

# LARGER THAN LIFE

SINISTER BOBA FETT IS THE LATEST  
DISPLAY FIGURE FROM DON POST STUDIOS

by gary gerani

BOBA FETT'S LOOKING Badder than ever...  
and the artisans at Don Post Studios  
couldn't be happier.

FILM DOM'S MOST MEMORABLE INTERGALACTIC  
BOUNTY HUNTER HAS BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY  
RECREATED AS AN EXCITING NEW DISPLAY  
FIGURE: A FULL-SIZE, CUSTOM-PAINTED GEM OF  
A COLLECTIBLE. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS  
BOBAS IN SMALLER INTERPRETATIONS OVER THE  
YEARS, NOTABLY ACTION FIGURES AND FINELY  
DETAILED MODEL KITS. BUT NOTHING CAN  
COMPARE WITH THIS TOWERING TITAN, THE  
SECOND LIFE-SIZE *STAR WARS* CHARACTER  
DEVELOPED BY POST'S CREATIVE TEAM (POST'S  
FIRST TRIUMPH WAS A STORMTROOPER).

DON POST JR., SON OF THE LEGENDARY  
HOLLYWOOD MASK MAKER AND A FANTASTIC  
FABRICATOR IN HIS OWN RIGHT, RECENTLY TALKED  
ABOUT THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
NEW BOBA FETT FIGURE.







**Q: HOW DID THIS PROJECT COME ABOUT?**

**A:** In the beginning, the only piece we were doing for Lucasfilm was the stormtrooper. Darth Vader was being made elsewhere, as was the Han Solo in carbonite. But Lucasfilm really appreciated the philosophy we put behind our work, all the extra thinking and planning, which made the stormtrooper seem alive. And the next character they wanted to release was Boba Fett, because he is so popular with the fans. He's also one of George Lucas' favorites. They suggested to us that we bid on making it, and we did, and in the end they awarded us the license to make Boba Fett.

**Q: HAD YOU EVER MADE A FULL-FIGURE CHARACTER BEFORE THE STORMTROOPER?**

**A:** Yes, the female creature Sil, from the movie *Species*.

**Q: IN DEVELOPING BOBA FETT, DID YOU SEEK OUT ACTOR JEREMY BULLOCH?**

**A:** We flew him to L.A. and did a series of life-casts in my living room. We had a lot of fun, but it was also pretty intense. Jeremy had some influence on the way this figure looks, because he described how he played the part, and Boba Fett's motivation.

Part of what has made the character so popular is his interesting costume. Even in the limited time Boba appears in the films, his stance and attitude had an effect on people. He has so many intricate parts to his costume, and seems so physically equipped and dangerous—you wonder what he's going to do. He's extremely menacing, really. And so we thought it would be good to get some of Jeremy's insight.

**Q: EXPLAIN HOW YOU SETTLED ON THE STANCE OF THE FIGURE.**

**A:** We wanted him to have that "bounty hunter" look. We began with a very small maquette. We looked at a number of pictures of Boba Fett, and found one in the *Star Wars Chronicles* book where he's standing and looking

very Clint Eastwood-esque—and buff. Not only is the stance threatening, but Boba appears to be challenging someone to "make your move." He's ready. He appears quite invincible, and feels very confident in his ability to create mayhem. So that's really the philosophy we used to create the pose.

**Q: WHAT'S THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND BOBA FETT'S ARMOR?**

**A:** Fett has probably created all kinds of armament that he considers necessary, so his outfit is made up of things he has pulled out of spacecraft, former victims, old military equipment—who knows? He's like a hot-rod builder, taking equipment and modifying it for his own use, the way Rambo would.

And there's always something else to look at. In his shins, for instance, there are some pockets, with four or five removable tools inside. To achieve that, we spent three days at the Lucasfilm Archives. We looked at and measured every piece, from Boba Fett's backpack to the missile on the backpack. We did drawings, patterns for all the material parts, so we could come up with exactly the same look. When we returned to the studio, we sculpted the breastplate, backpack, backplate, knee armament, forearm armament and the remaining sections. We found materials that were just like the tubes we had seen in the Lucasfilm pictures. We probably spent 450 hours sculpting and scratch-building the backpack.

Last fall, Don Post brought an unpainted prototype of his full-size Boba Fett mannequin to Lucasfilm for refinements and approvals.





**Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CLOTH PORTIONS OF HIS COSTUME?**

**A:** Fett's cloth parts are quite visible, and subliminally important, to the whole of the character. So my staff and I had many long discussions with Lucasfilm design executives Julia Russo and Stacy Mollema about whether these portions should be made out of a rigid material, such as Fiberglas, where we could sculpt all of the wrinkles in, or whether it should actually be cloth.

We debated this over several months, finally deciding to go with the sewn material. The armament is done in plastic, with some parts in Fiberglas. One of Boba's belts will be leather, the other made of woolen material, such as yarn.

**Q: ANY ELECTRONICS IN THE FIGURE?**

**A:** Oh, yes—though we're going to leave that as a little surprise for fans. There are two little details that are probably inconsequential in the films. On his left chest section, there are a pair of slits, with electronics in that area. Also, on the top of his sight piece, there are two lights.



**Q: ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT BOBA'S HELMET?**

**A:** There are three or four different helmet sculptures in the Lucasfilm Archives. The headpiece we're using is different from the one we're using for a limited-edition Fett helmet. It'll have a slightly different shape, and the painting detail will be slightly different. Part of the reason for that is to make each headpiece exclusive unto itself, something special for the collectors.

**Q: DOES BOBA FETT HAVE A WEAPON IN HIS HAND?**

**A:** He has a weapon in his hand, but he's not aiming it, at least not at us. His weapon is actually built over a British gun. We went out and found one, took a mold off of it, then scratch-built the gun to exacting specs. When you take a look at the Lucasfilm versions of this particular weapon, every one is slightly different. We chose one that had all the detail we were looking for.

**Q: WITH ALL OF THE ELEMENTS CRAFTED, HOW DOES THE FINISHED FIGURE LITERALLY TAKE SHAPE?**

**A:** We begin with a Fiberglas body, which basically maintains the shape of the character. Over that, we dress Boba piece by piece, putting on the cloth suit, bolting the armament sections in, attaching the shoes. As with a mannequin, every arm and every angle—even the way the gun is pointing—will be exactly the same every time.

**Q: HOW IS THE PAINTING PROCESS HANDLED?**

**A:** When I'm making the regular Boba Fett helmet [not the one for the full figure], the silver scuff areas go on top of the overall green paint job. For the figure, however, we're painting the surface forward, rather than backward, so the first layer of paint that goes on is silver, and the last layer is green. It's an interesting masking technique that adds a lot of realism to the figure. Overall, it takes a good 50-60 hours to paint Boba Fett.



Left: A proud Don Post poses with the finished Boba Fett.





In a feat of ingenuity by Don Post, the weapon in Fett's hand is actually built over a British gun.

**Q: DOES THE FIGURE STAND ON ITS OWN, OR IS THERE A BASE?**

**A:** It does, and there is. The figure will be on a wooden stand with a metal stake inside of it, to prevent it from tipping over. There is also a plaque, and each unit has its own serial number. The figures can stand on their own, however.

**Q: WHAT WILL BOBA FETT RETAIL FOR, AND WHEN WILL HE BE AVAILABLE?**

**A:** Our target price is \$5,500, which is in the stormtrooper range. Unfortunately, molds are extremely expensive, and they amount to a substantial cost per casting. These flexible molds don't last forever, and become a substantial part of the cost of the manufacturing of the item. As far as availability goes, it's out there now.

**Q: ANY PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL FULL-FIGURE STAR WARS CHARACTERS DOWN THE LINE?**

**A:** We hope that the droids will be next. Actually, I've already made some R2-D2 and C-3PO figures for FAO Schwarz displays. I'm not quite sure how we'd do limited-edition versions. But the ones we've made so far are electro-plated, with eyes that light up. We hope that the droids will be available later this year.

**Q: IT MUST BE TRULY GRATIFYING TO SEE THESE CREATIONS COME TO LIFE.**

**A:** Yes, it's extremely satisfying. We may only make several hundred of them, and we know they're going to be bought by individuals, by devoted fans, and we want the individual to have something truly unique and remarkable that he or she will cherish forever. When you work really hard to make something, and you and everyone else is very, very happy with it, it just makes what you do for a living seem worth while. It is our goal to honor the classic *Star Wars* films with our creations. I have a great appreciation for what George Lucas has done, and nothing would please me more than to make him happy with the type of merchandise we're producing.

*Gary Gerani has worked on a wide variety of Star Wars trading card and publishing projects for Topps. 📀*



To make the Fett figure even more authentic, Post took life-casts of actor Jeremy Bulloch's body.

larger than life