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George Lucas is a brilliant filmmaker. He's made a ton of great movies like the *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars* series. He's just great.

CHILDHOOD

George W. Lucas Jr. was born on May 14, 1944 to George and Dorothy Lucas in Modesto, California. This was a great day for movie lovers like me. George has three sisters; Ann, Kathleen and Wendy.



As a kid George enjoyed reading comic books especially stories about Flash Gordon. His all-time favorite hobby is racing cars.



EDUCATION

George went to John Muir Elementary School, Roosevelt Junior High School and Thomas Downey High School. When George was in high school he would race cars on the underground racing circuit. Right before he graduated from high school he got into a terrible accident while racing. He spent three months in the hospital with many broken bones. He almost died too. During the time he spent in the hospital, he decided he would like to be an artist. He loved photography but his parents wouldn't pay for him to go to a special school.

George went to Modesto Junior College in 1964 for a couple of years. While he was studying at the junior college, he discovered his love for making movies. In 1966 he signed up to be in the School of Cinema at the University of Southern California (USC).

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At USC George met the now famous filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. The two of them started American Zoetrope, an independent film production company based in San Francisco. This gave them, as well as other filmmakers, the opportunity to make the movies they wanted to make.

George made several movies while at USC. His most famous is *THX-1138*. This movie is about how people in the future don't have any freedoms and that one man decides he doesn't like this life and tries to change it. This movie won first prize at the 1967-68 National Student Film Festival.

ADULT LIFE

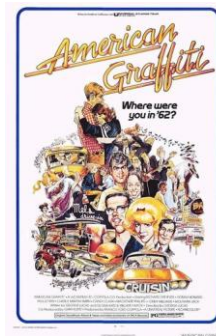
George married Marcia Griffin in 1969 but divorced in 1983. He adopted three children; Amanda, Katie and Jett over the years. He is currently dating Melody Hopson.

In 1973, George started his own company called Lucasfilm Ltd. He would go on to start other companies like the special effects studio Industrial Light & Magic (ILM), LucasArts a gaming studio and Lucasfilm Animation Studios.

He also created the THX digital sound system. This can be found in most movie theaters today.

Also in 1973, George made his first successful movie called *American Graffiti*. It is semi-autobiographical. The movie is about several teenage boys and their cars and what they do one summer evening in 1962. George received several Oscar nominations and a Golden Globe award for best comedy.

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Wex Drive-In: American Graffiti



WHY FAMOUS

George is the creator of the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* movies. They have made him one of most successful filmmakers of all time.

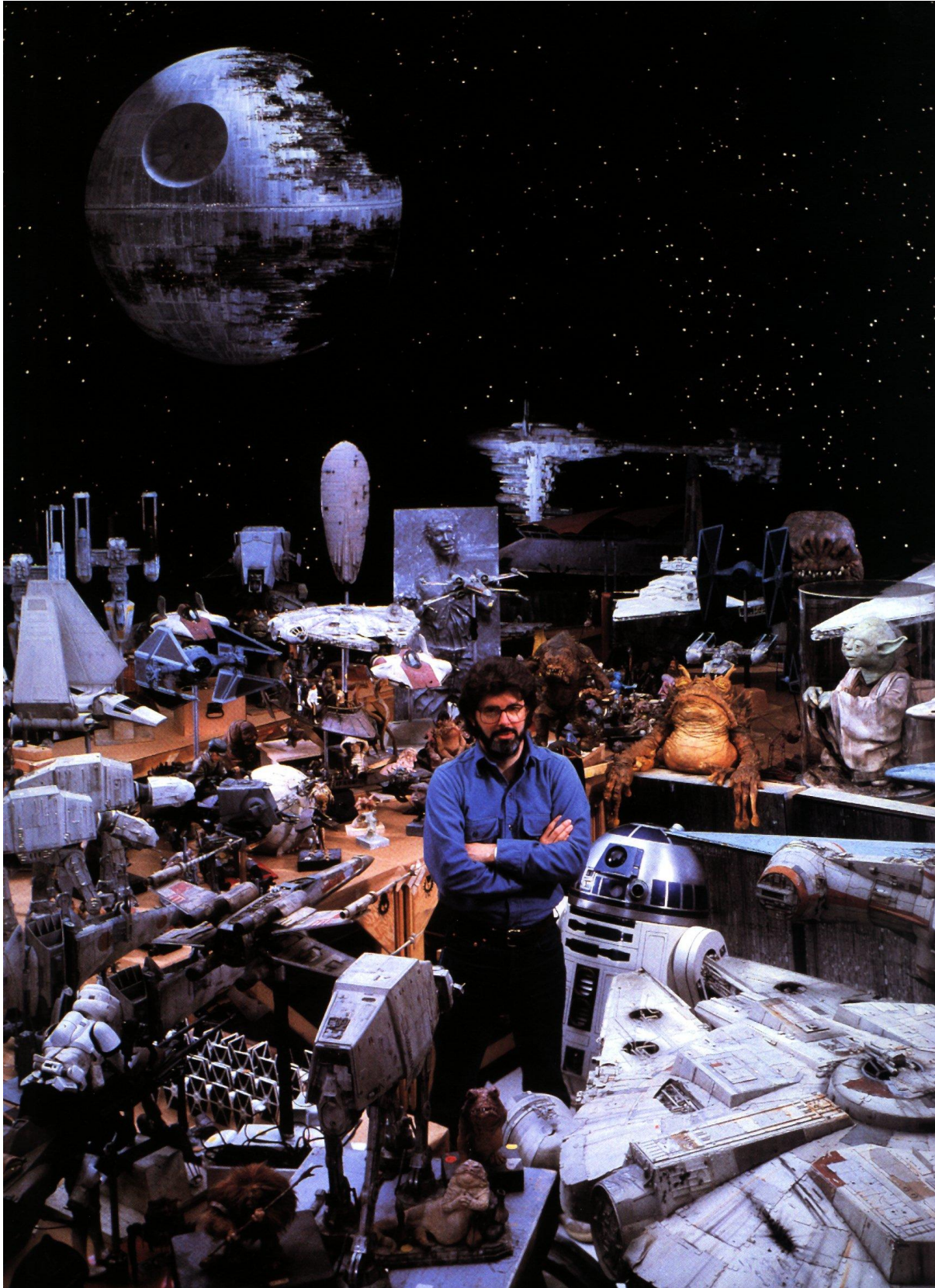
Star Wars is considered one of the first blockbusters. The first trilogy of movies grossed around \$1 billion. It had amazing special effects which no one had ever seen before.

George was very smart. He made a deal with the movie studio producing *Star Wars*. He said he didn't need to be paid for directing the movie in exchange for the merchandising rights. With the success of the movie he became immediately rich.

George created the *Indiana Jones* trilogy with his friend Steven Spielberg. He wrote the stories and served as a producer while Steven directed them. The movies were very successful and the first movie *Indiana Jones and The Raiders of the Lost Ark* won several awards.



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PERSONAL OPINIONS

I think George Lucas is a rock star. I love all his movies. My favorites are the *Star Wars* movies. I like them because they have a lot of action and adventure. I love adventure stories and games.

Right now my favorite *Star Wars* show is the TV series *Star Wars The Clone Wars*. It's my favorite because I like the characters especially the clones. For example, I really like the clone Commander Rex. He has a cool attitude and wears an awesome blue uniform.

General Grievous is my all-time favorite character of all the *Star Wars* movies and TV shows until he gets blasted apart by Obi Wan Kenobi.

Because I like adventure stories, I just love all the *Indiana Jones* movies. I especially like the last movie *Indiana Jones and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. The mystery of the crystal skull was a cool story and I liked that Indiana Jones discovered he had a son.

What I learned about George Lucas was that he worked really hard to make something special in his life. He discovered that he could write really interesting stories. He wanted to share those stories with everyone else. He makes movies that make you excited and happy. These are movies you want to watch over and over and over again.

I love George Lucas for making such great movies.

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