STAR WARS
A NEW HOPE

HAN SOLO

He certainly has courage.

Ford Tough

On a warm summer evening at a charity auction for Seattle's Museum of Flight last year, Harrison Ford arrived to serve as the celebrity chair. He was dressed in a black tuxedo, his bow tie slightly askew, and as he came into the tent where the auctions were to take place, the buzz was already around that he'd arrived in his own private floatplane. Flying is one of Ford's better-known passions; the man who'd been from one end of the galaxy to the other in an imaginary stock freighter had, in reality, flown his deHaviland Beaver from Jackson, Wyoming, to Seattle for the fundraiser.

By Michael G. Ryan

"Sometimes I amaze even myself."

—Han Solo, *Star Wars* (1977)

After some of the museum's benefactors had a chance to meet him, shake his hand, and—for a fortunate few—get a photo with him, the lights dimmed, and the audience was privileged to see a ten-minute film tribute to Ford's love of flight. Although there was no mention of the events, it was hard to forget that he had come to the rescue of lost hikers on two different occasions. In 2000, Ford rescued two women lost in the Idaho Mountains, and just days before the Museum of Flight auction, Ford had been piloting his private helicopter when he rescued a Boy Scout who was lost in Targhee National Forest in Wyoming. When asked on one of the morning talk shows how it felt to be rescued by Indiana Jones, thirteen-year-old Cody Clawson scoffed and pointed out he'd *actually* been rescued by Han Solo.

When Ford took the stage after the film, the man who was named Box-Office Star of the Century in 1994 by the National Association of Theater Owners, who won the People's Choice Award for Favorite Male Performer in 1995, who was honored by the American Film Institute with a Life Achievement Award in 2000, and who received

illustrated by Russell Walks