

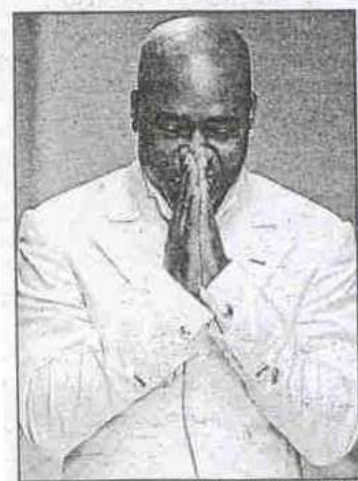
Sci-fi hits the runway

Rough-and-tumble R2-D2 would feel out of place tonight at the Ziegfeld, but the more particular C3PO would fit right in.

This evening at 6, filmmaking legend George Lucas visits the 54th Street theater to pay homage to Trisha Biggar, the costume designer who created outfits for the three recent "Star Wars" prequels.

"Dressing a Galaxy: The Costumes of Star Wars," is a fashion show created in conjunction with Lucas film and the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles. The event is a prelude to a book focusing on Biggar's designs for the three films.

"Part of what Trisha has to do is design the costumes and make sure they work in a photographic environment," Lucas said by phone from California yesterday, before flying east. "She has to put on a fashion show in our wardrobe tent every day for four months."



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Chris Aire closes his show.

SHOW STOPPERS ROBERT KAHN

Among Lucas' favorite looks in the presentation: a Mongolian-inspired outfit Biggar designed for Natalie Portman's Padme character in "Phantom Menace." It came famously near ruin during a storm in Tunisia as filming got under way a few years back, but Biggar saved the day.

Lucas has attended shows in Paris and Milan, but this will be his first in New York.

He has experience not just filming Biggar's work, but wearing it. He donned one of her cashmere military outfits for a cameo he filmed with his two daughters in "Revenge of the Sith."

Too short to work a runway, Yoda is. But count on Hayden Christensen to be sitting front row.

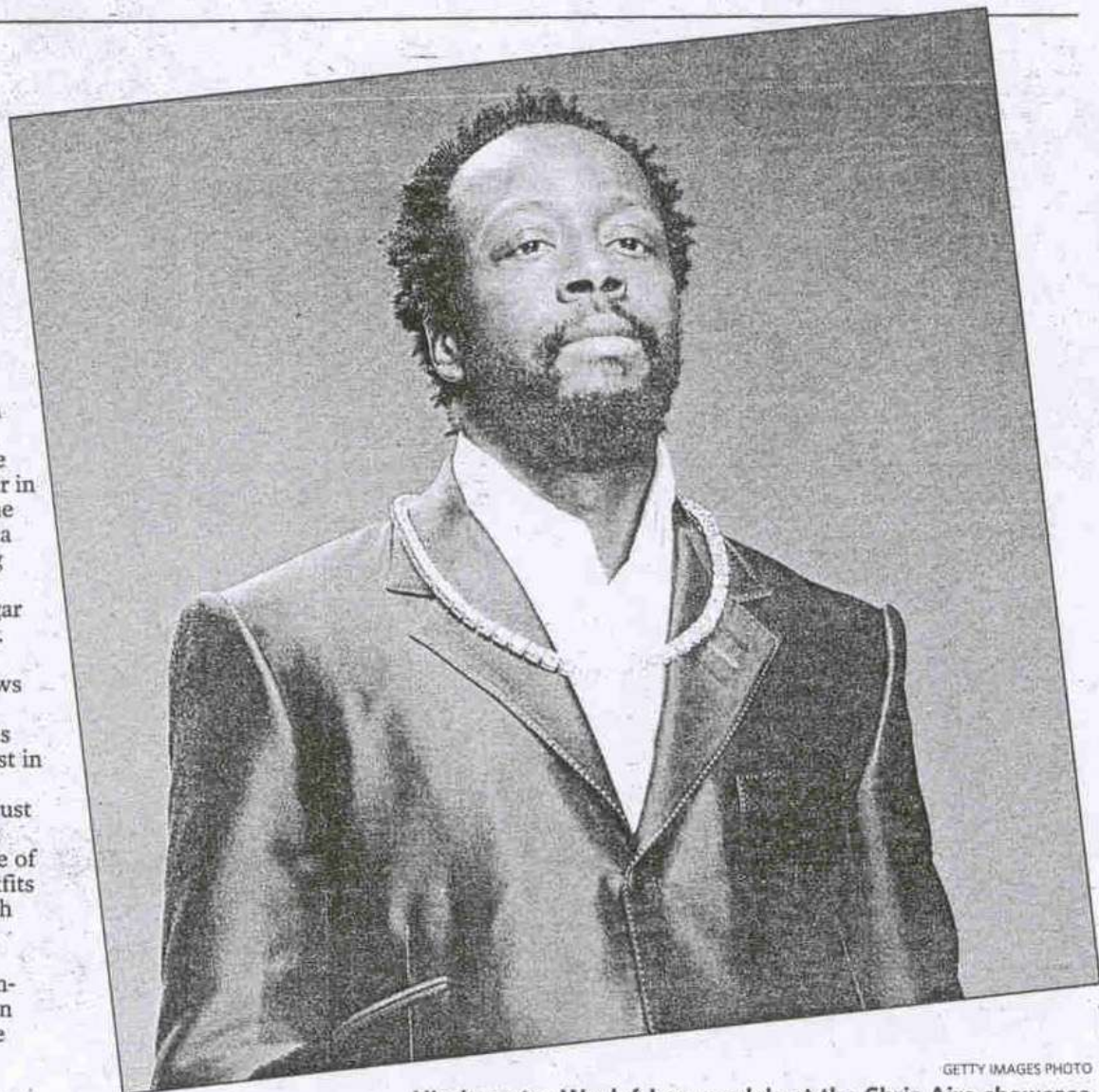
What was silver and gold and read all over? The glitzy and admirably well-informed crowd that turned up at "Iceman" Chris Aire's jewelry show late Tuesday at the New York Public Library.

Wyclef Jean, Tyson Beckford, Selma Blair and Ashanti were on hand to ogle Aire's magnum opus, the Floral Fantasy dress, fashioned from 5,500 diamonds, weighing 3,496 carats — and adding 15.5 pounds to the poor model stuck wearing it.

Clef, who designed the part-Frank Sinatra, part-Nina Simone soundtrack, said his previous visit to the Public Library was a month ago, where he leafed through "The Egyptian Book of the Dead."

"It deals with numbers," he said. "You know, like seven is a lucky number?"

Chromosomal miracle



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Hip-hop star Wyclef Jean models at the Chris Aire showcase during Fashion Week at The New York Public Library.

Tyson Beckford was backstage, looking for chicken and protein shakes. He's trying to add 15 pounds of bulk for "Knuckles," a street-fight flick he's shooting in Newark.

The rarified air reminded him that son Jordan, 7, likes stories about cars and planes.

"The best thing you can do is read to him," said the one-

time Ralph Lauren model. "Where the Sidewalk Ends" — that's Shel Silverstein's classic — "was one of my favorites as a kid growing up, and to see him reading it . . . I just tell him, 'It was read to me, and now I'm reading it to you.'"

Blair, in a vintage tube suit and Aire accessories, fessed

up to an "embarrassing" affection for using the library to borrow books she doesn't want to be caught owning, like romance tear-jerkers.

"I buy the good books," Blair said. "I only check out the smut."

Freelance writer Sharon Bridbord contributed to this column.

Et Cetera

The crystal market. All this talk about depleted oil reserves — but what about Swarovski crystals, people? Will there be any left? Designers (Bartlett, Rodriguez, Lam, Cortazar) seem addicted. Victorinox even glitzed up — get

this — a limited-edition Swiss Army Knife for 250 lucky gift bag getters at tonight's Libertine after-party at the Harvard Club. — **Joseph V. Amodio**

Pool party. Midtown's new uber-hip QT Hotel played host to Charlotte Ronson, whose models lounged around an in-

door pool while a movie screen played Brooke Shields' classic hopped-up-hormones flick, "Blue Lagoon." The modest collection is poolside perfect: ruffle-hemmed peasant sundresses, knicker-length trousers and sweat pants with rope draw-string. — **Amodio**