

BHCL
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Star Wars Autograph Bounty Hunter

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Special Edition 22

Lynne Hazelden interview

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Bounty Hunter Capture Log

Special Edition! 22



She fought at the Battle of Endor in a Rebel Y-wing Fighter for Gray Squadron a lifetime ago. Now she's into poetry.

The Bounty Hunter was able to track down Lynne Hazelden, native of West Sussex (UK), who portrayed Karie Neth in Return of the Jedi.

This is Lynne's tale...

Living your dream...

"I was about 22 years old when I worked as a Supporting Artiste on Return of the Jedi and I remember thinking how lucky I was as very

few women worked on the Star Wars Trilogy, and even less were chosen to be featured, even in some small way.

As a Supporting Artiste we all worked on many of the major feature films of that era made in the UK, like the James Bond 007 and Superman feature films. There were a few others that I was clearly featured in like 'The Meaning of Life' by Monty Python as a doctor, and Return of the Pink Panther as a nurse that bumped into Herbert Lom's suspended broken leg!

I was thrilled about Star Wars, and I remember telling my Dad that he would definitely be able to see me this time (a standing joke) because I had been featured dancing alone with an Ewok in the treetops for a couple of hours! But alas, it never made it into the final cut!

So as I had told him this, when 'Return of the Jedi' was released, my Dad called me very excited. He said, "Lynne, you are on all the posters promoting Star Wars!" Well, I knew this was just not possible and he was quite grumpy with me saying, "I know my own daughter". We laughed for such a long time when I saw the poster because I actually did

really look a lot like Carrie Fisher in the angle taken for the poster which was printed in the local paper. It was a bit surreal, but of course I did not particularly look like her in real life! However, I did have a similar hairstyle to Leia as Karie Neth with two flat small round plats on the side of my head – not that you could see that.

If looks could kill

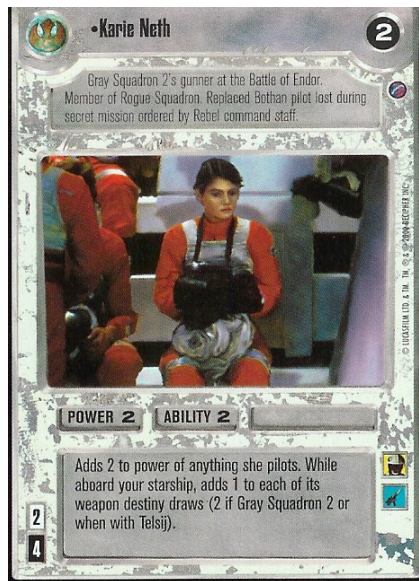
The bright orange boiler suit was unusually comfortable for a film-set costume, which were normally cold and digging in some place. The pipes and air source equipment were very light and I thought looked great but seemed to be made of parts of a vacuum cleaner! However, people who played many characters as Supporting Artistes had to be able to deal with being sealed inside a hot and smelly rubber head with little air for hours on end! Most could not do it, which is why I think those who could stand the claustrophobic atmosphere played many characters. I remember thinking I definitely could not do that, and was grateful for my X-wing pilot character as I watched them blow cold air with a hair dryer up the small openings for mouths and noses between each scene.



We were working at Elstree Film Studios in Borehamwood. It was always a very early start, mostly 6 am. This meant a couple of bus rides via Leicester Square and a train ride starting some silly hour like 4 am in order for me to get there on time. We always worked very long hours, that was, and is, normal in this industry but somehow it felt magical and like living a life outside of reality that was exciting and truly an adventure. We never complained but always wanted to know when tea break was as soon as we got there!

I remember seeing Carrie Fisher coming on set and being stunned by her amazing eyes. She was so tiny and beautiful. I think Art Garfunkel & Paul Simon (the latter her

husband at the time) were visiting on those days of the Rebel Briefing Room scene too. I was spending time off set with my old friend Richard Bonehill who played many different characters on all the first three Star Wars movies. Here he was Nien Numb - a most peculiar character that was frankly, a bit phallic looking, which made it extremely difficult to not laugh as his face moved. He was standing next to me in the shot in the middle aisle if you look closely on the overall scene. I almost burst out laughing during the filming - which if you catch me on the original film release in a close up behind Billy Dee Williams who plays Lando Calrissian, you'll notice a twinkle in my eye, even though my face is serious and in character.



I managed to get into trouble in one scene in the X-wing hanger. I was running around but managed to cross over an important line marked on the floor where the special effects would be added later, like walls, aircraft or banks of Stormtroopers. We must have been the only two pilots not informed where the line was and to my astonishment and total embarrassment they shouted 'cut!' And then yelled across the set at my fellow orange X-wing pilot and me, asking why the heck we did that? An Assistant Director came over, smiled and whispered "you just wasted something like a £1000 of film". I was devastated as I took great pride in my work! Harrison Ford was just a couple of feet away and if looks could have killed!

Dancing with Ewoks

So, it turned out that the best bit of me was never seen. Up in the treetops for a few hours just me and an Ewok danced alone on camera. The set really was up on stilts. I am not sure where that footage went - I was thinking this would be my moment of glory! I

laugh at myself now, I guess I was dreaming of being someone special - I was very young and naive about the industry then.

Prequel

I also did a spell as a Citizen of Naboo in The Phantom Menace - this time I was definitely not featured....., so if they put me on another card I will eat my hat!!!!!!

In 1997, I worked at Leavesden Studios. I do not have the records for Return of the Jedi anymore as we are only required to keep the paperwork for 6 years. Pity. But I do have these from The Phantom Menace. I had a fitting on 18th August. I worked on set on the 20th of August and on 4, 5 and 9 September. The chits (this is what we call the slips given to us on the days we work for being signed off at the end of the day) state 'Star Wars Ep.1 The Beginning'.

I was also working on Eyes Wide Shut & Saving Private Ryan at this time. But I cannot be seen in the first. In the Spielberg film I'm in the scene where they are writing and piling letters up informing parents of their son's deaths. I was a secretary walking around.

They have made my face look a lot harsher on the Karie Neth card, giving me more of a tan than I remember and a sharper chiseled face that enhances how serious I look.

If you catch me on the other picture you will see a softer line, so when I first saw myself it was a shock as I knew it was me but it was like looking at a stranger at first. So I dug out some of my old photographs from that time which were used to promote myself as an actress and sure enough, in photos of my younger self you can see clearly it is me. It is nice to think that people consider me a part of the Star Wars universe now - it is a lot of fun. The Star Wars Trilogy was an extraordinary accomplishment of it's time and 'Return of the Jedi' is still one of my favorite movies – so it does feel strange to be part of it all these years later. We considered ourselves Supporting Artistes and went from film to film, sometimes not seen at all– it was just a way of life. We often never knew if we would have dialogue or be featured until the day. But we always felt very privileged as we were all young professionals doing what we loved, looking for the right opportunity, whilst trying to earn a living in the industry rather than working in restaurants hoping for a big break.

We all settled into the idea of it just being a great job in the end and lost the dream of something more. It was often extremely hard work in extreme climate conditions, which is not often mentioned, as people seem to think it is all standing around. I remember 'cheering' full voice whilst jumping up and down for a week on The Phantom Menace in a cool summer dress and being freezing cold for 9 hours a day!!! It is really fabulous to

have something now so unique and special brought back into focus in such a wonderful way after all this time.

Poetry

It means a lot to me because I am one of those unusual people that really do believe in the force of good. I have been a Life Coach for over 10 years now working with organisations, individuals and families to be able see more ways to understand, help and take actions to be kind to ourselves and each other in life. I write poetry, which expresses that, and hope secretly to publish something one day, you know? Like all of us closet poets and artistes out there -not that anyone would understand it too well! But I think it is really important to have dreams close to our hearts to aspire to. Something to master over many years of our lives, rather than always taking the quick fix or cynical slant on life which is so easy to do.



But you know, I guess when I first started working in the film industry after a couple of years touring as a jester in a mediaeval jousting show, working with Richard Bonehill (who was the Black Knight) and many other now really accomplished stunt men - I have to admit, I was taken in by the dream of Hollywood - but would never had said so!

I was the biggest fan of Gene Kelly and Bette Davies and as a child I had a dream that one day it would be great to be able to say I was in a Hollywood movie. The idea was to look back and show my children something magical that I was in, not that I managed to have any kids yet! Meanwhile I do have two nieces, two nephews and two great nephews. Regan who is 6 years old could just not quite believe it was me. We had freeze framed the scene for him and eventually, when he got it really was me, he shouted and leapt in the air, as he seemed totally blown away – it did tickle me and I thought this was very cool.

So I guess what I am saying is that dreams can come true whatever your age so I don't stop trying to being the best I can be, even now, whatever the circumstances that life brings. I have faith in something bigger than me.

I have worked in the film, television and music industry, in front and behind the camera, for nearly 20 years now. I have worked on more productions than I could ever remember and been part of some very memorable ones, like being Assistant to the Executive Producer of 'The Nelson Mandela Birthday Tribute' - a global live-music event at Wembley Stadium in 1986. Much time as a stand-in for Anna Friel, Leslie Ash, Dame Diana Rigg, Caroline Goodall and Joanna Lumley. But I have to say that Star Wars, 'Return of the Jedi' has always been a film dear to my heart.

World exclusive!

I have only signed two other people's cards so far, so you will be some of the first in the world!

Thank you for your interest in me. I wish you peace in your heart and a passion for life that lights you up like a lightsaber!

Stay true to the Force – always!
With love,
Lynne
x"

Thanks, Lynne, for that amazing story!

For the Karie Neth signing, I have designed two different shots to choose from.

Karie Neth 1 = the space battle (featuring the Death Star and some TIE's, as well as Karie's Y-Wing Fighter.



Karie Neth 2 = the Rebel Briefing Room (where you can find her in the center, chatting with Nien Numb, i.e. Richard Bonehill).



Make sure to specify which photo you want signed and if you want it with dedication.

You may of course send in your own items, but please no bulky stuff. Only photos or cards.

Orders are taken until 30th October 2004. Check the website for more details.



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