

# TATTOO MASTER

ARTISTS & TRADE ONLY  
ISSUE TWENTY THREE  
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*The Force Unleashed*

CHRIS JONES



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**Chris 51**  
A New H

**TATTOO CULTURE**

Ink-Fusion, Chinese Fa  
Science & Tattoos, Ta  
Integrity, Rebellion Jewe





# THE FORCE UNLEASHED

Hello  
my name is

CHRIS  
JONES

GUEST EDITOR  
INTERVIEW

Chris Jones never wanted to be a tattooist, he always wanted to be a graphic designer... but luckily for us, this all changed when he went to university and realised how boring it was 📺 Chris 51 & Chris Jones 📺 Chris Jones

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## JUST TO GET THE 'TECHY' STUFF OUT THE WAY, CAN YOU GIVE US A QUICK RUN DOWN ON HOW YOU GOT INTO TATTOOING?

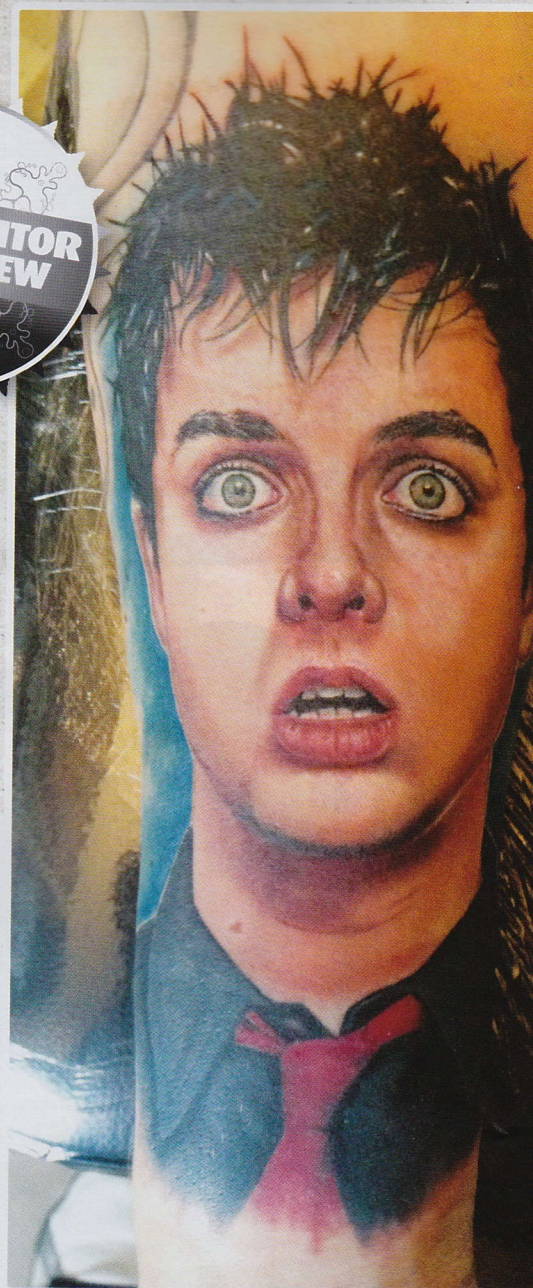
Ah, I always hate this question. I totally got into it the wrong way. When I was 19 I got my first tattoo and was totally blown away by the whole thing. I knew I had to try it so I spent the next few years getting tattooed and researching the whole thing. When I was about 22, I decided it was time to give it a go. The first thing I bought was a steriliser, which was pretty much just a pressure cooker; a prestige pressure cooker. I converted my spare room into a studio, installed a sink, etc., got registered with my local authority and started buying equipment, which in them days wasn't so easy. No eBay, no pre-made needles

or disposable tubes, etc. I went into it with no idea. I had to work out how to solder needles and taught myself about different needle groupings. It was scary shit but I was hooked. I probably spent the first year tattooing myself.

Eventually the planning department of my local authority shut me down and I had to search for shop premises. I found a nice little shop in my local town, and opened That Way Ink Lined. I think I was open for maybe 18 months when Dave Fleet (who was kind of a big thing back then) offered me a job at Abracadabra. I worked there for six years, started doing shows and stuff, then went to Physical Graffiti in Cardiff, where I became co-owner of the shop with Chris Hatton... and the rest is history.

## WHAT IS YOUR SET UP AT THE MOMENT AT PHYSICAL GRAFFITI?

As I said, I am now co-owner of the studio and have been for over five



years. We have just had a major overhaul and the shop is now on three floors. Altogether we have artists (Chris Hatton, Sam Fisher, Tasha Pollendine, David Swann, Davies and Gavin Rose), a piercer, a laser guy (Dan), a receptionist who keeps everything running (Caroline) and an apprentice (Jon Bunny). The shop's been through a lot over the years; a robbery, the kicking out of a business partner, and a few people have been through the shop who didn't fit in—but we have it right now. We have a tight crew. Everybody has their own style and customer base, and it couldn't be any better at the moment.



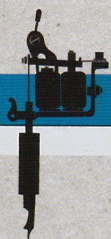


# **CARDIFF TATTOO & TOY CON**

The idea for the Cardiff Tattoo and Toy Con came from me working comic cons in the States, where there is so much more to see and do. So I guess I wanted to bring a little bit of that to the UK. This year's show is going to be Star Wars themed and there's going to be all kinds of Star Wars toys, plenty of Star Wars characters wandering around, a few celebrities doing signings, some comic book artists... as well as 100 of the UK's best Tattoo Artists, obviously.

**EVEN AFTER 13 YEARS OF  
TATTOOING I STILL GET  
EUREKA MOMENTS**





## Guest editor interview

CHRIS JONES

### CHRIS 51

When I first saw Chris Jones I thought what most people might think, who the hell is this freaky dude? Then I saw his smile and saw that it was impossible for him to hide any hatred or judgement behind that chromed-out grill. He immediately became one of my best friends in the world. Chris is a gentle soul and would give you the underwear off his nutsack at the drop of a dime. He is one of the best tattoo artists that I have ever had the privilege of knowing and I am honoured to be a part of this magazine feature on him... and even more honoured to be a part of his life.

### WHAT IS YOUR STANDARD DAY-TO-DAY TATTOOING EQUIPMENT?

At the moment I'm using Cheyenne stuff, totally love my Spirit machine and love the ease of the cartridge system. I really fancy the Inkjecta Flite V2 recently though. And I may get one of those but I am holding out for Bez's new pen style machine that he keeps teasing me with. And of course I use Formula 51 inks, Hustle Butter Deluxe, Electrum Stencil Primer and BLK Powder... all of which I get from Killer Ink Supplies.

### DO YOU THINK THAT ARTIST SPONSORSHIP IS A GOOD THING?

Yes and no. Sponsorships seem to be the new big thing in tattooing and it's a double edged sword. Don't get me

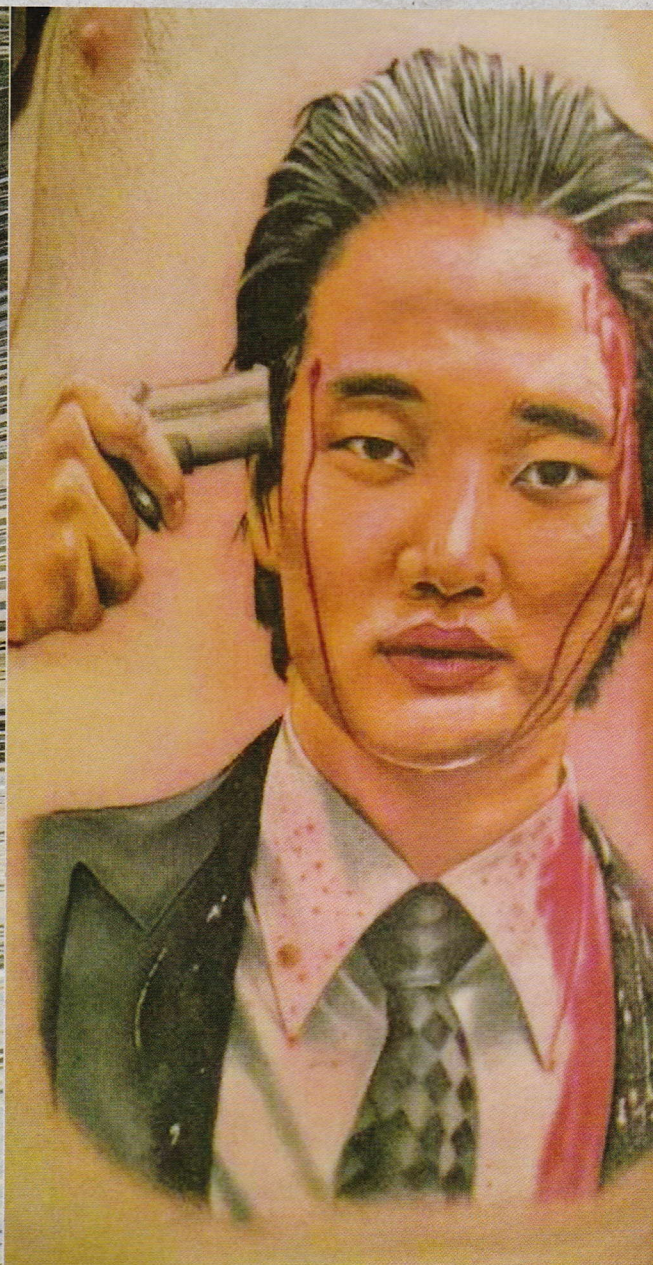
wrong, I feel honoured that people think my work is good enough that they want me to endorse their products, but you do get haters and whiners. As for a family environment, yeah it depends on the company I guess. Formula 51 especially has a family feel to it. We are all involved with the ink, we get samples of new colours and give feedback on them. Which gets listened to! We all critique each other's work and support each other with stuff inside and outside of tattooing. I suppose it's down to the individual, if you're out there at shows

meeting the other sponsored interacting with them online it's going to feel more like a fa

### IT SEEMS IN THE LAST YEAR YOU HAVE REALLY STEPPED UP YOUR GAME TATTOO WISE. IS THAT A CONSCIOUS DECISION OR ARE YOU JUST SMOKING AT THE MOMENT?

[laughs] I don't know about s but yeah I try and push myself time. The past year I think I've got to know more of the peop

## I HAD TO WORK OUT HOW TO SOLDER NEEDLES AND TAUGHT MYSELF ABOUT DIFFERENT NEEDLE GROUPINGS



GUEST EDITOR  
INTERVIEW



Hello  
my name is

# CHRIS JONES

THAT'S WHY I STARTED DOING PORTRAITS I GUESS, IT MADE TATTOOING MORE EXCITING AGAIN AND GOT THE ADRENALINE FLOWING

I look up to and who inspire me. I've talked more to others about technique and colours, I've been thinking more about saturation and the longevity of the tattoo, etc. Even after 13 years of tattooing I still get eureka moments.

**YOUR PORTRAITS BAFLE ME DUDE, SERIOUS PROPS. SINCE YOU DO SO MANY, DO YOU STILL EVER GET NERVOUS BEFORE ONE?**

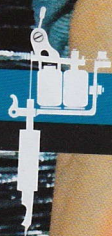
Yeah I guess but not like I used to. I think it's changed from 90 percent scared and ten percent excited to the other way around. That's why I started doing portraits I guess, it made tattooing more exciting again and got the adrenaline flowing. I try to push myself and do things different, experiment and stuff, to keep it interesting ya know. In my mind, even though I do realism, I'm still trying to develop my own style.

**YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE BEST PORTRAIT ARTISTS IN THE UK, DO YOU SEE YOURSELF UP THERE WITH THE BEST OR DO YOU SOMETIMES THINK TO YOURSELF, WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON?**

[Laughs] It is totally a 'what the fuck is going on?' thing. I usually hate what I do, I'm my worst critic and I pick the fuck out of my work. Sometimes I take pictures of stuff and they never see the light of day. I know I'm competent but I don't think I'm the best, no where near. There are so many other artists

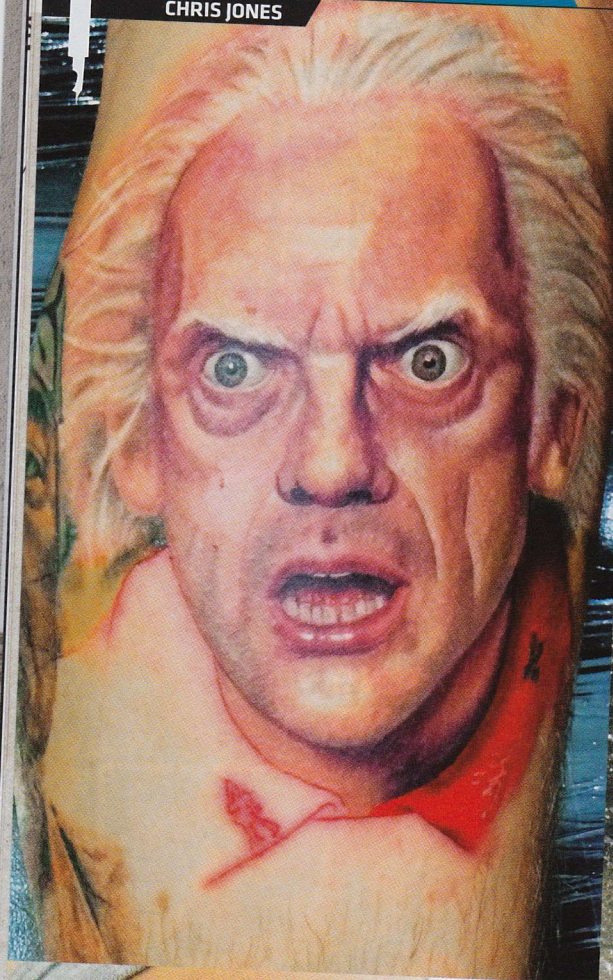






## Guest editor interview

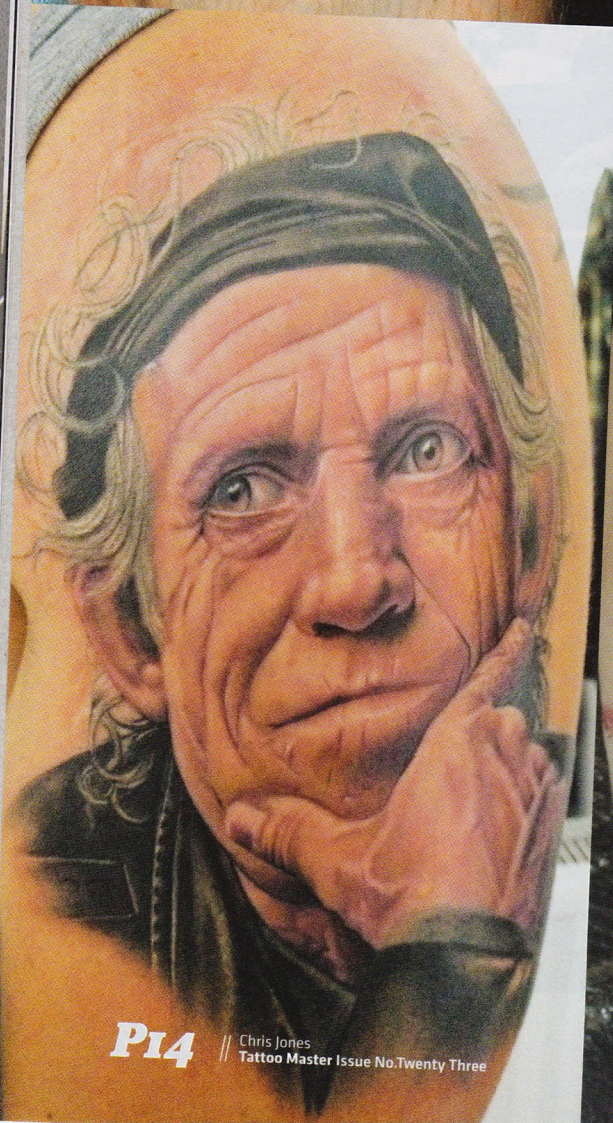
CHRIS JONES



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**A QUESTION THAT  
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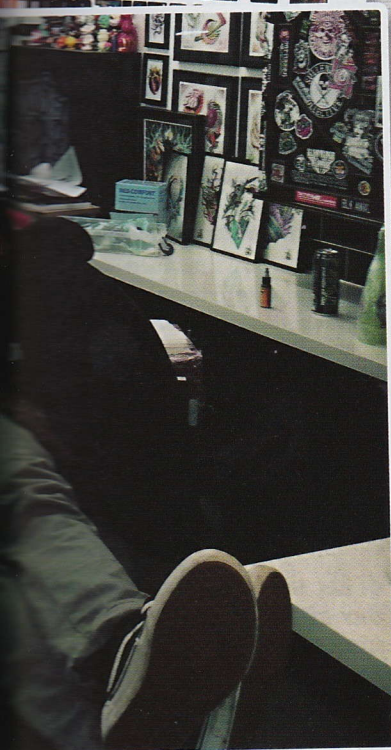
My youth? [Laughs] I  
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as I had never had any







CHRIS JONES TATTOOS.COM



## AT THE MOMENT I'M USING CHEYENNE STUFF, TOTALLY LOVE MY SPIRIT MACHINE AND LOVE THE EASE OF THE CARTRIDGE SYSTEM

anything and when the first thing they give you is safety goggles... I wondered what the fuck I had let myself in for.

**SO YOU MAKE FUN OF ME FOR ONLY DOING FLOWERS AND BIRDS, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID SOMETHING OTHER THAN A PORTRAIT, OR SOMETHING GIRLY? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FEMININE SIDE DUDE... OR TOUCHED A FEMININE SIDE FOR THAT MATTER?**

I may make fun of you yes, but that's just a cover for my jealousy. I've worked next to you at many shows and all you tattoo are hot chicks. My clients are rarely of the female variety, maybe due to my colourful past and me being involved with one or two female clients. I am talking a long time ago. I like to call them the 'good ol' days' [laughs]. I mainly do nerdy portrait tattoos and don't get asked for flowers and that kind of stuff very often... if at all. Thank god.

**IF YOU HAD A BLANK BACK WITH FREE REIN TO DO ANYTHING,**

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Ah jeez man, I don't know. There are so many things I'd like to do. Just something cool and movie-related as it is my favourite thing to do. When someone says 'you can do what you want', it's the hardest thing in the world! My brain explodes with stuff and I can't pick the best one out of that mess. I need parameters, a theme, a favourite movie, a scene, a character. I work better with guidelines.

**TATTOO ANYTHING SUPERHERO FOR \$300 PER HOUR, OR STAR WARS FOR \$150 PER HOUR... PICK ONE.**

Duh! Star Wars. It's not about the money. Most other artists I know tell me I should put my prices up, but I just enjoy what I do. Especially the Star Wars stuff. I've been brought up on it. If I didn't have bills to pay, I'd do it for free [laughs].

**BEING FROM CARDIFF (THE LAND OF DR. WHO) I WOULD THINK YOU WOULD DO MOSTLY THOSE TATTOOS, IS THERE A HUGE DEMAND FOR IT IN TOWN, OR IS IT JUST AN EVERYDAY**

## GUEST EDITOR INTERVIEW

**DAVID CORDEN**

Chris is funny, genuine, honest and also very generous, always willing to share what he's learned with others yet always wanting to learn more himself. He personally doesn't think he's very talented and works hard to become a better person and artist everyday. The only person surprised by his success is Chris himself and that modesty is one of his strengths, pushing him to develop and improve his already considerable talent. I can honestly say with my hand on my heart that he's both the most talented and nicest hermaphrodite I know.



## Guest editor interview

CHRIS JONES

### THING THAT'S NO BIG DEAL?

Yeah you'd think. And if it was true, that would be awesome. Doctor Who is another thing I have been brought up on and I love. I have seriously only ever done one Doctor Who tattoo though. That sucks. Just like Star Wars, there are so many cool things to do, some much awesome imagery. But no, never even done a Tardis.

### I HEARD YOU ARE SUCH A BIG FAN THAT YOU EVEN SLEEP IN STAR WARS PYJAMAS WITH FOOTSIES AND ASS FLAP, IS THIS TRUE?

[laughs] It is true. I do actually own Star Wars pyjamas. If there was such a thing as a Star Wars onsie—with feet and an ass flap—I can assure you I would own one. But there isn't, so I don't. I did manage to find a Star Wars duvet cover in a king size though... probably why I'm still single!

### DO YOU GET BORED WITH DOING SCI-FI THEMED TATTOOS OR DO YOU THINK THE LOVE OF IT JUST KEEPS ON GIVING?

I could never get bored of doing sci-fi stuff. It's my favourite genre and there is so much subject matter to choose from and so much new stuff coming out. As

GUEST EDITOR  
INTERVIEW



## I USUALLY HATE WHAT I DO, I'M MY WORST CRITIC AND I PICK THE FUCK OUT OF MY WORK

long as there are people out there who want to get it done, I'll be fine. I'm lucky that I get clients who want some obscure stuff too and think outside the box. It's not just Boba Fetts every week, although I have done a fair few fucking Boba Fetts!

### FIRST WORD THAT COMES TO MIND...

asshole... oh we haven't started yet, sorry...

**GOD...** zilla

**YOUR CHILDREN...** miss them

**TATTOOING...** my life

**STAR WARS...** my life squared

**MARRIAGE...** could try harder

**MY ASS COOKIE TATTOO...**

getting bigger

**SLAVE LEIA BIKINI...** spaf

**YOU, ME AND JOSH BODWELL HAVE BEEN ON SOME CRUISE ADVENTURES TOGETHER. WHAT'S NEXT FOR US DUDE? WHEN WOULD BE YOUR NEXT CRUISE TRIP AND WHERE DO YOU PLANNED TO WORK IN 2014?**

This is true. I have tattooed guys on more continents of than anyone else. I have the shows planned and I am heading over to the States for a few. I love working those shows. Marc Draven's, Ink Fusion. of on hold though until we what is happening with that TV project we've been working on.

**IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, YOU ARE ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS. WHO ARE THE NICEST GUYS I KNOW. I**



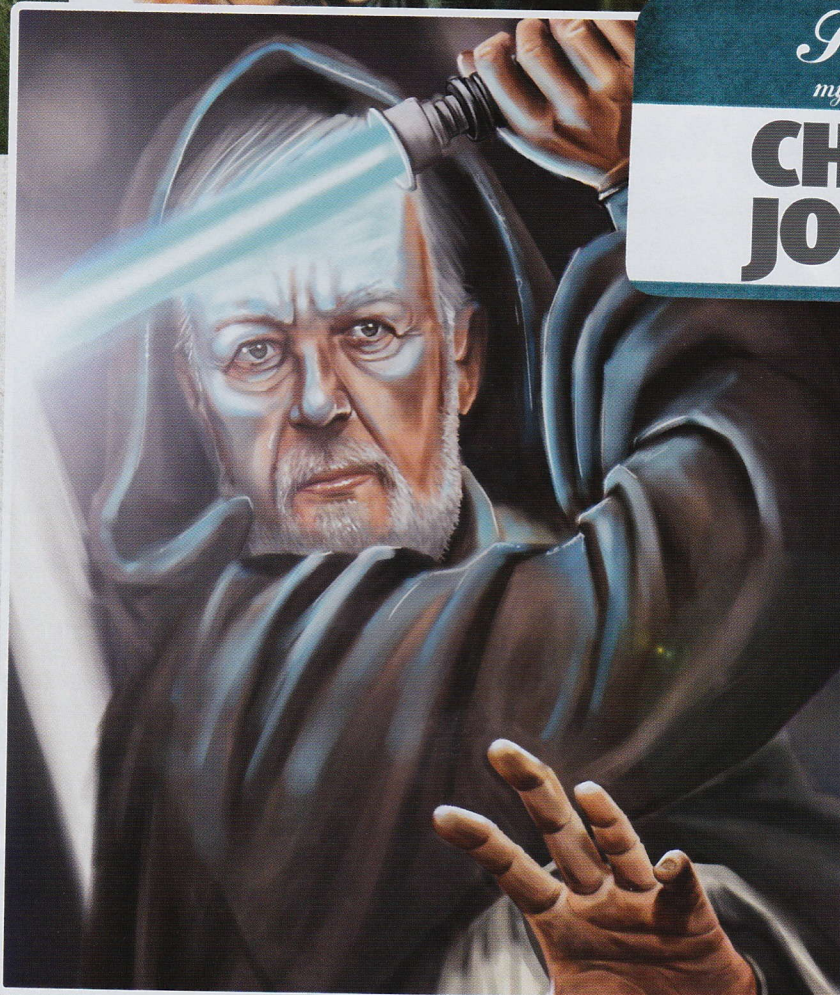


**DO YOU CALL YOU MY HOMIE. I HOPE THAT THROUGH READING THESE PAGES OTHER ARTISTS WILL REACH OUT TO YOU AND GET TO KNOW YOU LIKE I DO. YOU ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO TEACH AND LEARN, LAUGH AND CRY AND READY AND WILLING TO SHOW ANY STRANGER BOTH YOUR JUNK AND TESTICLES.**

[Laughs] Thanks dude. You just reminded me that I flashed my junk at that camera last time I was over [Laughs]. I wish I could have been there to see the editing guys face!

**FINALLY, A QUICK QUESTION FROM TRENT... CHRIS 51 REALLY WANTS TO BE ABDUCTED, ARE YOU UP FOR A LITTLE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL VISITATION?**

[Laughs] He just wants to get his butt probed. If there is any abduction going on, I'll stay up and fly the saucer. I'll leave that butt probing business to you! **TM**



*Hello  
my name is*

**CHRIS JONES**

#### **BEN GADSBY**

Chris Jones is definitely one of the main artists that inspire me every single day. With his insane detail, perfect colour blends and superb realism, he is probably the main inspiration for every up and coming tattoo artist. This man is paving the way for nerds in tattooing to fit in a world that once shunned our kind and now he has helped us come out of the dark and wear our Star Wars tattoos with pride. With people like Chris Jones standing as a representation of the quality of work coming out of the UK, the future is brightly written in the stars for us artists.