

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING MOVIE MONTHLY

DECEMBER 1989 £1.15

# FILM REVIEW

HAVE A GHOSTBUSTIN' CHRISTMAS

80s

A FLICK UP THE  
THE DECADE'S TOP  
FILMS AND STARS

WHO YA GONNA CALL AGAIN?

MICHAEL J. FOX



BACK TO  
BACK AGAIN

ISSN 0957-1795



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12

KEVIN  
COSTNER

BEAUTIFUL  
DREAMER



HORROR: YOUR FRIGHT-NIGHT VIDEOS

PLUS ★ LOU (THE INCREDIBLE HULK) FERRIGNO ★ GARY BUSEY ★ NEW-US FILMS ROUND-UP

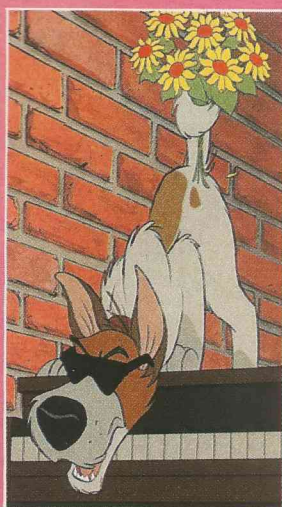
GET AN ALIBI! Her Alibi, Fright Night 2, My Left Foot, Lair Of The White Worm tapes to be won.



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LIFE'S A BEACH, AND THEN YOU CRY. BEACHES ON VIDEO - SEE VIDEO GUIDE

### ON THE MOVE!

FILM REVIEW has moved. The new address is: FILM REVIEW, Orpheus Publications, 4th Floor, Centro House, Mandela Street, London NW1 0DU. The new telephone number is (01) 387 3848.

ABC

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Published by Orpheus Publications, 4th Floor, Centro House, Mandela Street, London NW1 0DU. Tel: (01) 387-3848. Fax: (01) 388 8532. Typeset by Marlin Graphics. Printed by Severn Valley Press. Distributed by Spotlight Magazine Distribution (Tel: 01-700 4600. Telex: 299598 SPOTLT G). Subscriptions, back issues and circulation: Punch Subscription Services (Tel: 0908-71981). FILM REVIEW is an Orpheus publication.

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STAR RATINGS: ★ POOR    ★★ SO-SO    ★★★ GOOD    ★★★★ GREAT    ★★★★★ DON'T MISS

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### NO FUTURE IN IT . . .

There's no Future in this Film Review. No Back To The Future II review, that is. But don't blame us. Blame the movie's makers for not getting their act together in time. At press time, its front and end titles still hadn't been finished. And no press screening was likely until November 19 — five days before the film's opening. And still with dates . . . Earth Girls are Easy, glowingly reviewed last month, has had its release date put back from November to December 22.

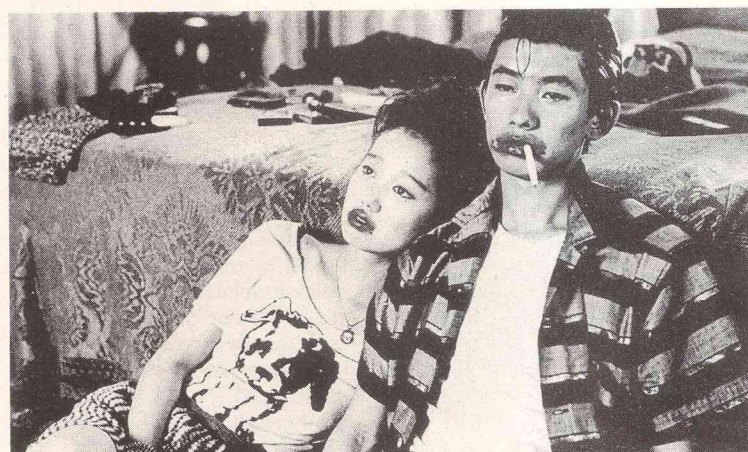
## F I L M O F T H E M O N T H

### MYSTERY TRAIN

★ ★ ★ ★

**STARS:** Youki Kudoh, Masatoshi Nagase, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Nicoletta Braschi, Elizabeth Bracco, Joe Strummer. **DIRECTOR:** Jim Jarmusch. **CERTIFICATE:** 15. **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr 51 min. **OPENING DATE:** December 8.

The tracks of four sets of lives intersect one Memphis night in a trippin' new Train of thought from cult director Jim Jarmusch.



FAGGED OUT: Pilgrims to the shrine of rock 'n' roll

Like the largely naff *New York Stories*, *Mystery Train* is an aggregate of three separately-titled tales.

Unlike the largely naff *New York Stories*, its tales are brilliantly intertwined so that each forms part of a whole that's greater than their sum.

Deep down, the movie's about Elvis Presley. More superficially, it's about a point in place and time when the tracks of four sets of lives intersect.

This 'Clapham Junction' is a single night at a sleazy hotel in The King's home town of Memphis, Tennessee.

More specifically, it's the moment during that night when a single gunshot rings out, and for a fleeting instant, along with the all-pervasive Elvis influence, interlinks the lives of three sets of hotel guests, plus the place's nightclerk and bellboy.

There's a young Japanese couple who've come as pilgrims to the shrine of rock 'n' roll. She idolises Elvis, and will die happy once she's seen Graceland. He prefers Carl Perkins, and has the legendary Sun Studios at the top of his must-see list.

Then, there's a widow who's forced to spend a night at the hotel while awaiting a flight home to Rome with her husband's remains. She rooms with a girl who's just broken up with her Britisher boyfriend, and who's set to leave town without even telling her brother, the local barber. During the night, the widow is visited by the ghost of Elvis.

Finally, there's the fleeing girl's boyfriend who, in a drunken rage, kills a liquor store owner, and lies low at the hotel with two friends, one his girlfriend's brother.

Early in the morning, a single shot rings out. Everyone hears it. Meanwhile, mystery trains roll by, reflecting the fact that the film itself rides a network of rails — intersecting at a puzzle switch, changing routes, and passing from one life to another.

Brilliantly written and directed by Jim Jarmusch, maker previously of cult classics *Stranger Than Paradise* and *Down By Law*, *Mystery Train* represents quirky film-making at its most accessible and entertaining.

Buy a ticket for a first-class ride. And don't miss the *Train*.

david aldrige

### ERNEST SAVES CHRISTMAS

★

**STARS:** Jim Varney, Douglas Seale, Oliver Clark. **DIRECTOR:** John Cherry. **CERTIFICATE:** U. **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr 32 min. **OPENING DATE:** November 17.

When Santa Claus finally reaches the retirement age of 150, he travels down from the North Pole to find a suitable replacement. But, finding it hard to convince people that he really is Chris Cringle, he enlists the aid of a pudding-headed cab driver called Ernest (played by Jim Varney) to help him out. Finally, they find the right chap to take over the job and save Christmas just in the Nick of time.

*Ernest Saves Christmas* could and should have provided festive fun and frolics for all the family. Unfortunately, it has all the excitement and charm of a soggy Christmas cracker. An embarrassment to sit through, it's a sequel of sorts to *Ernest Goes to Camp* (which made a fortune in the States, but which went straight to video here).

The sort of Yuletide romp that even a five-year-old would feel superior to, its plot could have been written on the back of a gift tag. And the jokes that do come off are so few and far between that it makes one wonder why the makers bothered in the first place.



Deadly ERNEST

Jim Varney, as the dim-witted Ernest, does his best to liven things up, but his continuous mugging quickly becomes a pain to watch (he does more in five minutes than Jerry Lewis has in an entire career). Douglas Seale makes a jolly enough Santa, though his replacement (Oliver Clark) doesn't exactly seem full of the Christmas spirit.

If the kids really insist on seeing this, I suggest you go shopping while they do so — it'll be less painful.

A real Christmas turkey.

howard maxford



## FILM OF THE MONTH

### THE DREAM TEAM

★★★★

**STARS:** Michael Keaton, Christopher Lloyd, Peter Boyle, Stephen Furst.  
**DIRECTOR:** Howard Zieff. **CERTIFICATE:** 15. **RUNNING TIME:** 1hr 53min.  
**OPENING DATE:** December 15.

Four mental patients go on a field trip to a football game but become separated from their therapist. Before recapture they get involved in a series of wild antics in the world's biggest lunatic asylum – New York City

From dubious unfunny beginnings, this admittedly obvious comedy generates into a riot halfway through and delivers some of the funniest moments on film so far this year.

Keaton and co play four New Jersey mental patients who lose their doctor and roam free in the Big Apple, getting mixed up in a plot involving murder and bent policemen. You know when the corrupt cops are on the screen because the music turns menacing (yawn!).

Keaton plays the rebel patient, fighting the system that keeps him locked up. It's ironic that the most aggressive member of this quartet also proves the sanest – a sad indictment on our society.

The underrated Peter Boyle is in excellent form as a man who believes he's Jesus.

And Christopher Lloyd is wonderfully subtle as Mr Meticulous and Tidy. The scene where he visits his family is a real heart-breaker.

And then there's the over-emphasized 'sympathy' character, the obese and silent Albert (Stephen Furst). Curiously, though, it's Boyle who receives my pity.

The only flaw is that, whilst at the hospital, these characters look like the simple stereotypes they indeed are, and their various



Beautiful Dreamers: (from left) Lloyd, Boyle, Furst and Keaton

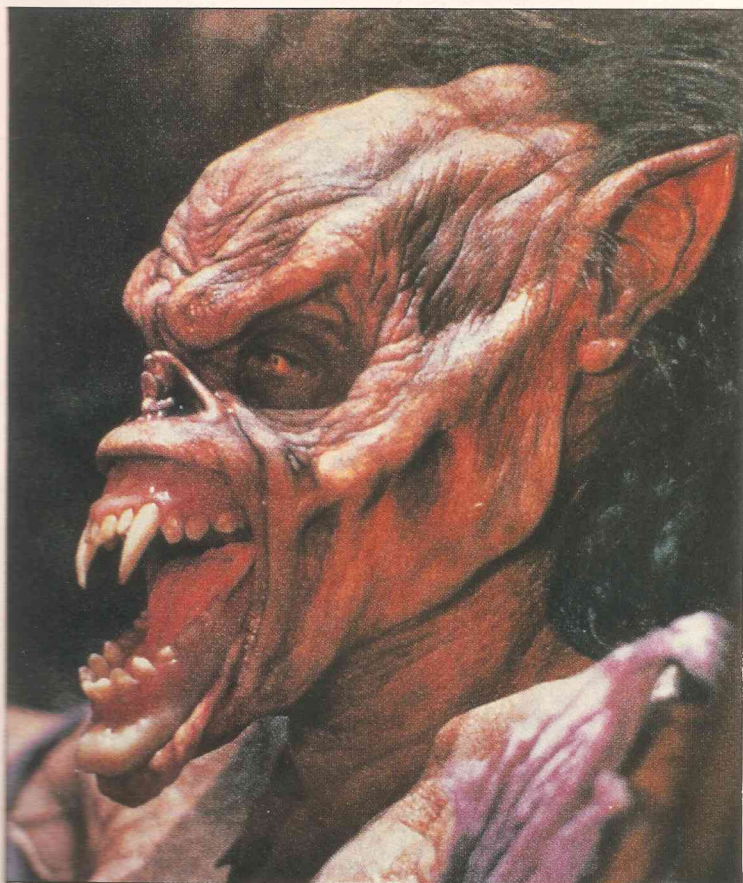
emotional defects seem exploited and stretched just for a few hit-and-miss gags. Only later in New York do they emerge as genuine, and therefore more funny.

However unoriginal the film and its cardboard story, it remains a delight, except for the shaky start. And there's a neat message hidden in it about how we treat and misunderstand the mentally ill.

Recommended, but it still could have been better.

*robert sellers*

## T E N V I D E O S T O B E W O N



Anorexia that's not for the nervosa

### FRIGHT NIGHT II

More "how do you like your stake" – style vampire spoofery, with the teenage hero of the first Fright Night once again the subject of necking of the most unsavoury sort. William Ragsdale and Roddy McDowall reprise their original roles of anti-vamp champ and vampire hunter in Fright Night II, a dead-funny new video from CBS/Fox's subsidiary label, President. **FILM REVIEW** has ten VHS copies to give away. For your chance of staking a claim on one, complete the coupon below, and send it, or a copy, by Friday, December 15, to: Fright Night Competition, Film Review, Orpheus Publications, 4th Floor, Centro House, Mandela Street, London NW1 ODU.

#### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

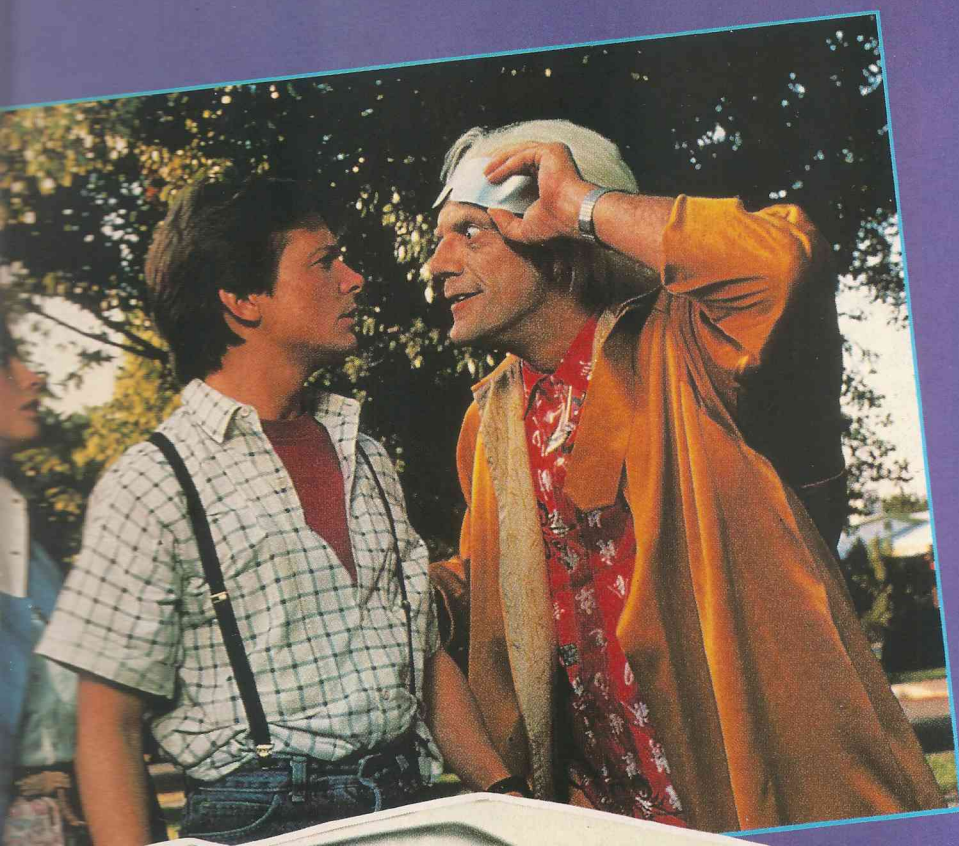
Who played the champ vamp in the first Fright Night? One clue: he has a sister called Susan who's also an actor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send in this coupon, OR A COPY





Cast your mind back.

Back to the first Back To The Future.

At the end, time-tripping teen Marty McFly had barely begun to adjust to his new, improved 1985.

Then, dotty 'Doc' Brown reappeared in the De Lorean time machine in which sex-thimble Marty had just jived back to 1955.

"It's your kids, Marty", cried the Doc. "Something's got to be done about your kids".

And off they went, back to another future.

In Christmas blockbuster Back To The Future 2, which opens on November 24, Marty and Doc return from the year 2015 to find that, once again, their present has been altered.

Only this time it's not for the better.

The once-peaceful town of Hill Valley, California, is now a hellish version of its former self, controlled by none other than Marty's old enemy, Biff Tannen.

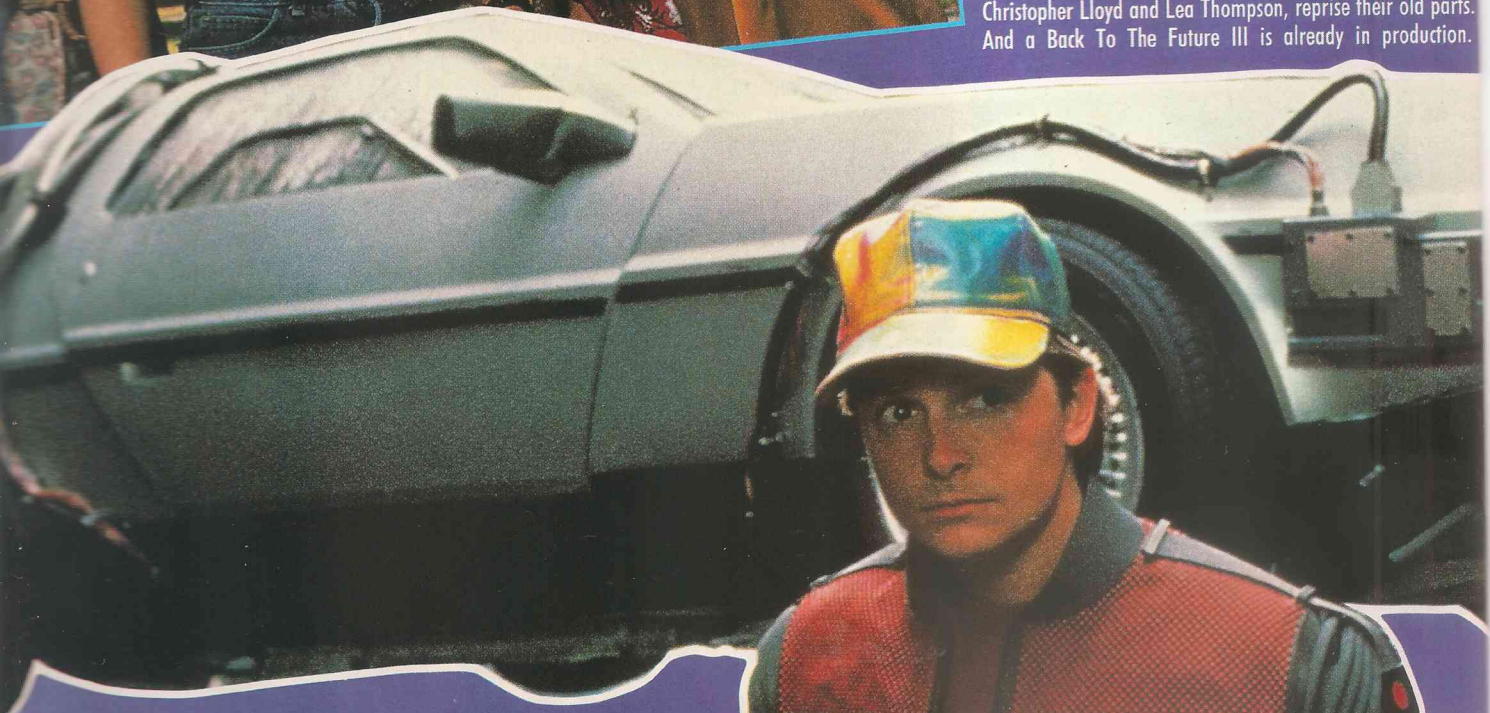
Not only is Biff the world's richest and most powerful man, he's also married to Marty's mother, Lorraine.

Doc has his problems, too. In the new-look 1985, his workshop has been trashed, and he himself has been declared clinically insane, and committed to an asylum.

Marty and Doc are again obliged to climb aboard the De Lorean, and travel back to the past in a bid to restore their 1985 lives to some semblance of normality.

Now watch on ...

All the leading cast originals, including Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd and Lea Thompson, reprise their old parts. And a Back To The Future III is already in production.



*Clockwise from top left: the eyes have it as Michael J. Fox futilely tries to outstare 'crackpot' Christopher Lloyd; Lloyd cornered; and Fox remains unawares as someone lifts his De Lorean time-traveller*





# BACK TO

