

# S

urprise!!! Heeere comes **Superman IV**. Yes, Christopher Reeve will be flying over skyscrapers, rescu-

ing children and Lois Lane from the perils of the world and fighting his old foe, the evil Lex Luthor once again — and more.

He had good reason to change his mind about saying yes to another *Superman* picture. Besides the money involved, the producers of Cannon Films, Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus agreed to let him develop the story for the film with screenwriters Mark Rosenthal and Lawrence Konner from a story by Reeve, Rosenthal and Konner. The deal also included a film he wanted to do called *Street Smart* which was filmed in Montreal in the spring of 1986.

Reeve also took on the job of persuading Gene Hackman to again play his arch enemy Lex Luthor and Margot Kidder to play the object of Clark Kent's desire, Lois Lane in the \$33 million picture. Two other regulars are back. Jackie Cooper portrays Perry White the Planet's hard nosed editor and Marc McClure is the ever faithful photographer Jim Olsen.

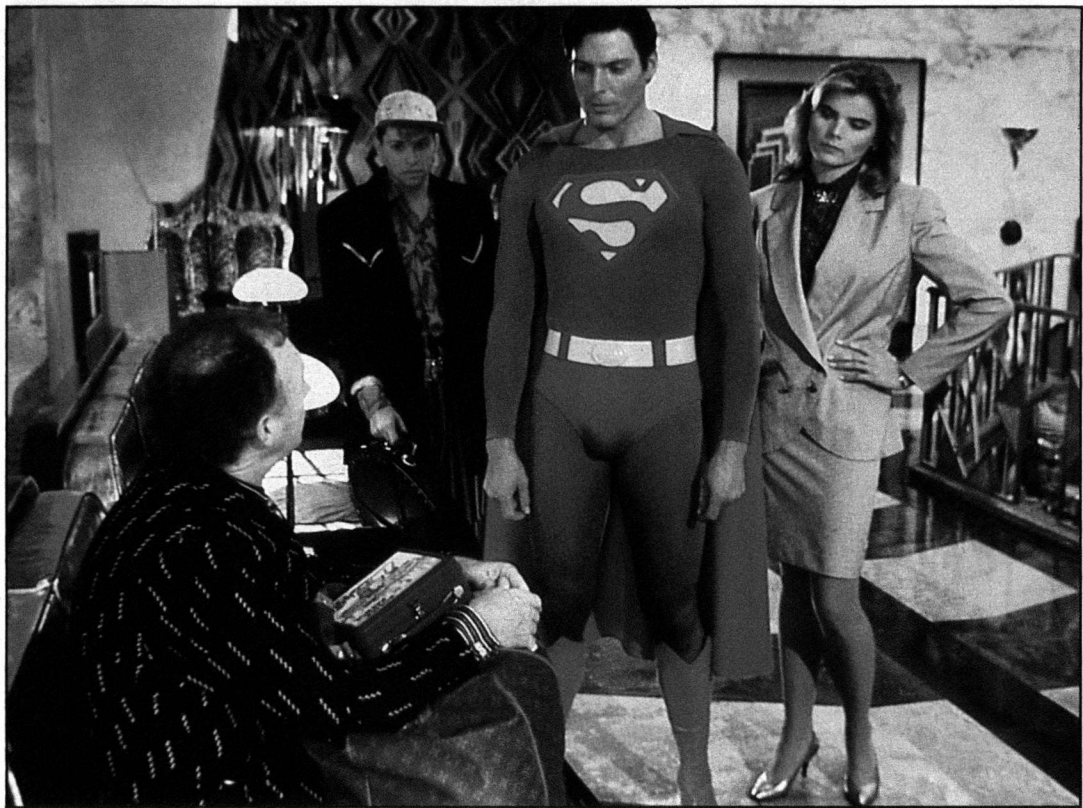
New to the series is Jon Cryer playing Luthor's obnoxious nephew and Mariel Hemingway, portraying Lacy Warfield the daughter of the Planet's new proprietor who ultimately falls for reporter Clark Kent.

When Reeve was told the film was going to be made entirely in England, he had an anxious moment or two. He couldn't imagine finding locations that would look like Metropolis in Great Britain until he talked with the director Sid Furie. Furie told him he had nothing to worry about, Reeve went along with it, and is now pleased with the result.

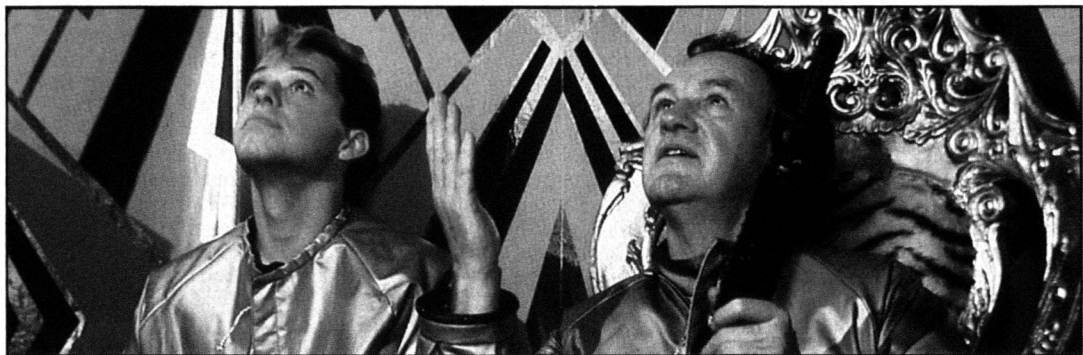
Being in England had one important compensation for Reeve. It allowed him more time with his lady Gae Exton and their two children, six year old Mathew and two year old Alexandra who make their home in London. They join Reeve during holidays in either New York where he lives as you can imagine, in a luxurious apartment, or at his Massachusetts 40 acre farm.

They're not married and haven't any plans to tie the knot, but he makes sure their children feel the world is secure. And that is exactly the storyline of **Superman IV** which was based on a TV documentary, *A Message to Our Parents*, made by children about their fears of nuclear war.

Therefore, the philosophy of **Superman IV** is different from that of the first three adventures. "If Earth is now my home, I must accept responsibility for it," says *Superman*, at the start of the adventure. For the first time in his continuing crusade against evil, the Man



## CHRIS REEVE



## FLIES AGAIN IN SUPERMAN IV

of Steel must break the inviolable rule he has lived by since he arrived from Krypton — never to intercede in the destiny of the planet Earth. *Superman* meets his fiercest challenger yet: Nuclear Man.

New York born Reeve is the son of divorced parents; journalist Barbara Johnson and Franklin Reeve, editor of *Poetry Magazine* and a lecturer at Yale and Wesleyan University.

After majoring in English at Cornell University, he enrolled in Juilliard's drama division and studied acting under John Houseman. His classmates included Robin Williams who is still a close friend, Kevin Kline and William Hurt.

His salary has changed a great deal since he first started working as an actor. He made the princely sum of \$75 a week in the off-Broadway play *My Life*. Fortunately that changed dramatically in the seventies, during the time he was appearing in the daytime television drama *Love of Life*, when he won the role opposite Katharine Hepburn in the Broadway production of *A Matter of Gravity*. It was less than a year later that he was chosen for the role of *Superman*. The role made him a superstar.

He has all the physical trappings of *Superman* in real life. He's an accomplished pilot and keeps planes on both sides of the Atlantic. He has flown the Atlantic twice alone in his own Beechcraft and did

all his own flying stunts in the film *The Aviator*. He's been given the highest awards in the graceful sport of soaring and he is also a sailing enthusiast and owns a 40 foot sailing boat.

Christopher Reeve isn't about to stick his neck out again and say he'd never do *Superman V*. He realizes too, that with the money he makes in the *Superman* series, it gives him the opportunity to take a chance on exciting projects and be able to say "no" to scripts he doesn't like.

Or else, he's finally remembered that old saying, "Never Say Never".

— Sylvia Train

