

CINEMATIC CLASSICS

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



**STAR
WARS**TM

EPISODE I

THE PHANTOM MENACE

route through the planet's core. In the depths of the ocean, they were almost eaten by a giant gooberfish and a huge colo clawfish, but the bongo reached the city of Theed in one piece.

Unfortunately, the Jedi were too late. Led by Viceroy Nute Gunray, the Trade Federation had occupied Theed and taken Queen Amidala prisoner.



Concept art for the underwater sequence featuring the Bongo sub and a pursuing opee sea killer.
DOUG CHIANG / ACRYLIC PAINTING

'I will not cooperate,' the defiant queen told the viceroy.

Gunray did not believe her. He ordered his droid soldiers to take the queen away, along with her advisors and handmaidens. But the droids were ambushed by the Jedi, who freed the captives and took them safely to the palace's main hangar, where they found the Royal Starship waiting.



Concept art for the Toydarian merchant, Watto. DOUG CHIANG / ACRYLIC PAINTING

'You're a funny little boy,' Padmé said with a smile.

'I'm a pilot, you know,' he told her, 'and someday I'm gonna fly away from this place.' When that day would come, the boy did not know. The terrible truth was that he was enslaved, owned by Watto and forced to work in the Toydarian's shop. But he didn't want to be seen that way. 'I'm a person, and my name is Anakin.'

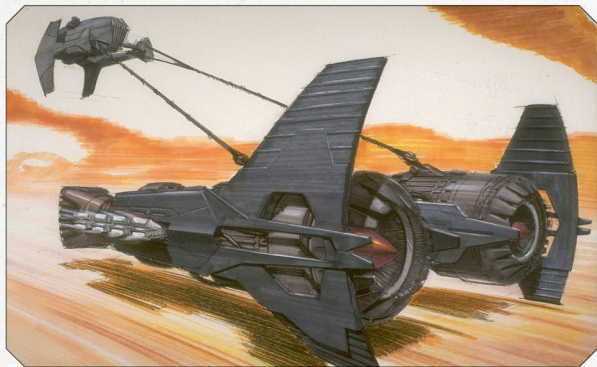
Outside in the junkyard, Qui-Gon was trying to use a Jedi mind trick to persuade Watto to hand over the parts he needed in return for Republic credits. But the trader refused. 'I'm a Toydarian. Mind tricks don't work on me – only money. No money, no parts!'

Qui-Gon had no choice but to walk away, taking Padmé and Jar Jar with him.

But wherever Jar Jar went, trouble soon followed. On the streets of Mos Espa, the clumsy Gungan found himself face to face with an angry Dug named Sebulba. Unexpectedly, he was rescued by young Anakin, who told Sebulba to back off.



Costume concept for Anakin Skywalker.
IAIN MCCAIG / MARKER



Concept art for podracers. JOHN BELL / MARKER

The podracers rocketed over the starting line – all except two. Anakin's engine had stalled, and the crowd laughed as he struggled to get his racer moving. But Ben Quadinaros was even more unlucky: his podracer went completely to pieces, its four engines flying off in different directions.

At last, Anakin's engines reignited, and he shot across the starting line. But he was still far behind the others. Sebulba had already taken the lead, using his powerful podracer to slam the other contestants out of his way.

Anakin put on a burst of speed, and soon he could see the others ahead of him. As they emerged from a narrow canyon, he overtook the slowest racer and began moving up the pack.

He was startled when a bullet struck the cockpit, fired by one of the

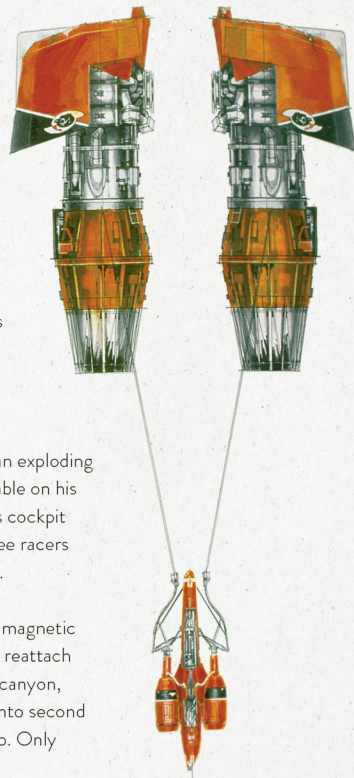
desert tribespeople known as Tusken. They crouched on top of a stony ridge, screaming in triumph and waving their gaffi sticks in the air.

As the racers sped through the arena to begin another lap, Anakin was still in second-to-last position. But as they hurtled through the rocky terrain, he was able to pass first one and then another of his competitors, to claim third place.

Suddenly a shard of metal from an exploding podracer smashed into him! A cable on his own podracer came loose and his cockpit began to spin out of control. Three racers sped by, leaving Anakin dead last.

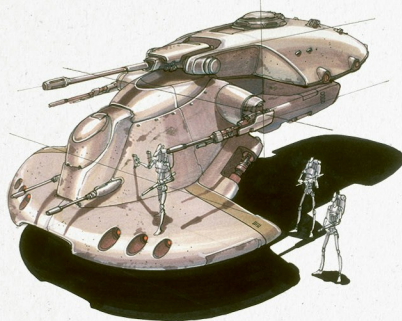
But the boy stayed calm, using a magnetic grabber to retrieve the cable and reattach it. Then he zoomed into another canyon, overtaking his rivals and getting into second place as they entered the final lap. Only Sebulba was ahead of him now.

Before long it was neck and neck, with first



Concept art for podracer.
JAY SHUSTER / MARKER

Concept art for Trade Federation AAT battle tanks.
DOUG CHIANG / MARKER



The Gungan shields had been designed to withstand blaster fire, not droids. The battle droids pushed through the protective screen and began to fire at the Gungans. Jar Jar and the others defended themselves with spears and energy catapults, using their slings to hurl exploding spheres known as boomas towards the enemy. But still the droids kept coming.

With blaster fire erupting all around the Royal Palace's main hangar, Anakin and R2-D2 took shelter in one of the empty Naboo fighter ships. Qui-Gon ordered the boy to stay in the cockpit and keep out of danger.

But as the Jedi headed for the throne room, they were confronted by a terrifying sight. Darth Maul stood in the doorway wearing a black cloak and hood.

'We'll handle this,' Qui-Gon told Queen Amidala. Obi-Wan joined his master, and the Jedi ignited their lightsabers.

Darth Maul threw back his hood to reveal a head spiked with fearsome horns. He drew his lightsaber, activating not one but two crimson blades. Then the Sith Lord leapt forward, and the sound of clashing blades filled the stone chamber.

Across the hangar, the queen and her people were pinned down by three shielded droidekas. Anakin was eager to help, fumbling with the fighter's controls as he tried to work out where the main guns were.

Instead the ship took off, floating slowly out of the hangar. Anakin found the guns and blasted the droidekas, allowing the queen and the others to escape. But he was stuck in the cockpit, and the ship was still moving.

'It's on automatic pilot!' he told R2-D2 as the ship spiralled up above the planet and into the darkness of space. He could see the Droid Control Ship in the distance, and the Naboo fighters circling around it.

Anakin ordered R2-D2 to deactivate the automatic pilot and took control of the ship himself. As enemy fighters sped closer Anakin swooped and spun, using his Jedi skills to stay one step ahead. 'Qui-Gon told me to stay in this cockpit,' he told R2-D2, 'and that's what I'm gonna do!'

Costume concept for Darth Maul.
IAIN MCCAIG / MARKER

