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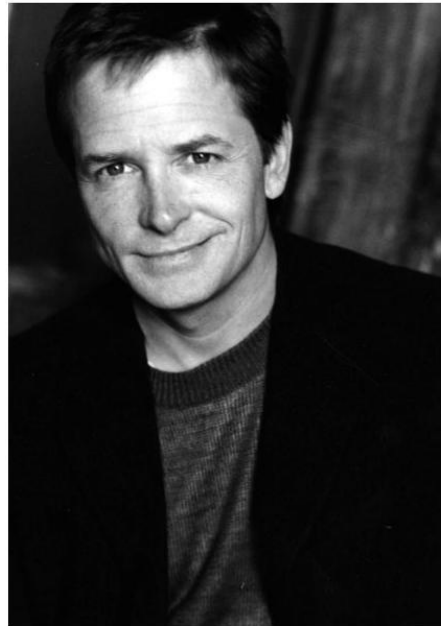
Michael J. Fox ~ June 9, 1961

By Ronald Wolf
Jun 09, 2010

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With more Canadian actors coming out of the woodwork, Michael J. Fox is no stranger to the list of Canadian actors. He is best known for Back to the Future trilogy and TV shows Family Ties and Spin City.

Michael J. Fox is a [Canadian-American](#) actor, [author](#) and [voice-over artist](#). With a film and television career spanning from the 1970s to the present, Fox's roles have included [Marty McFly](#) from the [Back to the Future](#) [trilogy](#) (1985-1990); [Alex P. Keaton](#) from [Family Ties](#) (1982-1989), for which he won three [Emmy Awards](#) and a [Golden Globe Award](#); and [Mike Flaherty](#) from [Spin City](#) (1996-2000), for which he won an Emmy, three Golden Globes, and two [Screen Actors Guild Awards](#).

Fox was born Michael Andrew Fox in [Edmonton, Alta.](#), the son of Phyllis, an actress and payroll clerk, and William Fox, a police officer and member of the Forces. Fox's family lived in various cities and towns across Canada because of his father's career. The family finally settled in the [Vancouver](#) suburb of [Burnaby, B.C.](#), when his father retired in 1971. Fox attended [Burnaby Central Secondary School](#), and currently has a theatre named after him in [Burnaby South Secondary](#). At 18, he moved to [Los Angeles](#) to pursue an acting career. He was discovered by producer Ronald Sheldo and made his [American television](#) debut in the [television movie](#) [Letters from Frank](#), credited under the name Michael Fox.

He intended to continue to use the name, but when he registered with the [Screen Actors Guild](#), which does not allow duplicate registration names to avoid credit ambiguities, he discovered that [Michael Fox](#), a veteran [character actor](#), was already registered under the name. As he explained in his [autobiography](#), [Lucky Man: A Memoir](#), and in interviews, he needed to come up with a different name. He did not like the sound of Andrew or Andy Fox.

He decided against using his middle initial because he didn't want to fit into a Canadian [stereotype](#), as in Michael Eh? Fox, and because he did not want teen fan magazines referring to him as Michael, A Fox He decided to adopt a new middle initial and settled on J, in reference to actor [Michael J. Pollard](#). Sometimes he jokes that the J stands for Jenius or Jenuine.

[Brandon Tartikoff](#), one of the show's producers, felt that Fox was too short in relation to the actors playing his parents, and tried to have him replaced. Tartikoff reportedly said that "this is not the kind of face you'll ever find on a lunch-box".

After his later successes, Fox presented Tartikoff with a custom-made lunch-box with the inscription "To Brandon, this is for you to put your [crow in](#). Love and Kisses, Michael J. Fox". Tartikoff kept the lunch-box in his office for the rest of his NBC career.

Fox starred in the following movies: [Doc Hollywood](#), [The Hard Way](#), [For Love or Money](#), [Life With Mickey](#), [Greedy](#), [The American President](#), [Mars Attacks!](#), and [The Frighteners](#).

Fox is also known of his voice overs in these films: [Stuart Little](#), [Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey](#), [Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco](#), and [Atlantis: The Lost Empire](#).

Additionally, his [prime time](#) special based on [The New York Times Best Seller](#) [Michael J. Fox: Adventures of an Incurable Optimist](#) aired on [ABC](#) on May 7, 2009. He recently released a book titled [A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future: Twists and Turns and Lessons Learned](#). The book was released in April 2010. He guest starred on The Colbert Report on May 4, 2010 to promote it.

In 2006, Fox starred in a [campaign ad](#) for [Claire McCaskill](#) expressing her support for [stem cell research](#). In the ad, he visibly showed the effects of his Parkinson's medication.

On March 5, 2010, Fox received an [honorary doctorate](#) in medicine from [Karolinska Institute](#) for his contributions to research in Parkinson's disease.

Fox, like a lot of Canadian actors not only act but supports many great causes throughout the world to make this planeta better place to live in.

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