

# BACK TO FUTURE THE MUSICAL



## SENSORY SYNOPSIS

FOR

BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL

ADELPHI THEATRE

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## ABOUT THIS SENSORY SYNOPSIS

This sensory synopsis is written to help you prepare for your visit to see **Back to the Future The Musical** in the West End.

This resource will help you get to know some of the characters and explain what is happening in the show.

Be warned, this does include some plot spoilers. If you'd rather keep it a surprise, don't read this!



**This icon appears when the content might be sensorily overwhelming, particularly technical elements like sound and light.**



**This icon appears in places that might be emotional, frightening or sad.**

You can find information about the Adelphi Theatre in the accompanying Visual Story, to help you know what to expect at our venue and to find your way around.

Live theatre is exciting. It can be loud, bright, shocking at times, and occasionally some of the effects we use, or the themes our show explores, can be upsetting or surprising.

**Please be aware that while this is a relaxed performance and we have made significant adjustments to sound and lighting, there will still be parts of the show that generate 1.21 gigawatts of spectacle.**

**Some of it will be loud and bright, and might still be challenging.**

Whilst we want to make the show as accessible as possible for you, we also think it's important to give you the full, electrifying Back to the Future experience. The show is big, loud and exciting – sometimes at 88 miles per hour! – and we want you to be able to enjoy that as fully as possible, while still feeling comfortable and safe.



There is a Visual Story and this Sensory Synopsis to help you prepare and let you know where the more overwhelming parts in the show are.

There is a range of other support in place, including:

- ✓ Booking support to help you book the right seats for your group's needs
- ✓ Resources available to help you prepare - Visual Story and Sensory Synopsis
- ✓ Adjustments to sound and light
- ✓ House lights will be kept on (but low) during the performance
- ✓ Building adjustments and chill out zones around the theatre
- ✓ Friendly staff, cast and theatre teams who have received training on how they can support you
- ✓ Relaxed theatre rules
- ✓ An invitation to come and go as you need, and enjoy the show

Remember, if you're overwhelmed at any time, you can do whatever helps you. You can leave the auditorium temporarily and come back in when you are ready; you can wear noise-cancelling headphones; you can move to a different part of the room; you can play with a fidget toy or gadget.

Whatever helps you is ok and Hill Valley will welcome you!

You can see the [trailer here](#)

This production features:

- ✓ Bright lights, flashes, lightning effects.
- ✓ Themes of bullying and exclusion
- ✓ Live music and sound effects that will be loud at times.

Many adjustments have been made to reduce the more overwhelming parts but please expect this show to be loud and bright.

If you have ear defenders and like to wear them in loud places, we would recommend bringing them with you.

The running time is: 2 hours, 45 minutes including a 20-minute interval (a break in the middle of the play).

If you would like any more information or have any questions then please contact the Box Office on **020 3925 2998** or email **[access@adelphitheatre.co.uk](mailto:access@adelphitheatre.co.uk)**

## SYNOPSIS (A SUMMARY OF THE STORY)

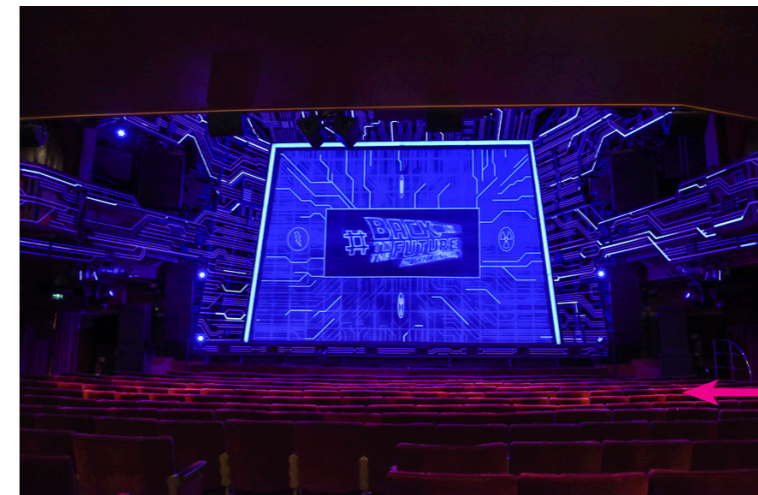
The story is set in the 1980s and the 1950s.

Marty (McFly) accidentally gets transported back to 1955 in a time machine built by Doc Brown, an eccentric scientist.

He accidentally changes the course of history by interfering with the way that his parents meet at the high school dance.

Marty has to race against time to fix the present, escape the past and send himself... back to the future.

## THE SET



When you come into the theatre, before the play starts, you will see all of the seats in the auditorium and the parts of the set that reach out into the auditorium. They are lit up in blue lighting.

Once the show starts we see lots of different scenes and sets. We see them in 1985 and also in 1955, so they look similar yet different. In 1955 everything is much newer, but in 1985 it is a bit more run down. These include:



### Doc's Lab

The lab is full of equipment, broken parts and general bric-a-brac from Doc's experiments!

## Hill Valley High School



## Hill Valley Square



## The Diner



## The McFly's House



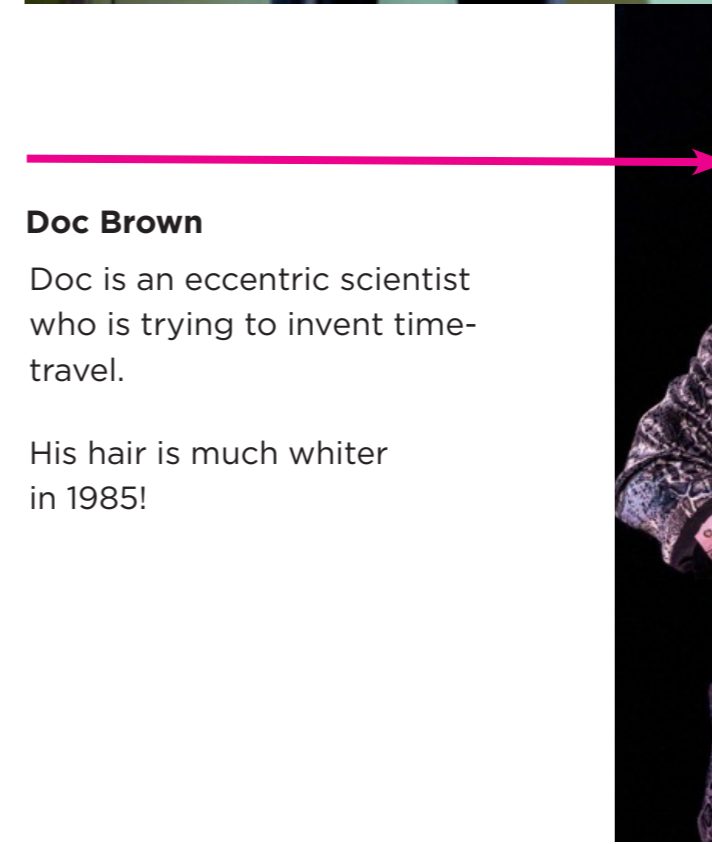
# CHARACTERS



## Marty McFly

Marty is the main character; he is 17 in 1985 and accidentally gets sent back to 1955.

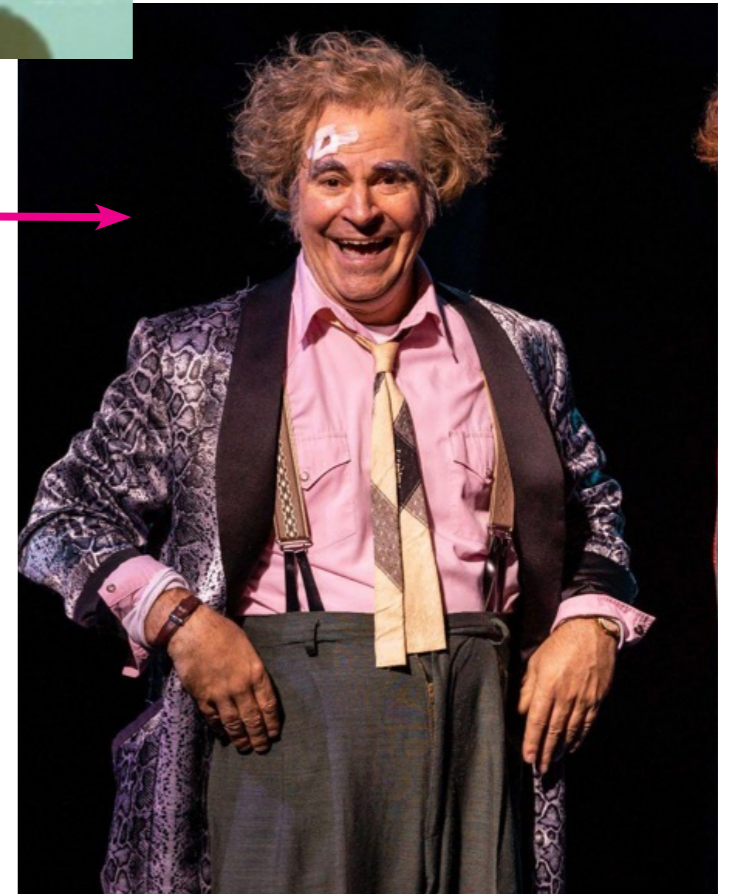
He is the only character whose age doesn't change.



## Doc Brown

Doc is an eccentric scientist who is trying to invent time-travel.

His hair is much whiter in 1985!



### George McFly

George is Marty's father, but in 1955 he is still only 17 and hasn't had Marty yet!



### Lorraine Baines

Lorraine is Marty's mother. In 1955 she doesn't know who he is yet and is still only very young.



### Goldie Wilson

Goldie Wilson works in the diner in 1955, but he is the Mayor in 1985!



### Dave & Linda McFly

Marty's older brother and sister.



### Biff (& his gang)

Biff is the school bully in 1955 and he is mean to George McFly. He is still mean in 1985.



### Jennifer Parker

Jennifer is Marty's girlfriend in 1985; she doesn't time travel and stays in 1985!

### Other characters we meet include:

- Principal Strickland
- Other children at school
- Townspeople
- The School Dance Band, who are called The Starlighters

The rest of the cast (called the ensemble) play lots of different parts, including the townspeople and schoolgoers in both 1985 and 1955.

## BEFORE THE PLAY STARTS

The show takes place in the Adelphi Theatre.

The auditorium looks like this inside.



For more information about the theatre, you can use the [Visual Story](#)

Before the show starts, some of the actors will come out and welcome you to the relaxed performance.

After that the play will start.

## REMEMBER, IT IS OK IF YOU NEED TO MOVE OR MAKE NOISE.

And you are welcome to leave the auditorium at any time, if you need to.

You can always come back in again when you are ready.



## THE SHOW

### Pre-Show & Incoming, Orchestra Overture



There is a ticking noise-effect in the auditorium when you enter.

There are multi-coloured lights extending from the stage.

The Orchestra will start up before the show begins, this is loud and can be surprising.

As the show begins to start, the lights will dim (they will remain on at a low level).

# ACT 1

## SCENE 1: DOC'S LAB (1985)

Marty is in Doc's lab; we hear the radio telling us that some radioactive plutonium has gone missing and that it is very dangerous.

Doc has recorded a message for Marty telling him to meet him at the Twin Pines Mall at 1.15am.

The equipment malfunctions and Marty tries to fix it...but he just makes it worse and the speaker explodes loudly.



- The volume of the speaker malfunction is loud
- There is an explosion and flash

## SCENE 2: TOWN SQUARE (1985)

Song: *Only A Matter of Time*



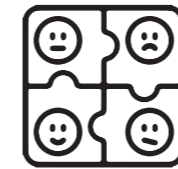
- The song is very loud and there are bright, sparkling lights, particularly toward the end



## SCENE 3: BAND AUDITION (1985)

Marty and his band are auditioning for the school band contest.

Principal Strickland tells him he is a slacker and will never amount to anything.



- The volume of the song is loud
- Use of a squeaky loudspeaker
- Headmaster Strickland isn't very nice to Marty

## SCENE 4: TOWN SQUARE (1985)

Marty meets his girlfriend Jennifer.

Song: *Wherever We're Going*

- Marty & Jennifer kiss and cuddle



## SCENE 5: McFLY HOME (1985)

We meet the McFly family and Biff, too.

Song: *Hello - Is Anybody Home?*



- Volume of the song is loud, and increases toward the end
- Flashes of light/strobing at the end of the song



## SCENE 6: TWIN PINES MALL PARKING LOT (1985)



Marty turns up to meet Doc who arrives in the DeLorean.

Song: *It Works*

Doc is delighted that he has made his time machine work and explains it all to Marty.

As they are talking, Marty notices that Doc's hands are glowing...he has been infected by the plutonium!

Marty takes the DeLorean to drive to the hospital to get help for Doc, but he drives at 88 miles per hour and the DeLorean travels out of 1985.....



- The DeLorean appears with 3 loud explosions, flashing and smoke



- The song is loud.
- The end of this scene is very loud and bright, there are multiple light and sound effects as the DeLorean travels...
- We are worried for Doc's safety



## SCENE 7: BARN (1955)

Marty emerges from the DeLorean and cannot make it travel back.

He decides to go and look for Doc in the town.



## SCENE 8: TOWN SQ (1955)

We meet the townspeople of Hill Valley, 1955.

Song: *Cake*



## SCENE 9: DINER (1955)

Marty goes to the cafe and sees his own father, George McFly. Biff arrives and bullies George.

Song: *No Future*





Goldie is stern to George and tells him to fight for himself.

Song: *Gotta Start Somewhere*



- Themes of bullying
- The song is very loud



- Drums beat at end of scene

- Sparkling lights



## SCENE 10: TREE OUTSIDE LORRAINE'S HOUSE (1955)

We see George standing on a tree bough outside Lorraine's house. He has a crush on her but hasn't had the courage to speak to her yet.

Song: *My Myopia*

Marty arrives just as George falls from the tree. He cushions his fall, and then George runs off, chased by Lorraine's father. Marty is knocked out.



## SCENE 11: LORRAINE'S BEDROOM (1955)

Marty wakes up in Lorraine's bedroom - he has been sleeping for a long time.

Lorraine has developed a crush on him and sings him a song. She thinks he is called Calvin, because he is wearing Calvin Klein underwear!

Song: *Pretty Baby*

Lorraine wants him to stay but he makes his excuses and leaves to go and find Doc.



## SCENE 12: DOC'S LAB (1955)

Marty finds Doc in his lab; it looks almost the same but Doc is younger. Marty explains to Doc what has happened and shows a photo of him and his brother and sister. Doc isn't convinced until Marty explains how he got the bump on his head and the idea for the flux capacitor.

He takes him to the barn to show him the DeLorean.

They realise that Marty might have changed the future by interfering with his father and mother's meeting - which is why the photo of his brother is starting to fade!

Song: *Future Boy*



- There is shouting in this scene
- The song is loud



## SCENE 13: HIGH SCHOOL (1955)

We see Lorraine and her friends talking in the hall at school, and then George and Biff's gang, as well as Principal Strickland.



- There is a loud school bell

## SCENE 14: LUNCH ROOM (1955)

Marty comes in to find George writing in his notebook - he likes writing science fiction stories.



Lorraine sees Marty and is excited to see him - she wants him to ask her to the dance, but Marty wants George to go with her.

Biff also tries to ask Lorraine and Marty stands up for her.

Song: *Something About that Boy*



- The volume towards the end of the song becomes loud



- Loud beat at end of the scene and fade to darkness
- Themes of bullying and aggression

## INTERVAL

This is a 20-minute break where you can go and buy a drink, stretch your legs and go to the toilet.



## ACT 2

### SCENE 1: DOC'S RETRO-FUTURISTIC DREAM

The scene opens on a futuristic set, with a large swivel chair - it looks a bit like a spaceship.



Song: *21st Century*



- The song is very loud and bright.
- There is strobing and blue light.

### SCENE 2: DOC'S LAB (1955)

Doc has been dreaming he's in the year 2020.

When they look at the photo of Marty's family, they see that his brother has disappeared



Lorraine then arrives at the barn, looking for "Calvin" (Marty) - she wants him to take her to the dance. She explains that she wants someone who will stand up for her, so Doc and Marty make a plan to teach George how to do that.

## SCENE 3: GEORGE'S BACKYARD (1955)

George and Marty are talking about taking Lorraine to the dance and practising how George can rescue her from Marty. Marty is trying to teach him how to fight and be brave.

Song: *Put Your Mind To It*



- The song is loud and has drum beats with big reverb



## SCENE 4: DOC'S LAB (1955)

Doc is watching the end of the video from the night in 1985... Marty comes in and wants to tell Doc about what happens, but Doc stops him. It is dangerous to know about your own future.

They make a plan about how to get enough power into the DeLorean for Marty to travel back to 1985.

Song: *For the Dreamers*



- The model sets fire and there is use of quite a loud fire extinguisher. Don't worry, it isn't dangerous to the audience or the actors.



## SCENE 5: SCHOOL (1955)

Biff and his gang are causing trouble and bothering Lorraine again.

Song: *Teach Him A Lesson*



- Themes of bullying and harassment



## SCENE 6: DINER (1955)

Doc and Marty are at the diner, preparing for the storm and to send Marty back home - Goldie helps them.

Marty and Doc say goodbye to each other.

Song: *Wherever We're Going*



## SCENE 7: SCHOOL DANCE (1955)

The school students are dancing.

Song: *Deep Divin'*



- Use of bubbles
- There is a disco ball in this scene with light reflecting off it



## SCENE 8: PARKING LOT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL (1955)



Marty and Lorraine are in the car. Marty is very uncomfortable but knows that he has to go through with his plan in order to make George and Lorraine get together.

Biff comes along and starts to bother them; Biff's goons grab Marty and put him in the bin! Biff then gets in the car with Lorraine.

George comes along as planned and, not realising that the person in the car is Biff (not Marty as planned), tries to pull him off Lorraine.

Biff bullies George and gets his arm in a painful hold. George remembers the advice that Marty has given him and takes a massive swing at Biff.

Lorraine is impressed by George - but they still haven't kissed!

The band help Marty out of the bin but the guitarist hurts his hand.



- Themes of bullying, harassment and fighting

## SCENE 9: INSIDE THE SCHOOL AT THE DANCE (1955)

Marty plays the guitar in place of Marvin. He is fading, like the photo of his brother and sister.

Song: *Earth Angel*

Everyone is waiting for George to kiss Lorraine. Someone interrupts and George looks like he is defeated, but then he comes back and kisses her!



Marty regains his strength.

Song: *Johnny B. Goode*



- Volume at the beginning of song is loud and can be surprising



- Kissing!

## SCENE 10: HILL VALLEY TOWN SQUARE (1955)

The storm is brewing and Doc is preparing the equipment for the DeLorean to be charged by the lightning.



Marty arrives and gets into the DeLorean, ready to go back to the future.

The storm is loud and scary.

Doc just about manages to hook the rod in time as the lightning flashes and Marty drives the DeLorean forward.....



- There is thunder, lightning, rain
- The town bells chimes loudly



- The music is loud
- There is use of projected imagery
- The DeLorean leaving and arriving is loud and bright



- The combination of all of these effects is loud and bright and might be overwhelming
- We might worry for Marty and Doc's safety

## SCENE 11: HILL VALLEY TOWN SQUARE (1985)

Marty arrives back in 1985! It has worked.

Marty rushes to see if he can save Doc...he thinks he is too late. But it turns out Doc has managed to save himself by making a better radioactive suit!

He takes the DeLorean off again, 30 years into the future...



- DeLorean reappearing and disappearing with loud bangs and flashes

## SCENE 12: HILL VALLEY TOWN SQUARE, THE NEXT DAY (1985)

People from the town are entering the square, there is a stage set up in the middle.

Marty's brother Dave arrives, looking very smart and his sister arrives with her date. Lorraine arrives, also looking glamorous.

A large sign celebrating George McFly drops - we realise that the event is a celebration of George! He has become a famous sci-fi writer, writing stories about time travel.



Song: *The Power of Love*



- Doc reappears in the DeLorean
- The volume of the songs are loud
- The reappearance of the DeLorean is loud and bright

## CURTAIN CALL

Song: *Back in Time*

The show is over - the actors will come on to stage and dance and bow.

You can clap and cheer now if you'd like to.



# BACK TO FUTURE THE MUSICAL



DESIGNED BY

**DEW  
YNT  
ERS**

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[www.arelaxedcompany.com](http://www.arelaxedcompany.com)