



1
00:00:00,880 --> 00:00:53,780

Music

2
00:00:53,780 --> 00:00:58,000

R2-D2: Noise

3
00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,830

Ben Burtt, Sound Director in "Star Wars" films: From what I've seen, especially with the recent landing of

4
00:01:00,830 --> 00:01:05,250

Curiosity on Mars, there is just amazing technology.

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00:01:05,250 --> 00:01:11,690

The fact that we on Earth can be steering and commanding machines on Mars,

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00:01:11,690 --> 00:01:14,040

so far away, is truly amazing.

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00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:18,240

I never could have imagined that being the case back 40 years ago when we started

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00:01:18,240 --> 00:01:23,820

on the first Star Wars. At that time, even the R2 on the set could barely move down the hallway.

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00:01:23,820 --> 00:01:28,370

Marcus Richardson, "Star Wars" fan: We are making big leaps, I know that. Just the fact that we landed

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00:01:28,370 --> 00:01:30,890

on Mars is mind-boggling.

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00:01:30,890 --> 00:01:34,910

Next thing you know, we're gonna be putting people on Mars.

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00:01:34,910 --> 00:01:41,420

With R2-D2 going to Mars, I'm sure he could do a lot better survey on Mars than Curiosity,

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00:01:41,420 --> 00:01:45,920

but that's light years away.

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00:01:45,920 --> 00:01:50,680

BURTT: The development of robotics, of course, is a very exciting endeavor.

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00:01:50,680 --> 00:01:58,560

R2-D2, of course, kind of paved the way, showing us that you could have a robot you could talk to and

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00:01:58,560 --> 00:02:12,740

instruct and carry out your tasks in another place, on another world perhaps.

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00:02:12,740 --> 00:02:18,650

SLATE: What would Mars sound like?

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00:02:18,650 --> 00:02:25,200

BURTT: Mars has wind and of course it has little tornado-like dust clouds moving about,

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00:02:25,200 --> 00:02:31,610

so I would imagine, there'd be some whistling around the edges of Curiosity for instance

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00:02:31,610 --> 00:02:37,620

and I'd love to hear it.

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00:02:37,620 --> 00:02:44,390

SLATE: Which "Star Wars" world would you send Curiosity to, if you could?

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00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:49,880

Brian Pauley, "Star Wars" fan: Endor, definitely, because it's a forest planet, it'd make a nice habitat.

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00:02:49,880 --> 00:02:54,760

Maybe Tatooine because you could have a beach resort out there you could probably do that.

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00:02:54,760 --> 00:02:59,570

I'd probably stay away from Mustafar because when people go to Mustafar they end up losing limbs and

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00:02:59,570 --> 00:03:02,920

getting burnt, so might want to avoid that planet.

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00:03:02,920 --> 00:03:08,300

Annette Cheney, "Star Wars" fan: I love Endor, but Naboo's beautiful, too, I mean, with the waterfalls.

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00:03:08,300 --> 00:03:11,810

It was filmed in one of my favorite countries, I mean, I love it.

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00:03:11,810 --> 00:03:17,860

But I think I'd say Endor because there's so many different species there, the ewoks, the Wookies

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00:03:17,860 --> 00:03:24,170

and it looks so pretty. I'd like to see it up-close and personal. That'd be beautiful.

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00:03:24,170 --> 00:03:31,060

Christopher Garrison, "Star Wars" fan: I'd have to send it to Dagobah. What a challenge, swamp, mud,

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00:03:31,060 --> 00:03:35,690

all kinds of junk everywhere, that would be fun.

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00:03:35,690 --> 00:03:40,810

BURTT: I would love to know something about Alderaan. Now that's a Star Wars world we never went

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00:03:40,810 --> 00:03:47,210

to, so therefore I'd love to send Curiosity to either Dantooine or Alderaan to see what's there because

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00:03:47,210 --> 00:03:51,440

they're only referred to in the movies, we never go there so I can't tell you what to expect,

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00:03:51,440 --> 00:03:58,560

that's why I would send a probe.

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00:03:58,560 --> 00:04:04,490

Slate: How does a fictional world or invention influence real-life?

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00:04:04,490 --> 00:04:08,700

Brian Pauley, "Star Wars" fan: I think good science fiction motivates good science.

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00:04:08,700 --> 00:04:15,520

When you see something, you say I'd love to be able to do that, then you start going about trying to do

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00:04:15,520 --> 00:04:21,140

it and when you accomplish it, it's like, I did this because I was a Star Wars geek.

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00:04:21,140 --> 00:04:24,060

Jasmine Seales, "Star Wars" fan: People see all these sci-fi movies and then they hear about what people

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00:04:24,060 --> 00:04:29,030

are actually doing to try to do things I guess that are similar to that, so I think it just fascinates them that

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00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:34,690

we can do these things that have come out of old movies and nowadays we can do stuff like that and I

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00:04:34,690 --> 00:04:37,440

think that really draws people in to everything.

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00:04:37,440 --> 00:04:42,910

Evan Greenwood, "Star Wars" fan: It's going very fast, relatively. I mean, the movie was made 30 years

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00:04:42,910 --> 00:04:47,280

ago and a lot of things that were in the movie are becoming real. Ion drives?

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00:04:47,280 --> 00:04:51,570

They now exist. They did not back then.

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00:04:51,570 --> 00:04:54,710

Christopher Garrison, "Star Wars" fan: I'd like to see some lightsabers and some blasters but aside from

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00:04:54,710 --> 00:05:05,730

that we're getting close on the technology. It's happened a lot faster than we thought.

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00:05:05,730 --> 00:05:11,950

SLATE: Which "Star Wars" character would make the best astronaut to explore the galaxy?

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00:05:11,950 --> 00:05:18,470

Mariana King, "Star Wars" fan: Han Solo has the courage, but he's kind of reckless.

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00:05:18,470 --> 00:05:21,170

So, maybe Han.

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00:05:21,170 --> 00:05:23,930

Annette Cheney, "Star Wars" fan: I'm partial, I think the best astronauts would be the stormtroopers

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00:05:23,930 --> 00:05:26,010

because they're trained so much.

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00:05:26,010 --> 00:05:32,500

They can do practically anything, so I think they could pick up NASA space training the fastest and easiest.

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00:05:32,500 --> 00:05:35,480

And they look really good in a spacesuit.

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00:05:35,480 --> 00:05:39,380

Tim Martinez, "Star Wars" fan: Definitely Darth Vader. He's already equipped to breathe in space,

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00:05:39,380 --> 00:05:42,060

he needs nothing else, he's ready to go.

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00:05:42,060 --> 00:05:43,550

Definitely Darth Vader.

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00:05:43,550 --> 00:05:49,750

Kara Gardner, "Star Wars" fan: Probably Jaina Solo. She seems to be very mechanically inclined and

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00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:55,550

astronauts need to be able to fix things extremely fast and efficiently.

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00:05:55,550 --> 00:05:59,380

Jasmine Seales, "Star Wars" fan: Clearly Princess Leia. She's the best character in all the movies.

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00:05:59,380 --> 00:06:05,110

SLATE: What is the appeal of space exploration?

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00:06:05,110 --> 00:06:08,810

David Atteberry, "Star Wars" fan: Every step we take gets us a little bit closer and that's one of the

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00:06:08,810 --> 00:06:12,260

things I found interesting about the Curiosity rover, it's like we're finally getting out there,

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00:06:12,260 --> 00:06:18,300

back into space and getting closer to that dream of being able to explore our galaxy.

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00:06:18,300 --> 00:06:21,890

Kara Gardner, "Star Wars" fan: Every time NASA takes another step out, I feel like that was the reason I

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00:06:21,890 --> 00:06:25,950

fell in love with "Star Wars" was because I wanted to know what was out there.

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00:06:25,950 --> 00:06:33,110

Now we're finding out what's on Mars and it's kind of like, well, that reminds me of this planet in the

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00:06:33,110 --> 00:06:35,620

"Star Wars" universe.

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00:06:35,620 --> 00:06:40,680

Marcus Richardson, "Star Wars" fan: It's a big unknown. We probably don't know a percentage of what's