

# Look In

*Yo, summer!*

## NEW KIDS ON THE BEACH

**BACK TO  
THE FUTURE**

*Who's Biff?*

**AMERICAN  
FOOTBALL**

*UK style*

**CRAIG  
McLACHLAN**

*Sing up!*

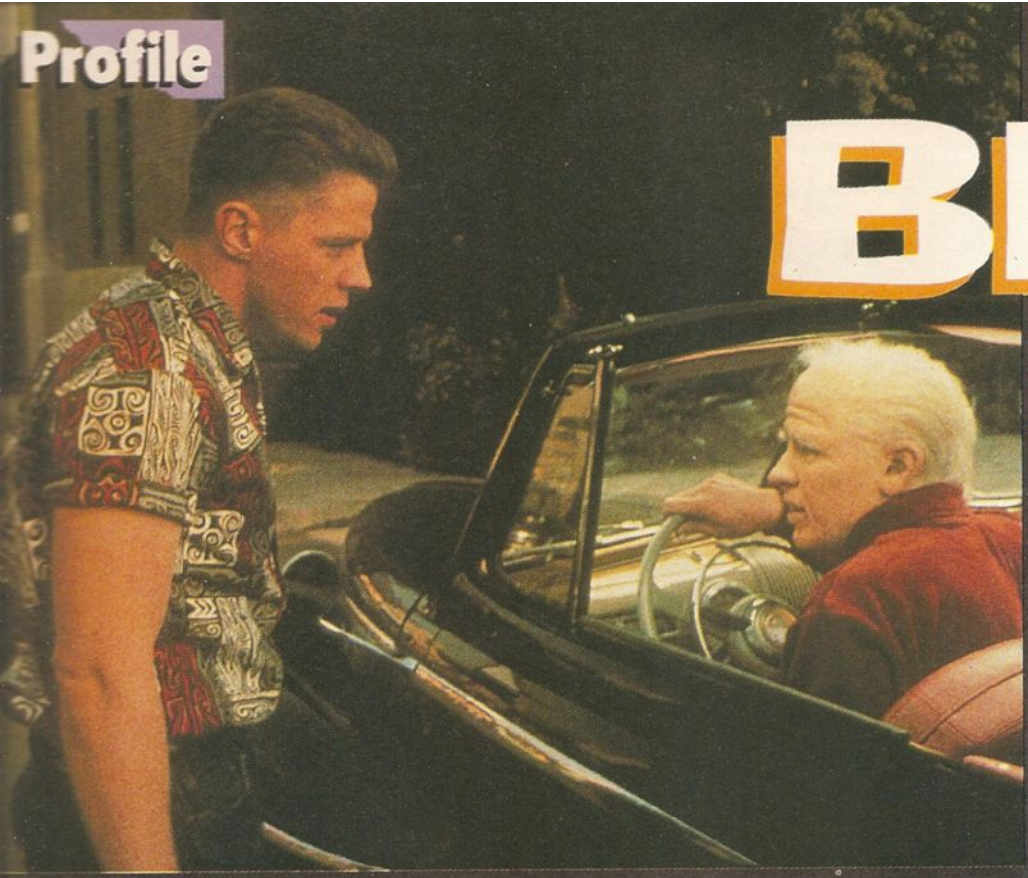
**AND LOADS  
OF GOODIES  
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JUNIOR TVTIMES No 31  
4 AUGUST 1990 PRICE 35p





# BIFF!

★ If you're a fan of the *Back To The Future* movies, you'll recognise these faces easily enough. But how much do you know about the actor behind all those horrid Tannens? Like his name, for instance . .

■ It's Thomas F ('Tom') Wilson. He's 30, he's the dad of two young daughters and he grew up in Philadelphia, USA, where his father was a lawyer and his mum a singer.

■ Before he made the first *Back To The Future* film in 1985, he was working as a comedian, being a guest star on TV shows, and doing commercials.

## Biff the Baddie

■ Since then he's become famous as the teenage Biff in 1955, adult Biff in 1985, crumbly old Biff, and Biff's grandson Griff in 2015.

■ Now he's got cinema audiences booing all over again with his portrayal of Biff's mean ancestor, outlaw cowboy Buford 'Mad Dog' Tannen. This time hero Marty McFly, played by Michael J Fox, travels back in time to 1885 and is almost immediately challenged to a gunfight by 'Mad Dog'.

■ 'I'm even more of a bad guy in *Part III* than I was in the other two,' says Tom Wilson. 'But I think that's fantastic. I love playing mean, nasty characters.'

## Mad Dog

■ Tom's character 'Mad Dog' is

actually the original Biff's great-great grandfather and his behaviour makes audiences realise why every member of his family has been a bully ever since.

■ "He really is a nasty piece of work," says Tom. "He's a filthy bearded outlaw who'd shoot a man as soon as look at him!"

## Complete Chaos

■ Tom says playing 'Mad Dog' Tannen in *Part III* was easy compared to his previous role acting as different members of Biff's family in *Part II*. "That was complete chaos," he explains. "On some days I had to spend six hours in the make-up chair being changed from role to role.

■ "Sometimes it got so confusing that I wouldn't really know who I was playing that day until I looked in the mirror after they had put the make-up on. Then I would just say to myself: 'Oh, I'm him today... great.' On one day I would be the young Biff and on another Biff when he was grown up. It was very strange and the make-up was incredible."

## Covered in Plastic

■ "I was literally covered in false, plastic coverings over my head and all the way down to my chest at one minute and then they would take all that off and fit me out in a custom-made fat suit! After all that, playing, 'Mad Dog' was a pleasure. All I had to do was put on a false beard and smear a bit of dirt on my face."

## Growing up

■ Tom says he's nothing like Biff in real life. "Actually I was bullied at school myself," he says. "I was much more like Marty McFly than Biff. I had asthma, was on the debating team and played the tuba in the school band. There was a whole gang of people in school who liked to hit me. And as I got older, the circle of people kept widening. They were quite bad times for me but you try to just get on with life."

■ Tom says that after he became famous he was invited back to a school reunion with his old bullying classmates. He thought about going but says he decided not to in the end.

## Being a bully

■ Even though he plays a bully in the films, Tom hates the thought of bullying in

real life. "Bullies are jerks," he says. "And they deserve to be punished for their whole lives. I just couldn't forgive bullies at school for what they did."

## The future

■ Could there possibly be any more *Back To the Future* stories, even though *Part III* has been called the final one?

"I would be the most surprised person on Earth if it happened but I wouldn't want anyone else to be Biff if it does. I am Biff. By the end of three films. You're talking to the director and you want to say 'Hey... wait a minute. I am Biff... I know what this guy would do now'."

## Horsing around

■ The role of 'Mad Dog' did cause some problems for Tom. He could hardly ride a horse and had to take lessons before he was ready for the role. "I took riding and roping lessons for the part. At the end of the training I was ready for a cattle drive to Montana!"

■ "Initially, it was a scary thing. I learned to canter but that's not what they want in a cowboy movie. They want you flying along





at a gallop," he says. "It was like a schoolboy dream, being a cowboy in a movie. I studied with the best horsemen there are and I was riding what can best be described as a bucking bronco!"

#### ★ Working overtime

■ "It was an 18 hour day. I would get home at 9pm and be called to start all over again at 3am.

■ "I was so tired I had to eat really quickly in order not to lose precious sleeping time. I was just shoving food in my mouth and going to sleep. I have never been so exhausted but I'd do it all again!"

