Navajo President Shelly Excited About the Release of Navajo Dubbed Star Wars

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo language once helped save the United States from defeat in World War II, and now will transcend to a galaxy far, far away.

Last week, officials from Knifewing Studios in Gallup, N.M., announced that the Navajo dubbing of Star Wars, originally released in 1977, is now set for release with Navajo dubbing during the Navajo Nation Fourth of July Celebration.

“We are proud of this project,” Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said. “We have great value in our language. Our Code Talkers helped the Americans defeat the Japanese during World War II, and now we can look forward to seeing one of the most successful movies in history now be dubbed in Navajo. This is exciting.”

Deluxe’s Audio Mixer Francisco Rodriguez, was in charge of sound during the recording and Dubbing Director Ellen Stern of Epcar Entertainment coached Navajo actors to deliver voices that capture a realistic representation of the movie.

“We are proud that this project came to the Navajo Nation. It’s interesting to see how Navajo will sound with some of the characters in the movie. It’s a good thing to see our Navajo language on the big screen,” Division of Natural Resources Director Fred White said.

More than 20 voice actors gave their best over the two-week period. The seven primary characters were chosen and confirmed.

“This was an intense recording session that went 12 days straight. I know the public is going to be blown away when they get to see what we have done. The actors, translators, dubbing director, audio mixer, and Knifewing Studios made a great team and it couldn’t be done without all of their involvement.” Manuelito Wheeler, director of the Navajo Nation Museum, said.
“We are so pleased with how well it turned out. None of the cast had ever dubbed a film before. They picked it up quickly and the performances are outstanding.” Shana Priesz, Senior Director of Localization of Deluxe.

The seven actors taking lead roles as the Navajo language voice-overs in the production are:

Terry Teller as Luke Skywalker, James Junes as Han Solo, Clarissa Yazzie as Princess Leia, Anderson Kee as Obi Wan Kenobi, Marvin Yellowhair as Darth Vader, Geri Hongeva-Camarillo as C-3PO and James Bilagody as Grand Moff Tarkin.

For more information please contact Manuelito Wheeler, Director of Navajo Nation Museum (928) 810-7941.

###