

# Lookin

**BACK**   
**TO THE FUTURE**



**PLUS ■ AMAZULU ■ ALIAS THE JESTER ■ MADONNA ■ THE A-TEAM**  
**DEE C LEE ■ SKIING ■ KNIGHT RIDER ■ ROBIN OF SHERWOOD ■ & MORE!**

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How do you make somebody 30 years older in under four hours? Just ask the makers of *Back To The Future*, the smash hit science fiction fantasy film. *Look-in* reveals some of their secrets of time travel here, and on page 18 there's a special low-down on the film's star, Michael J. Fox . . .

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

■ Travelling through time involved a lot of sitting around for actors Lea Thompson (who plays Lorraine Baines), Crispin Glover (George McFly) and Thomas F. Wilson (Biff Tannen), and they all aged dramatically in the process!

The wrinkles were courtesy of Ken Chase, the film's make-up artist, whose job proved one of the most challenging of the entire project.

"George and Lorraine age from 17 to 47 in the course of the movie," Ken tells us, "and that meant they had to spend three-and-a-half hours in the make-up chair every day. You see, it's very difficult to make somebody look like they're in their 40s. Much more so than making a person look 100.

"If I had to do that, I could cover the whole face with latex foam, and there would be no skin visible. It would all be the same texture, and easy to do. But since we couldn't change the appearance of the actors too much we had to use foam rubber against skin, and there was a difference in textures.

## New to old

■ "It was important for the audience to recognise the actors, and if we'd put too many wigs and appliances on them, it wouldn't have looked very convincing."

Production designer Larry Paull had the mammoth task of creating a film set full of buildings that would go from new to old. To this end, he and his assistants

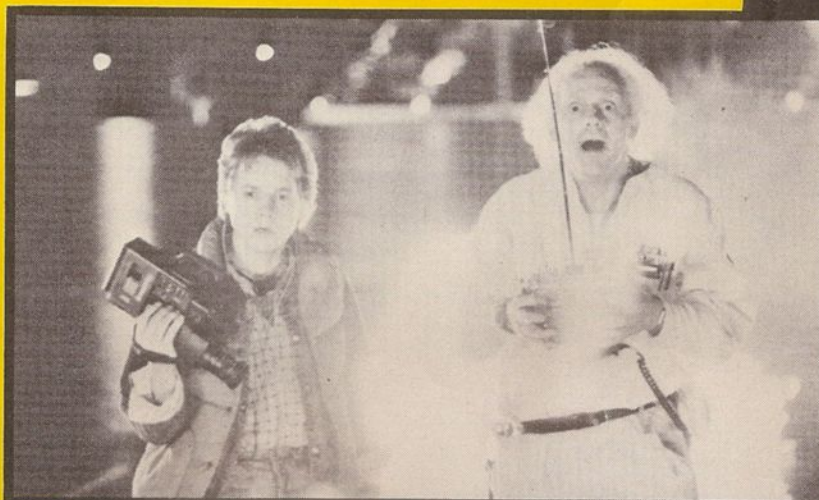
converted a major section of land into an old-fashioned town square. "We had to build a small town that would appear lively and quaint in 1955, and then display the wear of time and change in 1985," he explains.

"To help me with how things looked in the '50s, I looked at a lot of old magazines and photographs of the time."

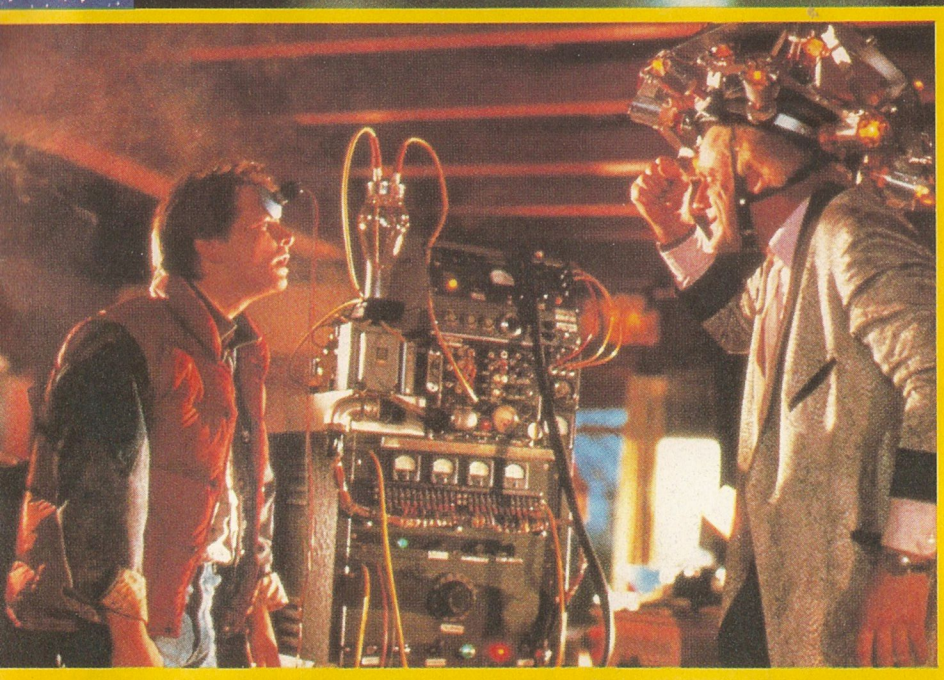
Cars of the day were very important to the atmosphere. "In 1955, foreign cars would not have been seen," Larry adds. "We found some cars from the period we were going back to."

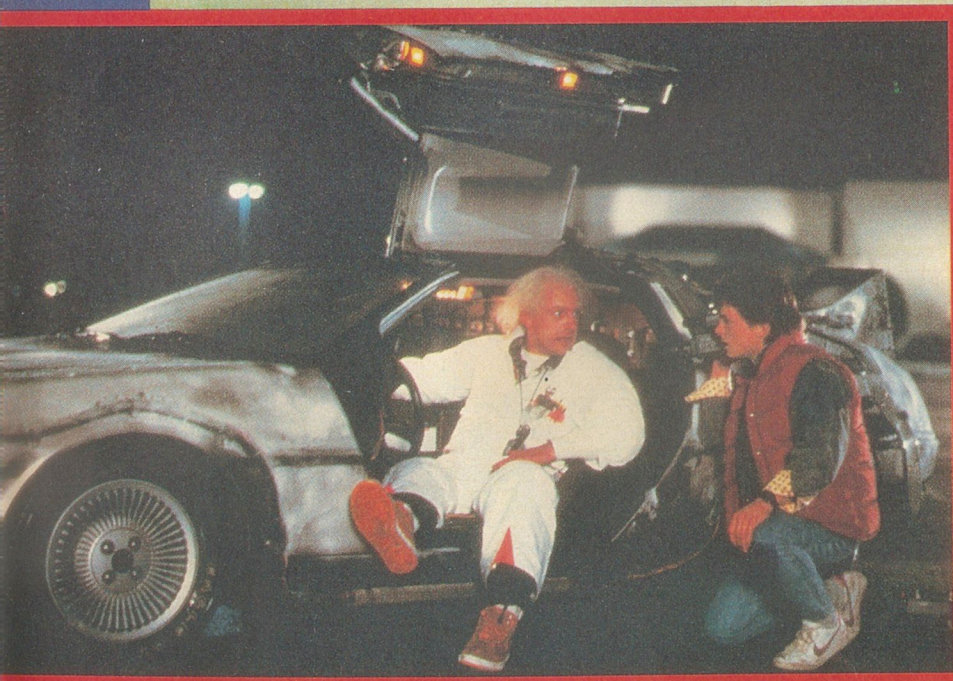
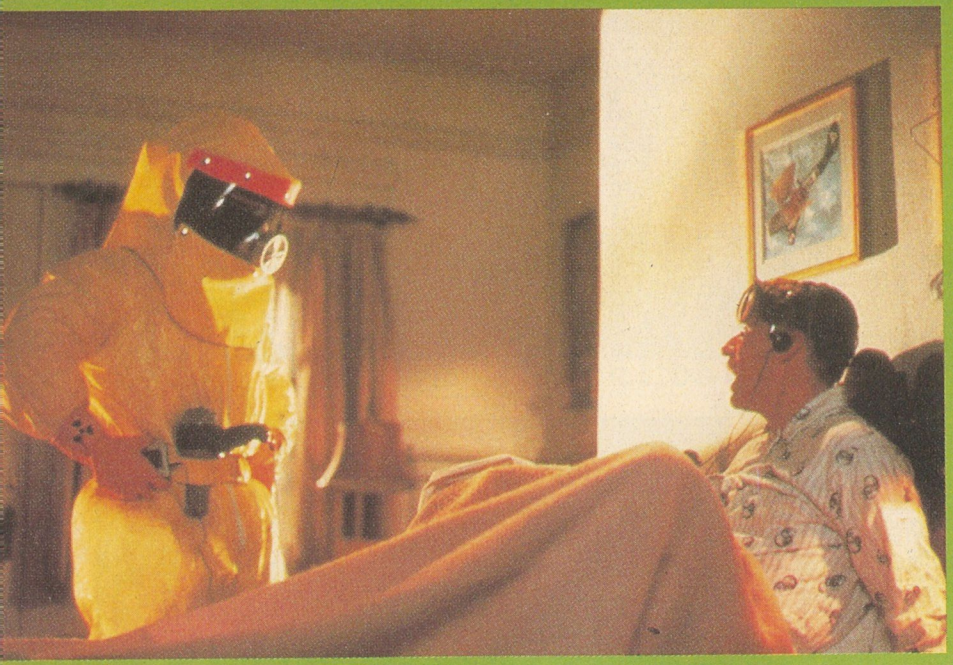
On top of all this, the film makers had to find a car which looked fit to carry Marty McFly swiftly into the past. They finally settled on adapting the shape of the world's most expensive cars: a DeLorean.

Three of them were bought and kitted out with such bizarre accessories as firejets which shoot flames as it surges. . . . *Back To The Future!*



"George and Lorraine had to spend three-and-a-half hours in the make-up chair every day..."  
The ageing process as it affects the elder McFlys...







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■ **Michael J. Fox has made one New Year's resolution he's determined to keep. "I worked my brains out in 1985, because there was so much going on," he tells us. "I call it my year of living dangerously! This year, I've promised myself I'll take things a bit easier."**

It's hardly surprising that Michael feels he needs a break after making three TV films and two feature films in the past year! For one hectic eight-week period he was working on two projects at the same time.

Michael explains: "When they asked me to play Marty McFly in *Back To The Future* I was busy playing Alex Keaton in *Family Ties*." (That's the top-rated American TV series which shot Michael to stardom.) "So, after a full day on that show, I'd report to the Universal studios and work into the early hours on the film.

"It was absolutely exhausting. I had to crawl into work on more than one occasion. It was also very confusing playing two roles one after the other. I'd sometimes almost forget who I was supposed to be: Marty, Alex, or just plain old me!"

## Early drama

■ Michael's drama teachers at college obviously never dreamed he'd be in such demand. "They failed me at drama!" he says. "Can you believe it? At the time, I was about 15 and in a hit play called *The Shadow Box*, and a popular

TV series called *Leo And Me*. Yet I failed drama because I wasn't there one day to put a bag over my head and crawl across the room backwards, humming. I'm serious! It was ridiculous."

Michael, who comes from Edmonton, Canada, certainly couldn't be accused of not being versatile.

"I made a film last year about this kid growing up in Los Angeles and turning into a werewolf," he says. "It was called *Teen Wolf*, and it was a box office hit in America. It was great fun!"

Michael has been so busy lately that when he actually gets some spare time he's not too sure what to do with it! "Oh, I do little things," he says. "Like watching sports, or going to the fridge, opening it, looking around, not seeing anything to eat and then closing it again! You've got to understand that I haven't had much time to relax lately."

He is, however, a keen follower of ice hockey. "I like both spectating and playing, and I've got the scars to prove it," he says.

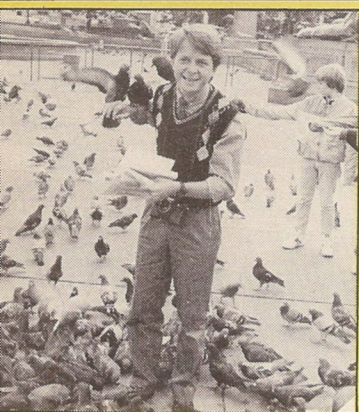
Another of Michael's interests is the past, which is quite fitting for a time travelling actor. And he says that if he was given the chance to go back through the years it wouldn't be to the 1950s, as in *Back To The Future*. He'd go for something a little further back.

## Dangerous times

■ When I was in England last year, I spent some time in a pub that dated back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I," he says. "I wondered what it would be like to sit around and talk with the highwaymen who frequented the place then. That would be very interesting, and maybe even dangerous."

As for his own future, Michael's ambition is to produce and direct films, as well as act in them. "I'd love to become as successful as Steven Spielberg," he says. That would be just great . . .

★ **Look out for Michael next in *Born In The U.S.A.*, a film about a rock singer. It was seeing the script for the movie that prompted Bruce Springsteen to write the song!**



# HE'S JUST PLAIN OLD MICHAEL!

Michael J. Fox is tying in his *Back To The Future* success with starring spot in *Family Ties* on Channel 4 (Saturday, 6.00pm). Recently he was in London with the rest of his TV family to do some filming for the series. Michael and the team didn't stay long, though. They really had to McFly...

