



CONVERSATIONS WITH A BOUNTY HUNTER!! CATHERINE MUNROE

Though their screen time together on the bridge of the Star Destroyer *Executor* may have been brief, the mysterious and deadly six bounty characters brought in by Darth Vader to search for our favourite heroes would quickly enter STAR WARS lore, and each, with their distinctive looks and menace, has amassed their own hordes of dedicated fans. None more so than the elusive Zuckuss, who, for years, people have tried to find out more about-not only regarding the character but the once deemed elusive actress that brought him to life-Catherine Munroe. Interest in the actress was piqued back in 2000 when the US STAR WARS INSIDER magazine tracked down the majority of the people behind the Bounty Hunter masks, yet the woman inhabiting the guise of Zuckuss, however-then listed as Kathy Munroe-was sadly not contactable (with fans unknown to the fact that her acting name had changed to Katy Jarrett), and over the next few years the mission to find out more about Miss Munroe would intensify. Eventually, to a grateful and enthusiastic fandom, the actress would enter the STAR WARS signing and convention circuit, meeting the fans and talking about her time spent filming on THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. AFICIONADO had the opportunity to recently e-mail interview her about her iconic work as the Bounty Hunter during its April 1979 filming.



Originally known on the 1979 filming call sheets as Kathy Munroe, the actress sits down between takes during UK shooting, whilst still in full Zuckuss costume, on the Star Destroyer set. Below: Catherine Munroe outside of the mask.

SWA: How did you get into the industry-was it some thing you always wanted to do?

C.M.: I went to the *Itaila Conti Stage School* in London where I trained in Acting, Dance, and Singing.

Had you liked/been aware of STAR WARS beforehand?

Yes. I saw the first film.





Above: a rehearsal of the Bounty Hunters assemblage scene—note the tape markers on the floor where the actors have to align themselves for the camera—Boba Fett (Jeremy Bulloch), IG-88 (operated prop by Paul Klein), Bossk (Alan Harris), 4-Lom (Chris Parsons) and, also below image, Zuckuss (Catherine Munroe).

How did you get the part of Zuckuss? Was it a case of being cast for the role, or, as with some of the other actors playing aliens/monsters, that you fitted and acted in the costume the best?

My agent at the time sent me to the studio in ELSTREE. I was told about Zuckuss and what it would entail. I was shown the design of the costume and the head-dress. I felt ok with it.





Above: in Stuart Freeborn's make-up labs at ELSTREE, an unknown technician works on the original Zuckuss mask. Below: in the expanded universe beyond the movies, the evil ex-war droid , 4-LOM, and Zuckuss worked together in their bounty hunting efforts. In filming, Munroe was often in Chris Parson's company, too.

With the exception of the mask, was the rest of the costume made to your size. If so, how many costume fittings did you have to attend and were George Lucas or anyone like Kershner or Kurtz?

I had the costume fitted to my size. I had quite a few fittings. I remember seeing George Lucas and, of course, John Mollo at the studio.

How heavy was the costume and what were the stages of getting into it? Did you have much liaising with costume designer John Mollo and make-up artist Stuart Freeborn?



The head-dress was not too heavy, just very constricted with seeing and hearing. I would dress first then wear the headdress.

What was a normal day on the set of STAR WARS actually like? What did you have to do when you arrived at the studio, how long did it take to get ready? And how long would you work 'till?



Their assignment activated by Vader, the Bounty hunters (left to right: Boba Fett, Bossk, 4-LOM and Zuckuss) soon head their own ways-each determined to bag their prize first-by any means necessary. The battle between them rages in the epic SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE book and comic series.

Very, very long days. There was a lot of waiting around. Everything had to be perfect. We would start 06.45am till 19.00pm hrs, and it took thirty minutes to get ready.

How long did it take in all to film your scene?

Sadly, I really cannot remember. I was on the film for a few weeks working on the Cloud City set.

What was your first day on set like? How were Irvin Kershner and Gary Kurtz like? There have been stills of the pair amongst the bounty hunters during rehearsals and filming-was there an impression that something very special scene-wise was being filmed? Were there any specific suggestions they gave you in inhabiting the part?

I felt very nervous on my first day, also being the only lady was daunting. I was so very young they were all so kind to me. I was very spoilt, I had my own assistant who when I signaled would take my headdress off. There was always a chair on set

for me. I could not take the head-dress off myself.

I really did feel this was a very important scene and proved to be.

Did you interact with the other Bounty Hunter cast during your time on set? What memories do you have of Moray Bush, who played Dengar- he seems to be the least well known of the Bounty Hunters due to his sad death.

Sadly, not much contact with Moray. I was mostly with Chris Parsons (Bounty Hunter 4-LOM) and Dave Prowse (Darth Vader).

You also played a Bespin Snaggletooth, later named Wiorkettle in the STAR WARS EXPANDED UNIVERSE, for some background corridor scenes? Can you tell us how you got to play the part-was it similar to Zuckuss in costuming and mask? Who played your partner, Treva Horne, in the scene?



Her work as Zuckuss finished, Munroe is soon recalled back to EL-STREE to play the part of Wiorkettle (opposite) on the Bespin sets. Above with an unknown actor playing Treva Horne.

Yes, I did also play in some Bespin scenes- it followed on from playing Zuckuss. I was asked if I would like to stay on and play it. I can't remember my partners name only that he was so very tall. They called us *Mr& Mrs Pig* as a joke. That costume was so easy to wear. I could take the head-dress off when I liked.

I do remember the Cloud City set- it was truly a beautiful place to work in- like being in a dream.

Was there any other footage of yourself as either character filmed that didn't make the final cut?

There must be loads of unseen footage.

Did you get to see any other scenes being filmed and what were the main leads like as with the first STAR WARS, was there any of that feeling of their camaraderie?

No. We were confined to our own set. Everyone seemed to get on well together.



"You are free to use any methods necessary, but I want them alive. No disintegrations!!" One of the all time classic EMPIRE photos, and also one of it's greatest scenes, with Dengar (Moray Bush) joining the motley alien crew in the impressive character line-up.

Did you go the film's UK Premiere? If so, any memories?

No I was unwell at the time. It was a big regret in my life.

What was your first reaction upon seeing the completed film?

I really enjoyed it at the time. I've never seen anything quite like it now or since.

Catherine, thank you for your time.



A closer look at Munroe in the distinctive Zuckuss costume. Note the intriguing re-worked live weaponry that she holds.

ABOUT ZUCKUSS

THE CHARACTER

A native of the planet Gand, Zuckuss is one of the most dangerous and formidable Bounty Hunters in the galaxy. Often partnering up alongside the equally loathsome ex-war



Above: one of the many superb Zuckuss products out there for fans to buy is this great Bounty Hunter bust.

droid 4-LOM,

Zuckuss is often regarded by his colleagues in the profession as “The Uncanny One” for his Force sensitive ability to hunt his prey. Zuckuss also suffers from a multiple personality disorder and schizophrenia, which can often either help or hinder him in his tasks.

ADDITIONAL BEHIND THE SCENES INFO

Specially created for the film by Ralph McQuarrie and John Mollo, with a head realized by Stuart Freeborn and his team, Zuckuss has insect-like eyes that are actually covered with bubble wrap packing material. Though we have not confirmed this with the actress, Jeremy Bulloch would recall to STAR WARS INSIDER in 2000’s EMPIRE tribute issue that he thought that Catherine Munroe had visited the ESB film set before being cast, as she knew someone on the production team, and then got the part afterwards.

With his release as an action figure by KENNER, the toy company mistakenly referred to Zuckuss as 4-LOM, and vice versa, due to a mix-up of the photo captions. It would be quite a while before they corrected their error. Additionally, due to another similar error he would be known as *Tuckuss* in the film’s original Fifth Draft script, and that mistake would carry over to him being named as that in Donald F. Glut’s novelisation for the movie.

*Check out Catherine’s website:
<http://www.zuckuss.com> for
more information on the actress
and character, as well as details
of her forthcoming signings
worldwide...*

Design/layout by Scott Weller.

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Above: a section of one of the original 1980/81 KENNER action figure cards informing buyers how they could purchase a free Zuckuss (incorrectly named 4-LOM for several years to come).



Above left: a captive of Boba Fett during the excellent SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE saga (art by the famous Hildebrandt Brothers). Above right: an equally excellent rendition of Zuckuss awaiting his prey in an alien Cantina, and having a pleasant little drinkie at the same time!!