

The Pine-Richland

Rampage

May The 4th Be With You!

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge

Exploring the Land of Batuu

BROOKE DEEGAN STAFF WRITER

Over spring break I was fortunate enough to witness the wonders of Galaxy's Edge, a Star Wars themed land within Walt Disney World's Hollywood Studios. I've been hearing about how surreal this little portion of Disney is for years upon years, as has my family, and so finally having the chance to experience it all with those I love was something that I will certainly never forget.

On the particular day that I



Inside the Falcon

came to explore the land of Batuu, the fictional planet invented for the purpose of the Star Wars section of this world-renowned amusement park, the skies were rather gloomy. The wind was brushing us all with small chills, and the clouds above us were evidently jam-packed with water waiting to burst out. Because of the depressing weather, I was feeling a bit

down as my family and I trekked our way through Hollywood Studios. But once we arrived at Galaxy's Edge, it was like a river of joy had finally begun to flood over me.

Immediately, I noticed that every last inch of the land was intricately themed. The attention to detail and creation of the atmosphere was ridiculously remarkable.

There was not a single thing out of place, and Disney was just about able to convince me that I was actually out of our world and on a whole different planet.

Isn't that insane? From the way that the little shops and stands were set up, to the mere imprinting on the ground beneath us, everything was just... Perfect.

The Millennium Falcon was, without a doubt, an utter masterpiece. It was right in the core of Galaxy's Edge, and it was nothing short of an absolute show-stopper thanks to its miraculous size and the fact that it was almost scarily identical to the one in the movies. But the outside was

most definitely not the best part. The inside of the Falcon was just as, if not more, astonishing. Again, back to that unbelievable attention to detail, every part of the Millennium Falcon was true to the films. My dad, who has



Brooke Deegan and Family in front of the Millennium Falcon (all photos provided by Brooke Deegan)

been a huge Star Wars fan since he was quite young, was beyond impressed and even positively shocked by the way that it all turned out. He got to take a picture sitting inside the little booth with the iconic space chess game on the table, and that was surely the highlight of his trip.

Smuggler's Run is one of the two rides within Galaxy's Edge. It's what is inside of the Falcon, other than all of that neat theming that is a part of its queue. The ride is seriously

so much fun, and great for a family to all enjoy together. It is an exciting simulation of flying in the Millennium Falcon, where six people are in the cabin and there are three jobs that two people each can take. Pilots (who twist and turn the vehicle, or even send it into hyperspace), Gunners (who strongly assist in defeating the enemy), and Engineers (who repair the Falcon if it gets damaged). This ride does involve some heavy team work, but it is one of the most adrenaline-filled experiences in all of Walt Disney World, so it is definitely worth it.

The second ride in Galaxy's Edge is called Rise of the Resistance. It was exceptionally immersive, with a humongous lead-in before you get to the actual physical ride. This attraction made us feel even more like we were part of the Star Wars universe than anything else. The cast members especially helped to make this ride feel as if it were our reality, since they were so committed to their roles and to the lore. I was genuinely frightened (in a good way) whenever the First Order was yelling at us all, to be honest. It was magnificent.



Ronto Wrap from Ronto

In addition to the fantastical attractions of the land, there were also some amazing spots for on-theme food and drinks (something that I value most as a foodie). We ate at Ronto Roasters (inside of Batuu's marvelous marketplace) for a brunch-time meal, and my mom and I both ordered what are called Ronto Wraps. A Ronto Wrap is tender pita bread filled with roasted pork, grilled pork sausage, peppercorn sauce, and coleslaw. It was delicious, to say the least. It was so simple and yet so otherworldly, and probably was the highlight of my day there, because, well, it was a great meal. What can I say?

The Cantina is an iconic and extremely memorable scene/aspect of the Star Wars films, so, naturally, it is included in Galaxy's Edge. Reservations for Oga's Cantina are not exactly easy to acquire, but my mom has seemingly magical ways of booking things for us, so we were able to get in. We had a chunk of time to order drinks and enjoy the atmosphere. Each party can stay in for around 45 minutes before having to leave. I ordered Jabba Juice, which was orange-juice based, mixed with all sorts of fruits, such as pineapple, kiwi, and cantaloupe, as well as little blueberry boba balls. It was very tangy, but it was tasty, too. It did not taste like something from Earth, though (much like everything else on Oga's menu), so its uniqueness really sold the deal for me. My dad and I had a wonderful time sitting there, chatting, drinking our drinks, and really feeling those Batuu feels. Even the music playing sounded as if it were digitally made by aliens, which was just so beyond neat.

Now, I did not participate in the Star Wars: Data Pad Game, but my dad and little

brother really loved it. You need the Play Disney Parks app to play, and it is basically



Oga's Cantina

a variation of a scavenger hunt throughout the land where you get to do all sorts of activities, like assist the Resistance and play around with droids scattered out and about. Although I did not do this in my time at Disney World, I have heard oh, so many positive reviews from my brother and my father, so I feel as if I can confidently say that it is also an entertaining aspect of Galaxy's Edge, and that you should totally try out if it appeals to you.

Hollywood Studios had always been my least favorite park at Walt Disney World, but this year, things were definitely different. I loved Galaxy's Edge with all of my heart, and it was surely the most adequate and adventurous addition to Disney that I could have imagined. It was everything I was expecting and, of course, more, and I hope that I get to come back to experience it once again real soon.

Why the Star Wars Prequels are Amazing

The *Controversial Prequel Trilogy's* Success



SOPHIA DE JESUS STAFF WRITER

When someone first mentions the prequels of the beloved *Star Wars* franchise, many are quick to critique it for its shortcomings. The story is often described as “abjectly hated by many Star Wars fans” at the time of its initial release. Many were annoyed, angered, and thoroughly disappointed with the development of the notorious storyline of Darth Vader’s upbringing. What fans failed to notice at the time was the intrinsic and melancholic description of the Clone Wars, an essential storyline to the Star Wars’ canonic universe. The stories explore the early years of the rise of the Empire, Anakin’s Skywalker’s transition to the dark side, Obi-Wan’s journey to acceptance, and the overarching, intriguing story that was told all throughout. These prequels were once denounced and shamed, but now, they are uplifted and cherished.

The most notable criticism about these early 2000s films was the choppy scripts and unworthy line delivery. The incredible cast of veteran actors was not

enough to soothe the public’s denunciation of the overall performance. Hayden Christensen, who has since been praised for his child-like depiction of the Dark Lord, was hated greatly for his acting choices and line delivery of the part. George Lucas’ script was subpar, and many believe the faults of the movie were because the famed director tried to “do everything himself,” which proved detrimental to the movies overall. The crew felt that they could never go against George Lucas’ wishes, and so, they let him take full control which led to the poor quality of dialogue.

The main purpose of the prequels in the first place was to fully relay the backstory of Anakin Skywalker, or as he is most famously known, Darth Vader. His love for the princess, his complicated relationship with his master Obi-Wan, his anguish for the death of his mother, and his internal struggles with resisting the dark side were all factors that contributed to the successes of the film. As the movies progressed, the characters grew older which greater allowed the

audience to create a personal connection with the characters. We see Anakin when he is most vulnerable and innocent, and because of this, the heartbreak of his transition to the dark side stuck with fans.

The glorious scenery, wondrous cast, and the general story of the prequels were what made them so spectacular. In many ways, the phrase “it’s so bad it’s good” perfectly portrays the excellence that these movies encompass. The movie deserves to be watched more than once for you to appreciate it. You need to have an open mind and desire for something fun rather than perfect. These prequels are fun, enthralling, and emotionally driven, offering the audience the exploration through the life of one of pop culture’s most infamous villains. The script couldn’t fully destroy this trilogy of backstory, for what it did was lead the way for an even bigger “rags-to-riches” story as future audiences remember these classics.

STAR WARS GAMES

Star Wars

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T	H	E	F	O	R	C	E	A	C	W	A	R	I
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I	A	H	E	N	K	I	E	O	O	O	I	R	E
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CHEWBACCA
 WOOKIE
 YODA
 DARTH VADAR
 THE FORCE
 SPACESHIP
 STORMTROOPER
 EMPIRE
 JEDI
 REBEL
 LIGHTSABER
 GALAXY
 HAN SOLO
 PADAWAN
 PLANET
 SITH
 EWOK

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5453646/>

- Anakin, BobaFett
 - Chewbacca, DarkSide
 - DarthMaul, DarthVader
 - DeathStar, Droid Emperor
 - Force, Galaxy, Han
 - JabbatheHutt, JarJar
 - Jedi, Lando, Lightsaber
 - LukeSkywalker, MaceWindu
 - ObiWan, Padme, Palpatine
 - Planet, PrincessLeia, StarDestroyer
 - Stormtrooper, Yoda
- ALEXANDER BYWALSKI STAFF WRITER

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Actor Feature: Ewan McGregor

The Best Obi-Wan in All the Galaxies

ANASTASIA PUNOSEVAC STAFF WRITER

George Lucas, the creator of the well beloved *Star Wars* franchise is known for his wonderful movies, but also because of the time in between each of his movies. Due to such a long period of time between the movies, there are different Obi-Wan Kenobis.

However, the best Obi-Wan, BY FAR, is Ewan McGregor. Not only do the prequels have a more interesting story than the original *Star Wars* story, but it also has the most stacked cast. Hayden Christiansen, Natalie Portman, and of course, Ewan McGregor are all wonderful

actors that are a part of these three films.

What makes Ewan McGregor the best Obi-Wan? Well, for one, his attitude. Ewan McGregor makes Obi-Wan Kenobi a strict mentor, with a fun side. He can be nice and charming, but strict and intense at the same time. In the original films, Obi-Wan Kenobi was very old, moody, and depressed compared to this one.

Another thing that makes Ewan McGregor's Obi-Wan better is the chemistry he has with the cast. Ewan McGregor and Hayden Christensen are real friends in real life, so

when they're on the screen, they make a terrific duo.

Lastly, of course, the most important reason, I just like him more. Alec Guinness is not a bad actor, don't get me wrong, but Ewan McGregor has been in more prominent movies, and he just has an overall better character.

At the end of the day, both actors gave amazing performances, and they wouldn't have been cast if they weren't fit for the role. To each their own. Which Obi-Wan Kenobi do you prefer?



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Star Wars Throughout the Years

Watching the Sci-Fi Series Expand

ANNA KARMANOS STAFF WRITER



My dad was 3 years old when the first Star Wars movie was released, so it's safe to say that he has grown up alongside the famous series.

"I was six years old when the Empire Strikes Back came out, and I distinctly remember going to the theater to see that movie with my whole family on opening night," my dad said.

Being so young when the first movie came out, he essentially walked through most early stages of his life as an ultra Star Wars nerd.

"It was exciting and was literally a focus of my childhood. Not just the movies but probably even more so the action figures and playsets occupied my time for countless hours," he said.

Since then, the Star Wars franchise has evolved into various spin-off TV shows and prequels on top of the original trilogy.

"I appreciate all the movies, but I'm partial to the older ones since they are a connection to my childhood," he said. "The Empire Strikes Back is my favorite."

In 2023, many more action films, plots, and universes now excite the public imagination. New superheroes and supervillains have created fantastical lands to hold the captivation of the world.

My dad said, "I think Star Wars is very similar to the string of Marvel movies in particular since the story moves from back and forth in time from movie to movie. Also, the two are very similar in terms of the popular appeal of the movies and the presence of the characters and stories in pop culture."

The Star Wars films created a fully fresh world that expanded into the galactic landscape full of entirely new forms of life and land. Similarly to the appeal of the planet Pandora in the Avatar movies, watching the movies not only provided you with entertainment, but additionally created an escape into a place that couldn't be accessed anywhere else. It was a universe where magic existed, and life centered on the daily stereotypical battle of good vs. evil. Star Wars did so well with the public and continues to do so well today due to the unique storyline that permits the audience to submerge itself within.

In the 70s and 80s, a whole generation of children grew up with Star Wars. Today, children grow up with the Avengers and countless other action figures. While the action films that keep the world on the edge of their seat may always be altering, it will never change the lasting effect they remain having on a whole group of people. What we are exposed to at a young age shapes us as human beings, even when that shaping us is done by lightsabers and Jedi.

The Fourth May be With You, But It's Not with Me

Why I am not a Star Wars Fan

MIA TUCCIARONE STAFF WRITER

Star Wars has always been a series that I could never get behind. My parents were never big fans so I never got the opportunity to watch it during my childhood. Over the years, more and more movies have been added to the already extensive universe of Star Wars. I've watched one of the newer movies, but I couldn't tell you which one, and it made no sense to me. To be honest, watching the entire Star Wars series sounds like too much work and something that I am too lazy to do.

I would never spend time watching the Star Wars movies because I hate the fantasy genre. Harry Potter and Percy Jackson are the only exceptions to this rule of mine. I would rather spend my time reading and/or watching trashy reality TV or an overly dramatic and predictable romcom.

Not to mention, the Star Wars movies span an average of 2 hours and 12 minutes. I love snuggling in to watch a movie, but after about an hour and a half, I start to get stir crazy. If I haven't given up on the movie at that point, I'll probably fall asleep. According to Rotten Tomatoes, there are 12 Star Wars movies and 9 TV series detailing the saga and that does not include spin offs. If you think I have the patience to get caught up on 12 entire movies about the same thing, you are sorely mistaken.

As Beca said in Pitch Perfect, "Vader in German means Father. His name is literally Darth Father." She makes an excellent point about the predictability of the entire series. So why would I waste my time watching?

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