

Biography: Nick Maley ~ Special Make-up & Creature FX Designer, artist, author, poet, and philanthropist, known as “that Yoda Guy” for his involvement in creating Yoda for Star Wars.

Nick's curriculum vitae reads like a romantic novel. Born into a theatrical family in London, England in 1949, he grew up in the midst of the entertainment industry. He studied at Harrow Collage of Further Education where he was a member of a teenage rock band and founded a drama society, (writing and directing three Collage Reviews).

As a consultant lecturer in Make-up Techniques and Theatrical Prosthetics, he taught periodically, from 1967 to 1975, at **Middlesex University, The De Leon Drama School, The New College of Speech and Drama, Trinity Opera School,** and the **Drama Studio.**

He **started working as a movie make-up artist in 1969**, but due to a savage slump in the film industry, he struggled to make a living for several years.

In 1972, he focused his attention more seriously upon his painting, when he realized that the security of teaching was no compensation for the lack of self fulfillment he was experiencing. Today, his art, (a quixotic blend of nostalgia, idealism and outright fantasy), reflects the sophisticated influences of 20 years spent as a make-up artist, prosthetics designer, and director of Special Make-up and creature effects, on movies and music videos throughout the world.



His big break came in 1974 when his continued association with veteran Special Make-up designer **Stuart Freeborn** lead to his involvement in the making of **STAR WARS** and the **famed Cantina bar sequence.** He assisted Stuart for 7 years, contributing to **SUPERMAN I & II**, and was a key collaborator in the creation of **Yoda** on **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK.**

In 1980 he and his wife Gloria wrote the screenplay **INSEMINOID** (aka HORROR PLANET) for **Jupiter Film Productions** which was made into a feature film later that year. But they were both so unhappy with the final movie that they wanted their names removed from the credits.

In 1981, having already contributed to more than 30 movies, he won an **EMMY** nomination for his transformation of **Anthony Hopkins**, into the **HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** for **Hallmark Hall of Fame / Columbia Television.**

From 1981-1985 he designed and directed the prosthetic, animatronics and creature effects for **BRITANNIA HOSPITAL, KRULL, THE KEEP, LIFEFORCE, HIGHLANDER** and **DURAN DURAN**'s award winning video **WILDBOYS**. His work was featured in several **CINEMAX** and **HBO** specials, led to articles in **PUNCH, PLAYBOY** and numerous newspapers, won a place in **THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS, CINEFANTASTIQUE**, and made the front cover of **AMERICAN CINEMATOGRAPHER, FANTASTIC FILMS, STARFIX** and **FANGORIA**.

At the age of 35, at the height of his movie career, Nick shocked his friends and colleagues when he decided to

devote more time to his paintings, **traded his Ferrari for a sail boat**, cruised the Caribbean for almost a year and established a base on the island of Antigua. There, he set about producing artworks which reflected the serenity of the islands and drew direct comparisons between the seductive slickness of city life and the peace of mind to be found in simple living. He combined techniques as innovative as those he had



developed for the movies, aiming to convey a sense of nostalgia and illusion. The resulting works display a sensitive understanding of the human condition and a dry sense of humor.

At 1987 Nick and Gloria founded the **ISLAND ARTS GALLERIES**, establishing 3 galleries including one at his home and studio in Hodges Bay. It was then that **Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines** began recommending the gallery as a “must see” in Antigua, partly because of Nick’s past involvement in building **Yoda** for **Star Wars**. But passengers trying to find the gallery kept asking locals, “Where is that Yoda guy located?” Locals did not know. So Nick put “**that Yoda Guy**” outside the gallery and Nick’s pseudonym was born.

In 1989 Nick and Gloria organized **THE ISLAND ARTS QUEST** the largest Caribbean art competition to be held in 35 years.

In 1990 Nick's commissions included artworks of **HOLLAND AMERICA's WINDSTAR** ships and a nine foot work of the deluxe **KRIZIA** resort **K CLUB** (where **Princess Di** vacationed in 1996). Later that year, he was elected **President of the ANTIGUA ART SOCIETY** and served in this capacity until March 93.

In 1991 his one man exhibition at the **prestigious SURF CLUB** in Miami Beach led to invitations to exhibit in six other cities across the USA and resulted in another one man exhibition at **THE SHOOTING GALLERY** in New York City. That year he was also invited to participate in a group exhibition at **THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM** in Toronto, Canada. In 1992 he took part in exhibitions in England and the **MUSEUM OF MODERN ART in the Dominican Republic**, (where he also exhibited in 1994 & 1996.)

In 1993 he was **honored by having his paintings included in UNESCO'S CARIB ART exhibition** which started a 3 year world tour in 1994. Since then his paintings and fine art reproductions have hung in hotels, banks, corporate and private collections around the world. They have been exhibited in England, Antigua, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, Haiti, Canada, the USA, Germany, Switzerland, the Dominican Republic, Curacao, Anguilla, St. Kitts, Aruba, The Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Holland and France.

1995 Nick returned to Los Angeles, writing and directing two music videos for recording artist **TOMA**. As a result, in 1996, he was awarded a **Bronze medal at the 29th Annual WORLDFEST HOUSTON, the world's largest film and video festival** with over 4300 entries from 38 countries.

Nick's first Internet website **www.CineSecrets.com** was launched in July 1997. Although Nick considers it, "intrinsically a project that was never finished", **by early 98 the BBC had dubbed it "Best of the Web - Special Effects" and by November of that year it was receiving half a million hits a week.** That success quickly spawned other Internet sites and as the number of

domains grew it became necessary to establish **a central web hub thatYodaGuy.com**. Now with over 40000 files online,



During his time in and out of the Caribbean, Nick's keen interest in sail boat racing led to his involvement in **Antigua Sailing Week** from 1986 to 2002. His boat **Pumkin**, (a 1975 C & C Trapper 500), was purchased as salvage by Nick and friend Doug Luery after hurricane Georges put it in a tree in 1998. Despite other people's

doubts as to the feasibility of getting the little boat back in the water, they refloated her in time for **Antigua Sailing Week 1999**. As part of the **Antigua Cruising Class National Team**, Pumpkin won **ASW's International Team Trophy in 1999, 2000 & 2001**. In 2000 Nick was elected **Commodore** of the **Jolly Harbour Yacht Club**. There he was nicknamed by members "Commodore for Life".

Nick and Gloria **expanded their Caribbean galleries to St. Maarten in 2003**. Unfortunately, pressure of work forced Nick to step down as Commodore of the **Jolly Harbour Yacht Club** in 2004. But he represented the club that year in **St Maarten's Heineken Regatta**, winning Fun Class.

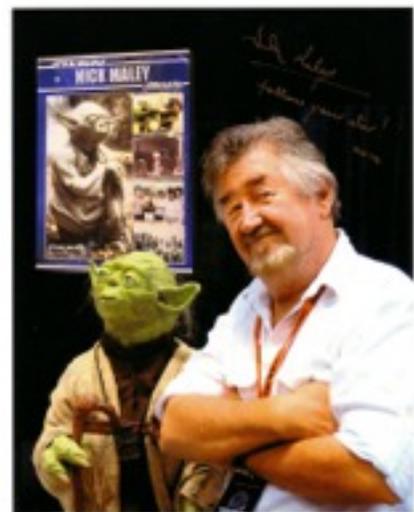
The instant success of their initial intimate St Maarten gallery in picturesque Old Street, resulted in them moving to bigger premises at 19A Front Street in 2005. There they established a bigger gallery and expand to include a much larger assortment of movie memorabilia based on movies Nick contributed to. As a result, **"that Yoda Guy" was described by Royal Caribbean's onboard magazine as "the most unique store in the Caribbean**, and also recommended on 15 other cruise lines including **Celebrity, Princess, Disney, Norwegian, Crystal, Sun, Costa, Cunard, P&O, Holland America and Carnival**.

In 2007 Nick made the move to St Martin complete, closing down Island Arts in Antigua, moving his home to spectacular **Orient Bay** and establishing the **Yoda Guy Apartments** there, which he and Gloria laughingly describe as their "pension plan".

Nick hates to waste time, so whilst in hospital in 2010 **he wrote his first book, Words & Pictures**, a record of his paintings and poetry, which was released as a private printing that July.

In Nov 2011, the first phase of Nick's museum, based upon his private collection of movie relics, was complete. Nick and Gloria launched the **Yoda Guy Movie Museum Foundation**, a non-profit corporation, to run the **Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit** (YGME), with the aim of encouraging children (and adults) to "follow their dreams and be all they can be".

In 2012, Nick was invited as an autograph guest at **Lucasfilm's Star Wars Celebration VII** in Orlando. There he was reunited with many old friends and colleagues which ultimately helped him acquire additional relics for his Caribbean museum which ultimately **TripAdvisor.com** named the **most popular activity in the country 4 years in a row..**



Nick was working on a proposed holographic entertainment project in 2013 when his old boss **Stuart Freeborn** died, aged 98. “I realized that 6 decades of movie making experiences were lost and other mentors, like **Dick Smith** and **Ray Harryhausen**, were close behind. That led me to consider combining holograms into museum displays, to record the memories of renowned movie effects maestros for generations to come.” So it was that Nick devised “**FXpo**”, a proposed project to create the world’s first hologram narrated movie effects traveling exhibit. The possibility of sponsorship took the project to Germany, where Nick and his



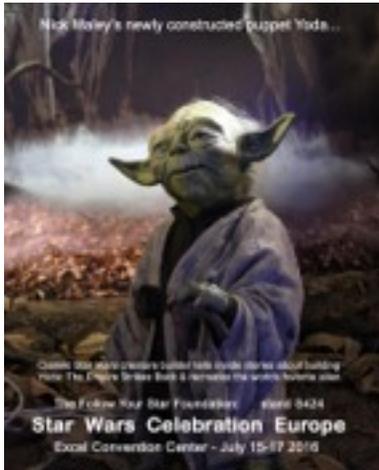
volunteers organized a big SW parade in Nuremberg with the **German 501st Legion** for **Star Wars Day 2014** (may the 4th be with you). When **Cinecitta** (Europe’s largest cinema complex with 22 screens and 6500 seats) told Nick that it was impossible to get the **Star Wars** movies to coincide with the event, Nick collaborated with **Lucasfilm** and **Disney** who arranged for **20th Century Fox** to releasing the first six Star Wars movies for the May 4th weekend all across Germany.

To administer **FXpo** and continue Nick’s philanthropic aims in Europe, Nick founded **The Follow Your Star Foundation**, (based upon nick’s catchphrase of 30 years... “Follow Your Star”). FYSF is another non-profit foundation established to inspire youngsters to overcome negativity to live extraordinary lives.

At **Star Wars Celebration VII** in 2015, **Lucasfilm resident Star Wars expert Pablo Hidalgo** and associate **Tom Spina** renamed one of the **Mos Eisley Cantina** characters “**Demono DeoMaley**” to honor Nick Maley’s work on **Star Wars** and for his tireless contribution to helping the **Lucasfilm Archive** with details about the UK creature build for A New Hope. Also that year, Nick took part in three **Star Wars concerts with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra** which was later named one of the top three cultural events in PR for 2015.

As Christmas 2015 approached, Nick and Gloria opened the second phase of the **Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit**, with an extra 1000 sq ft of new displays from **Men in Black**, **Harry and the Hendersons**, **Planet of the Apes** and adding **Han Solo in Carbonite**.





In 2016, Nick saw another of his projects come to completion when he rebuilt a fully functional animatronic Yoda puppet as a historical record of how the worlds first animatronic superstar was fabricated. Having fabricated it using the same principles as the 1978 original, Nick was invited to exhibit the puppet at **Star Wars Celebration Europe 2016** in London along with an **initial FXpo holographic display** about building the original puppet for **The Empire Strikes Back**. “It was great fun to entertain fans with a fully functional Yoda,” Nick comments. “It was very well received.”

Later the same month he presented a practical demonstration of his holographic FXpo project “**miniFXpo**” at **TH-Nuremberg**

Technical University with interactive menus developed by students there.

Now in his sixties, Nick has no intention of retiring any time soon. “I’m writing music again after 50 years,” Nick explains. “Gloria and I are writing our first novel, I want to do a motivational autobiography after that and I’ve also developed a new form of entertainment that I would like to see brought to fruition.”



It seems clear that Nick’s belief that “**you have to think big in order to achieve big**” has certainly paid off for him in the past. He remains a tireless personality that continues to inspire hundreds of thousands of fans that travel to St. Maarten to meet him and Gloria each year at the **Yoda Guy Movie Exhibit**.

