

ENTER: DARTH VADER...

STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH (WAL-MART 2-DVD PACK VERSION)

140 minutes, PG-13, Lucas Film, LTD./20th Century FOX

Since many people know about the third episode in the popular *Star Wars* series, I figure that this review is best if I write about which DVD version and what store is best purchasing from.

As a fan of *Star Wars*, I absolutely loved the movie. I couldn't wait for the DVD release and on Nov. 1, fans got their wish, although with different choices.

What was interesting, unlike many blockbuster films that are released on DVD, *Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith* received special treatment.

At Target stores, fans were greeted with either a widescreen or fullscreen DVD that came packaged

with a limited edition coin featuring Darth Vader. The cost was \$14.99 and could be found on shelves alongside a \$4.99 DVD fan documentary titled *Star Wait*.

At Best Buy stores, if you purchase the DVD, you receive a lithograph but also sold at the stores were the Best Buy only exclusive *Star Wars Unleashed* Darth Vader figure for \$14.99.

I opted for the Wal-Mart dual DVD release which came with *The Story of Star Wars* focusing on the lives of Anakin and Luke Skywalker for \$19.99. A full or widescreen screen edition goes for \$14.99 and sold with the DVD's were Wal-Mart exclusive *Star Wars* DVD release toy sets which ran for \$9.99.

The three sets featured Obi Wan Kenobi, Mace Windu and Anakin Skywalker. The hard-to-find second set features Darth Sidious,

Darth Vader and Count Dooku. The third set featured three clone troopers.

As for the DVD, it does not disappoint. The audio and video is stunning. The DVD comes with two discs. Disc one features the main movie (and the dancing Yoda easter egg).

The second disc is jam packed with *Star Wars* Episode III goodness and features six never-before-seen deleted scenes with introductions by George Lucas and producer Rick McCallum.

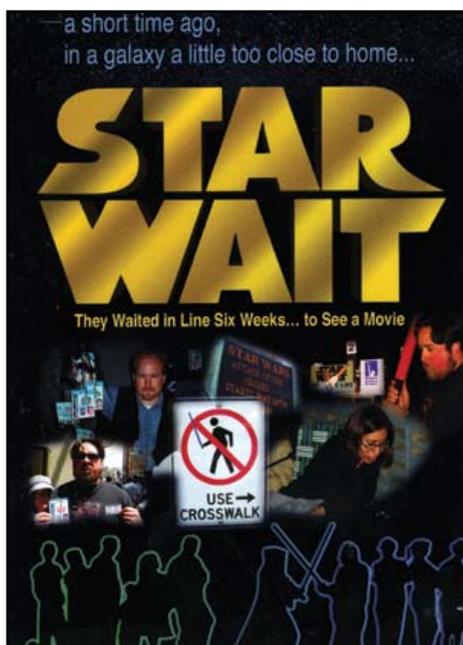
Also included on the second disc is a full-length documentary titled *Within a Minute*, a featurette on Anakin's transformation to Darth Vader in *The Chosen One*. A featurette on the training for the Jedi battles in *It's All For Real*. Fifteen web documentaries of the making of SW:ROTS. The music video for John Williams *A Hero Falls*. Theatrical teasers and 15 TV spots. Theatrical posters and print campaigns from around the world. Never-before-seen production photo gallery. A playable demo with two entire levels for *Star Wars Battlefront II* for the XBOX and *Star Wars Empire At War*.

On the bonus Wal-Mart exclusive DVD titled *The Story of Star Wars* are two half hour featurettes focusing on the life of Anakin and Luke Skywalker hosted by C-3PO and R2-D2.

I can't say how much I love this DVD. If you are a *Star Wars* fan, the third episode for the *Star Wars* series is a definite must-buy. Even for the casual movie fan who is not a big fan, it's just a very good movie.

The DVD looks and sounds beautiful and more than enough special features to keep you busy. Definitely worth checking out!

A —DENNIS A. AMITH



STAR WAIT

2005, Monkeys in Silk Productions

With all the hype surrounding *Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith*, Target stores featured the release alongside a \$4.99 DVD titled *Star Wait*.

I never heard of the DVD before but I figured this would cover uber Star Wars fandom and co-players. And having experienced Star Trek, anime and video gaming fandom, I figured that it would be a blast to watch Star Wars fans sans Triumph the dog or Drunk Vader.

Star Wait is a documentary about a group of hardcore Star Wars fans who have gotten together through the website liningup.net and have been literally camping outside of Graman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood for 2-6 weeks in anticipation for *Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones*.

The documentary features the experiences for several of these men and women.. Some have found love, some have met people they can not

stand (and yes, this DVD features some of that drama). Focusing on the friendships, the making of lightsabers, how people can get volatile without decent sleep and the complaint of bad body odor.

Also, you get to see the news crews interviewing the fans and Christians reaching out to these fans through music.

One of the most interesting scenes is when a group of punks began badmouthing the Star Wars fans and among the "Star Wars nerds" is a very muscular individual who knocks out one of the instigators after being pushed.

Needless to say, *Star Wait* is not for children. This DVD features profanity, mooning and adult humor.

One scene featured the fans getting tattoos and a girl jokingly talking about getting a tattoo of Darth Vader on her butt and open the crack to find a tattoo of Anakin during anal sex. Let's just hope she's really joking.

As for DVD quality, it was shot on DV and it's a documentary. Menu layout is plain and simple.

The DVD does feature plenty of special features which include *Star Wait Again* which features a short look at the lineup for *Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith* (which the film was not even showing at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre but out of tradition, many fans wanted to partake in the final Star Wars lineup).

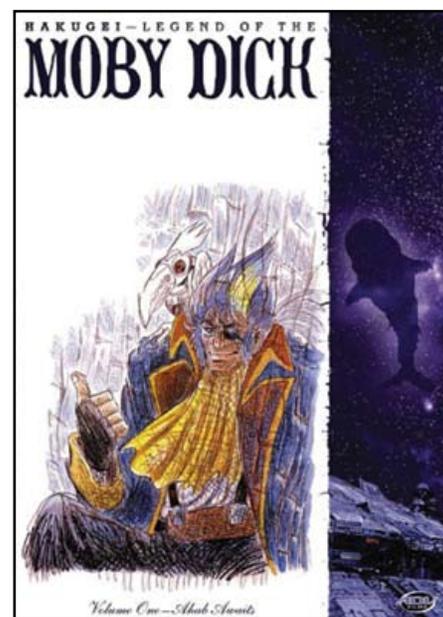
As for other special features, plenty of deleted scenes and celebrity DVD commentaries from Amy Allen (Aayla Secura of SWII & SWIII), three original members of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*,

Samm Levine and John Daley (Freaks and Geeks), Jason Guy of *Big Brother 3*, Paul F. Tompkins of *Mr. Show*, Paget Brewster and Dana Gould.

All in all, the DVD's intention of filming a documentary on hardcore Star Wars fans who wait and camp out in line for hundreds of hours to watch a film is accomplished. It's actually pretty fun to watch.

If you have an open mind and want to see a perspective of Star Wars fandom, definitely check this DVD out.

C —DENNIS A. AMITH



HAKUGEI - LEGEND OF THE MOBY DICK

5 Episodes, 125 minutes, rated TV PG (ADV Films).

The year 4699. A young adventurer on a desperate mission sets off to find Captain Ahab and his crew of outlaw whale hunters.

Only Ahab can save his home planet from the most horrific beast known throughout the universe: Moby Dick.

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JPOP CD2 NEW! OUT 11/1/05
More in the best of Anime theme songs and JPOP hits! Popular new songs by Puffy AmiYumi, YUKI, Tommy heavenly6, ORANGE RANGE, BEAT CRUSADERS, RYTHEM, Nana Kitade, Kinya Kotani, Rie fu and more! TOF023



JPOP CD
The compilation that started it all! JPOP CD brings together the top Anime theme songs and JPOP hits, making them available for the first time on one disc! TOF001



NeoSoul
The first compilation of the brightest stars in Japanese Hip Hop and R+B! Crystal Kay, Miss Monday, Sowelu, Rhymester, MICHICO, CHEMISTRY, SOULHEAD, Toshi Kubota, SOUL'd OUT, Loop Junktion, Ken Hirai, and other top names! TOF006



Japan For Sale, Vol. 4
Selections from all corners of Japanese music, bringing together a plethora of eclectic sounds! Tommy heavenly6, Rhymester, Guitar Wolf, Aika Higurashi, ORANGE RANGE, Boom Boom Satellites, DJ KRUSH and more! TOF014



Applesed OST
The soundtrack to one of the most anticipated Anime features of 2005. Boom Boom Satellites, Basement Jaxx, Paul Oakenfold and more! TOF014

X(JAPAN)



Best
Arguably the most influential rock band in the history of Asian music, X(JAPAN) is now available in the US from Tofu Records. This set contains one CD with twelve hits spanning their career and on DVD with eight music videos. TOF005

T.M.REVOLUTION



Vertical Infinity NEW!
The new album, featuring the hit singles Ignited, from Gundam Seed Destiny, and Web of Night, used in the Japanese release of Spiderman 2. The US release features a bonus DVD with the hit Albireo performed live in Japan! TOF019



SEVENTH HEAVEN
The follow up to the hit album coordinate, featuring the hits Albireo and Zips! TOF008



coordinate
T.M.Revolution's hit US debut album, featuring INVOKE, as heard on Mobilesult Gundam Seed, and Heart of Sword -Yoake Mae, from Rurouni Kenshin! TOF002



SUMMER CRUSH DVD
Two Disc, Live DVD set featuring concert footage of T.M.Revolution's top hits spanning his career, as well as bonus behind the scenes footage! TOF003



Sonic Warp DVD
This limited edition DVD features six video tracks, including Heart of Sword - Yoake Mae from Rurouni Kenshin, performed live at OTAKON 2003. English and Roma-jl subtitles, and a Roma-jl lyrics sheet. TOF004

NAMI TAMAKI



Greeting
The highly anticipated debut album from JPOP Princess Nami Tamaki features the hit songs Believe and Realize, both title songs from Mobilesult Gundam Seed. TOF007

L'ARC*EN*CIEL



AWAKE NEW! OUT 9/20/05
The new full-length album features the hit singles Invitation to Freedom -Jiyuu eno shoutai, Killing Me, New World, and Poem -JOJOSH-I, plus the bonus track, HEAVEN'S DRIVE, performed live in Japan! TOF021



SMILE
SMILE features READY STEADY GO as heard on Fullmetal Alchemist. The US version includes the bonus track READY STEADY GO (hydeless version) so you can sing along! TOF010



Clicked Singles Best 13
A special reissue of Clicked Singles Best 13, with the original booklet and artwork, plus a never before released Roma-jl lyrics booklet. Own the best of L'Arc-en-Ciel, as chosen by the fans! TOF011



LIVE IN USA at 1st Mariner Arena
The New DVD from the biggest rock band in Japan featuring footage from their groundbreaking performance at OTAKON 2005, plus a bonus DVD with REVELATION, performed live in Japan! TOF017

ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION



Sol-fa NEW! OUT 10/18/05
Introducing the popular alternative rock band from Japan, whose song Rewrite can be heard as the new theme song to Fullmetal Alchemist. This version contains a special bonus DVD featuring two live performances! TOF022

POLYSICS



POLYSICS OR DIE!!!!
Don't miss your chance to bask in the glory of POLYSICS and their latest album, POLYSICS OR DIE!!!! Rest assured of imminent doom should you forego this spectacular record. TOF015

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.TOFURECORDS.COM

But first he will need to locate the fugitive Captain and his elusive crew. And if he finds them, will he pass muster to join the toughest crew of whale hunters in the galaxy?

And will Ahab agree to risk it all for one more shot at the Great White? Riveting Sci-Fi action in the distant future as Captain Ahab continues his legendary pursuit of MOBY DICK!

Titled *Hakugei Densetsu* and originally airing in Japan in 1997 on NHK2. The series was suspended for almost a year until it's continuation in 1998 through 1999.

Directed by Osamu Dezaki (Director of *Ace wo Nerae!*, *Ashita no Joe* and the *Rose of Versailles*), it's best to know that his anime is all about progression and patience.

In first glance, the series reminded me of Captain Harlock but yet where Captain Harlock really captured your attention immediately, *Hakugei - Legend of Moby Dick*, has left me confused.

My preview copy only had three episodes and so, far the early episodes follows a boy who tries to become part of Captain Ahab's team and is put on a test to prove he has what it takes to be part of the team. The other follows a mysterious android that Captain Ahab has interest in for some reason.

The DVD's series quality is on par with many anime that came out in the mid to late 90's. As for audio, English is in 5.1 and Japanese track is in 2.0.

As for special features, the DVD

features the clean opening and closing animation themes, character sketches, bios, production artwork and The Space Whakers' Lexicon.

Knowing about Dezaki's previous work, it will take patience to watch *Hakugei - Legend of Moby Dick*. My preview of the first three episodes really didn't reveal too much.

So, far from what I have watched, the characters have not yet captured my attention nor has the storyline. But that leads me to believe that it's a slow progressing anime and if you have experienced anime like this before, you know that you have to stay in it for the long haul.

C—DENNIS A. AMITH

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