

## LOOK OUT, JEDI!

That's about to change. Every bit as frightening and ruthless as Darth Vader, Darth Maul has leaped into the *Star Wars* saga — double-sided lightsaber flashing. In Episode I, he's definitely the new dark force to be reckoned with!

Ray Park is the actor lurking underneath Darth Maul's scary black and red make-up and dark cloak. In real life, though, he's actually a quiet, soft-spoken 24-year-old stunt man and martial arts champ who lives in London. Darth Maul is Park's first role as an actor. And what a role it is!

Darth Maul is one of the toughest foes the Jedi have



ever faced. The part requires not only a memorable screen presence but skills of a martial arts expert. Park has both. He holds a second degree black belt and has racked up competition championships and medals in Great Britain for his Wu Shu style. He even earned a fourth place finish in the 1995 World Championships.

Park explains the Wu Shu style, saying, "It's a non-contact sport, very much like gymnastics — you do a sequence of moves. But it's also very explosive and has lots of leaps and somersaults and high kicks."



Yikes! Watch where you're kicking him!

# DARTH MAUL

## NEW ENEMY, NEW WEAPON

Park first appeared in a movie as a stunt double for *Mortal Kombat: Annihilation*. Shortly after completing this film, he received a call from Nick Gillard, the stunt coordinator for Episode I. Gillard asked Park to help him rehearse a fight sequence that was to be filmed and shown to George Lucas. Notes Park, "He said it could also help me because they were looking for someone to play Darth Maul." After Lucas saw their fight scene, Park was hired.

Earning a role in the new *Star Wars* movie was exciting for Park because he has been a huge *Star Wars* fan since he was a kid. He and his younger brother even used to have fake lightsaber battles. "When I was younger, I had [a lightsaber], but it was one of the old ones with a big bulb and a big plastic tube. When you turned it on, it didn't make a noise or anything. I always wished I had the real one from the movies."

In Episode I, Park's wish comes true — but he doesn't just use any old lightsaber. Darth Maul carries a deadly, double-ended lightsaber! "I could spin around and give them moves they wouldn't expect. I had more options and could be more creative."



Ray with his brother Christopher and sister Rosell practicing Kung Fu.