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David West Reynolds Fan Guest of Honor



Archaeologist, consultant, space expert and best-selling author of nine books, David West Reynolds is a founder of the Phaeton Group, a science and media organization that unites experts in more than a dozen fields relating to natural science, history and exploration.

David West Reynolds earned his doctorate in classical archaeology at the University of Michigan, specializing in Imperial Rome and ancient Egypt. His field work has taken him to places as diverse as Anasazi cliff cities in Utah, Inca fortresses in the mountains of Peru, and Swahili ruins in the jungles of East Africa. In addition to his scholarly work, Reynolds taught college archaeology and guided international tours.

In 1995, Reynolds, together with Phaeton teammate Michael Ryan, re-located the Tunisian desert sites used in the original “Star Wars,” where they found 20-year-old props. The project led to official location scouting work for Lucasfilm, and then to a full-time job at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch, where Reynolds held a position on the marketing team behind the record-setting launch of “Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.”

In addition to numerous magazine articles, Reynolds penned seven “Star Wars” novels, five of which became New York Times best-sellers, one reaching the No. 1 spot. In the course of his consulting work he has sculpted a full-size dinosaur skeleton, created museum models of historic spacecraft designs, and acted as presenter for the television documentary series “Omnibus” for the BBC.

He is currently at work writing another book on space exploration and several archaeological magazine articles as well as leading a Phaeton project to recover secret Soviet photographs of the moon.

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