



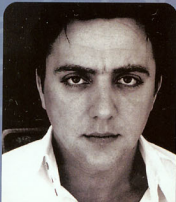
ERAFINOWICZ MAUL ART

him and he laughed."

Serafinowicz calls James Earl Jones, the voice of the "original" Sith Lord, "one of my all-time heroes," but adds that in coming up with Maul's voice he drew on another *Star Wars* tradition—that typified by the late Peter Cushing's Grand Moff Tarkin. "I was thinking of the legacy of the *Star Wars* films and these English baddies," he says. The results were the hypnotic, kingly tones now famous world-wide—and a credited role for an amazed Serafinowicz. "For ages I was just in denial about it," he says. "I thought maybe there'd been a spelling mistake or something."

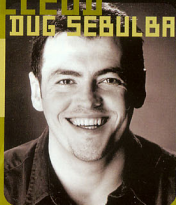
The actual recording took an afternoon, Serafinowicz says: for all Maul's presence in Episode I, he has just a trio of lines. (A couple of others wound up on the cutting-room floor, both from points in the film after Maul arrives on Naboo: In one scene, he tells a hologram of Darth Sidious, "I feel there is more to this, My Master. The two Jedi may be using the Queen for their own purposes," and later, he warns the Neimoidians, "I told you there was more to this—the Jedi are involved.")

But while his studio time was brief, Serafinowicz soon found himself in the madness surrounding Episode I's charity premiere in New York. "I thought, 'As soon as I hear the 20th Century Fox music at the beginning, I'm going to collapse and they'll have to carry me out,'" he recalls. "A, it's the new *Star Wars* film. And B, I'm in it."



LEWIS MacLEOD HE DUG SEBULBA

Quick, which actor has performed the voice of both Sebulba and Obi-Wan Kenobi?



No, it's not Sir Alec Guinness—or Brian McGregor. It's Lewis MacLeod, the 29-year-old Scottish actor who supplied the voice of Sebulba, the villainous, bullying Dug champion of the Mos Espa Podracers, in *The Phantom Menace*.

Oh—if you're wondering how anyone could play a Huttese-speaking alien who's a cross between a camel and a spider, and then imitate (in LucasArts' game *Obi-Wan*) an actor who's himself echoing the performance of another actor, you need to get acquainted with MacLeod. He's a born mimic, sliding easily and apparently effortlessly from Sebulba's sewer-tunnel growl to a native New Yorker's no-nonsense yawn to his own warm, deep, British brogue all in the space of a single sentence—and while battling a cold, no less.

MacLeod's introduction to the *Star Wars* universe came via his friend Peter Serafinowicz, whom *Star Wars* fans know as the voice of Sith apprentice Darth Maul. The two met while shooting a commercial for Aquafresh toothpaste and have since collaborated on *The Two Dinnys*, a 1998 radio show in which they played entertainers from a generation ago who parade around London doing impressions and generally getting into trouble: they plan to film a pilot of the show for the BBC this spring.

When MacLeod first auditioned for Episode I, he also read for Darth Maul, but thought he might get the part of Jabba the Hutt. "I can do a very low tone without my voice being treated too much," he recalls. Instead he was given the much bigger part of Sebulba—and surprisingly, his voice was not electronically altered, he says, breaking into Sebulba's voice to prove his point. The only hitch, MacLeod recalls, was that he needed a different voice with a different tone for the Podrace—it was impossible to shout in the deep voice Sebulba uses in his other Mos Espa scenes.

Performed over the course of three voice-over sessions (during which he was videotaped so animators could match his mouth and facial movements to the character), the Sebulba role required a crash course in Huttese. Learning that particular extragalactic language was "a

nightmare," MacLeod sheepishly admits—especially because his director knew the language perfectly. Lucas knew not only all of Sebulba's lines, MacLeod says, but was a master of Huttese linguistics. One line in particular intrigued MacLeod: Sebulba's disgusted exclamation of "Pudli!" A laughing MacLeod asked Lucas what it meant, and found out that that particular word was probably not going to be subtitled when the film was released.

"He was very easy to work with," MacLeod says of Lucas. "He's so hands-on with everything. It's an amazing responsibility to shoulder, but he does it with such unbelievable ease—and with a few laughs."

MacLeod doesn't know if Sebulba will be back in Episode II, admitting he put the question to producer Rick McCallum and got a finger wagged at him in mock disapproval. In the meantime, he's busying himself with a considerable amount of voice-over work for cartoons, commercials, and video games, getting ready for *The Two Dinnys* pilot, and looking for the chance to show that he can shine as a dramatic actor as well.

MacLeod saw Sebulba fully realized for the first time at Los Angeles' legendary Mann's Chinese Theater. "The atmosphere was like a carnival," he recalls. "I loved it. I absolutely loved it. That's why you want to be an actor."

