

## Star Wars

Star Wars is easily the worst of the original trilogy, but I mean that in comparison to how good the other two are. Because if you really look at it, it's not that great of a movie, except for the special effects, and other assorted visuals, Princess Leia included.

The acting alone can make one cringe if it was done in any other context. Mark Hamill is not a thespian in any sense of the word, and Harrison Ford was still taking acting lessons (Probably. Maybe. I may be making this up). If it wasn't for Lucas giving Ford a second chance, he never would have become the 'uberstar' that he is today. Even the two most respected actors in the movie, Peter Cushing and Alec Guinness were winding down their careers. How do you think you think Lucas got them so cheap? He bought them each a hooker and a six pack and they were on the set the next day. Look at the film one more time. Admit it, the acting SUCKS! But the thing about it is that they say their cheesy lines with such conviction (and they are cheesy) that you get swept away in their grand Arthurian adventure. You can't help it!

That's another thing, is the dialogue. It's so cheesy that it's almost hard *not* to laugh at it. It's just dripping with goodness and Eastern mysticism and is hard to take seriously in today's cynical society. "May the Force be With You" is probably the funniest damned line that I've ever heard, but when *they* say it, they meant every word of it. I don't know what kind of voodoo magic Lucas pulled in this film to get such a positive reaction, but it heap powerful mojo.

Actually, the reason the story is so timeless is that it is the same story told time and time again throughout history in every culture of the world, from Greece to China to back here in the good 'ol U.S. of A. They are archetype characters in an archetype story that Jung would have a field day with. Tell me if this story is familiar:

*An evil empire is crushing people beneath its steely boots and only one man with seem-ingly supernatural powers can stop it, along with his rag tag band of rebels, succeeding where others have failed at the last possible second.*

Sound familiar? It should, it's the most basic plot of every great adventure story from "The Epic of Gilgamesh" to Jesus, to "The Matrix." It is a timeless story that you will see again and again simply because it works. Lucas has by now been stroked ad nauseum, but I feel it only fair to pay my homage also since he had such a strong vision and sense of perfection, that although he had a relatively small budget, he made a film to last throughout time. He would settle for nothing less than all that he could possibly attain with the technology of the time. Hell, he even helped to invent the technology just to satisfy his vision. The only film that had comparable effects were 2001, released a decade earlier. Lucas literally set the standard by which special effects were, and to this day are, judged. In fact, until the films "Independence Day" and "Jurassic Park" came along, I had not seen special effects that could top those of the Star Wars trilogy, and that took over a decade.

So I for one would like to thank George Lucas for his many contributions to the film industry, and for setting an example to all to never give in when your heart and soul is in the balance.

That, and for making a film that you can really smoke a bong to.