

THE MAKING OF THE *PHANTOM MENACE*

We all know about Star Wars: a classic tale of good versus evil, set “a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away”. The first trilogy was made between 1977 and 1983 and it soon became such a phenomenon that the whole world waited for the prequel (= *qui précèdent*) episodes. The world waited for nearly 16 years! Here is the story of the making of Star Wars, episode I: the Phantom Menace.

On November 1, 1994, George Lucas, creator of Star Wars began writing the screenplay of Star Wars episode I: it took him 2 years to finish! In the meantime Rick Mc Callum, Lucas’s collaborator, found locations for the film.

In early 1995, casting began: actors were auditioned in seven different countries over a period of 2 years. The following actors were chosen: Liam Neeson (Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn), Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan Kenobi), Ray Park (Darth Sidious’s evil apprentice Darth Maul), Jake Lloyd (Anakin Skywalker) and Natalie Portman (Padmé/ Queen Amidala).

After that, the building of the production elements began. Between August 1996 and June 1997, 70 sets and thousands of props (= *accessoires*) and gadgets were built, 1100 costumes were made, 140 aliens and droids were created by concept artists.

On Thursday, June 26, 1997, after 3 years of preproduction, the shooting began. It ended on September 30, 1997.

While the film was being shot, 45 technicians worked in postproduction to integrate the computer-generated backgrounds (= *arrière-plans*) and characters into the live action. Out of the movie’s total 2200 shots, 1900 were special effect shots: more than in any other film in history.

Over the following 2 years the film was edited. In February 1999, the music was recorded, and in March the final sound mix was put together.

After 4 years of hard work *The Phantom Menace* was finally finished. Advertising began.

The film was released on May 21, 1999 and the rest is history!!

