

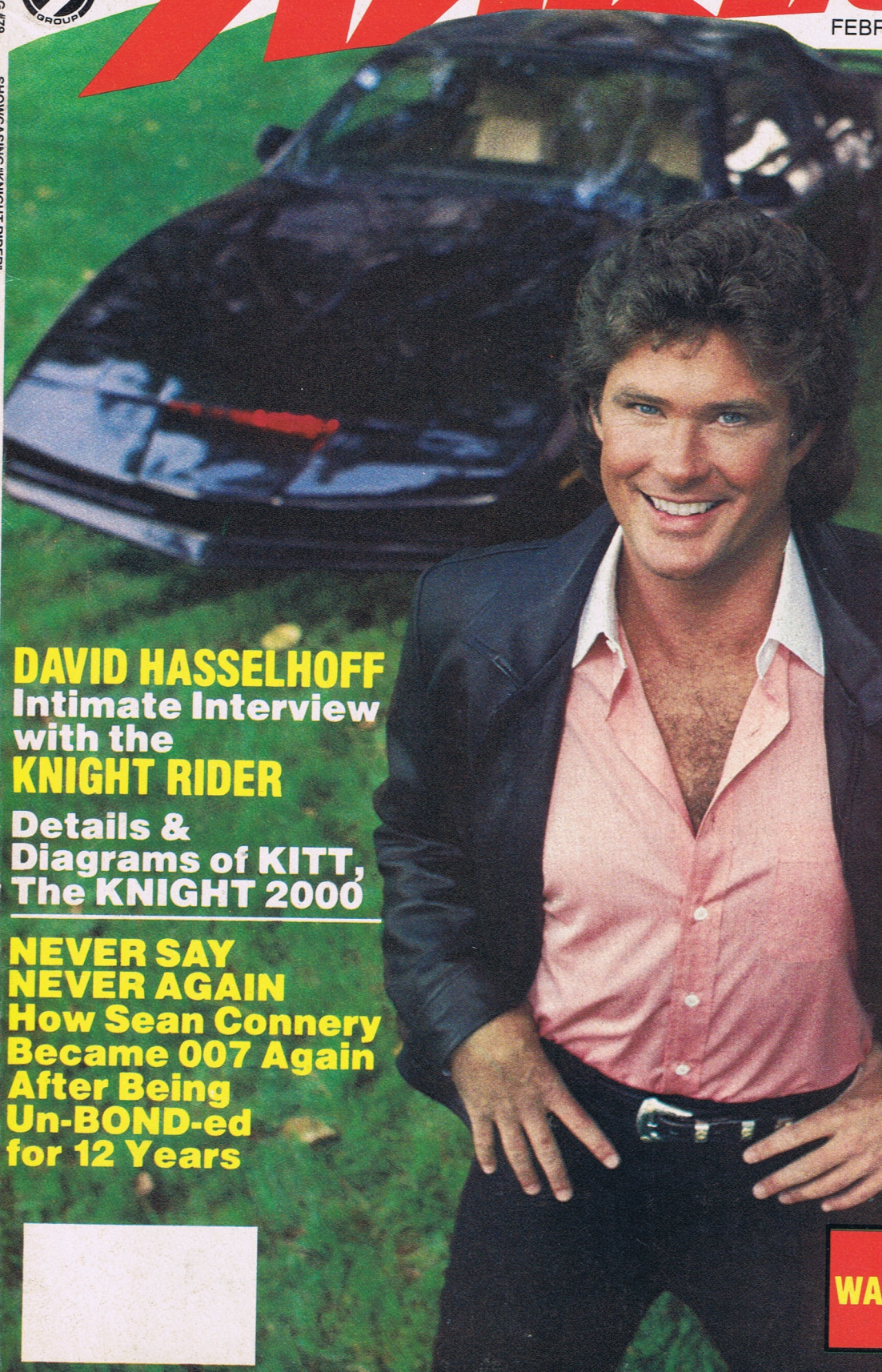
**DENNIS  
QUAID**  
Talks About  
THE RIGHT STUFF

TV's Computer Connection: **THE WHIZ KIDS** see pg. 34



# STARLOG

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**JON PERTWEE**  
The Return of the Third  
**DOCTOR WHO**

**DAVID HASSELHOFF**  
Intimate Interview  
with the  
**KNIGHT RIDER**

Details &  
Diagrams of **KITT**,  
The **KNIGHT 2000**

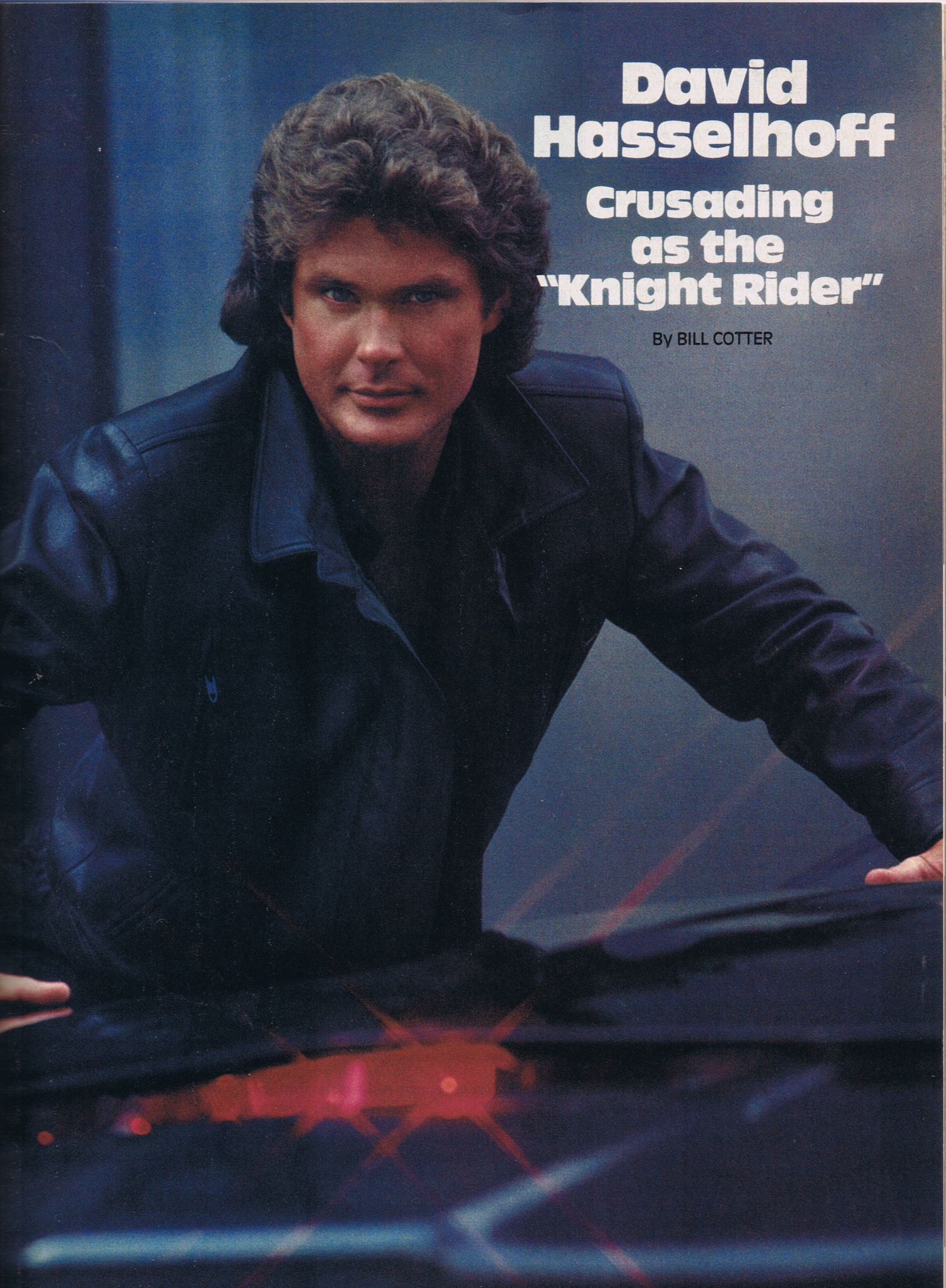
**NEVER SAY  
NEVER AGAIN**  
How Sean Connery  
Became 007 Again  
After Being  
Un-BOND-ed  
for 12 Years

**BLUE THUNDER**  
Candy Clark  
talks about  
doing her own  
stunts: "I did  
as much as  
they would  
let me do!"

**STRANGE  
INVADERS**  
Sexy Alien  
**FIONA  
LEWIS**

Inside:  
**WAR OF THE WORLDS**  
Mini-Poster





**David  
Hasselhoff**  
**Crusading  
as the  
"Knight Rider"**

By BILL COTTER

**R**ight from the start, I realized that interviewing David Hasselhoff wasn't going to be easy. First, I had to find his house, which is on an incredibly narrow and twisting street in the hills above Hollywood, and during a driving rain. Then, there's the fact that he didn't have a number on the outside. Not that he really needed it—there were two black Trans Ams parked outside, looking very much as if they had been driven home from work.

Then, there's Hasselhoff himself. The man is a human dynamo. If KITT, his mechanized co-star, ever needs a jump start, hook the cables up to Hasselhoff. When I walked in, he was doing a telephone interview to Japan with a hovering press agent who kept trying to add information to his call. Another guest waited to tape a radio show segment. Hasselhoff's fiancée, actress Catherine Hickland, needed help planning a party. Add to the crowd several wandering cats who were competing for attention and you get the general impression of a day at the Hasselhoff home. Once we sat down together, all my trepidations vanished, for he was quite interested in letting STARLOG's readers know how he feels about **Knight Rider**, his career and his life.

The David Hasselhoff story begins in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was born on July 17, 1952. Family moves took him to a variety of states, including Florida and Georgia, before settling in La Grange, Illinois, outside of Chicago. Hasselhoff still considers himself a "hometown boy who made good," and relishes the attention he receives when he visits his old stomping grounds. "I was there recently and there had to be 10,000 people who came out. There I am talking about the show with all these faces coming out of the crowd. 'Hi, I was your English teacher' or 'Remember me, Dick Whitties, we played ball together?' It was like an episode of *The Twilight Zone!*"

Landing the lead in *Knight Rider* as macho hunk Michael Knight is not an overnight success story, however. Hasselhoff's first step before the footlights was in the title role of an elementary school presentation of *Peter Pan*. He continued acting through his school years and was eventually awarded an apprenticeship with the Troupe of American College Players. He followed his tenure there with a year of dinner theater. Realizing the value of formal training, the young actor enrolled in The Academy of Dramatic Arts in Rochester, Michigan, before moving to California where he studied at the California Institute of Arts—the fine arts school founded in part by the late Walt Disney.

## Star Vehicles

Several years of minor TV roles followed, including stints on two *Love Boat* episodes,

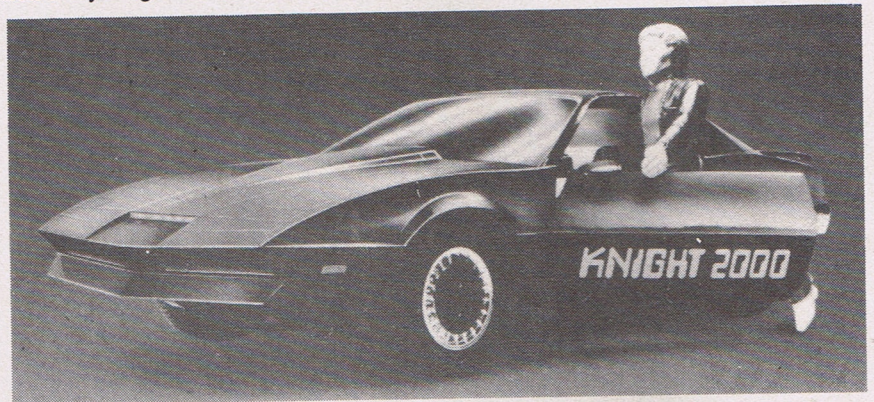
**BILL COTTER**, veteran STARLOG correspondent, writes regularly of videodiscs and videocassettes in *Film Collector's World*. He revealed the making of *Jaws 3-D* in STARLOG #74.



## Kitt— An Exclusive Look Inside

**B**y now, most TV viewers have heard of KITT, the futuristic car racing through *Knight Rider*. Many readers have written to STARLOG asking for further details—even blueprints—and so, we decided to investigate the automotive secrets of the Knight Industries 2000.

Surprisingly, KITT is protected by a security screen which could serve as a model for the Pentagon. Usually, requests for any information are immediately and firmly denied. A press spokesperson for Universal Studios explains that "the producers feel David's the star, and the car is only a prop. Besides, why tell the competition everything?" Bernadette Joyce,



From Kenner toys: "Knight Rider Voice Car w/Driver." Hasselhoff is now being marketed along with KITT, although he might not be thrilled by the billing.

*Griffin and Phoenix* and *Police Story*—his first television appearance. He still chuckles when he talks about the latter experience. "I had a part with all of *two lines*, and I had my whole family wait up in Chicago to see it. Then, Mayor Daley won the election and it was pre-empted. . . only in Chicago! So much for fame."

Hasselhoff's career began to prosper after he was signed by agent Joyce Selznick, who helped him nab the role of Snapper Carr on the popular daytime soap, *The Young and the Restless*. It was during this time that he was cast in *Starcrash*, (and interviewed in STARLOG #17). He wasn't overly pleased with the film, describing it now as "a typical B movie. They go into a city with lots of advertising, and when word-of-mouth comes back

*Knight Rider* assistant producer, has a slightly different, more pragmatic viewpoint: "If we were to state *everything* that KITT can and can't do, it would severely limit what the writers could do in future episodes. Also, if we labeled every switch with a function, you can bet some fan would notice if we ever changed *anything*."

She may be right; *Star Trek* fans may recall arguments among its cast as to the purpose of the *Enterprise's* instruments, and whether or not viewers knew what functions which button controlled.

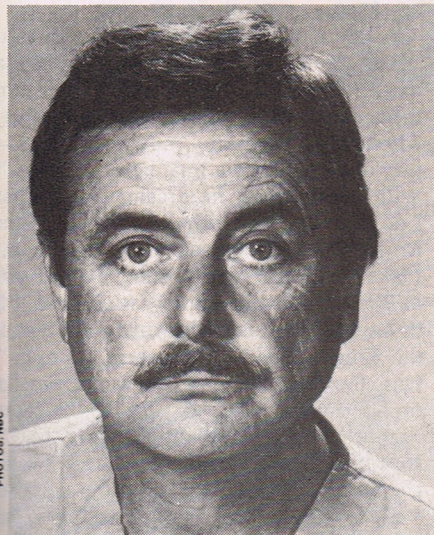
Whatever the reasons, little inside information was available on KITT until NBC decided to promote the show each season with give-aways (see accompanying interview). Using these fact sheets, along with several confidential production memos, we were able to compile a list of *all* of KITT's special features—a STARLOG exclusive!

First, KITT is obviously a modified 1983 Pontiac Trans Am. The original KITT was built by Chuck Barris, the famous car designer responsible for many classic TV and movie autos, including the Batmobile and Munster Koach. Actually, an average of nine KITTs exist at any one time, with the modifications now done by Universal. Only *one* of these vehicles, the "picture car," has KITT's intricate dash board and controls. Since many of the show's stunts result in the *total* demolition of the other

and says 'It's lousy,' they move it on to another city. *Starcrash* made a fortune in Europe, though."

After sopping up six years of teen idolation as Snapper Carr, Hasselhoff decided he would rather be a primetime star than waste away on daily soaps forever. Glen Larson, veteran producer of *Knight Rider* and such other series as *Battlestar Galactica*, sent him the script for the pilot, and Hasselhoff reports his immediate reaction was "This is IT! This is the one! I didn't say 'I've got to get this part'—I said 'I will get it!' I became obsessed with it. I called people up and said, 'Hi, this is the Knight Rider.' Knight Rider. . . Knight Rider. I was going crazy."

He got the role, but soon found the critics ready, if not eager, to rain on his parade.

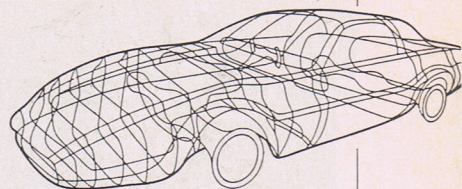
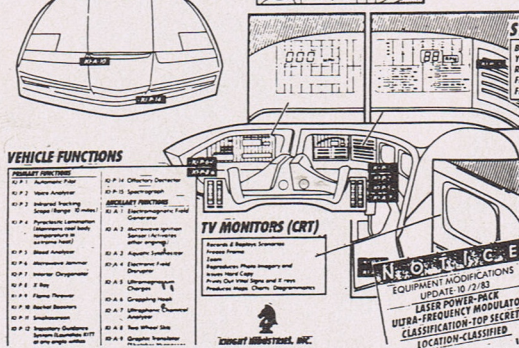
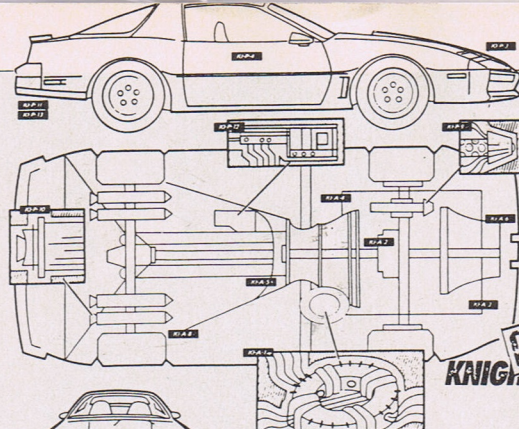


William Daniels, the voice of KITT.

car involved, the picture car is never used in any sequence other than those shots in which Michael Knight jumps into or out of the car, or in interior scenes of David Hasselhoff driving. A duplicate of the dash, built in segments for easy filming, sits on a Universal sound stage. It's used for all "insert" shots, which show the various flashing lights, TV monitors and the "voice box" display. Although he doesn't receive screen credit, KITT's voice is supplied by veteran actor William Daniels, who also stars in NBC's *St. Elsewhere*.

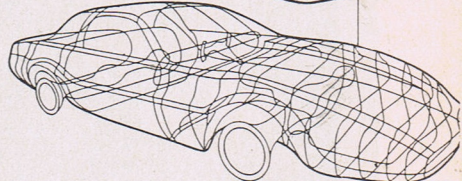
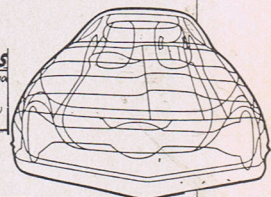
Buying and then destroying expensive items, such as cars, places a strain on even studio budgets. Luckily, *Knight Rider* was able to take advantage of Pontiac's unfortunate experience when a trainload of new Trans Ams derailed, damaging most of the cars. Universal now employs those vehicles as stunt cars, using special body sections molded to transform them into KITTs.

Here are the specifications of KITT—they're definitely not options you'll find on the average showroom floor! Remember, KITT is a car, and you can expect future modifications as *Knight Rider* zooms on. (For example, KITT recently gained the ability to travel on water).



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**KNIGHT INDUSTRIES TWO THOUSAND**

**STRUCTURAL SPECIFICATIONS**  
BASE COMPOUND: TRI-HELICAL MBS/PLASTEEL 80  
YIELD POINT: 570,000 psi  
REAR AXLE LOAD (MAX): 192,000 lbs.  
FRONT SUSPENSION LOAD: 57,000 lbs. (per wheel)  
FRAME TOLERANCE: 223,000 lbs.



**VEHICLE FUNCTIONS**

- PROBABILITY FUNCTIONS
- KIT-1 Automatic Pilot
- KIT-2 Voice Analyzer
- KIT-3 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-4 Parabolic Locomotion
- KIT-5 Blood Analyzer
- KIT-6 Microwave Analyzer
- KIT-7 Flame Tracker
- KIT-8 Radar Scanner
- KIT-9 Shockwaves
- KIT-10 Ionization

- ACCIDENT FUNCTIONS
- KIT-11 Shockwave Generator
- KIT-12 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-13 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-14 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-15 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-16 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-17 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-18 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-19 Infrared Tracking
- KIT-20 Infrared Tracking

**TV MONITORS (CRT)**

- Records & Replays Scenarios
- Freeze Frame
- Zoom-In
- Reproduces Pictures and Issues Hard Copies
- Produces Maps, Charts, etc.

**NBC-TV**  
EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS  
UPDATE 10/21/83  
LASER POWER-PACK  
ULTRA-FREQUENCY MODULATOR  
CLASSIFICATION-TOP SECRET  
LOCATION-CLASSIFIED

**THE KNIGHT INDUSTRY 2000**

- Vehicle type:** Front engine, rear-wheel drive, two passenger, two door coupe
- Dimensions:** Wheel base: 101 inches  
Length: 189.8 inches  
Width: 72 inches  
Height: 37.2 inches
- Engine:** Knight Industries Turbojet with modified afterburners
- Transmission:** Eight-speed microprocessor turbodrive with auto pilot (needs no driver)
- Steering:** Type: Modified rack-and-pinion  
Turn-circle: Two feet with rocket assist
- Brakes:** Electromagnetic hyper-vacuum disc
- Chassis/Body:** Type: Unit Construction  
Body Material: Classified (compound is virtually indestructible)
- Price New:** \$11,400,000 (estimated)
- Acceleration:** 0-60 MPH—.2 seconds with power boosters  
Standing ¼ mile—4.286 seconds at 300 MPH
- Braking:** 14 feet (70-0 MPH)
- Fuel Economy:** Classified (to avoid heat attacks in Detroit)

**ACCESSORY FEATURES:**

- Automatic Pilot
- Auto Pursuit
- Auto Collision Avoidance (with over-ride option)

- Emergency Eject
- Voice Analyzer
- Infrared Tracking Scope (range: 10 miles)
- Pyroclastic Lamination (maintains cool body temperature in extreme heat)
- Blood Analyzer
- Microwave Jammer
- Interior Oxygenator
- X-ray
- Flame Thrower
- Rocket Boosters
- Smokescreen
- Trajectory Guidance System (launches KITT at any angle within 90 degree arc)
- Oil Jets
- Olfactory Detector (analyzes odors)
- Spectrograph (analyzes elements)
- Electromagnetic Field Generator
- Microwave Ignition Sensor (activates other engines)
- Aquatic Synthesizer
- Electronic Field Disrupter
- Ultramagnesium Charges
- Grappling Hook
- Ultrasonic Chemical Analyzer
- Two Wheel Skis
- Graphic Translator (sketches likenesses from verbal input)
- Anamorphic Equalizer
- Laser Power-pack
- Ultra-Frequency Modulator (regulates or adjusts frequency)
- Surveillance Systems
- Auxiliary Oil Pan Dumper (to minimize fire hazard and reduce emergency)

- Vital Signs Scanner (human blood pressure, etc.)
- Electronic Detection Mode (detects presence of Plastique explosive)
- Comprehensive Configuration Analysis (indicates potential weak spots)
- Ramjet
- Rapid Thought Analyzer (quickly analyzes information)
- Locks other automobile steering wheels into position
- Darkens car windows
- Able to play video games against opponents
- Can deflate and reinflate other automobile tires
- Traces phone calls

**Structural Specifications:**

- Base compound: Tri-Helical MBS (Plasteel)
- Yield Point: 570,000 psi
- Rear Axle Load (Max): 192,000 lbs.
- Front Suspension Load: 57,000 lbs. (per wheel)
- Frame Tolerance: 223,000 lbs.

—Bill Cotter

When *Knight Rider* was first announced, it was greeted with a high degree of scepticism. Some wags dubbed it *My Mother the Car Meets the Dukes of Hazzard* or *Mr. Ed on Wheels*. The actor remembers those days with some bitterness, bringing up such quotes as "David Hasselhoff plays a hood ornament." That was Tom Shales of the *Washington Post*. Everybody said things like that one—even Edward Mulhare. He'll probably deny it now, but he said he expected the show to run three weeks and flop." Although he smiles pleasantly as he speaks, clearly he is bothered by the barbs, for he grows more excited. "You know, I read all this stuff and said, 'Hey, we got bad reviews. That means we're gonna be a hit.' I don't know why, but it seems to be a formula every time."

Determined to prove the critics wrong, Hasselhoff went on a 14-city promotional tour to hawk *Knight Rider*. "Fight, fight fight—that was my motto," Hasselhoff says. "It worked out pretty well. I got people to pay attention to the show, got paid for it, and got a commercial for Pontiac out of it. For that ad, I got the two Trans Ams sitting in the driveway."

**Vehicles as Stars**

Added to the frustration of all the "car jokes" was the network promotion for the show which, Hasselhoff feels, centered its attention on KITT. A certain amount of objective truth is evident here. Before the show's premiere, NBC opened a special post office box for viewers, promising details on the

most exciting car on television. Those who wrote received a flyer entitled "The Competition is NO Competition," displaying KITT alongside a car which resembled the General Lee from *The Dukes of Hazzard*, and offering a comparison of each vehicle. This season, NBC offered a "KITT Kit" which included further details about the car—and again, no mention of any of the human stars. As a result of these auto pushes, KITT originally received more fan mail than Hasselhoff did, although it's now three-to-one in favor of the teen heartthrob. "At the beginning," Hasselhoff admits, "it didn't matter. I knew if I got on and said, 'Hey, watch me!', no one would care. But put on the world's fastest car, people will watch." Now, however, he would prefer to



Caroline Munro, Hasselhoff in *Stella Star*.

see further emphasis on the other actors, noting that Mulhare is all but wasted. "I would like to see *Knight Rider* become more like *The Avengers*, where you cared about the people and it was *still* fun. I like being the star, but I have plenty of time to share it. I wouldn't mind having the time off, you know.

"Being a 'star' isn't what some people think. Right now, we're working seven days a week. I've had one weekend off in months—and that was the weekend Catherine and I got engaged."

Although there are two units shooting (one concentrates on the stunt work—car jumps and crashes), Hasselhoff admits, "I do a lot of driving because I like to, but it holds up production." He also enjoys performing



David Hasselhoff, Edward Mulhare and Rebecca Holden—along with KITT—form the core of *Knight Rider*.

some of his own stunts when the producers allow him. "They don't want to risk the show, but if I'm hanging from a helicopter skid, I'm certainly not going to let go! If I'm going to be the star, I don't want to be a wimp, I want to have some fun. Every now

and then they throw me a bone... but I do get to do some of the driving!"

Asked if he considers himself a professional driver, Hasselhoff responds with a laugh. "See those cars out front? I can turn them every which way but loose. In fact, when I turn them in—they're loaners—they're going to be a little upset with me." With little prodding, he explains why. "What I do is go over to Universal Studios [where *Knight Rider* is shot] and raid the Tour Tram. I take the car and hide it behind the *Leave It to Beaver* house and wait for a tour. Then, I'll throw a 180 in front of them and yell, 'Watch the *Knight Rider*!' The people go nuts." Hasselhoff uses this maneuver as a barometer of his success; when he first began these "raids," people asked, "Who was that?" Now, they clamor for autographs. He says he goes out by the *Psycho* House after work to "test" the car, much to the dismay of the security force, which has thrown him off the studio lot for similar stunts. "Tell your readers to take the tour on Sundays—that's when I'm there!"

His opinion of *Knight Rider* and its future is simple. "I think it's a good show—because it's about heroes, and the concept that one man *can* make a difference." Hasselhoff hasn't tried to make many changes in the show's direction, adding that he respects his production team's talents. Last season, he and fiancée Hickland contributed the concept for an episode based on a real-life incident. He feels "White Bird" was the series' best episode so far, not because it's their story but because "it was about people, and human emotions." He denies being interested in becoming a director at present, saying he has too much to learn. "When I was on *The Young and the Restless*, I blew it. I became real self-indulgent, staying up all night long and doing nothing but playing. I learned from my mistakes."

Of course, Hasselhoff hopes for a long run in *Knight Rider*, cruising over the excellent training ground of primetime TV. "In the beginning episodes, I was searching. Now, I have confidence. And boy, you give me confidence, watch out! I'm going to try even harder." Nevertheless, Hasselhoff shows little interest in feature film assignments, saying he would rather spend the time between seasons pursuing music, "My first love. I have a record deal I'm practicing for, and I've played 10 cities now in the last six years."

Whatever happens with his recording career, this youthful TV veteran is satisfied with what he already has and his accomplishments thus far. "I'm the luckiest actor in the world. It's a great chance," he explains. "It's every man's fantasy to drive a 007 car, and this is all the 007 cars in one. *Knight Rider* is not *Gone with the Wind*, but it's fun. And I hope people do realize there is a message hidden among the fun parts—you *can* make a difference."

With that thought, it was back to the cats, phone and semi-organized mayhem. And, of course, back to convincing the world that David Hasselhoff is more than a hood ornament. ★