



Q+A: Charles Ross, a Faraway Galaxy Unto Himself

GROWING UP in northern Canada with poor television reception forced young Charles Ross

to watch videotapes, mostly of the *Star Wars* variety. By age ten he'd seen the first film more than 400 times and committed virtually every line to memory. His obsession eventually spawned *The One-Man Star Wars Trilogy*, which Ross tours around the U.S., using only his yoga-limber body and knack for voices. He was even tapped by Lucasfilm Ltd. to appear this April at Celebration III, the *Star Wars* mega bash in Indianapolis—which beats getting sued. —MIKE THOMAS

ESQ: Your shows are physically intense, and you sweat buckets. Ever think about marketing the *Star Wars* workout?

CR: I guess people could do it to the old *Star Wars* disco dance music. I've always thought that my show is a little like Jane Fonda meets SeaWorld meets *Star Wars* because of all the liquid flying. If you sit in the front row, you're gonna get covered.

ESQ: You must be a god to *Star Wars* disciples. Any wacky groupie experiences?

CR: In Toronto a couple of years ago, I had this couple in the audience in costume along with another guy. There was Han Solo, Princess Leia, and Boba Fett. And they all had their guns and stuff. Turns out they had just come from their *Star Wars*-themed wedding. The groom was Boba Fett.

ESQ: George Lucas penned the best Dutch-oven line ever: "This may smell bad, kid, but it'll keep you warm." Any others that can be applied to everyday life?

CR: Absolutely. "Size matters not. Judge me by my size, do you?" "Get in there, you big, furry oaf!" "You're all clear, kid. Now let's blow this thing and go home!" There's a ton of them.

ESQ: You also do an impressive one-man *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Have you considered adapting any others?

CR: I think maybe *Terms of Endearment*. If they come out with another one, I might go with that.

ESQ: Got any good *Star Wars* porn titles? You know, like *Star Whores* or *Jabba the Slut*.

CR: Oh, boy. You'd get sued into oblivion if you did that, man. You really, really would.