

Movie Buff to Sell Amazing £1m Collection of Memorabilia

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dailymail.co.uk - A movie buff is selling his £1 million collection of Hollywood memorabilia – because he could no longer afford to store it all.

Luke Kay's mammoth haul, which includes 16,000 costumes, props from Star Wars and other big screen classics, fills the house he lives in, another one he rents and two storage units.

The collection, which took more than a quarter of a century to assemble, grew so big that it even contributed to the end of his 21-year-marriage in 2006.

And although Mr Kay's new girlfriend, Debbie Mawer, 26, has embraced the items and goes to events dressed in his costumes, the 42-year-old has decided to call it a day.

He said: 'I'm paying a fortune to rent storage units and other properties to keep it all in and it has to stop.

'I would love the collection to go to someone who had as much passion as me for this kind of thing.

'I also collect autographs and I will definitely hold on to those. At least they don't take up too much space.'

Among his treasured items are an original Kit car from 80s hit TV show Knight Rider, which starred David Hasselhoff.

But it is his Star Wars' numbers that take pride of place.

Among the haul are:

Two outfits worn by Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker - one from Star Wars: A New Hope and one from The Empire Strikes Back.

Skywalker's original light sabre from The Empire Strikes Back.

A full-sized moving version of Star Wars baddie Jabba the Hut.

Full-size R2D2 and C3PO robots made from the same moulds as the originals.

An exact copy of the famous gold bikini worn by Princess Leia after she was captured by Jabba.

The distinctive orange flight suit and helmet worn by Skywalker in his X-Wing fighter in The Empire Strikes Back.

The jacket and trousers worn by the same character while he is being trained by Master Yoda during Star Wars: A New Hope.

A piece of Wooky Chewbacca's dark brown fur and a piece of metal from the Death Star spacestation.

Two full-size speeder bikes

Replicas of the outfits worn by Hans Solo and Anakin Skywalker.

Two Chewbacca costumes

Two Bobba Fett outfits and four Stormtrooper costumes.

In his smaller collection from other films, he owns the original mask worn by lead character "Leatherface" in the original 1974 Texas Chainsaw Massacre film.

And the collection includes the plug socket fitted to the back of Keanu Reeves' head as he played Neo in The Matrix.

He also has a full-size model of Nightmare on Elm Street character Freddie Kruger which has been signed by actor Robert Englund.

The extraordinary collection was a cause of friction with wife Sharon, 42, who banned it from the house.

Three years ago they split - and now the costumes and props have completely taken over his new home.

Luke admits that wife Sharon, who he says he remains friends with, thought his collection was "rubbish".

He said: 'I wanted to keep my huge collection all over the house, but she hated it. That's who I am - I need to have my stuff around me.'

'She thought my obsession with the costumes was rubbish, basically. She banned them from the house.'

He today insisted his new partner Miss Mawer 'is fab and now I have the costumes all over my house.'

Yet he decided to call time on his collection anyway.

Mr Kay, a father of four, began collecting movie costumes when he took over his father's mobile disco business at the age of 16.

He called it 'skywalkers' and thought it would add to his act if he wore a Stormtrooper outfit while he was performing.

He said: 'The outfit cost me £3,000 and when I wore it DJ-ing it got a lot of interest.'

'I started hiring it out to people who wanted to wear it at all sorts of events.'

'I saved up another £3,000 and bought a Darth Vader costume and then a Bobba Fett outfit.'

'It just took off - I was buying Batman suits and basically anything I could lay my hands on. Then I got into buying movie props.'

'I have bought things from all sorts of places but most of it comes from the studio where Star Wars was filmed.'

'I have been given lots of the pieces by the actors or designers themselves and most if it is signed.'

In 2006 he gathered together the largest ever collection of original Star Wars cast members at the Marriott Hotel, in Swindon, for a reunion.

In total 27 cast members attended including David Prowse, who played Darth Vader, Mark Austin, who played Bobba Fett, and Paul Blake, who played bounty hunter Greedo.

Luke also owns costumes from Predator, Robocop, Terminator, Aliens and Spiderman as well as scores of other movie related clothing.

The collection includes £47,000 worth of movie backdrops, posters and banners.