



## *Christopher L. Evans '72*



Though he was born in 1954 in Bremerton, Washington, Christopher Leith Evans can trace his roots back to Bay Shore and its schools. His mother, Virginia Bartholomew Evans ('50), grandmother, Marion Smith Bartholomew, and great aunt, Minerva Smith Lipp ('22) are also Bay Shore High School alumnae. At Bay Shore High School, Chris was a cartoonist, photographer, and writer for the Maroon Echo. He also played guitar in local rock bands, competed in winter ice hockey, and surfed.

Chris' studies eventually took him to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his Master of Fine Arts, was awarded a graduate fellowship, and taught courses in drawing. He is the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant and was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Academy of Art College, San Francisco.

Chris has also had a multifaceted career as fine artist, motion picture special effects matte artists, and *National Geographic* illustrator. His oil paintings have been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Philadelphia, and his work hangs in private and corporate collections in the United States, Europe, and Hong Kong, and is sold through the DFN Gallery in New York and the Anne Bradford Gallery in California. A special two year exhibition at the New York Historical Society of "*New York: In the Light of Memory*", a 360 degree panoramic view from the south tower of the World Trade Center, has earned widespread public and critical acclaim, and was described as "exhilarating" by the *New York Times*' art critic Roberta Smith.

Chris has contributed numerous matte paintings in movies such as *E.T.*, *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*, and *Titanic*, and worked with film directors such as George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, and Martin Scorsese. Among the scenes he has created are E.T.'s view of Los Angeles at night, the Death Star and Ewok village in *Return of the Jedi*, and the Las Vegas strip in *Casino*. While working for George Lucas's special effects company Industrial Light & Magic during the 1980's Chris received an Emmy Award for *The Ewok Adventure* and in 1985 was nominated for an Academy Award for *Willow*. He was a pioneer in the use of computers for digital matte painting in films, and continues to design and produce occasional shots for films including the recent IMAX film, *Lewis & Clark*.

He has also painted historical reconstruction illustrations for *National Geographic* magazine of ancient cities such as Palenque in Mexico (Dec. 1997), Ashkelon in Israel (Jan. 2001), and Catalhoyuk in Turkey (an upcoming issue) and was included in National Society of Illustrators Annual Show in New York City in 2002.

In 2001 Chris moved from California back to Bay Shore where he now lives with his wife Tamara and son Oliver.