

MYTHBUSTERS' BIOS & PICTURES

Tory Belleci “MythBusters”

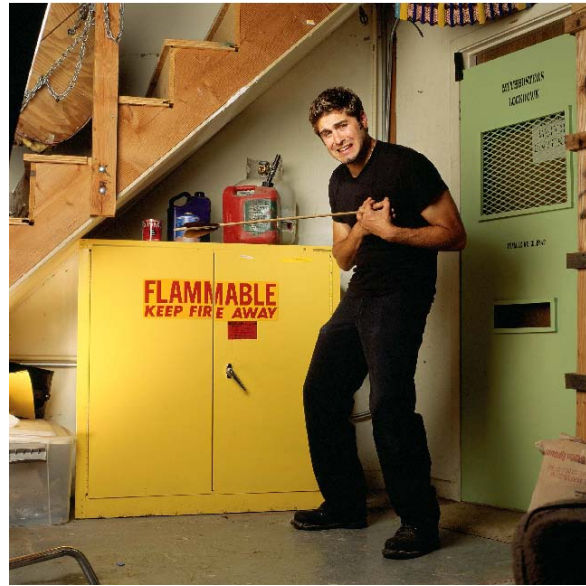
Tory first walked into Jamie Hyneman's workshop in 1994 as a fresh-faced young film student from San Francisco State University looking to start a career in movie special effects. Jamie quickly put him to work buying lunch, sweeping the shop floor and running errands.

But a determined Tory quickly learned all he could and moved up the ranks. Three years later he landed a job with George Lucas' special-effects division, Industrial Light and Magic; one of his biggest projects there was building models for the most recent *Star Wars* trilogy. The Federation battleships and podracers you see in *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones* are some of Tory's finest pieces of work.

Tory's other special-effects work can be seen in the *Matrix* trilogy, *Van Helsing*, *Peter Pan*, *Starship Troopers*, *Galaxy Quest* and *Bicentennial Man*.

When he's not busting myths, Tory's busy dreaming up his own ideas for films and TV shows. One of his short films has already appeared in the Slamdance film festival and on the Sci-Fi Channel.

Tory was born and bred in Monterey, Calif., right near the famous Pebble Beach golf course. He once shot a blistering 15 over par round of 87 there ... then decided special effects was more his game.



Grant Imahara
“MYTHBUSTERS”

Before becoming a Mythbuster, Grant Imahara was an animatronics engineer and model-maker for George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic in Marin County, California. He specialized in electronics and radio control at the ILM Model Shop, and has credits on numerous movies, including Jurassic Park: The Lost World, Star Wars: Episode I -The Phantom Menace, Galaxy Quest, AI: Artificial Intelligence, Star Wars: Episode II -Attack of the Clones, Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, Matrix: Reloaded and Revolutions, and most recently, Van Helsing and Star Wars: Episode III.

He has installed electronics in R2-D2 units for Star Wars Episodes I and II, replacing the halogen light source and rotating color wheel (for the sparkly lights) with a custom microcontroller-based LED circuit that was originally created to make the pulsating lights for the main engines of the Protector, from Galaxy Quest. He also upgraded all of the radio equipment and speed controls to modern standards. Along with R2-D2 Crew Chief Don Bies and Nelson Hall, he is one of only three official R2-D2 operators in the United States.

Grant developed a custom circuit to cycle the Energizer Bunny's arm beats and ears at a constant rate. He performed all electronics installation and radio programming on the current generation of Bunnies. He later became the Bunny's driver and the Crew Supervisor on numerous commercials in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Grant has a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California. He picked up his mechanical skills from the machinists at the ILM Model Shop, many of whom date back to Howard the Duck (1986).

In 2003, Wiley Technology Publishing released Grant's book Kickin' Bot: An Illustrated Guide to Building Combat Robots. At 528 pages long, many combat robot-building enthusiasts regard it as the "bible" for that sport. It has a five-star average customer review on Amazon.com.

Grant appeared on TLC's Junkyard Wars in a two-hour special called "Junkyard Wars Goes to the Movies" as the captain of Team ILM. They created a 13-foot tall R2-D2 out of junk in 20 hours that was equipped with a flamethrower, hydraulic lifting arm and CO2 pneumatic projectile gun.

Team ILM won the competition, which challenged the junkyard machines to destroy a fleet of attacking aliens with their various weapons.

Grant's skill set includes electronics design and fabrication, machining, welding, woodworking, CAD layout, pneumatics, CNC programming, and laser cutting, as well as some mold-making and paint.

