



Thomas F. Wilson

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Thomas Franklin Wilson Jr. (born April 15, 1959) is an American actor, voice-over artist, comedian, writer, musician, painter and podcaster. He is known for his voice-over work in video games, movies and TV shows. He is also known for playing Biff Tannen, Griff Tannen and Buford "Mad Dog" Tannen in the *Back to the Future* trilogy and Coach Ben Fredricks on NBC's *Freaks and Geeks*.

Early life

Wilson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and raised in nearby Wayne, Pennsylvania. While attending Radnor High School, he was involved in dramatic arts; was president of the debate team, where his partner was future *New York Times* columnist David Brooks; and played tuba in the high school band and was drum major of his marching band. He studied international politics at Arizona State University.

Wilson attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. While in New York, he got his first "real" stage experience as a comedian.

Career

In the early 1980s, Wilson moved to Los Angeles to pursue his career. He shared an apartment with fellow aspiring comedians Andrew Dice Clay and Yakov Smirnoff, and later joked that he "taught them both about America."^[1]

Wilson had a small role in the second season of NBC's *Knight Rider* in an episode titled "A Knight In Shining Armor".

His breakthrough role was the bully Biff Tannen in the 1985 film *Back to the Future*. He returned in the sequels *Back to the Future Part II* and *Part III* to reprise not only his role as Biff, but also to play Biff's grandson Griff Tannen and great-grandfather Buford "Mad Dog" Tannen. In every

Thomas F. Wilson



Wilson at Helium Comedy Club in Portland, Oregon on July 16, 2011

Born	Thomas Franklin Wilson, Jr. <div>April 15, 1959</div> <div><u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.</u></div>
Other names	Tom Wilson
Occupation(s)	Actor, voice actor, comedian, <u>writer</u> , <u>musician</u> , <u>painter</u>
Years active	1983–present
Spouse	Caroline Thomas (m. 1985)
Children	4

Back to the Future film, he ends up in a pile of manure (in reality, a heap of decayed sphagnum and other plant matters) after trying to kill or hurt Michael J. Fox's character Marty McFly. He reprised his role as Biff and voiced various Tannen relatives in the animated series. Wilson did not reprise his role as Biff in the initial versions of Telltale's *Back to the Future: The Game* released in 2011, being replaced by Kid Beyond. When the game was ported to the PlayStation 4, Xbox 360 and Xbox One in 2015 in commemoration of the original film's 30th anniversary, Wilson returned to provide Biff's voice in these newer versions.

Wilson played the role of a Detroit police officer in the 1988 film *Action Jackson*.

In 1992, he voiced gangster Tony Zucco in *Batman: The Animated Series* and police detective Matt Bluestone in the animated series *Gargoyles*. He later went to co-star with Mark Hamill in *Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger*, a video game. It was the third chapter in the *Wing Commander* series, but the first to feature live action and was extremely popular at the time. The character played by Wilson was Major Todd "Maniac" Marshall, a fellow starfighter pilot of Hamill's character. Wilson also starred in the sequels *Wing Commander IV: The Price of Freedom* (1995) and *Wing Commander: Prophecy* (1997) and contributed his voice to the animated series *Wing Commander Academy* (1996) in the same role. He also guest starred in an episode of *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* in 1997.

Wilson played McKinley High School's Coach Ben Fredricks in the 1999–2000 NBC comedy-drama *Freaks and Geeks*. Coach Fredricks dated Bill Haverchuck's mother. Wilson was briefly reunited with his *Back to the Future* co-star Christopher Lloyd in the 1994 film *Camp Nowhere*.

Wilson also played Simon, Hilda's dream date made out of dough, in *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* in 1996.

Wilson has done a bit of voice-over work for the acclaimed Nickelodeon TV show *SpongeBob SquarePants*. He has voiced particular villainous characters that are physically strong and/or menacing, such as Flatz the Flounder in the second season episode The Bully, and The Strangler in *SpongeBob Meets the Strangler*, and the non-villainous character Reg the Club Bouncer in *No Weenies Allowed*.

In 2003, Wilson appeared on the screen in a mockumentary movie called *Trial and Error: The Making of Sequestered*. Wilson has often lent his voice to animated productions such as *Batman: The Animated Series* (1993), *The New Batman Adventures* (1998), *Max Steel* (2000), *Disney's Atlantis: Milo's Return* (2003), and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* (2004). As well as the animated roles, he has continued to voice characters in computer and video games. He had supporting roles in the film *Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector* and the TV drama *Ghost Whisperer*.

In 2004, Wilson played the role of Noah Curry in the Pasadena Playhouse production of the musical *110 in the Shade*, also starring Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley. In 2005, Wilson released his comedy album, *Tom Wilson Is Funny!*.

In 2007, Wilson appeared in the episode "Whatever It Takes" of the drama series *House M.D.* as Lou, the father of Dr. House's patient.

In 2008, Wilson appeared in the episode "The Baby in the Bough" of another Fox drama, *Bones*. He played Chip Barnett, owner of a tire recycling plant.

Wilson appeared in an episode of the ABC drama *Boston Legal* (Season 4, Episode 7), "Attack of the Xenophobes", as a former police officer who is charged with murder.

Wilson performed "Sleigh Ride" with Relient K on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, playing acoustic guitar. The members of Relient K are fans of Wilson and invited him to perform on the show with them.

In March 2009, he appeared as himself, busking, in *Vidiotic*, a comedy pilot on the British channel BBC Three.^[2]

He has hosted a podcast, *Big Pop Fun*, on the Nerdist Network starting in November 2011. The podcast features Tom sharing stories of his career, as well as informal chats with show business friends including Samm Levine, Blake Clark, Steve Oedekerk, "Weird Al" Yankovic, and more.

He also provided additional voices for *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, *Timon & Pumbaa*, *The Pink Panther*, *Boris and Natasha: The Movie*, *Mad*, *Disney's Teacher's Pet*, *Family Guy*, *Marmaduke* and *Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series*.

He also voiced Electro in *Spider-Man: Shattered Dimensions*, Rok-Ko: The Earth Elemental in *Crash Bandicoot: The Wrath of Cortex*, Bucket in *Dragons: Riders of Berk* and Crewman Rick Biessman in *Star Trek Voyager: Elite Force*.

He also played Coach Fitzgerald in *The Ranch*.

He is a contributor to *The Bob & Tom Show* and is part of their comedy tour.

Personal life

Wilson is an Irish American.^[3]

Wilson is a painter.^[4] Many of his paintings focus on classic children's toys. In 2006, he was selected to join the California Featured Artist Series at Disneyland.^[5]

Wilson practices Catholicism, and released a Contemporary Christian album in 2000 called *In the Name of the Father*.^[6]

With the rise in popularity of the *Back to the Future* series, many people began to ask him questions about his experiences making the films. Wilson found the repetitive nature of the questions to be so amusing and annoying that he wrote a song about them titled "Biff's Question Song" which he features regularly in his stand-up routine.^[7]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1985	<i><u>Ninja Turf</u></i>	Member of Spike's Gang	
	<i><u>Back to the Future</u></i>	<u>Biff Tannen</u>	
1986	<i><u>April Fool's Day</u></i>	Arch Cummings	
	<i><u>Let's Get Harry</u></i>	Bob Pachowski	
1987	<i><u>Smart Alex</u></i>	Lieutenant Stevenson	
1988	<i><u>Action Jackson</u></i>	Officer Kornblau	
1989	<i><u>Back to the Future Part II</u></i>	Biff Tannen / <u>Griff Tannen</u>	
1990	<i><u>Back to the Future Part III</u></i>	Buford "Mad-Dog" Tannen / Biff Tannen	<u>Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor</u>
1991	<i><u>High Strung</u></i>	Al Dalby	
1992	<i><u>Boris and Natasha: The Movie</u></i>	Additional voices	Voice, Uncredited
1993	<i><u>Blood in Blood Out</u></i>	Det. Rollie McCann	
1994	<i><u>Caroline at Midnight</u></i>	Officer Keaton	
	<i><u>Mr. Write</u></i>	Billy	
	<i><u>Camp Nowhere</u></i>	Lt. Eliot Hendricks	
1995	<i><u>Born to Be Wild</u></i>	Det. Lou Greenburg	
1997	<i><u>That Darn Cat</u></i>	Officer Melvin	
1998	<i><u>Girl</u></i>	The Ticket Seller	
2003	<i><u>Atlantis: Milo's Return</u></i>	Ashton Carnaby	Voice, direct-to-video
2004	<i><u>The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie</u></i>	Victor / Fish #3 / Tough Fish #1	Voice
2006	<i><u>Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector</u></i>	Bart Tatlock	
	<i><u>Zoom</u></i>	Dylan's Teacher	
2009	<i><u>The Informant!</u></i>	Mark Cheviron	
	<i><u>House Broken</u></i>	Fire Chief Henry Decker	
2010	<i><u>Yohan: The Child Wanderer</u></i>	Kevin	
2011	<i><u>Rio</u></i>	Trapped Bird / Screaming Hang Gilder	Voice
2012	<i><u>Atlas Shrugged: Part II</u></i>	Robert Collins	

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2013	<i><u>Epic</u></i>	Finn	Voice
	<i><u>The Heat</u></i>	Captain Frank Woods	
	<i><u>Tom and Jerry's Giant Adventure</u></i>	Mr. Bigley / Ginormous	Voice; direct-to-video
2015	<i><u>The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water</u></i>	Angry Customer #1	Voice

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1983	<i><u>Knight Rider</u></i>	Chip	Episode: "A Knight in Shining Armor"
1984	<i><u>The Facts of Life</u></i>	Moose	Episode: "All or Nothing"
1990	<i><u>Turner & Hooch</u></i>	Det. Scott Turner	Unsold TV pilot
1991–92	<i><u>Back to the Future</u></i>	Biff Tannen and other tannens	Voice
1993	<i><u>The Pink Panther</u></i>	Additional voices	Voice
	<i><u>Batman: The Animated Series</u></i>	Tony Zucco / John Grayson	Voice; episodes: "Robin's Reckoning: Parts 1 & 2"
1995–96	<i><u>Gargoyles</u></i>	Matt Bluestone	Voice
1996	<i><u>Superman</u></i>	Joey	Voice; episode: "A Little Piece of Home"
	<i><u>Wing Commander Academy</u></i>	Todd 'Maniac' Marshall	Voice
	<i><u>Sabrina, the Teenage Witch</u></i>	Simon	Episode: "Dream Date"
	<i><u>Andersonville</u></i>	Thomas Sweet	TV movie
1997	<i><u>Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman</u></i>	Carter Landry	Episode: "Lethal Weapon"
	<i><u>Duckman</u></i>	Park Ranger Smith	Voice; episode: "Short, Plush and Deadly"
	<i><u>Aaahh!!! Real Monsters</u></i>	Marty	Voice; episodes: "Clockwise/Gromble Soup", "Showdown/Internal Affairs"
	<i><u>steve.oedekerk.com</u></i>	Costumer / Talk Show Host	TV movie
	<i><u>Fired Up</u></i>	Steve Summer	
1998	<i><u>Pinky and the Brain</u></i>	Larry Bruhn	Voice; episode: "Dangerous Brains"
	<i><u>Men in White</u></i>	Ed Klingbottom	TV movie
	<i><u>The New Batman Adventures</u></i>	Howlin' Jake / Gotham Angels Biker	Voice; episode: "Torch Song"
	<i><u>Zoomates</u></i>	Mark the Polar Bear	Voice; TV short
	<i><u>Maggie</u></i>	Hank	Episodes: "Just Shoot Him", "Every Little Star"
	<i><u>The Angry Beavers</u></i>	Otis Otto / Bowling Patron	Voice; episode: "If You Insisters/Alley Oops!"
1999	<i><u>The Hughleys</u></i>	Stan	Episode: "Why Can't We Be Friends?"

Year	Title	Role	Notes
	<i><u>Timon & Pumbaa</u></i>	Additional voices	1 episode
	<i><u>Pepper Ann</u></i>	Coach Bronson	Voice; episode: "Beyond Good and Evil/One of the Guys"
1999–2000	<i><u>Freaks and Geeks</u></i>	Coach Ben Fredricks	6 episodes
2000–01	<i><u>Max Steel</u></i>	Pete Costas	Voice; recurring role (season 1), main role (season 2)
2000	<i><u>Buzz Lightyear of Star Command</u></i>	Buster	Voice; episode: "Root of Evil"
2001	<i><u>Nash Bridges</u></i>	Jack Noon	Episode: "Bear Trap"
	<i><u>The Zeta Project</u></i>	Burly Boyfriend	Voice; episode: "West Bound"
2001–13	<i><u>SpongeBob SquarePants</u></i>	Additional voices	Voice
2001	<i><u>Titus</u></i>	Joe	Episode: "Amy's Birthday"
2002–03	<i><u>Do Over</u></i>	Coach Dorsey	4 episodes
2002	<i><u>She Spies</u></i>	Roger 'Rush' Gibson	Episode: "Fondles"
2003	<i><u>Ed</u></i>	Sean Nowell	4 episodes
	<i><u>The Pitts</u></i>	Guard	Episode: "Ticket to Riot"
	<i><u>Boston Public</u></i>	Paul Stanton	Episode: "Chapter Sixty-Six"
	<i><u>Striperella</u></i>	Tom Green, Zumo, Painted Patron, Director	Voice; episodes: "Beauty and the Obese: Part 1 and 2", "The Wrath of Klinko"
	<i><u>Two and a Half Men</u></i>	Mike	Episode: "Pilot"
2004	<i><u>The Mullets</u></i>	Lyle Turner	Episode: "Losin' It"
	<i><u>Rock Me Baby</u></i>	Buffalo Buck	Episode: "Go, Otis! It's Your Birthday!"
2005	<i><u>Rodney</u></i>	Bill	Episode: "Sorry Charlie"
	<i><u>Zoey 101</u></i>	Coach Phelps	Episode: "Disc Golf"
	<i><u>Higglytown Heroes</u></i>	Truck Driver	Voice; episode: "Kip's Dad Gets a Strike"
	<i><u>Reba</u></i>	Ted	Episode: "Reba and the One"
	<i><u>George Lopez</u></i>	Sonny	Episode: "George Drives the Batmobile"
2006	<i><u>Help Me Help You</u></i>	Kenny	4 episodes
	<i><u>Still Standing</u></i>	Coach Kirk Stone	Episode: "Still Flunking"
	<i><u>Cold Case</u></i>	Arnold Brown	Episode: "Superstar"
2006–08	<i><u>Ghost Whisperer</u></i>	Tim Flaherty	6 episodes
2007	<i><u>American Body Shop</u></i>	Juicy Lou	Episodes: "Juicy Lou's", "Shop for Sale"
	<i><u>House</u></i>	Lou	Episode: " <u>Whatever It Takes</u> "
	<i><u>Boston Legal</u></i>	Jeffrey Bass	Episode: "Attack of the Xenophobes"
2008	<i><u>The Spectacular Spider-Man</u></i>	Stan Carter	Voice; 6 episodes
	<i><u>Bones</u></i>	Chip Barnett	Episode: "The Baby in the Bough"

Year	Title	Role	Notes
	<i><u>Back at the Barnyard</u></i>	Krebs	Voice; episode: "Brave Udders"
2008, 2009	<i><u>Batman: The Brave and the Bold</u></i>	Sportsmaster / Catman	Voice; episodes: "Invasion of the Secret Santas!", "Legends of the Dark Mite!"
2009	<i><u>Psych</u></i>	Butch	Episode: "Let's Get Hairy"
	<i><u>Family Guy</u></i>	Additional voices	Voice; episode: " <u>Quagmire's Baby</u> "
2010, 2011	<i><u>Big Love</u></i>	Ricky Jax	3 episodes: "The Mighty and Strong", "Blood Atonement", "The Oath"
2010	<i><u>Adventure Time</u></i>	Head Marauder, Cat Man, Coal Guy	Voice; episodes: "Memories of Boom Boom Mountain", "It Came from the Nightosphere"
	<i><u>True Jackson, VP</u></i>	Ben Franklin	Episode: "Field Trip"
2011	<i><u>Harry's Law</u></i>	Allan Meade	Episode: "Bangers in the House"
	<i><u>Billion Dollar Freshmen</u></i>	Principal Preston	TV Movie
	<i><u>Planet Sheen</u></i>	Narrator / Blurg #1	Voice; episodes: "Ooze on First/Monster-Fighting Combat Strike Force", "To Chill a Mocking Blurg/Now You Sheen It"
2011–12	<i><u>Franklin & Bash</u></i>	Spiritual Advisor	Episodes: "She Came Upstairs to Kill Me", "For Those About to Rock"
2011	<i><u>Melissa & Joey</u></i>	Councilman Herbert Hancock	Episode: "Play Ball"
2012– present	<i><u>Dragons: Riders of Berk</u></i>	Bucket	Voice, 16 episodes
2013	<i><u>Zach Stone Is Gonna Be Famous</u></i>	Mr. Stone	Main role, 12 episodes
	<i><u>Mad</u></i>	Additional voices	Voice; episodes: "S Cape from Planet Earth/The X-Mentalist"
2014	<i><u>See Dad Run</u></i>	Principal Templeman	2 episodes
2015– present	<i><u>Pig Goat Banana Cricket</u></i>	Banana, Body Builder	Voice; 26 episodes
2016	<i><u>The Ranch</u></i>	Coach Fitzgerald	Episode: "The Boys of Fall"
	<i><u>K.C. Undercover</u></i>	Agent Whitman	Episode: "The Legend of Bad, Bad Cleo Brown"
	<i><u>Trollhunters</u></i>	Coach Lawrence	Voice; 12 episodes
2017	<i><u>Workaholics</u></i>	Barnes	Episode: "The Most Dangerless Game"
2017	<i><u>The Goldbergs</u></i>	Shop Teacher	Episode: "The Hooters"
2018	<i><u>Mosaic</u></i>	Cliff Jones	Mini Series: 6 Episodes

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1990	<i><u>Back to the Future... The Pinball</u></i>	Biff Tannen	uncredited
1994	<i><u>Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger</u></i>	Maj. Todd 'Maniac' Marshall	Credited as Tom Wilson

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1996	<i>Wing Commander IV: The Price of Freedom</i>	Maj. Todd 'Maniac' Marshall	Credited as Tom Wilson
1997	<i>Wing Commander: Prophecy</i>	Maj. Todd 'Maniac' Marshall	Credited as Tom Wilson
2000	<i>Star Trek: Voyager – Elite Force</i>	Crewman Rick Biessman	
2001	<i>Crash Bandicoot: The Wrath of Cortex</i>	Rok-Ko	Credited as Tom Wilson
2002	<i>Run Like Hell: Hunt or Be Hunted</i>	Craig	
2004	<i>Back to the Future Video Slots</i>	Biff Tannen	archive audio
2008	<i>CR Back to the Future</i>	Biff Tannen	archive audio
2010	<i>Batman: The Brave and the Bold – The Videogame</i>	Catman	
	<i>Spider-Man: Shattered Dimensions</i>	Electro	
2011	<i>Star Wars: The Old Republic</i>	Additional voices	
2013	<i>Back to the Future: Back in Time Video Slots</i>	Biff Tannen, Griff	
2015	<i>Back to the Future: The Game 30th Anniversary Edition</i>	Biff Tannen	Credited as Tom Wilson

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7. *Biff's Question Song (Stand-up Comedy)* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwY5o2fsG7Y>). YouTube. September 27, 2006.

External links

- Official website (<http://www.tomwilsonusa.com>)
- Thomas F. Wilson (<https://www.allmovie.com/artist/p76818>) at AllMovie
- Thomas F. Wilson (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001855/>) at IMDb
- Konbini - Interview (2016) (<http://www.konbini.com/us/entertainment/tom-wilson-back-to-the-future-interview/>)

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