



WHIP TRAINER

ANTHONY DE LONGIS

EVERYONE thinks Batman's gadgets are cool. But despite the awesome new Batdiscs, Batskiboat, and Batmissile introduced in *Batman Returns*, Catwoman steals the spotlight with her mastery of an age-old weapon—the bullwhip. Thanks to Michelle Pfeiffer's trainer, Anthony De Longis, the whip work you see in the movie is all hers. "She does things Indiana Jones didn't even dream

of," De Longis says proudly. "She can crack it out and then wrap it around her own body [*Boff!*], or use it to pull someone's legs out from under them [*Wham!*]. Her first day on the set, she wrapped it around Christopher Walken's neck [*Ouch!*]." Marvels director Tim Burton, "she was able to make it quite beautiful and kind of sexy. I like that."

"In fact," says Pfeiffer, "the whip wasn't meant to be in the movie as much as it is now. It's because Anthony is such a good teacher that I was able to get as good as I did."

While De Longis is actually an actor himself, he admits that what often pays the bills are his "useless skills"—fencing, sword and shield, black-belt karate, boxing, diving, and, of course, the whip. In between acting gigs, he teaches stage combat and character movement at UCLA and coaches actors onstage (Plácido Domingo in *Carmen*) and in film (a bare-knuckle fight in *Far and Away*). For *Batman Returns*, De Longis says he had to teach himself new

tricks just to keep up with Pfeiffer, "my best student ever." Although she says she's "most proud of being able to pick up a handkerchief with the whip," it's not in the movie. Watching her crack the whip, however, is impressive enough. Boasts De Longis, "she can even do multiple crack sequences: 'crack crack ca-crack crack crack.'" *Meee-ow.*

CAROLINE
KIRK CORDERO

CRACK!

Michelle Pfeiffer does things in *Batman Returns*

was my best student ever."

Indiana Jones didn't even dream of," says De Longis. "She

