

# MAX MEETS THE YODA CHRONICLER!



MAX, HERE!  
CARRYING A LIGHTSABER I  
AM IN THE CORRIDORS OF LEGO HQ,  
PUTTING WRONG ORDER MY WORDS IN  
LIKE A REAL JEDI MASTER!  
A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE THERE IS ...  
A POWERFUL ALLY CAN I FEEL ... AND HIS NAME IS  
JOHN MCCORMACK! STRONG WITH THE LIGHT SIDE  
IS HE AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE  
STORIES ... JOHN IS IN CHARGE OF A VERY  
SPECIAL LEGO® STAR WARS™ HOLOCRON, ONE  
THAT CONTAINS THE UNTOLD STORY OF  
THE YODA CHRONICLES!

## Hey John, how are you?

I'm grrrrreat! How could I be anything but? I get to play with toys all day!

## Why don't you introduce yourself and tell us what your official job is?

I am a Creative Manager for the IP Novelty Development team. Together with my team, I am responsible for creating the packaging, TV commercials, posters, print ads, building instructions, posters, flyers, mailers, and web animations for LEGO® Star Wars™!

## ...and what does that mean?

We make all the stuff you see that isn't made out of plastic! We laughed at *Bombad Bounty*, *Revenge of the Brick* and other LEGO® Star Wars™ webcomics and movies. Then we got blown away by the awesome scale of *The Padawan Menace* and *The Empire Strikes Out*! Now there's a new series of adventures even bigger than before!

## Tell us all about The Yoda Chronicles!

The Yoda Chronicles is a great story that we made up together with Lucasfilm. It features Yoda as a teacher of a class of Padawans, and they are learning their lessons in a newly created Holocron Vault. Yoda uses the Holocrons as a way to show them how to become Jedi Masters, and how to master the ways of the Force. Their classes turn into adventures that we hope will be very entertaining to watch.

## So what can we expect to see?

You can expect to see three half hour TV specials, a whole bunch of web stories, and a whole pile of secrets that I can't tell you about yet!



**Aww! So this is a whole new piece of LEGO® Star Wars™ mythology?**

Yes it is! However, our friends at Lucasfilm helped us develop it, so it is very authentic to the *Star Wars*™ universe.

**Wow, that's quite an honour isn't it?**

It is an honour of epic proportions! Being able to help write a storyline for LEGO® *Star Wars*™ is a real dream come true!

**What's the story?**

As Yoda is training the Padawans, he senses a great disturbance in the Force, and he needs to investigate. He uncovers many secrets along the way, and finds out about an evil plan being developed by the Separatists, led by Darth Sidious and Count Dooku!

**...and I hear there'll be sets based on The Yoda Chronicles?**

There will be a new set that will be unveiled in the Yoda Chronicles storyline. It looks super cool, and is very fun to build.

**It sounds very exciting...will it still be funny?**

I hope it will be funny AND exciting. We had another friend, Michael Price, who writes The Simpsons TV show help us out with our TV specials, to make sure we got the funny stuff in there. His job was to take our big ideas and turn them into the full TV specials that you will see.



**Is it scary not knowing exactly what it's all going to look like until the very end?**

Holy Toledo, it is so unbelievably scary. The hardest part is trying to figure out how to create the backgrounds that look like they belong in a *Star Wars*™ world while still looking like they are made out of LEGO pieces. The early versions we see are mostly gray and have no special effects, and sometimes it is really hard to imagine how really cool it will all look. I'm pretty sure the director, Michael Hegner, felt like he was running in circles when I couldn't make up my mind on how much LEGO there should be on the Jedi Temple landing platform... and it is amazing what kinds of things pop up that need to be fixed; like how much hair should Yoda have, or how long should General Grievous' cape be?

**Are you a LEGO® Star Wars™ fan as well?**

I saw *Star Wars* Episode V: *The Empire Strikes Back*™ 33 times in the theater when it came out in 1980!

**So this must be the best job ever!**

I have been working here for 12 years, but every day feels like my first day on the job. I feel very excited about every day and I can't get to work quickly enough. When I first started, I would come in on the weekend and just walk around and look at all the LEGO bricks everywhere. It was like going to a giant LEGO toy store. This shouldn't be called a job, because it really doesn't feel like I am working. My job is to dream and have fun!

**Thanks John, I can't wait! Now... where's my starfighter?**

**Tell us one secret about The Yoda Chronicles!**

There are so many big and exciting secrets associated with the Yoda Chronicles, it's hard to pick just one. I would say that there is something super cool we are doing with a new LEGO minifigure, but I can't tell you exactly what it is yet.

**Awww again! No fair! How do you go about starting a project like this?**

It all starts with getting a pile of people together in a big room where we just start talking about what would be fun to do, what hasn't been done before in LEGO® *Star Wars*™, and what it would be like if we were the Jedi on these adventures.

**Wow! You pretend that you're Jedi Knights? Coooool...**

Once we have some ideas, we start talking about what would make a kid excited, and eventually, we end up with what you will be seeing.

**Does one person write the story or do you get a group of people to and throw ideas around?**

I can't even begin to count how many people have contributed to this story. It all starts with a big idea that gets passed around to a lot of different people, and eventually, all the writing gets done. We had a lot of help from a design agency called Killer Minnow, and their job is to write cool stories and draw awesome pictures. That's where Michael Price came in.

I got to see some super-secret early clips and it all looks awesome... but some of them are unfinished – with textures and images and special effects to be added.

**Did you play with LEGO Bricks when you were young?**

The first thing I ever bought with my own earned money was a LEGO Fire Truck set. I still have it. I also had a pile of *Star Wars*™ action figures, but I didn't have any ships for them to ride in. So I made them ships out of my piles of LEGO brick. So yeah, I played with them alright!

**...and what was your favorite set growing up?**

The Galaxy Explorer! I remember thinking those engines were really awesome, and I was fascinated at how the cargo bay at the back of the ship opened up. I had to save up my chore money for a loooooong time to get the set, and I remember going to stores and staring at it on the shelf, dreaming of the day I could rip open my own box.

