Rand. The film sounds like a really ideal showcase for you...

It is. It's another piece which I can show my martial arts in, but I'll also be able to show more of my acting and my personality. The producers are



Above and below: From Maul to Toad - Park makes a great cinematic villain.



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