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The Future Is in Trouble — Once Again

By
Daniel J. Lyons

The DeLorean is back, so are Marty and the Doc. This time it's not only Marty's future that's in trouble, it's the future of all existence.

The action of this movie begins precisely where the original left off. If you saw the first Back To The Future, you'll remember that in the final scenes Doc, Marty, Jennifer, and the DeLorean zip off into the future. They arrive in the bright and hopeful year of 2015, where Marty must stop his own son from ruining the rest of his life by joining a gang headed by Biff's grandson Griff. After he completes this task, Marty decides to make a little money from

his trip and purchases a book. The book is entitled "GREY'S SPORTS ALMANAC, 50 years of sports statistics 1950-2000," a book that is destined to become very important in the near future (or past depending on your point of view). When Doc discovers the book, he angrily informs Marty that he did not invent the time machine for financial gain, then throws it away. Seconds later, the Biff of 2015 picks up the almanac and follows Doc and Marty. But, while Doc and Marty are busy saving Jennifer from her future family, Biff steals the DeLorean and gives the almanac to himself somewhere in the past. This act creates an alternate time line which

Doc and Marty must return to its normal state. This is where the action really begins.

Back To The Future II has one of, if not the, most well thought out intertwined plots that I've ever seen in a movie. Go to the bathroom before you see this movie, because if you miss one part of the movie's plot, you'll get lost in its many twists and turns. Doc, Marty, and the DeLorean zip through this movie so fast that you're barely given time to blink. It's delightful to see a movie that depends on a strong plot rather than the sex appeal of its star.

The reason behind starting Future II right where the first film left off is, according to Robert Zemeckis (the film's director), to capture the feel of an old-time serial. Hence, if you didn't see the first film you will not truly enjoy the second.

The first Back To The Future started the action, set up the characters, and introduced the basic premise. The second Future takes the time travel idea and develops it into a complex, original series of events. The third (Yes, third. Future II and Future III were filmed at the same time) will complete the

trilogy when it's released this summer.

The acting by Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd is superb, the chemistry that made the first movie so successful is still there. Lloyd again plays Doc Brown as the "wild-eyed," lovably eccentric mad scientist with the grace and ease that he so successfully brings to all of his characters. Continuing to accept Michael J. Fox as the teenaged Marty McFly is admittedly difficult, but his acting abilities and an extremely strong script will persuade you to accept this full-fledged adult as an energetic teen.

To further add to the quality of this movie, Industrial Lights and

Magic's special effects give this movie a feel of concrete reality. In the future scenes cars fly, holographic sharks attack, and hoverboards hover as if these were completely normal things which happen all the time. In this movie ILM didn't forget a single miniscule detail, from brand names to the eternal clock tower. While the DeLorean is flying, even the glowing lights on the dash board can be seen through the windows.

I give this movie my strongest recommendation, with a small suggestion. If you haven't seen the first film, see it. If you have seen the first film, go to the second, sit back, pay attention, and enjoy.