

The “Other” Shoes of Space Jam on the 15th Anniversary of the Film

By Joseph Manuel

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November 15, 2011 marks the 15th anniversary of “.” Here’s a sneaker look-back.

Saying the Air Jordan XIs are the only worthwhile shoes in Space Jam is like saying Michael Jordan was the only important player on the Bulls. (Bill Wennington, anybody?)

We’re not going to yam on and on about the lawnmower-inspired Space Jam XIs – if you’re reading this you already know the entire history of quite possibly the illest shoe of all-time, and have already seen the movie at least 23 times. But there are other notable gems within the 90s-era journey of clever one-liners (Larry Johnson: “My grandmother could play

better than us”), quizzical cameos, and all-around Looney goodness that is Space Jam.

Blessed with a groovily soulful soundtrack and enough product placement to make any McDonald’s fiend scramble to the nearest Arches, the film was spliced with other notable kicks that are wholeheartedly forgotten in comparison with the XIs.

So on the 15th anniversary of the best film of Michael Jordan co-starring Bugs Bunny ever made, here are seven of the “other” shoes trapped inside the Space Jam continuum, and what became of them.

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Converse Chuck Taylor All-Star (Black/White)

In the opening sequence of the film, a young Michael Jeffrey Jordan works on his already wet stroke during the wee hours of the night, much to the chagrin of his Carl Winslow-ish looking father. As MJ proclaims that he'll one day play for UNC and eventually the NBA, it's apparent that he's rocking a pair of Black Chucks – after all, he did rock the Converse brand in real life early on during his Tar Heel years of tormenting Patrick Ewing.

The All-Stars will pretty much never go out of style, and are quite possibly the most universal kicks ever made.



Air Jordan IX Cleat (All-Black)

Like Lil' Wayne and his rock album, Michael did some unnatural experimenting. However, unlike Dwayne Carter, MJ looked damn good doing it. Here he rocks an All-Black Jordan IX Cleat in a scene where he strikes out after being told exactly what pitches were being thrown at him, and whether or not he should swing at them. Like all Jordan retros, they'll always stay hot, cleats included (the White/Black/True Red basketball-version IXs can later be seen in the movie while Michael practices). Gary Sheffield was recently seen rocking a pair of Cleated IXs, albeit in New York Mets colors.



Nike Air Max CB 34 (Black/Club Purple)

As Dan Castellaneta and Patricia Heaton make cameos as snappy on-lookers in the crowd, Charles Barkley gets snuffed for his powers by the Nerdluks while sporting a pair of Air Max CB 34s in Black/Club Purple. They have been re-released with their convenient heel pull-tab and all and are currently available for \$130 at Finishline.com.



Nike Air Wayup (Black/White)

It would be a shame if Shawn Bradley were rocking a pair of Nike Air Max Penny 1s – almost as shameful as it would be had he been portrayed in a movie as being on the same plateau as Larry Johnson, Patrick Ewing, and Charles Barkley, among others. Oh, wait. Bradley instead rocks a pair of the Penny 1 look-alike Nike Air Wayup mids, which unfortunately have not been re-retroed. Better hit up eBay if you're desperate for a pair of Air Bradleys.



Reebok Swingman Mid (White/Black)

Tyrone Bogues can be seen wearing a pair of mid-cut Reebok Swingmans in White/Black throughout the film, seen here as he converses with his fellow NBA players over the hijack of their abilities. The Swingman (worn by Muggsy on the bottom right) debuted in 1995 and one of its main advertised features was the ability to customize the sneaks on the back by tagging your jersey number with a permanent marker. Like the aforementioned Nike Wayups, eBay is probably your best bet to get a hold of these.



Ewing Athletics The Empire (White/Orange)

After Patrick Ewing and adidas divorced in 1988, Pat created Ewing Athletics and unfurled the Empires – any true sneakerhead would flip to cop a pair of Ewings. They initially retailed for about \$50-70 per joint before falling out in the later '90s. Luckily, Patty can be spotted with a pair of White/Orange Empires throughout Space Jam, as seen above (with a streaking Shawn Bradley about to throw down right behind him). Again, eBay is probably the only sure-shot at swooping a pair of Ewings.



Air Jordan II (1994 Retro - White/Red/Black)

Other than wearing an umbrella hat and getting bested by Larry Bird and MJ at golf, Bill Murray saves the day in a pair of 1994 Retro AJ IIs. Here seen conversing with Daffy about the next play, Murray unexpectedly displays a smooth handle and a Jason Williams Kings-era passing ability en route to slamming the Monstars. The IIs have been released on and off in a variety of color schemes over the years – no word yet on a Bill Murray PE.