

More on the Legoland Star Wars event:



The brief was to teach would be young Jedi how to use the Lightsaber as part of a training programme promoting the Legoland Star Wars Fireworks event 2008



This is how it was advertised....

Come and join us in training activities to prepare yourselves for the Clone Wars. Complete at least two out of the five activities to become a Jedi Knight!"

"After a full day of *Star Wars* activities, it's all eyes to the skies for one of the most spectacular fireworks displays in Britain, celebrating the events that happened a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."



The intergalactic statistics: some 90,000 humanoids attended in what was a momentous occasion and we're not just talking about the fireworks presentation here, (where during every second of each of the displays the most spectacular arrays of pyrotechniques were presented), but in the satisfaction of seeing Kendo also experiencing the same dynamic level of exposure throughout.



The Jedi:

Obi Wan Kenobi: Legendary Jedi Master..... Terry Holt

Pandu Du blé: Legendary Lightsaber instructor and battlemaster..... Paul Budden

Mara Jade: Emperor's hand..... Kazuyo Matsuda

Dark Lady Lumiya: Dark Lady of the Sith (AKA Shira Brie)..... Sarah Hernandez

Luke Skywalker: 'I am a Jedi, like my father before me'..... Adam Jackson

Shadowspawn: Genetic terrorist (AKA Atha Prime) Adrian Wagstaff



The Padawan: more than 4000 young junior Jedi who took part over the 6 days in this Legoland/Star wars Fireworks event for 2008.



Lightsaber techniques: were taught with both a tongue in cheek attitude and yet an exact attention to detail, incorporating traditional aspects of Kendo demonstrated and diligently taught to a distinctly different type of student... i.e. 'your would be junior Jedi'



The rational: probably the most interesting and 'strikingly' profound concept to manifest itself was that the pure essence of Kata was taught through a very basic set of movements designed firstly as an entertainment, including three initial strikes to different sides and parts of the body together with an evasion movement culminating in a final strike with Kiai. It was therefore somewhat humbling in the extreme to experience the first elements of the Japanese concepts of Shu, Ha & Ri being expressed from such a diverse and young age group, who had no level of comprehension of what these concepts are or even what Kendo actually is. However their attention to detail in copying what was shown, expressing what they had learnt and finally making it their own, through personal interpretation, shown with a full vigour of 'the force' (spirit) being translated as a very loud shout, this is coming from a mind set uncluttered with bias; open in the extreme and with an imagination that many of us left behind long ago by forgetting that we were all once children ourselves.



From the Padawan: what we experienced is the renowned ‘E’ factor... enjoyment! Brought about through a full and willing participation, which was achieved at new levels by over 600 Padawan (trainee Jedi), each day who undertook to discover and conquer ‘the force’ through the training sessions. The youngest students being recorded as just 2 years old, with full parental support and an interaction that had to be seen to be appreciated.

Such a level of exposure for Kendo is unprecedented and the Jedi (Sensei and Yudansha) who supported this event must be greatly applauded, with Kodokan fronting the main thrust ably assisted by Holt sensei of the Mumeishi Kendo club, who was totally in his element, fully absorbed in teaching and encouraging juniors as always...forever young at heart and an exemplary role model to us all..





For the Jedi: please do not worry unduly or be concerned, as none of us have lost our marbles and rest assured we have all now returned to our regular duties of teaching orthodox Kendo, with Lightsabers being deactivated, but stored in readiness should there ever be another disturbance in the force and an active recall to duty is required.



The similarities in philosophical expression used in Star Wars are not so surprising as it is well documented that George Lucas drew extensively on Japanese concepts including Kendo in the making of his films.

**“Feel, don't think. Use your instincts.
Do or do not, there is no try.
Always two there are, a master and an apprentice.
Always in motion is the future”.**

‘May the Force be with you’.

Pandu Du blé
Jedi Master

Please click on the link for the video



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