

"WING COMMANDER III: HEART OF THE TIGER"

PRODUCTION NOTES

Old-fashioned movie-making combines with the astoundingly innovative science of CD-ROM interactive video wizardry to create Origin Systems Inc.'s "Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger," an exciting new film/video game starring Mark Hamill (the "Star Wars" trilogy), Malcolm McDowell ("Star Trek: Generations") and John Rhys-Davies (the "Indiana Jones" movies). Also starring are Ginger Lynn Allen ("Young Guns II") and Jennifer MacDonald ("Terminal Force").

"Wing Commander III" is being produced by *Electronic Arts Production, Inc. and directed by 26-year-old Chris Roberts, who, as creator of the original, best-selling "Wing Commander" interactive lines, pushed the frontiers of multimedia entertainment into startling new terrain.

Written by veteran screenwriters Frank De Palma and Terry Borst, "Wing Commander III" also stars Courtney Gains, Josh Lucas and Jason Bernard. The film is produced by Donna Burkons, with Virgil Harper as cinematographer. Chris Roberts is executive producer.

Interactive movies employ the conventions of film to tell a story, but allows the viewer/player to become part of the action by interacting at key points in the plot, thus advancing and changing the course of events as they unfold.

In "Wing Commander III," live-action production merges with computer painted landscapes and cinematic camera techniques. The result is a seamless consolidation of traditional movie footage, "virtual" sets and a fully-orchestrated musical score that brings the player *inside* the action as no other entertainment production ever has.

Like its predecessors, "Wing Commander III" is set in the future, in the vast galaxies above the earth. The lead character is Chris Blair (Hamill) a starfighter aboard the *TCS Tiger's Claw*, an interstellar spacecraft carrier caught in a cataclysmic war against the cat-like alien menace known as the Kilrathi.

"The new technology available for 'Wing Commander III' allows us to take the next step in combining linear and interactive technologies to achieve a heightened emotional involvement for the players," says creator-director Roberts. "It draws them into the game to an extent they have not previously experienced. With 'Wing Commander III,' the player *becomes* the hero. You feel responsibility for what happens."

Explains producer Donna Burkons, whose initial task was to find writers to redraft the original script: "You write a script 120 pages long in the linear world, but in interactive, you write a script 300 pages wide. It follows a story, but there can be several different branches, several variations on one plot."

Hamill, whose work includes film, television, theatre, animation and radio, admits he loved the challenge of doing an interactive film. "I've always been fascinated by puzzles and games of all kinds," he says. "What I'm trying to provide in the variations of each scene are the pieces of the puzzle that are needed to complete this story."

"There are so many eventualities in the script that making this is a whole new ball game. I have the feeling that I may look back in 50 years and say, 'Hey, I was in at the beginning of this phenomenon,' just like actors at the end of the silent film era might have felt when they began doing talking pictures."

Co-star John Rhys-Davies, whose background ranges from Shakespearean roles to the current "The Untouchables" TV series, is also enthusiastic about this new venture. "I believe that CD-ROM is indeed a trailblazing medium," says Rhys-Davies. "My own interests have always been in science fiction and technology, both of which are in abundant supply with 'Wing Commander III.' It's fun and entertaining, and, I think, points the way towards the future of mass entertainment."

Adds Roberts, "In the past, when I created the first two 'Wing Commander' games, I tried to be as cinematic as possible, but the technology held me back. We couldn't have live action characters or footage, so what we had was basically similar to animated cartoons. But with CD-ROM, I can shoot live actors and play them back."

Roberts points out that the first "Wing Commander" game was graphics only. He added some speech and an improved storyline to "Wing Commander II." And with "Wing Commander III," Roberts is finally able to bring live action and speech to the interactive screen.

"There's an intensity in storytelling you get with live actors that you can't get with animated film," he continues. "We have a lot more variety in shot selection, a full audio track. Most importantly, you, the player, have a chance to be the hero instead of watch the hero."

"You feel the same participation in the movie whether you're in the cockpit flying a mission or talking to people on the starship. You immerse yourself in the environment in which the story is told as well as in the emotions of the characters. That to me is a truly interactive movie."

Nearly 50 veteran Hollywood filmmakers joined an elite contingent of computer and technology experts in the making of "Wing Commander III." Almost two hours of live action footage was filmed, with computer-generated backgrounds taking the place of elaborate "real" sets. Later, this footage was married with virtual sets, backgrounds and the game-play environment at Origin's headquarters in Austin, Texas. Using Silicon Graphics workstations and state-of-the-art 3-D software, a small team of gifted artists and programmers created a seamless, virtual world in which the adventure takes place.

Set in the year 2654, "Wing Commander III" centers on Col. Christopher Blair, a veteran pilot who's seen his share of victories and defeats against the intractable Kilrathi. His mission continues to be to protect the starfleet, defend the innocent and take the offensive against the enemy.

As the adventure begins, the Kilrathi seem to be gaining the upper hand in the long-fought Galactic War. With your old carrier blown away, you're reassigned to the *TCS Victory*, an aging tub held together by little more than the good spirits of its haggard crew.

Blair's new shipmates include a former Kilrathi warrior who's defected to join the fight against his own kind; an impetuous pilot who's as likely to shoot you as the enemy; a brassy female flight mechanic who's got her eye on you; and a tough, beautiful pilot whose cool exterior belies her fiery personality.

As the interactive player, you *are* Blair--acted on-screen by Hamill. During the adventure, you'll alternately participate in filmed scenes with other characters and fly seat-of-the-pants missions in a variety of advanced spacefighters. While success in the flight missions is fundamental in order to continue your progress, equally important are the choices you make in your interactions with your shipmates. Your every choice impacts the morale of those around you, changing both the storyline and their performances in the missions.

"Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger," stars Mark Hamill, Malcolm McDowell and John Rhys-Davies. Also starring are Ginger Lynn Allen and Jennifer MacDonald. Written by veteran screenwriters Frank De Palma and Terry Borst, "Wing Commander III" also stars Courtney Gains, Josh Lucas and Jason Bernard. The film is produced by Donna Burkons, with Virgil Harper as cinematographer. Chris Roberts is executive producer.

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* Electronic Arts is a diversified entertainment company that develops, publishes, and distributes software worldwide. The company is 11 years old and has an annual sales rate of almost \$400 million. Its corporate headquarters are in San Mateo, California, and it has offices in Texas, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and Japan.

ABOUT THE CAST

MARK HAMILL (Blair) is known worldwide for his starring role as Luke Skywalker in "Star Wars," "Return of the Jedi" and "The Empire Strikes Back," three of the most popular and successful films ever made.

Most recently, Hamill has been heard as the voice of the Joker in both the "Batman" animated television series and the theatrical animated feature "Mask of the Phantasm."

Born in Oakland, California, Hamill began his acting career in television, with guest-starring roles in such series as "Room 222," "The Partridge Family," "Medical Center," "Owen Marshall," "The FBI," "The Streets of San Francisco" and numerous other top-rated shows.

In addition to the "Star Wars" trilogy, Hamill has been seen on-screen starring in "Corvette Summer," "The Big Red One," "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia," "Time Runner," "The Guyver," "Slipstream," "Britannia Hospital" and "Sleepwalkers," among others.

Hamill has also worked on stage, making his Broadway debut as star of "The Elephant Man." Over the past several years he has been seen in both the New York and national touring production of "Amadeus," "Harrigan 'n Hart," the off-Broadway revival of "Room Service" and "The Nerd."

MALCOLM MCDOWELL (Tolwyn) was most recently seen in the critically-acclaimed "Bohpa" and also stars with Melanie Griffith in the upcoming "Milk Money."

Best known for his starring role in "A Clockwork Orange," the British-born McDowell began his acting career in English repertory, including two years with The Royal Shakespeare Company.

On film, McDowell has starred in "If," "O Lucky Man," "Time After Time," "Cat People," "Caligula," "The Passage," "Voyage of the Damned," "Blue Thunder," "Sunset,"

"Britannia Hospital," which also starred "Wing Commander III" co-star Mark Hamill, and "The Player," as well as several other films.

For television, he has appeared in "The Collection" and in the title role of "Arthur the King" for CBS and was recently seen in the movie-of-the-week "The Man Who Wouldn't Die," opposite Roger Moore.

McDowell's theatre work includes "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" at London's Royal Court Theatre, and New York productions of "Jimmy Porter," "Look Back in Anger," "In Celebrate" and "Another Time." He also starred in the Los Angeles presentation of "Hunting Cockroaches" at the Mark Taper Forum.

JOHN RHYS-DAVIES (Paladin) is a familiar face to millions of movie-goers worldwide, thanks to his appearances in "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." In addition, he has had prominent roles in "The Living Daylights," "Victor, Victoria," "Firewalker," "King Solomon's Mines," "Sahara" and many other films. He has written two screenplays, both of which are in development at major film studios.

He is currently host of the popular "Archaeology" series on The Discovery Channel" and can be seen in "The Untouchables" TV series. His television work also includes such major productions as "Great Expectations," "War and Remembrance," "Noble House," "Shogun," "Sadat" and others.

Raised in England, Africa and Wales, Rhys-Davies graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, then began appearing on stage in numerous Shakespearean productions, including "Hamlet," "As You Like It," "Richard III," "Merry Wives of Windsor," "Macbeth," "Othello," and more. His other stage performances include roles in, among others, "The Misanthrope," "Hedda Gabler," "The Cherry Orchard" and "A Month in the Country."

GINGER LYNN ALLEN (Rachel), co-starred in the popular "Young Guns II," followed by starring roles in "Skin Deep," "Leather Jackets," "Bound and Gagged--A Love Story" and the upcoming "God's Lonely Man."

Her previous screen credits include "Hollywood Blvd. II," "Buried Alive," "Let the Music Be," "Far Out Man," "Vice Academy I, II and III," "Whore" and "Sudden."

On television, Allen is currently seen in a recurring role in the hit series "NYPD Blue." Her other television appearances include guest-starring roles in "Super Force," "Hardball," "Sunset Beat," "Cleo/Leo" and "Silk Stalkings."

JENNIFER MACDONALD (Flint), who starred as a cyborg in the recent "Terminal Force," is an accomplished stuntwoman as well as actress. Currently a student of Kenpo Karate, and with a purple belt in Tae Kwon Do, MacDonald has also been seen, as an actress, in "The Collector," "Shades of Black," "California Dreamin'" "Smoke on the Water," "Kindred Spirits" and "Still in Hollywood."

Born in Schenectady, New York and raised on a farm in Ohio, MacDonald graduated from high school at 16, then joined the Armed Forces, where her ability to learn foreign languages helped her become a liaison for the United States in the Middle East. In addition to English, she speaks Spanish, Arabic and French.

MacDonald has been seen on television in HBO's "Dream On" and "The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr." On stage, she has performed in productions of "Steel Magnolias," "The Lover," "Trouble in Mind," "M Butterfly" and "The Man Who Turned Into A Dog."

THOMAS F. WILSON (Maniac) co-starred as the bully in the "Back to the Future" trilogy, as well as in "Blood In. . . Blood Out," "Action Jackson," "Let's Get Harry" and "April Fool's Day." On television, he's been seen on MV3 and The Variety Store.

Trained in acting, speech, singing, dancing and mime, Wilson has also worked as a stand-up comic in Los Angeles at The Comedy Store, The Improv and The Comic Strip; in New York at The Improv and Catch A Rising Star"; and in Las Vegas at The Comedy Store.

Wilson's theatre work ranges from children's' theatre to Shakespeare, including roles in "Richard III," "Henry IV, Part I," "Mrs. Dally Has A Lover," "The Emperor's New Clothes," "Oklahoma," "The Crucible" and "Frankenstein."

JASON BERNARD (Eisen), currently co-starring in the hit Fox-TV series "Herman's Head," is a veteran actor with a long list of film and television credits. His films include "Paint It Black," "No Way Out," "All of Me," "War Games," "Star Chamber," "Blue Thunder," "Uncle Joe" and "Car Wash," among others.

Bernard has appeared in nearly every top-rated television series in the past 10 years, as well as in several movies-of-the-week and miniseries. Among them are "Designing Women," "The Cosby Show," "The Garry Shandling Show," "St. Elsewhere," "Knot's Landing," "Hotel," "Night Court," "Dinosaurs," "The Flash," "Cagney and Lacy" and "Crazy Like a Fox."

His movies-of-the-week and miniseries include Hollywood Wish," "Original Sin," "Police Story," "The Rape of Richard Beck," "Mail Order Bride" and "The Wilma Rudolph Story."

Bernard has also acted on stage with the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Seattle Repertory Theater and in productions of "Othello," "Trial of the Cantonville Nine," "A Gathering of Old Men" and more.

COURTNEY GAINS (Rollins) moves between film, television and theatre work with ease. Perhaps best-known for his role in "Memphis Belle," Gains has also acted in the features "Runaway Daughters," "The 'Burbs," "Colors," "Can't Buy Me Love," "Back to the Future," "Winner Take All," "Secret Admirer," "Lust in the Dust," "Hardbodies" and "Children of the Corn."

His television work includes "Seinfeld," "In the Line of Duty," "In the Heat of the Night," "Tales From the Crypt," "Vietnam War Stories" and many others.

On stage, Gains has been seen in, among other productions, "Speed of Darkness," "Oedipus Rex" and "Spoon River Anthology."

JOSHUA LUCAS (Flash) is a regular on the television series "The Man From Snowy River" and has also been seen in "Jake and the Fatman," "Parker Lewis Can't Lose," "True Colors," "Life Goes On" and the USA network movie "Child of Darkness/Child of Light." His films include "Alive" and "Class of 61."

Theatre appearances include "The Picture of Dorian Gray," "Romeo and Juliet," "As You Like It," "Blithe Spirit," "Night Must Fall" and others.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CHRIS ROBERTS (Director-Executive Producer) was born in California but grew up in Manchester, England. At age 13 he taught himself computer programming and within a year had sold his first video game. By 1987, he had three #1 hits in the United Kingdom: "Match Day," "Wiz Adore" and "Stryker's Run."

In 1987, at age 19, he joined Origin Systems, Inc. as a free-lance designer. His first project, "Times of Lore," became a top seller. Roberts followed with "Bad Blood" in 1990, then created "Wing Commander," which skyrocketed to the top of the charts. It became the new standard in PC games and ushered in the entirely new genre called "interactive movies."

"Wing Commander" and its sequel, "Wing Commander II: Vengeance of the Kilrathi," remain at the top of the electronic entertainment charts, with more than 1.5 million units sold worldwide. Roberts' most recent game, "Strike Commander," a military flight combat simulator, is likewise an international best-seller.

Roberts is currently vice president and executive producer of Origin and its parent company, Electronic Arts.

DONNA BURKONS (Producer) brings a variety of film experience to the complex task of producing "Wing Commander."

After graduation with a degree in film from Arizona State University, Burkons broke into the movie industry at a major talent agency, but soon moved into developing scripts for film and television. She was head of the story department at United Artists for three years, then moved to 20th Century Fox in the same capacity.

Four years later, Burkons became actively involved in production at Walt Disney Studio's Imagineering division, where she produced shorts and documentaries for Disney's theme parks. She also developed concepts for a 3-D project at EPCOT and produced a number of the company's multimedia shows.

"Wing Commander III"--Production Notes

For television, his work ranges from NBC's "Chipmunk Special" to "Socrates."
His other television credits include "Deer in the Works," "Songs of Christmas," "Mouse
& Motorcycle," "Yolanda's Story," "Good & Perfect Gift," "Dreams of Flying," "Between
Friends" and "Carmen and Cesar."

Harper has also been second unit director of photography for the feature films
"Sioux City," "Dr. Giggles," "Young Guns II" and "Tremors."

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After doing some work for Origin Systems, Burkons was asked by Chris Roberts to help develop the script for "Wing Commander III," which led to her taking on the role of producer as well. She brought in screenwriters Terry Borst and Frank De Palma to rewrite the script and was closely involved with all phases of production, including budgeting, choosing the cast and crew members and supervising the day-to-day operations of filming.

TERRY BORST and FRANK DE PALMA (Screenwriters) are long-time partners in the writing, producing and directing of films and television projects. Together they have written the highly-rated TV movie "Midnight Run Around" and the feature film "Private War," both directed by De Palma.

Borst, who has a keen interest and knowledge of computers, is also a noted playwright, fiction and poetry writer whose work has been published in "Berkeley Poetry Review," "Gargoyle," "Nebo Review," "American Classic Anthology," "Pinchpenny" and other literary journals. His play, "Dialogue Between Lovers" was produced at West Los Angeles College. He also wrote and directed the short film "Into the Red."

Frank De Palma's other directorial credits include eight episodes of "Tales From the Darkside" and several episodes of ABC's "Land of the Lost," as well as the television pilots for "Chain Letter" and Disney's "Future Tense."

Winner of the Jim Morrison Award at UCLA, De Palma also wrote, produced and edited "The Hibakusha Gallery," a short film that won top awards at the Melbourne International Film Festival, Christchurch International Film Festival, CINE Eagle Competition and the Golden Knight Film Festival.

VIRGIL HARPER (Cinematographer) has a long list of feature films, television movies and commercials to his credit. He was most recently director of photography on the American Playhouse production of ". . .and the earth did not swallow him," as well as "The Tin Man" and "What Waits Below."