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# LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

Issue 10 1994



**Sid James on TV  
Flanders & Swann  
1980's Australian  
TV Comedy  
Shelley Berman  
The Burkiss Way**

**Editor:** Peter Tatchell **Layout & Design:** Peter Tatchell & Mark McKay

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**AUSTRALIA:** c/o P.O. Box 394, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145. (Cheques payable to P. Tatchell)

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## BACK ISSUES

*Limited stock of back issues is available at regular prices and postage. Unfortunately our first two editions are now out of print.*

**LAUGH #1** Barry Humphries/Jack Benny On Television/Monty Python On Disc/The Young Ones/Band Waggon

**LAUGH #2** Steptoe & Son/Not Only... But Also/The Marx Brothers On Disc/Police Squad/George Wallace/Craig Ferguson On Disc

**LAUGH #3** The Goodies/Roy Rene, 'Mo'/Tom Lehrer/The 'Doctor' Movies/Eddie Cantor On Radio & TV

**LAUGH #4** Norman Gunston/The 'Doctor' TV Series/Bob Newhart On Disc/Not The Nine O'Clock News/Fred Allen

**LAUGH #5** The Black Adder/Take It From Here/Victor Borge/Yes, What?/Abbott & Costello

**LAUGH #6** Lenny Henry/Dad's Army/Jimmy Durante/John Clarke/Steve Martin

**LAUGH #7** Ronnie Barker/Stan Freberg/Billy Connolly/Graham Kennedy

**LAUGH #8** The Amnesty Concerts/Danny Kaye/Britcoms Down Under/Jasper Carrott/Phyllis Diller

**LAUGH #9** Paul Hogan/The Honeymooners/Allan Sherman/The Rag Trade/The Burkiss Way

## BACK ISSUES

# SID JAMES ON TELEVISION

by Peter Tatchell

**B**Y the mid 1950s, South African-born Sidney James had become a familiar face in British movies. Usually cast as a rough diamond he appeared in dozens of films as army sergeants, criminal types and any other nuggety down-to-earth roles on offer. His performance in the classic Ealing comedy **The Lavender Hill Mob** led to a part in the BBC radio series **Hancock's Half Hour** in 1954.

When the show transferred to television two years later he became the star's chief foil and by the end of the decade Tony and Sid were widely regarded as the leading comedy duo in Britain. A year later the pair split (so Hancock could pursue a more realistic vein of humour) and James' future seemed somewhat uncertain.

H.H.H. writers Galton and Simpson continued on with Sid's East Cheam characterisation in a spinoff series called **Citizen James**, with Bill Kerr, Liz Fraser and Sydney Tafler added to the cast. Two follow-up seasons (scripted by Sid Green and Dick Hills) featured only James and Tafler in a further twenty-six episodes.

By now Sid's movie roles were primarily in comedy productions (he'd made the first of nineteen **Carry On** appearances in 1960 with **Carry On Constable**) but by 1963 the BBC signed him for a more dramatic role in **Taxi**. Cast as a London cabbie, the series touched on the grimmer side of life with storylines involving robbery, runaways and attempted suicide.

James had his own touch of drama in early 1967 when he suffered a serious heart attack but after several months of enforced rest he was able to resume work.

His fourth television venture saw him pitted against one-time **Larkins** motormouth Peggy Mount in A.T.V.'s **George And The Dragon**, playing chauffeur to her cook in the household of a retired colonel (John Le Mesurier a couple of years before **Dad's Army**). The show proved a popular favourite and ran to four series.

Barely three months after it concluded, Sid was appearing in **Two In Clover** for ITV's new Thames Television. He and Victor Spinetti played a couple of city-types who decide to leave the rat race and run a farm. Somewhat inspired by **Green Acres** in the U.S., it wasn't able to repeat that show's success on the other side of the Atlantic though it did have a second season.

Thames and James were luckier with their next production ... Sid's first family-based sitcom **Bless This House** which saw him playing a mellower, more responsible character than any of his earlier efforts. The series became a regular on the schedules for six years and over sixty episodes, and eventually inspired a motion picture spinoff.

The situation was reversed when the successful **Carry On** movies led to a handful of Christmas specials on television and later a 13-part series called **Carry On Laughing** in 1975. Sid took part in many of these in between his other regular commitments.

He was also busy in live theatre with the stage production **Carry On London** in 1974 and later a farce called **The Mating Season** (in which he toured Australia and around the British Isles).

It was during a performance of the show he collapsed and died in 1976.



## HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR (BBC)

Cast: Tony Hancock, Sidney James

Scripts by Alan Simpson and Ray Galton

\* Storylines for the episodes listed below will be found in **Tony Hancock 'Artiste'** by Roger Wilmut (Eyre Methuen 1978)

Series 1: July 6 to September 14 1956 (fortnightly)(6x30m)

1. The First TV Show
2. The Artist
3. The Dancer
4. The Bequest
5. The Radio Show
6. The Chef That Died Of Shame

Series 2: April 1 to June 6 1957 (fortnightly)(6x30m)

\* Film commitments prevented Sid James appearing in the first two episodes

1. The Alpine Holiday
2. Lady Chatterley's Revenge
3. The Russian Prince
4. The New Neighbour
5. The Pianist
6. The Auction

Series 3: September 30 to December 23 1957 (not Nov 18)(12x30m)

1. The Continental Holiday
2. The Great Detective
3. The Amusement Arcade
4. A Holiday In Scotland
5. Air Steward Hancock, The Last Of The Many
6. The Regimental Reunion
7. The Adopted Family
8. The Elocution Teacher
9. The Crown v James S.: Hancock QC Defending
10. How To Win Money And Influence People
11. There's An Airfield At The Bottom Of My Garden
12. Hancock's 43 Minutes (43-minute special)

\* Hancock and James also appeared in the 60m Christmas special:

Pantomania - Babes In The Wood (BBC December 25 1957)

Series 4: December 26 1958 to March 27 1959 (not Feb 27)(13x30m)

1. Ericson The Viking
2. Underpaid!, Or Grandad's S.O.S.
3. The Set That Failed
4. The New Nose
5. The Flight Of The Red Shadow
6. The Horror Serial
7. The Italian Maid
8. Matrimony - Almost
9. The Beauty Contest
10. The Wrong Man
11. The Oak Tree
12. The Knighthood
13. The Servants

Series 5: September 25 to November 27 1959 (10x30m)

1. The Economy Drive
2. The Two Murderers
3. Lord Byron Lived Here
4. Twelve Angry Men
5. The Train Journey
6. The Cruise
7. The Big Night
8. The Tycoon
9. Spanish Interlude
10. Football Pools

Series 6: March 4 to May 6 1960 (10x30m)

1. The Cold
2. The Missing Page
3. The Emigrant
4. The Reunion Party
5. Sid In Love
6. The Baby Sitters
7. The Ladies' Man
8. The Photographer
9. The East Cheam Centenary
10. The Poison Pen Letters

## CITIZEN JAMES (BBC)

Cast: Sid James (Sid), Bill Kerr (Bill)\*, Liz Fraser (Liz)\*, Sidney Tafler (Charlie Davenport) (\* series 1 only)

Series #1: November 24 to December 29 1960 (6x30m)

Scripts by Alan Simpson and Ray Galton

1. *The Race*  
Sid and Bill train a drunken ex-athlete to take part in the Soho Waiter's Race
2. *The Elixir*  
Sid decides to market Bill's old aboriginal cure-all potion
3. *The Money*  
When Liz asks Sid to bank three hundred quid for her, he loses it on a race bet en route
4. *The Rivals*  
Liz is sick of waiting for Sid to pop the question and agrees to go out with Albert the bookie
5. *The Raffle*  
Sid has spent the pub's Christmas raffle money and the prize-winner is Meataxe McDonnell
6. *The Brand Image*  
Sid and Bill think there's money to be made in starting up their own brand of cigarettes

Series 2: October 2 to December 25 1961 (13x30m)

Scripts by Sid Green and Dick Hills

1. *The Lamp*  
While staying at Charlie's house, Sid can't get to sleep because a street lamp is shining through the bedroom window
2. *Crusty Bread*  
Sid is annoyed that loaves of bread don't have decent crusts
3. *Kids*  
Charlie tries to capitalize on Sid's kindness to kids by setting up a child-minding service
4. *The Handbag*  
Sid and Charlie attempt to return a lost handbag to the lady who was sitting next to them on a train
5. *The Football Team*  
Sid is talked into coaching the local football side
6. *The Hotel*  
Sid and Charlie aren't impressed by the service they receive while staying at an hotel
7. *Insurance*  
The local committee has delegated Sid to organise the rain insurance for their forthcoming fete
8. *Sit Down*  
When charged an extra sixpence for his haircut, Sid stages a sitdown protest to highlight the increased cost of living
9. *The Rally*  
details unknown
10. *The Pensioner*  
Sid is distracted from the big darts match by an old mate who desperately needs a job
11. *Elope*  
While at a local dance hall, Sid causes a young couple to elope to Gretna Green
12. *Washing Day*  
Sid is fed up with outlandish advertising claims and decides to put "Foamo" soap powder to the test
13. *Christmas Day*  
Sid and Charlie are having problems cooking a turkey

Series 3: August 31 to November 23 1962

Scripts by Sid Green and Dick Hills

1. *The Hospital*

Sid takes it upon himself to improve the patient care being offered at the local hospital

2. *The Play's The Thing*

The director of the local theatre inspires Sid to promote culture in the district

3. *The Tennis Ball*

An innocent bit of ballplay leads to an unfortunate chain of events along the street

4. *It's Not Cricket*

Charlie wants to put a bit more sparkle into the local cricket match but Sid prefers to keep it slow and quiet

5. *The Reporter*

Sid is unhappy when the local newspaper fails to cover his speech and believes he can do a better job reporting the local stories

6. *The Day Out*

When Sid and Charlie visit the beach, there is conflict on whether to laze on the sand or play the slot machines

7. *The Transistor*

Charlie decides to buy Sid a transistor radio for his birthday

8. *The Old People's Outing*

Sid has to arrange the money and location for an elderly citizen's outing

9. *A Perfect Friendship*

Sid and Charlie recollect how they became friends

10. *The Watchdog*

Sid buys a dog to protect him from burglars, but who will protect him from the watchdog?

11. *The Librarian*

When Sid is expelled from the public library, he starts dispensing his own brand of literature to the Kilton Street gang members

12. *The Tube Station*

Having missed the last train, Sid and Charlie must spend the night locked in an underground station

13. *The Jury*

Sid finds himself called up for jury duty

8. *The Benefit Of The Doubt*

Sid renews acquaintance with his old commanding officer, now in the hire purchase business

9. *Can't You Drive A Little Faster*

Sid rushes a young suicide victim to hospital

10. *Who's Taking Who For A Ride*

The cabbies have been suckered

11. *Ten Years Hard*

Sid tries to prevent a fellow cabbie becoming involved in a burglary

12. *Don't Do As I Do*

The cabbies help the Children's Holiday Fund

## GEORGE AND THE DRAGON (ATV, Thames)

Cast: Sid James (as George Russell), Peggy Mount (Gabrielle Dragon), John Le Mesurier (Colonel Maynard), Keith Marsh (Ralph, the gardener)

Scripts by Vince Powell and Harry Driver

Series #1: November 19 to December 24 1966 (6x25m episodes)(ATV)

1. *George Meets The Dragon*

Colonel Maynard keeps losing housekeepers because of his chauffeur's amorous antics, but the new one is a decidedly different proposition

2. *The Unexpected Sport*

When the Colonel breaks his leg, George has to replace him in a polo match

3. *The Not So Tender Trap*

Gabrielle decides to cure George of his drunken ways by pretending he proposed to her whilst intoxicated

4. *Night, Night, Sleep Tight*

George and Gabrielle are left alone in the house when the Colonel and Ralph are away at an agricultural show

5. *Royal Letter*

When Gabrielle sends a Christmas card to the Royal family, George and Ralph decide to help out with a response

6. *Merry Christmas?*

Each member of the household intends to be away for the festive season, but things don't go according to plan

Series #2: May 20 to July 1 1967 (7x25m)(ATV)

1. The Colonel insists George use the Bentley to teach Gabrielle how to drive

2. Gabrielle resigns when George breaks her collection of gramophone records

3. Gabrielle has won a trip for two to Paris, but who will she take?

4. George won't be having a Sunday morning lie-in if Gabrielle has anything to do with it

5. The Colonel is about to be reunited with a ladyfriend he hasn't seen for thirty-five years

6. The household are caught up in a heated discussion over table manners

7. Gabrielle has taken up astrology and believes George should marry an Aquarian

## TAXI (BBC)

Cast: Sid James (as Sid Stone)

July 10 1963 to August 28 1963 etc BBC (12x50m)

1. *It's Lonely Up Front*

Sid's mentor is bashed and robbed

2. *Barricades In Bailey Street*

Sid helps a widow who has nowhere to go

3. *Everybody's In - Goodnight*

Sid finds a passenger dead in his cab

4. *The Outing*

Sid and his fellow cabbies organise a trip to Brighton for the family of an ill workmate

5. *The Villain*

Sid gets a troublemaker arrested

6. *The Runaway*

Sid offers shelter to a young runaway

7. *The Accident*

Terry is menaced by the brother of a girl who ran out in front of his cab

Series #3: January 6 to February 17 1968 (7x25m)(ATV)

1. Gabrielle is arranging a R. A. F. reunion and enlists George as a waiter
2. A pleasant afternoon's picnic by the staff leads to a court appearance
3. George and Gabrielle both want to be the first customer through the doors to buy a bargain priced television
4. When Gabrielle decides to trace her family tree it appears she may be of noble stock
5. George and Gabrielle have their day trip to London ruined by the railways
6. George uses his automotive talents to make some money repairing an old car
7. Gabrielle's holiday bus trip and George's temporary job have an unfortunate way of coinciding

Series #4: September 26 to October 31 1968 (6x25m)(Thames)

1. Everyone has been urged to 'back Britain' and the Colonel's household is no exception
2. With the cup final approaching, George and Gabrielle are caught up in football fever
3. The purchase of a mink stole leads to a serious misunderstanding
4. Gabrielle is under the impression George has only a short time to live
5. The household is abuzz when it appears Ralph has fallen in love with Gabrielle
6. Having found the person he considers his "Miss Right", George decides to elope

## TWO IN CLOVER (Thames)

Starring Sid James and Victor Spinetti

Series 1: February 18 to April 1 1969 (7x25m)

1. Fed up with life in the city, two office workers decide to pool their resources and buy a farm
2. One of the popular pursuits of country life is the traditional hunt
3. The local telephone girl presents problems for Sid and Vic
4. Life on the farm is disrupted by the antics of an amorous duck
5. A postcard causes trouble for Sid and Vic
6. Cloverdale Farm is in financial crisis
7. Sid and Vic have to locate a lost cow

Series 2: February 12 to March 19 1970 (6x25m)

1. Cloverdale Farm's tractor has broken down just when the ploughing has to be done
2. Entertaining the local bank manager causes a mixup between the dandelion wine and the sheepdip
3. Sid isn't getting along with Vic's brother
4. After losing a beer-drinking contest, Sid tries to recoup his losses by cheating at cards
5. Sid nearly ends up married to a much-married widow when he starts courting her sexy daughter
6. Taking part in a local cricket match threatens life and limb when Sid has to bat against Freddie Truman

## BLESS THIS HOUSE (Thames)

Starring Sid James (as Sid Abbott), Diana Coupland (Jean Abbott), Robin Stewart (Mike Abbott), Sally Geeson (Sally Abbott), Anthony Jackson (Trevor), Patsy Rowlands (Betty)

Series 1: February 2 to April 20 1971 (12x25m)

1. *The Generation Gap* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver) B/W  
Salesman Sid Abbott realizes his teenage children have reached that awkward age
  2. *Mum's The Word* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor) B/W  
Mention of an impending wedding leads Sid to believe Mike is planning to elope
  3. *Father's Day* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver) B/W  
Jean has conspired with Doctor McLaren to surprise Sid on Father's Day but things don't go to plan
  4. *Be It Ever So Humble* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor) B/W  
Sid reckons Mike should get a job
  5. *Another Fine Mess* B/W  
Sid agrees to deliver a mink stole for his employer's wedding anniversary
  6. *For Whom The Bell Tolls* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver) B/W  
Mention of an impending wedding leads Sid to believe that Mike is about to elope
  7. *A Woman's Place* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor) B/W  
Sid believes a wife's place is in the kitchen, but Jean wants to get a job
  8. *The Day Of Rest* (by Dave Freeman)  
Mike's abstract sculpture creates problems when the new neighbours move in
  9. *Make Love Not War* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Sid and Jean take sides in Trevor and Betty's row
  10. *Charity Begins At Home* (by David Cumming and Derek Collyer)  
Mike's new cause and Sally's latest romance play havoc with Sid's lazy weekend
  11. *If The Dog Collar Fits, Wear It* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Sid won't allow Sally to keep the stray dog she has found
  12. *The Morning After The Night Before* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Sid's boy scout reunion party causes a loss of memory
- Series 2: February 21 to May 15 1972 (12x25m)
1. *Two Heads Are Better Than One* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Sid almost ruins Mike's moneymaking venture
  2. *Love Me, Love My Tree* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Back from holiday Sid isn't pleased when he spots a pruned cherry tree
  3. *It's All In The Mind* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)  
Sid believes his house has become a den of iniquity and decides to stop the rot
  4. *Another Lost Weekend* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
A visit by Sid's father-in-law threatens his proposed fishing trip
  5. *Parents Should Be Seen And Not Heard* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)  
Sally decides to get engaged to live with her boyfriend



6. *Strangers In The Night* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)  
Whilst celebrating their first meeting, Sid and Jean have different recollections of how it happened

7. *Get Me To The Match On Time* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)

Jean's sister is being married on the day Sid and Trevor were planning to go to the big football final

8. *Wives And Lovers* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)

When Sid is late for dinner, Jean immediately suspects infidelity

9. *Never Again On Sunday* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

Sid and Jean's agreement for what to do on Sunday doesn't work out as planned

10. *People In Glass Houses* (by Carla Lane)

It is Mike's birthday but Sid isn't all that sure about the present he wants

11. *A Rolls By Any Other Name* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

Sid has to deliver the firm's Rolls Royce but gets caught up in a demonstration en route

12. *A Touch Of The Unknown* (by Dave Freeman)

When Sally and Jean become interested in the occult Sid seems to be the victim of a poltergeist

Series 3: January 22 to March 12 and April 30 to May 28 1973 (12x25m)

1. *It Comes To Us All In The End* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

The budgie is ill and Sid thinks it's pining for a mate

2. *Tea For Two And Four For Tea* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)

Sid is under the impression Mike's new love is a fifty-year-old woman

3. *To Tell Or Not To Tell* (by Carla Lane)

The Abbott's believe Betty is having an affair and aren't sure whether they should tell Trevor

4. *Blood Is Thicker Than Water* (by Dave Freeman)

A visit by Sid's black-sheep cousin causes problems for the Abbott household

5. *One Good Turn Deserves A Bother* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)

Sid is talked into minding a valuable antique tea service for his boss

6. *The Loneliness Of A Short Distance Walker* (by Carla Lane)

When the rest of the family go on a health kick, Sid enters the London to Brighton walk

7. *Watch The Birdie* (by Dave Freeman)

Sid and Trevor see potential in Mike's photographic hobby

8. *Will The Real Sid Abbott Please Stand Up* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

Jean is shocked to discover that Sid has been living the high life while he was supposed to be working late

9. *Atishoo, Atishoo, We All Fall Down* (by Carla Lane)

With the rest of the family down with flu, Sid finds himself run off his feet

10. *Entente Not So Cordial* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

A wartime reunion in Paris brings to light some of Sid's amorous adventures during the conflict

11. *I'm Not Jealous, I'll Kill Him* (by Carla Lane and Myra Taylor)

Sid isn't pleased when one of Jean's old suitors invites her out to dinner

12. *A Girl's Worst Friend Is Her Father* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

When Sally wants a secretarial job, Sid thinks her morality will be threatened

Series 4: February 20 to April 10 1974 (6x25m)

1. *Money Is The Root Of ...* (by Carla Lane)

Sid can inherit some money if he agrees to care for a pet

2. *And They Will Come Home*

The Abbott children decide to move out ... to a caravan in the back yard and a flat above the garage

3. *Who's Minding The Baby* (by Carla Lane)

The Abbott's have agreed to mind the neighbour's baby and the household soon ends up in turmoil

4. *A Beef In His Bonnett* (by Dave Freeman)

Sid unwittingly sells his car to a disreputable dealer and soon is in receipt of dozens of traffic tickets

5. *The Bells Are Ringing* (by Vince Powell and Harry Driver)

Mike proposes to the wealthy Pamela but it appears Sally may end up marrying the bride's father

6. *The First 25 Years Are The Worst* (by Dave Freeman)

Mike and Sally start an employment agency in the house which soon causes confusion for their parent's anniversary

Series 5: October 14 to December 16 1974 (10x25m)

1. *They Don't Write Songs Like That Any More* (by Bernie Sharp)

Sid buys a broken-down piano to help him compose a pop song

2. *The Gypsy's Warning*

Jean tries to stop Sid going fishing after an accident has been foretold

3. *The Biggest Woodworm In The World*

The Abbotts play host to a female snake-dancer and her python

4. *Home Sweet Home* (by Bernie Sharp)

The kids want a more exotic holiday location than Torquay

5. *You're Never Too Old To Be Young* (by Carla Lane)

Jean yearns for a dashing young lover to get her out of a rut, but doesn't want to be unfaithful to Sid

6. *The Policeman, The Paint And The Pirates* (by Dave Freeman)

Sid buys some cheap paint to modernise the bathroom

7. *Happy Birthday, Sid* (by Lawrie Wyman and George Evans)

Sid doesn't know what to do when he is given a useless birthday gift

8. *Freedom Is* (by Carla Lane)

Mike and Sally bring home a tramp they have befriended

9. *Mr. Chairman* (by Adele Rose)

Sid is at loggerheads with the local residents association

10. *And Afterwards At ...* (by Mike Sharland and B.C. Cummins)

Sid becomes embroiled in a soap opera of events at a family wedding

Series 6: January 29 to April 22 1976 (13x25m)

1. *The Frozen Limit* (by Dave Freeman)

The Abbott's newly acquired deep-freeze proves to be a disaster

2. *Beautiful Dreamer* (by Jon Watkins)

The family and next door neighbours all have different interpretations of the strange dreams Sid has been having

3. *Fish With Everything* (by Jon Watkins)

The doctor suggests Sid take up a hobby to perk him up

4. *The Naked Paperhanger* (by Dave Freeman)

Sid confuses Mike's nude model with a lady wallpaper hanger

5. *Remember Me?* (by John Watkins)

Sid has just earned a bonus and the family try to convince him they all deserve a share

6. *Something Of Value* (by Bernie Sharp)

Sid's uncle Percy has died and left him three strange packages, which come with a curse

7. *Men Of Consequence* (by Carla Lane)

Sid is confronted by an intruder in the middle of the night

8. *Skin Deep* (by Jon Watkins)

Jean is suspicious when Sid's job causes him to work late and travel out of town

9. *Friends And Neighbours* (by Jon Watkins)

Trevor and Betty are away but Jean hears noises in their house

10. *Well, Well, Well ...* (by Bernie Sharp)

Moisture seeping through the carpet leads to a team of Water Board workmen taking over the house

11. *The Phantom Pools Winner* (by Dave Freeman)

A mixup with Sid's photo in the local paper attracts hordes of visitors to the Abbott home

12. *A Matter Of Principle* (by Jon Watkins)

Sid finds himself in court and decides to conduct his own defence

13. *Some Enchanted Evening* (by Jon Watkins)

Sid is in the family's bad books so Trevor comes up with a solution to remedy things

#### **CARRY ON CHRISTMAS** (Thames)

December 24 1969 (50m)

Cast: Sid James, Terry Scott, Charles Hawtrey, Hattie Jacques, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw, Peter Butterworth, Frankie Howerd

Script by Talbot Rothwell

#### **CARRY ON LONG JOHN** (Thames)

December 24 1970 (50m)

Cast: Sid James, Terry Scott, Charles Hawtrey, Kenneth Connor, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw, Bob Todd

\* Sid did not take part in the 1972 Carry On Christmas special

#### **WHAT A CARRY ON!**

October 4 1973

#### **CARRY ON CHRISTMAS** (Thames)

December 24 1973 (50m)

Cast: Sid James, Joan Sims, Barbara Windsor, Kenneth Connor, Bernard Bresslaw, Peter Butterworth, Jack Douglas  
Script by Talbot Rothwell

#### **CARRY ON LAUGHING** (A.T.V.)

Series 1: January 4 to February 8 1975 (6x25m)

Series 2: October 26 to December 7 1975 (7x25m)

\* Sid James appeared in the first four editions only:

1. *The Prisoner Of Spenda* (by Dave Freeman)

2. *The Baron Outlook* (by Dave Freeman)

3. *The Sobbing Cavalier* (by Dave Freeman)

4. *Orgy And Bess* (by Barry Cryer and Dick Vosburgh)



# THE BURKISS WAY

by Mark McKay

ONE of the most obscure British radio shows, *The Burkiss Way* is paradoxically one of the very best. Running for five series on BBC Radio 4 from 1976 to 1980, it was full of jokes, tricks, imagination and cleverness. Its origins can be traced back to an Open University spoof on highbrow Radio 3. *The Half-Open University* presented various skits representing lectures, introduced by a professor who established an unusual rapport with his distant students: 'Stop sniggering, Perkins of the Upper Clyde.' The show was innovative and the potential for a series apparent. The following year, producer Simon Brett took the writers and cast for a short journey up the dial and a surrealist classic began.

The stars were originally Denise Coffey, Nigel Rees, Chris Emmett and Fred Harris, but after the first series Jo Kendall (of *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* fame) took over Denise's rôle. Perhaps more famous than the cast are the main writers, Andrew Marshall (a friend of Douglas Adams' and consequently the inspiration for Marvin, the paranoid android in *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy*) and bearded David Renwick. A few others contributed to odd shows, including Adams, whose sketch from the Cambridge Footlights about a repeatedly unsuccessful kamikaze pilot was included in the 18th episode. The shows were initially produced by Simon Brett (of Stepney), later by John Lloyd (of Europe) and David Hatch (of the BBC).

Originally the show took the form of radio's first correspondence course, early editions including testimonials from satisfied customers: 'I used to be a weedy, gutless and insignificant apology for a human being. Men would push me aside in the street and punch me on the nose and knock my head off and saw my stomach up... and it started to get me down. Then a friend introduced me to The Burkiss Way and immediately it changed my life. After just two weeks of the Burkiss course in sado-masochism, I now enjoy having my head knocked off and my stomach sawn up.' The course was run by its founder, Professor Emil Burkiss, and offered help for those lacking in self-confidence: 'Mention the name Fiona Smoth in Shepherds Bush and people just laugh. "She's stupid", they say. "She's ugly, untalented and a complete social failure". But do I care? No. Because as you look at me today I am a different woman. I am Doris Spedding of Bayswater, and one of the people who laugh at Fiona Smoth. And I owe it all to The Burkiss Way.'

Radio listeners were offered everything they'd ever desired: 'Ladies, would you like to have power over men? Try Burkiss naughty underwear. The new inflatable temptress bra with the peek-a-boo fluorescent shoulder straps and the incredible seductress revolving silk knickers with reversible lace thigh enhancers. Yes, photograph him in these and he'll do anything to get the negatives.' The benefits were manifold: 'The Burkiss Way showed me how to become the sort of man who's made love to more women than he's had hot dinners. All I have to do is eat regularly in British Rail buffets.'

The course offered was in 'dynamic living', a buzz-word of the late '70's. Each episode was billed in the Radio Times with a 'lesson' number, and a title which gave a rough theme for skits. Thus *Gain Spiritual Fulfilment The Burkiss Way* has items of a religious nature ('Being in church is not a time to

sit and stare at the knees of the girl in the adjoining pew. It's a time to think of higher things.') and *Get Off With Life The Burkiss Way* is tainted with a legal flavour. The latter replaces *Be Patient The Burkiss Way*, which is postponed for four weeks, and sees The Burkiss Way arrested for contravening §14 of the BBC Charter, on trial on three charges of 'being funny'—'Legal representatives for our listeners have advised us to plead "not guilty"'. One of these charges concerns the joke told in an earlier show: 'We're omitting the reference to Nicholas Parsons' brain transplant and how the monkey is struggling for recovery, because we don't want to get any cheap laughs at his expense'. The judge asks the counsel for the defence how he wishes to plead—'in semaphore, in crab language or in grand opera?'

Later, as the shows got wilder and the themes became less obvious, they were even making things difficult for archivists. Lessons 31 and 32 were combined into one half hour, with Lesson 32 supposedly the start of a new series! The following week's show, *The Last Burkiss Way*, wasn't, and seven days later, *The Next To Last Burkiss Way*, which was the last in the series had cheeky references to 'next week's show'. *Is Britain Going The Burkiss Way?* was split across two weeks (Lessons 37 and 38), and split mid-sentence, naturally. The titles even became unmanageable: Lesson 45 was entitled *Write extremely long titles with lots and lots of words in, like this, so that the RADIO TIMES will have to allot more space than the measly half a centimetre of billing space we usually get and at least it'll look a bit more prominent on the page, although nowhere near the 50 column inches they give to The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy The Burkiss Way*. But the ultimate trick was to include two Lesson 39's, both appropriately titled *Repeat Yourself The Burkiss Way*. The second of these began as a re-run of the first for more than a minute, proceeding with a new episode after an apology that the wrong tape had been loaded.

The challenge for Marshall and Renwick was to come up with an innovative new format for the series. Post-Python, a half-hour collection of unrelated sketches with clearly defined beginnings and endings no longer seemed revolutionary. The *Burkiss Way* approach saw sketches running into each other, taking different, unexpected tacks—a sketch with General Custer launching his attack of Bob Hope-type gags on Chief Sitting Bull's braves at Little Bighorn, turns out to be a film extract played at a special tribute night being held at the Talk Of The Town nightclub. Sitting Bull is one of the many mass-murderers and butchers who have gathered for a special evening to honour Genghis Khan's eight hundred years in slaughter-biz. Often the show repeatedly returns to an earlier sketch, but always in a logical fashion. The last edition of 1977 starts with a favourite target—the tacky quiz show. This one is 'The Dinosaur Cheese Interlude', in which contestants have great difficulty satisfying the requirements of the game—answering questions without mentioning a type of cheese or a species of dinosaur. Most don't seem to be able to get further than giving their names. Subsequent sketches are brought to an abrupt halt when a character unintentionally says 'cheddar' or 'stegosaurus'. A later episode centres around a *Road Dahl's*



*Tales Of The Unexpected* send-up ('starring Chubbie Checker with no clothes on as the rather unpleasant twist'), with a stranger on a train inviting a lady to play a Russian Roulette video game. A cassette is proffered, containing five blank run-of-the-mill TV shows and the deadly component—a never-ending tape of Radio 4 UK. They begin after tossing a British Rail salad to see who starts ('Your call'—'Snails'—'Snails it is!'), each play of the tape launching a different skit.

Amongst the various and assorted characters produced by the versatile cast, a few regulars emerged. One was the world's most important Jewish impresario, Lord Russian-Emigré, with his characteristic big cigar and entourage of 'yes men'—a close relation to Bernard Delfont or Lew Grade. He could be found in his natural office habitat, barking orders into the intercom: 'Max, get me the man who handles the Nolan sisters and tell him it's ruining their image. Next, get me their image and use it to disinfect the drains. Then go into my bathroom and take down the mirror. I never see myself without an appointment.' His Lordship was the man responsible for bringing the film version of the mathematical numbers system to our screens, and the television series about the nativity, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as the Three Kings. But star billing was reserved for Chris Emmett's snivelling, grimy, little toerag, Eric Pode of Croydon, who could pop up at any time mid-sketch. He became the subject of short interview in most shows, his replies a collection of amusing one-liners ('I nicked that one off Bob Monkhouse'—'Now there's a switch'). In Lesson 45 it turns out he has been performing professionally: 'I see you're playing somewhere rather interesting at the moment.'—'No, I was just getting me handkerchief out.' He is even contemplating matrimony: 'My new girlfriend is expecting a little one. I don't think she'll be disappointed.' In the last *Burkiss*, Mr. Croydon makes public his plans to move into a new line of work—carrying out vasectomies on goats. No kidding.

One of the most striking qualities of *The Burkiss Way* is the wealth of comic ideas. Not only is there a show which finishes very early—continuing with an old film—and a show which supposedly starts 25 minutes late (Lesson 12: *Make Short Comedy Programmes The Burkiss Way*), but there is another which begins with the closing credits, continues with Dean Martin's drunken sign-off—'Goodnight from dynamic

livers everywhere'—and is then interrupted with an apology that the show appears to be running backwards. Sadly, in Lesson 22 there is an accident—the show is dropped, shattering into many fragments. These are hastily reassembled as well as can be expected under the circumstances, however continuity suffers somewhat. Marshall and Renwick also experimented with false endings (sometimes giving false information about next week's programmes!) and making things difficult and embarrassing for the BBC Radio 4 continuity announcer following the show. Sometimes film concepts were transferred to radio—Lesson 13 presents the Cinemascope version of 'Mutiny On The Bounty', entitled 'Tiny On The Bount' since all the beginnings and endings of sentences won't fit on the small screen wireless. In Lesson 23, stunt men are brought on to deliver sketch punch-lines ('Well, would you dare say it?').

In February 1977, *The Burkiss Way* became the subject of *This Is Your Life*. Eamonn Andrews sets up the ruse by disguising himself as a joke ('There — that didn't take long') and hides on page three of the script. The show is taken on a trip down memory lane, from birth ('Congratulations sir, it's a BBC comedy!') to early achievements: 'Do you remember this laugh? Yes, it was the very first laugh you ever got—way back on show eleven'. A straight man from an early sketch recalls behind-the-scenes problems. Finally, the closing signature tune has been flown in from New South Wales, and the credits are read in an Aussie accent.

Despite their fondness for unconventionality, the writers did not eschew good old-fashioned jokes. Some were of a very high standard, but unfortunately we only have space for the one about the American gambler, who in two hours had collected over 2,000 G's—it was the worst game of scrabble he'd ever had. Or the one about the poor young gravedigger who was struggling to bring up a family of four, when his shovel broke. Or maybe we can just squeeze in the one about the man who is unemployed because he can't keep a job down, on a strict diet because he can't keep his food down and has sixteen children. Above all, the show never took itself seriously—sketches featured characters called 'Mr. Funnylines' or 'Mr. Differentperson' & 'Mr. Sameperson', and a *South Bank Show* parody was introduced by 'a man squeezing his nose in order to sound like Melvyn Bragg.'

The team had fun with their versions of other radio and TV programmes. The impersonations of personalities from *The Archers'* Walter Gabriel to interviewer Michael Parkinson are generally surprisingly accurate. *The Burkiss Way* presented their interpretations of *Just A Minute*, *A Book At Bedtime*, *Blakes 7*, *Top Of The Pops*, *World of Sport*, the *Carry On* films, wartime *ITMA* and *Dick Barton—Special Agent*. Some included unlikely guests—Arthur C. Clarke on *Does The Team Think* and Genghis Khan popped up on both *The Old Grey Whistle Test* and *The Mongols From The Ministry*. However, in Lesson 41 (broadcast on the 26th December 1979 and naturally titled *Eric Pode of Croydon's Easter Special*), the real Peter Jones hit back. After a false ending, familiar space music faded up and Jones began reading in a familiar fashion: 'Somewhere in the shady part of the Milky Way, just outside a small bluish star orbited by a few damp planets of dubiously desirable habitation, there is a tiny hole in the electromagnetic airspace. To plug this void in the continuum, the inscrutable monoliths of the collapsing star system of Radio 4 Light Entertainment occasionally employ a tiny imperceptible device known as The Burkiss Way. The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy defines this as "a programme of infinite tedium, which gets cheap laughs by doing pathetic parodies of other much more successful shows. Its impressions are notoriously unrecognisable. This one, for instance, sounds absolutely nothing like me. And as if that weren't bad enough, it invariably ends in a silly fashion, just when you least..."' Needless to say, the show breaks off at this point.

A few items later surfaced in other shows, strangely in better versions than the originals, largely due to thorough re-writing. A Mastermind parody with the contestant answering one question behind each time was expanded into a very funny and clever spot for *The Two Ronnies*. A sketch from Lesson 23 set in a modern hi-fi shop, with an old-fashioned, timid man trying to buy a 'gramophone' from a smartarse young salesman, cropped up in the 1980 series of *Not The Nine O'Clock News*, performed by Mel Smith and Rowan Atkinson.

In 1981, a hardback book of the show, by Marshall & Renwick, was published by George Allen & Unwin under the title **Bestseller!** It purported to be a collection of the life works of Eric Pode found in a strong-box by the Controller of Programmes at Anglia Television. It consisted of diary entries, school tests, published stories, advertisements and submitted radio/TV scripts (together with the inevitable letters of rejection). Most of these works were taken from the radio scripts and novelised or even put into cartoon form! However there were also original items. One was a Painting By Numbers picture depicting an outline of a sexily-posed naked woman, but with every area marked to be coloured white. The picture's caption read 'Christmas Snow Scene'.

Post-Burkiss, the writers moved on to an LWT political comedy series, *Whoops Apocalypse* (a whimsical coverage of Armageddon), which also became a book, a film and a scented nasal spray. This began an association with Alexei Sayle, and his BBC-TV series, *Stuff*, which is probably the closest we'll get to a televisual *Burkiss Way*. Spike Milligan, being a *Burkiss* fan, invited Marshall and Renwick to contribute to his 1982 TV series, *There's A Lot Of It About*. More recently they have been working separately on different sitcoms—Marshall on *Two Point Four Children* and Renwick on *One Foot In The Grave*, and together on *If You See God, Tell Him*. Which only goes to prove what dynamic living can do for one.

## Episode Guide:

The main (discernible!) sketches are itemised.

## The Half-Open University

Both editions first broadcast on Radio 3 (stereo).

Cast: Timothy Davies, Chris Emmett, Christine Ozanne, Nigel Rees

Script: Andrew Marshall, John Mason, David Renwick

25.8.75

Archimedes' principle/Common frog — This Is Your Life/Germ warfare/Sound/Heat/Gases/Frankenstein

1.12.76

### Course 2: History, etc

Joke recital/Prehistory/Ancient World of Sport/Caxton/The Great Frost of London/The guillotine/King Charles

## The Burkiss Way

All editions first broadcast on Radio 4 (stereo from series 4).

Cast: Denise Coffey (series 1), Jo Kendall (series 2 onwards), Chris Emmett, Fred Harris, Nigel Rees

Script: Andrew Marshall, David Renwick, John Mason (series 1 only)

### Series 1

27.8.76 Lesson 1:

#### Peel Bananas The Burkiss Way

Man accused of being Max Bygraves/Sufferer from death/Harry Nelson, P.I. — The kidnapped orchestra

3.9.76 Lesson 2:

#### Pass Examinations The Burkiss Way

(This edition appears not to have been broadcast)

10.9.76 Lesson 3:

#### Escape From Prison The Burkiss Way

Prison/Sport/The Count of Monte Cristo

17.9.76 Lesson 4:

#### Solve Murders The Burkiss Way

Murder on a train not nearly as famous as the Orient Express

24.9.76 Lesson 5:

#### Keep Unfit The Burkiss Way

British television-watching Olympics/Buying a box of matches/The strange case of Dr. Jekyll

1.10.76 Lesson 6:

#### Win Awards The Burkiss Way (¼ hour only)

Awards show/The Scarlet Pimpernel

### Series 2

15.12.76 Lesson 7:

#### Influence Friends And Win People The Burkiss Way

Whizzo Dead Rat Company/Ask the Cleverdicks/Nickertwist Copperby

22.12.76 Lesson 8:

#### Plan Christmas Schedules The Burkiss Way

Children's hospital/Squid/A Stiff Called Ironside/Ticket collector/Celebrity Morons

29.12.76 Lesson 9:

#### Gain Spiritual Fulfilment The Burkiss Way

Insurance against becoming Jewish/Installing a new pope/The Pantomime Gang

5.1.77 Lesson 10:  
**Govern Britain The Burkiss Way**  
Bielection toad vote/Drycleaners/Liberals' pun bill — The Puns of Navarone

12.1.77 Lesson 11:  
**Journey Into The Unknown The Burkiss Way**  
Reincarnation as a buffalo/Erich von Conrnick's book/Orpheus & Eurydice Sproat

19.1.77 Lesson 12:  
**Make Short Comedy Programmes The Burkiss Way**  
Radio Times/Patents Office/Eurovision Raquel Welch gag contest

26.1.77 Lesson 13:  
**Commemorate Jubilees The Burkiss Way**  
Tiny on the Bount/Garage mechanic/The Hound of the Baskervilles

2.2.77 Lesson 14:  
**Do You-Know-What The Burkiss Way**  
Sketch is expected/Gnat watchers/Documentary addiction/Dental check-up with Judge Jeffries

9.2.77 Lesson 15:  
**Skive From School The Burkiss Way**  
Edgar Lustgarden's annals of Scotland Yard/Moses Minor and the boys of Greyfriars

16.2.77 Lesson 16:  
**Get Off With Life The Burkiss Way**  
The Burkiss Way on trial/Treasure Island Dairies/Pencil-poking plays/Miss Old Bailey 1977

23.2.77 Lesson 17:  
**This Is Your Life The Burkiss Way**  
Speeding continuity announcer/Irritating man on train/Doctor/The legion of superheroes

2.3.77 Lesson 18:  
**Become A Rock Star The Burkiss Way**  
Kamikaze/Caveman/Lowestoft cowboys

9.3.77 Lesson 19:  
**Replace The Burkiss Way**  
The Mongols from the Ministry/Just A Minute/Miss Quasimodo's air hostess interview/Travel agent/Doctor No

### *Series 3*

15.11.77 Lesson 20:  
**Discover Gravity The Burkiss Way**  
Children's Favourites with Uncle Hitler/The life of Sir Isaac Newton/VAT Inspector/Nativity TV series

22.11.77 Lesson 21:  
**Get Cut Off The Bur**  
Go to the Lavatory/PM Reports comedy leak/The Arabian Nights

29.11.77 Lesson 22:  
**How To Succeed In Business The Burkiss Way**  
It's That Script Again/Little Women/Cruelty to animals/Satan's planning application/The Loan Arranger

6.12.77 Lesson 23:  
**Son Of The Burkiss Way**  
Kingmaker/Board meeting/Telegram

13.12.77 Lesson 24:  
**One Hour To Burkiss Way**  
The Alarmist Report/Research plant/Investment consultant/Mr and Mrs/Leg-sawing/The VAT man

20.12.77 Lesson 25:  
**Not To Be Unwrapped The Burkiss Way**  
Tales from the Script/Lord Tennyson meets Queen Victoria/Lord Hackinbottmo's Last Will/Nose City

27.12.77 Lesson 26:  
**First Prize The Burkiss Way**  
The Cheapo Quiz/The Dinosaur-Cheese Interlude/Whizzo Holidays/Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon/Script conference

3.1.78 Lesson 27:  
**Around The World The Burkiss Way**  
Book critics/Around the World in Eighty Days/Sex Factor Coloured Water Bottlers Ltd

10.1.78 Lesson 28:  
**Ignore These Programme Titles The Burkiss Way**  
Dick Barton/Doorhandle of the Day/Napoleon & Josephine/Menswear shop/The Lives of the Great Composers

17.1.78 Lesson 29:  
**Complain About The Burkiss Way**  
Desert Island Wobblies/All You Need Is Viewers/Charles Darwin/Harrabs board meeting/Royal Heritage

24.1.78 Lesson 30:  
**Not The Burkiss Way**  
Tonight/Falling to pieces/Galileos before the Curia/World of Sport

31.1.78 Lesson 31: \*  
**Bruce's Choice**  
Star Bores/Heaven/Beat the Granny/Travel agent

31.1.78 Lesson 32: \*  
**Start New Series The Burkiss Way**  
Ivan the Terrible/Embarrassment of the Century  
\* combined into one ½ hour episode

7.2.78 Lesson 33:  
**The Last Burkiss Way**  
Custer's Last Stand/Genghis Khan/Hi-fi shop/Golf tournament/The Old Grey Whistle Test/Avogadro's Playhouse

14.2.78 Lesson 34:  
**The Next To Last Burkiss Way**  
The Holy Bible/Doctor Batman and Robin/Underpants donor/Syrup on Sunday/Robin Hood

### *Series 4*

2.4.79 Lesson 35:  
**Remember The Burkiss Way**  
The Game Show Game/The Blood Gushing All Over the Screen in Question/The fall of the Roman Empire

9.4.79 Lesson 36:  
**Rise From The Grave The Burkiss Way**  
The Scriptwriter's Guide to the Galaxy/Hitchcock's Half Hour — Dracula/Undertakers/Oedipus Rex film/Maternity ward

16.4.79 Lesson 37:  
**Is Britain Going The Burkiss Way? (Part 1)**  
The Homecoming by Harold Pinter/David Frost's global clipboard/All Opium of the Masses Great and Small/Hospital/Just A Minute/Adam & Eve/Moses

16.4.79 Lesson 38:  
**Is Britain Going The Burkiss Way? (Part 2)**  
Supplying the poets/The War of the Worlds/Ordering drinks/The South Bank Show

30.4.79 Lesson 39:  
**Repeat Yourself The Burkiss Way**  
Edward & Mr. Simpson/The Hound of the Baskervilles/Snow White/Selling a house

7.5.79 Lesson 39:

**Repeat Yourself The Burkiss Way**

Edward & Mr. Simpson/Blankety Blank/The Eamonn Andrews Disaster/Mr. William Bunter's cannibalism/The Zulu wars

14.5.79 Lesson 40:

**Avoid Like The Plague The Burkiss Way**

The Masque of the Red Death/Houdini/The French Revolution  
Guest star: Tim Brooke-Taylor

*Special*

26.12.79 Lesson 41:

**Eric Pode Of Croydon's Easter Special**

Face the Smart Alecs/Junk Box Jury/Terminal Hogmanay/Nixon's middle name/Aquarius/The Superstars/The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Guest star: Peter Jones

*Series 5*

11.10.80 Lesson 42:

**The Man From The Burkiss Way**

Tales of the Unexpected/Dentist/Soul Destroying Job

18.10.80 Lesson 43:

**Sack The Burkiss Way**

Week Ending credits/The Trojan wars/Spotty Young Cleverdicks of the Year/Eddie's 24-hour all-night sniffery/Family Fortunes

25.10.80 Lesson 44:

**Love Big Brother The Burkiss Way**

Not the Next Week's News Huddlines/Nineteen Eighty-Four/Lady Marquis-Melville/Catering advisor/Friday Night Saturday Morning

1.11.80 Lesson 45:

**Write Extremely Long Titles... The Burkiss Way**

The Muppet Show with Richard Nixon/The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm/Yesterday in Quango/Thames TV/The Welsh/Looks Familiar

8.11.80 Lesson 46:

**Settle Out Of Court The Burkiss Way**

Things Club/Bob Langley Gives you the Willies/Travel agent/Dr. Magnus Pyke/Amoeba

15.11.80 Lesson 47:

**Wave Goodbye To CBEs The Burkiss Way**

Queen Mother's birthday/Death-on-Sea/Psychiatrist/The mathematical numbers system/The voyage of Salvador Heyerdali

Guest star: David Jason

*Bibliography*

**Bestseller! — The Life and Death of Eric Pode of Croydon**

by Andrew Marshall & David Renwick (George Allen & Unwin 1981)

*Compact Discs*

**Classic Comedy**

M.C.A. MCAD 20671

Rewriting The National Anthem (Albert Brooks)/Bedroom Slippers (Bill Cosby)/That's Show Biz (Rodney Dangerfield)/The Chauffeur And The Professor (Jerry Clower)/The Invention Of Basketball (Bill Cosby)/My In-Laws (Foster Brooks)/Bird Huntin' At Uncle Versies (Jerry Clower)/Chinese Rock And Eggroll (Buddy Hackett)/ Overdrawn At The Bank (Jerry Jordan)/The Cost Of An Egg (Bill Cosby)

**Bob Newhart - Best Of The Button-Down Mind**

Warner Bros OPCD 2529

Abe Lincoln Vs Madison Avenue/The Cruise Of The U.S.S. Codfish/ Merchandising The Wright Brothers/The Kruschev Landing Rehearsal/ Driving Instructor/Nobody Will Ever Play Baseball/Automation And A Private In Washington's Army/The Grace L. Ferguson Airline/Bus Drivers School/ Retirement Party/An Infinite Number Of Monkeys/ Ledge Psychology

**Sam Kinison - Live From Hell**

Priority P2 53863

I Missed The Joan Rivers Show/Execution For Pee Wee/ Captain Kangaroo/Russians Are Losers/Sammy's Pawnshop/ J.F.K./Space Pussies/The Kurds/Willie Nelson/The Smart Bomb/100 Hour War/Bob Hope/The Pee Trough/Know When To Die/Sam's Tirade/Rap Sucks/Cable T.V./Bad Taste/The Homeless/Don't Swallow

**Bob Hope Remembers World War 11**

Hope Enterprises (no number) 2 CDs, a video and a booklet  
1. The Bob Hope (radio) Show (Oct 13 1942)/President Roosevelt's D-Day Speech/Bob Hope's D-Day broadcast  
2. Somewhere In Time: The Songs And Spirit Of WW11 fourteen songs by Dolores Reade Hope, including two duets with Bob: Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree/You Brought A New Kind Of Love To Me

# WHAT'S NEW

*Videos*

**Kevin "Bloody" Wilson Let Loose Live In London**

Both Barrels BBV 11093

80m of highlights from Her Majesty's Theatre includes: I Gave Up Wanking/The Builder/Bali Belly Song/ Don't Touch Your Sister/The Kid (He Swears A Bit)/Mick The Master Farter/The Festival Of Life/My Grandfather's Cock/Kev's Courtin' Song/Dick 'Taphone (The Telecom Song)/Hey Santa Claus

**The Perilous Pursuits Of Mr. Bean**

Polygram 632 290-3

two more 25m episodes starring Rowan Atkinson: Mind The Baby, Mr. Bean/Do-It-Yourself, Mr. Bean

**French And Saunders (series 4)**

BBC 5246

101m of highlights from their 1993 series

**Funny Business**

Primetime 13827

Rowan Atkinson hosts the first (50m) episode from the 1992 seven-part investigation of visual comedy

*Books*

**The Life and Death of Peter Sellers**

by Roger Lewis (Century)

**The Hippopotamus**

by Stephen Fry (Hutchinson)

• also available as Random House Audiobook read by the author (RC176 — 6 audio cassettes)

**The Kenneth Williams Letters**

edited by Russell Davies (Harper Collins)

**Dancing in the Moonlight**

by Ronnie Barker (Hodder & Stoughton)

# A GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN TV COMEDY IN THE 1980s

by Paul Balsillie

**T**HE early 1980s saw a resurgence of sketch comedy on Australian television. The driving forces were performers and writers who got their start doing standup comedy at small time Melbourne cafes or appearing in university revues. They progressed through several experimental formats which attracted cult followings, before graduating to public acceptance with such shows as *The Comedy Company* and *Fast Forward*. Along the way, a number of sitcoms also appeared, though with less success. Herewith a rundown of the shows, the performers and the merchandising ...

## RATBAGS (10)

series 1: Jun 2 to Aug 25 1981 (13 x 60m)

Cast: Rod Quantock, Mary Kenneally, Adam Bowen, Joanne Samuel, Micki Gardener, John Derum.

Owing to network in-fighting, the programme was hardly seen outside Sydney. Features included *Cooking with Mars Bars* (Derum), *Superperson* (feminist serial) and comments by leading pop, sporting and political figures.

## AUSTRALIA, YOU'RE STANDING IN IT (ABC)

series 1: Sep 28 to Nov 21 1983 (9 x 30m)

series 2: Oct 3 to Nov 7 1984 (6 x 30m)

Cast: Steve Blackburn, Geoff Brooks, Sue Ingleton, Mary Kenneally, Evelyn Krape, Rod Quantock, Tim Robertson.

Programme that gave us the *Dodgey Brothers* (Blackburn and Brooks), *Tim and Debbie* (Blackburn and Kenneally) and an ongoing advertising campaign for *Chunky Custard*. Each week Quantock appeared in a monologue in the middle of the show.

*Records:*

**Brainspace Vol. II\*** - Tim & Debbie

Festival / Infinity LP L-38169 (1983)

Hi/Bali/Speciesism/Sexual Harassment/Education/Barry/Humpty Dumpty/Tatar Interview/Jim Cairns/Back to the Womb/Genetic Engineering/Bush/Unemployment/Tax/All the People

(\* there was no volume 1)

**God Save Me/Australia You're Standing In It** (main theme)

Festival / ABC Records single K-9488 (1984)

**Australia - You're Standing In It (Brainspace Vol. III)**

Festival / ABC Records LP L-38477 (1986)

Buy This DODGEY Record/The Politics of Dinosaurs (Tim & Debbie)/Wayne & Arthur (1)/The Dismissal/Chunky Custard (1)/Smart Artist's Gallery/Club Muraro/Anzus (Bruce Rump - RSL)/1984 (circa 1953)/Reflections: Duress Duress/The Heidelberg School I/The Heidelberg School II/Teachers (Bruce Rump - RSL)/Wayne & Arthur (2)/The Politics of Time (Tim & Debbie)/Chunky Custard (2)/Jack & Jack/PTO/Chunky Custard (3)/The Politics of Transport (Tim & Debbie)/Untitled I/Song of the Mormons (The Mormon Tabernacle Experience)/Wayne & Arthur (3)/A Brown Like Brian/Untitled II/Chunky Custard (4)/The Politics of Christmas (Tim & Debbie)/Artifacts/Landrights (Bruce Rump - RSL)/Chunky Custard (5)/Variety Tasmanian Style + I'm Glad I'm Not in El Salvador Tonight (Always the Bridesmaids)/Untitled III/Chunky Custard (6)/The End/1999

\* Steve Blackburn, Geoff Brooks, Mary Kenneally and Rod Quantock also appear on the LP **The Hysterical Record of Victoria** (EMI custom pressing YPRX 2297) (1984).

## THE ELEVENTH HOUR (7)

series 1: Feb 22 to Apr 26 1985 (8 x 60m)

The Eleventh Hour Looks at Television - Oct 25 1988

Cast: Maryanne Fahey, Elliot Goblett (Jack Levi), Ian McFadyen, Mark Mitchell, Peter Moon, Mark Neal, Glenn Robbins, Steve Vizard.

Mitchell introduced us to his Bert Newton parody and Robbins to his Uncle Arthur in this experimental prototype that spawned *The Comedy Company* and later *Fast Forward*.

## THE D-GENERATION (ABC/7)

series 1: Mar 13 to May 27 1986 (10 x 30m)

series 2: Apr 30 to Jun 4 1987 (6 x 30m)

Special: The Best of the Original D-Generation - Aug 21 1993

Channel 7 specials:

The D-Generation Go Commercial - May 23 1988

Degenocide - Oct 11 1988

The D-Generation's Salute to Roy Smeck - Nov 1 1988

D-Generation Country Homestead - Oct 12 1989

ABC Cast: Santo Cilauro, Marg Downey, John Harrison, Rob Sitch, Magda Szubanski, Michael Veitch.

7 Cast: Nick Bufalo, Santo Cilauro, Marg Downey, Tom Gleisner, John Harrison, Tony Martin, Mick Molloy, Rob Sitch, Jason Stephens, Magda Szubanski, Jane Turner, Michael Veitch, Sue Yardley.

Spawned from a Melbourne University revue of the early 1980's, the group initially appeared in two series for the ABC before switching to Seven to present four specials.

A number of the team then switched to a radio breakfast session for several years, whilst Downey, Szubanski and Veitch stayed with Seven for the Fast Forward series (see listing).

In 1992 the "radio" D-Gen members transferred back to television for the ABC programme The Late Show (see listing).

*Records:*

**Degeneration - Dance Mix/Degeneration - TV Mix Festival / ABC Records single K-295 (1987)**

**The D Generation - Thanks For Being You!! xxx**  
Polygram / ABC Records 836 196 (LP and Cassette) (1987)  
D-Generation Theme Song/Live Eye News Service/Flatulence/Advertising 1/My New Book/First Aussies in Space/Carlton Cowboys/ Social Comment/Bloody Feminists/'Do You Like My Chocolate Mousse, Stephen?'/Test-Tube Baby/Test-Tube-O-Matic/Advertising 2/Early One Monday Morning/Philosopher Kid/ Man From the Bank/666 Lamington Drive/Black Mass/Doris Hoax/Address to the Nation/The Money Song/Political Comment/Bi-Centennial Anthem/America's Cup Progress Report/Late One Saturday Arvo/ABC Opera Simulcast/Sermon on the Mount/Sexual Harrassment 1/Advertising 3/Sexual Harrassment 2 - Women Eh!/Rona and Jilly/Look Both Ways/Aussie Drawl/Dag City/Teenage Party/Brady Bunch/Television for Slow Learners/Advertising 4/Deep Probe with Jane Beechey/An Apology From the United States/The Holocaust

**The Satanic Sketches**  
Mushroom 30223 (LP, Cassette and CD) (1989)  
No accurate track details given

**Five in a Row / Pissweak Quiz Show Sketch**  
Mushroom single K1016 (1989)

**The Breakfast Tapes (1988 - 1990)**  
Mushroom 30421 (LP, Cassette and CD) (1990)  
Tracks not listed

**Five More in a Row**  
Mushroom single (1990)

*Book:*

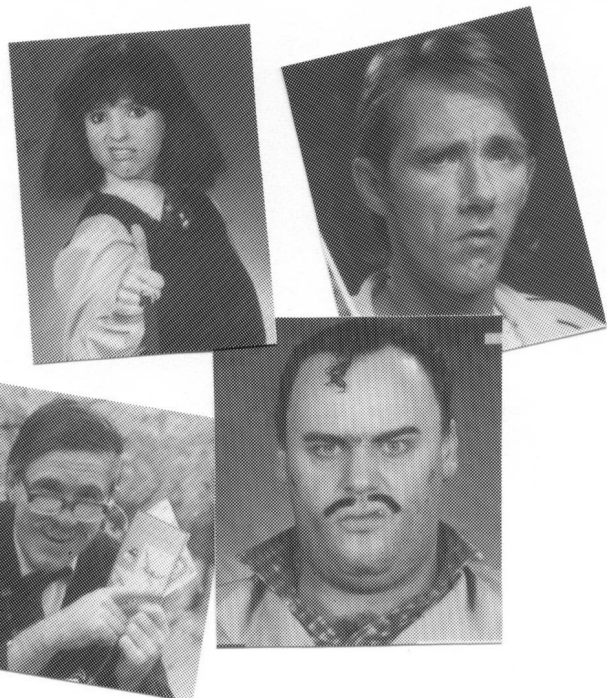
**The D Generation - Bumper Book of Aussie Heroes**  
Penguin ppk (1987)

**WHILE YOU'RE DOWN THERE (ABC)**

Series 1: May 22 to Jun 26 1986 (6 x 30m)

Cast: John Alsop, Linda Hartley, Mark Neal, Gina Riley, Glenn Robbins, Richard Stubbs, Sioban Tuke.  
writers include: Tom Gleisner, Rob Sitch.

Six part sketch comedy series which provided a stepping stone for several writers and performers from the Eleventh Hour and D-Generation groups on route to later successes such as the Comedy Company and Fast Forward.



**THE COMEDY COMPANY (10)**

Series 1: Feb 16 to Nov 13 1988 (29 x 60m)  
(not Mar 8 or 29, Sep 18 or 25 and Oct 2, plus six in-season repeats entitled ComedyCompany Collection)  
Series 2: Feb 12 to Nov 12 1989 (33 x 60m)  
(Plus seven in-season repeats)  
Series 3: Jul 15 to Nov 11 1990 (18 x 60m)

Cast: Maryanne Fahey, Russell Gilbert (2 & 3), Kim Gyngell (1 & 2), Tracy Harvey (3), Christine Keough, Alix Longman (3), Ian McFadyen, Mark Mitchell, Marilyn O'Donnell (3), Geoff Paine (3), Bernadette Robinson (3), Glenn Robbins (1 & 2), Peter Rowsthorn (2 & 3), Tim Smith (1), Melanie Solomon (3), Sioban Tuke (2).

Writers include: Mick Molloy, Jason Stephens.

First Aussie sketch show of the 80's to be popular with the general public. The show relied heavily on regular catch phrases and characters such as Con the Fruiterer (Mitchell), Kylie Mole (Fahey), Col'n Carpenter (Gyngell) and Uncle Arthur from The Eleventh Hour (Robbins).

Initially scheduled on Tuesday nights, it grabbed a huge family audience when moved to early Sunday evenings. Eventually the characters overstayed their welcome, but a revamped version (after a break) was not a success.

*Records:*

**The Comedy Company Album**  
CBS 462994 (LP, Cassette and CD) (1988)  
Kylie Mole: Being Dropped/Kylie Mole:I Go I Go/Colin Carpenter: At the CES/The Language of Football/The Typists: Getting Married/Playschool/David Rabbitborough: The Office Desk/Uncle Arthur's Song: Row Row Row Your Boat/Bedscene: You're Going Off Me/Con the Fruiterer: Roula's Birthday/Kylie Mole: The Student Teacher/Kylie Mole: So Excellent/Colin Carpenter: The Car/The Language of Seduction/Drive Time Aerobics/Your Mother's Greatest Hits/NBC News/David Rabbitborough: The Handbag/Shop Assistant School/Bedscene: We Never Talk/Con the Fruiterer: A Cuppla Days

**A Cuppla Days/The Con Dance** by Con the Fruiterer  
CBS single 653148 (1988)

**So Excellent/I Go I Go** by Kylie Mole  
CBS single 653028 (1988)

**I Like Grils** by Colin Carpenter  
CBS single 654508 (1988)  
Mixed Grils (Dance Mix)/I Like Grils/I Like Grils (The other Mix)

**The Comedy Company Classics**  
CBS 466119 (LP, Cassette and CD) (1989)  
Wildman/Colin. "Giving Evidence"/Jophesine. "The Chicken"/Wildman. "The Phone"/Two Dogs. "Sex"/Bedscene. "Home Late"/Colin Carpenter Song. "I Was Too Young"/Wildman/Mother & Baby/"Come Here For One Minute"/Kylie. "At Grandma's"/Con. "The Maternity Ward"/Wildman's Contests/Colin. "Christmas"/Bedscene. "The Stump"/Postie. "The Phone Bill"/Marika Song. "I No Complain"/Uncle Arthur. "Story Time"

\* Maryanne Fahey, Russell Gilbert, Iam McFadyen and Mark Mitchell appear on the LP **Jive Turkey's Christmas Comedy Album** (Columbia 474880) (1993).

*Videos:*

**Comedy Company Volume 1**  
VIR491 (1990)  
60 mins of highlights from series 1 & 2.

**Comedy Company Volume 2**  
VIR492 (1990)  
60 mins of highlights from series 1 & 2.

**Comedy Company Volume 3**  
VIR493 (1990)  
60 mins of highlights from series 1 & 2.

*Books:*

**The Comedy Company Holiday Book**  
Penguin ppk (1988)

**Con's Bewdiful Australia**  
Penguin ppk (1989)

**The Kylie Mole Diary**

## THE GERRY CONNOLLY SHOW (ABC)

Jun 29 to Aug 3 1988 (6 x 30m)

Cast: Gerry Connolly, Michael Carman, Diane Jeffries, Danny Nash, Damien O'Doherty, Mandy Solomon.  
Writers include: Mick Molloy, Jason Stephens.

Collection of unrelated sketches and musical items relying on Connolly's popular impersonations of Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles and even Barry Humphries.



## THE BIG GIG (ABC)

Series 1: Feb 28 to Jun 6 1989 (15 x 60m)  
Series 2: Aug 29 to Nov 21 1989 (13 x 60m)  
Series 3: Mar 6 to May 22 1990 (12 x 60m)  
Series 4: Aug 28 to Nov 13 1990 (12 x 60m)  
Series 5: Apr 30 to Jul 16 1991 (not 2 Jul) (11 x 60m)  
(Plus thirteen repeats entitled The Big Gig Rejigged shown between series three and four)  
Specials: Mar 31, May 19 and Jul 14 1992

Cast: Anthony Aykroyd, Doug Anthony All-Stars (Tim Ferguson, Richard Fidler and Paul McDermott), Maryanne Fahey (3), Flacco (Paul Livingston), Found Objects, Wendy Harmer, Tracy Harvey, Jean Kittson, Angela Moore, Glynn Nicholas, Matt Parkinson, Matt Quartermaine.

Australian version of Britain's Saturday Live (which was notable for Ben Elton's hosting). Compered by Wendy Harmer (and later Glynn Nicholas) the programme was a mix of regular characters, pop music and guest comedians (including overseas visitors such as Elton himself and Craig Ferguson). Segments included Nicholas' Pate Biscuit (sending up children's presenters), a reworking of The Frost Report's "class system" sketch and Kitson's neurotic newsreader and trendy exercise freak.

*Videos:*

**The Best of the Big Gig**  
ABC VIDEO 12854 (1991)  
80 mins of highlights

**The Big Gig Rejigged**  
ABC VIDEO (1992)  
more highlights

*Book:*

**Bedtime Stories With Pate Biscuit and Bongo**  
Angus and Robertson ppk (1990)  
Sketches by Glynn Nicholas as Pate Biscuit



*Album:*

**More Pate Please**

ABC/Phonogram 512 801

Nature's Way/Edmund the Whale/The Boy Who Wears Glasses/Sit Up Sit Down/The Prince, The Peasant and the Mushroom/Can You Sing in Tune?/The Day Eric Exploded/Henrietta the Hen/Can You Keep a Secret?/The Adventures of Fairy Bluebell/The Bot Who Liked Cake/Lullaby  
Poems and sketches by Nicholas in his Pate Biscuit persona

**FAST FORWARD (7)**

Series 1: Apr 12 to Jun 7; 15 Jun to 14 Sep 1989 (21 x 60m)  
(not Sep 7)

Fast Forward Rewind - Oct 5 to Oct 26 (not Oct 7)  
(3 x 60m)

Series 2: Apr 26 to Nov 8 1990 (not Aug 9)

Series 3: Apr 11 to Jul 4 1991 and Aug 8 to Oct 31 1991 (22 x 60m)

Series 4: Apr 30 to Jun 18 1992 and Oct 8 to Nov 26 1992 (16 x 60m)

Specials: Apr 20 1993 Fast Forward Exposed  
May 5 1993 A Royal Commission Into The Australian Economy

Feb 13 1994 38 and a Bit Fabulous Years of Australian Television

Feb 20 1994 Fast Forward Presents The Making Of Nothing

Cast: Steve Blackburn, Geoff Brooks, Gerry Connolly (3), Ernie Dingo (1), Marg Downey, Peter Moon, Alan Pentland (2 + 3), Gina Riley, Glenn Robbins (2, 3 + 4), Rubbery Figures (1), Magda Szubanski, Jane Turner, Michael Veitch, Steve Vizard (1)

Seven's answer to The Comedy Company linked most of the remaining Eleventh Hour team with members of Australia, You're Standing In It and The D-Generation. The Dodgey Brothers and Downey's Jana Wendt were joined by Vizard's "Darren Hunch", the camp airline stewards, Veitch's innuendo nerd and the Moon/Turner Russians "Victor and Sveta".

*Records:*

**Fast Forward Take 1**

CBS 105225 (LP, Cassette and CD) (1990)

No track listing

**Tutti Frutti/Soviet Bloc (clob mix)** by Victor and Sveta

Polydor single 8674227 (1991)

\* Blackburn, Brooks, Downey, Moon, Pentland and Riley also appear on the LP **Jive Turkey's Christmas Comedy Album** (Columbia 474880) (1993).

*Videos:*

**Magda - The Best of Magda Szubanski**

Visual Entertainment Group APV 015 PAL (1992)

**The Very Best of Fast Forward**

Visual Entertainment Group APV 016 PAL (1992)

*Books:*

**Fast Forward - The Book**

Penguin ppk (1990)

**Fast Forward in Freeze Frame**

Mandarin ppk (1992)

**LARGER THAN LIFE (10)**

Feb 11 to Jul 1 1990 (not Apr 8 or 15) (19 x 30m)

The Best of Larger Than Life - Jul 8 1990

Cast: Joanne Campbell, James Cox, Carole Patullo, Monica Maughan, Mark Mitchell, John Walker.

Following the demise of the Comedy Company (mark 1), Ten filled the time slot with half hour programmes by Mitchell and Gyngell. Mitchell expanded his range of characterisations, but unfortunately the format was not successful being eventually replaced by the ill-fated sitcom The Big Time.

**KITTSON FAHEY: A WOMAN'S VIEW OF THE WORLD (ABC)**

Series 1: Jul 13 to Aug 24 1992 (7 x 30m)

Series 2: Oct 11 to Dec 13 1993 (10 x 30m)

Cast: Maryanne Fahey, Jean Kittson, David Swann.

Sketch comedy from a female viewpoint including encore performances by several characters originated by the leads in The Comedy Company and The Big Gig.

**THE LATE SHOW (ABC)**

Series 1: Jul 18 to Dec 12 1992 (22 x 60m)

Series 2: Jun 5 to Oct 30 1993 (22 x 60m)

The Olden Days - Aug 14 1993

Cast: Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner, Jane Kennedy, Judith Lucy (2), Tony Martin, Mick Molloy, Rob Sitch, Jason Stephens

A mixture of sketches, standup routines and newly-soundtracked archive television footage by members of The D-Generation's early 90's radio team. Regular segments included Shitscared, Graham and the Colonel and Muckraking. Half the team went on to create the satirical sitcom Frontline.

*Videos:*

**The Best Bits of the Late Show**

ABC PAL 13460 (1993)

90 mins of highlights from series 1

**The Best Bits of the Late Show - Volume 2**

ABC PAL 13554 (1993)

90 mins of highlights from series 1

**The Best Bits of the Late Show - Volume 3**

ABC PAL 14082 (1994)

120 mins of highlights from series 2

## FULL FRONTAL (7)

Series 1: May 13 to Jul 1 1993 (8 x 60m)  
Series 2: Sep 30 to Nov 25 1993 (9 x 60m)  
Series 3: Apr 14 to Jun 23 1994 (11 x 60m)

Cast: Eric Bana, Glenn Butcher, Greg Fleet (1, 2), Kim Gyngell, Jennifer Ward Lellan, Matt Parkinson (1,2), Matt Quartermaine (1, 2), Denise Scott (3), Michael Veitch (1, 2), John Walker (3), Rima Te Wiata, Ross Williams, plus guests in series 1 and 2: Steve Blackburn, Geoff Brooks, Marg Downey, Jimeoin, Peter Moon, Gina Riley, Glenn Robbins, Magda Szubanski, Jane Turner, Steve Vizard.

Continuation of the Fast Forward format (with a new team) which was allowed to evolve from the parent show during a transitional season which featured the original performers in guest roles.

## THE COMEDY SALE (7)

Series 1 Jul 25 to Aug 8 1993 (3 x 60m)

Cast: Steve Abbott, Scott Casley, David Collins, Ross Daniels, Shane Dundas, Found Objects, Colin Lane, Diana Reid, Mikey Robbins, Frank Wood.

Spectacularly unsuccessful attempt to clone The Comedy Company (in the same Sunday night time slot) with characters inhabiting a shopping mall.

## JIMEOIN (7)

Series 1: Mar 6 to May 8 1994 (not Mar 27, Apr 3)(8 x 60m)  
Special: Standing on the Road (Syd: Mar 27, Melb: Apr 3 1994)  
Series 2 to begin late July 1994

Cast: Jimeoin, Brian Nankervis, Glenn Robbins

Vehicle for Irish ex-patriate comedian Jimeoin who first came to fame on Tonight Live. The show mixed standup, sketches and offbeat surrealistic routines.

## SITCOMS:

### COL'N CARPENTER (10)

Cast: Kim Gyngell, Stig Wemyss (s 1 - 3), Vikki Blanche (s 1 & 2), Kaarin Fairfax (s 3), Anne Phelam (s 3 & 4)

The further adventures of Gyngell's character from The Comedy Company as he moves out of home and shares a flat

Series 1: Feb 11 to Jul 8 1990 (not Apr 7 & 15)(20x25m)

1. He's Leaving Home
2. Peter And The Penguin
3. Love And Theft
4. The Doors Of Perception
5. You Say It's Your Birthday
6. Enough Is Enough ...

7. It's Not Easy Being Green
8. The Exterminating Angel
9. If I Were A Carpenter
10. Lest We Forget
11. I Should Be So Lucky
12. Basil The Cat
13. Blonde On Blonde
14. Who's Darryl?
15. Famine And Friends
16. Guilt Is A Four Letter Word
17. It's Not A House, It's A Home
18. How Green Was My Telly
19. That Obscure Object Of Desire
20. The Hour Of Destiny

Series 2: Jul 23 to Nov 12 1990 (17x25m)

1. Geoffrey The Spider
2. The Man In The Brown Suit
3. Have Gumboots Will Travel
4. Everybody Needs Good Neighbours
5. Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?
6. He's Having A Baby (part 1)
7. He's Having A Baby (part 2)
8. A Cry In The Dark
9. Thick As Thieves
10. Dog Eat Dog
11. The Inverted Swan
12. On Pittswood Pond
13. The Invisible Man
14. Wheels On Fire
15. Travelling North
16. Reading Gaol
17. The Big Sleep

Series 3: Mar 3 to Sep 2 1991 (not Jul 28)(26x25m)

1. The Opportunity Of A Lifetime
2. The Imaginary Invalid
3. The Murder Room
4. Sweet Nerd Of Youth
5. Dusty Daffodils
6. Shock Of The Nude
7. Silver Threads
8. Pink Feathers
9. Pop The Question
10. Dem Bones
11. The Eighth Man
12. A Kind Of Loving (part 1)
13. A Kind Of Loving (part 2)
14. A Tiger's Tale
15. A Fine Romance
16. Pittswood Picasso
17. The Outsider
18. Two Degrees Below Zero
19. Losers At Love
20. Somebody For Everybody
21. The Overnight Bag
22. Beta Be Home Soon
23. Skin Deep
24. The Go-Between
25. The Long Goodbye (part 1)
26. The Long Goodbye (part 2)

Series 4: Oct 7 to Dec 9 1991 (10x25m)

1. Boy Meets Girl
2. The Man Who Knew Too Much
3. You're Mad And I'm Not
4. And The Logie Goes Too!
5. Coming Home
6. The Brother Of The Wolf
7. Rare To Well Done
8. The Siege Of Tucker's Stump
9. The Sacred Blurr
10. Paruppa-Pum-Pum Ruppa-Pum-Pum

### **THE BIG TIME (10)**

Jul 23 1990 to Aug 13 1990 (4 x 30m)

Cast: Mark Mitchell, Di Mitchell, John Walker, James Cox, Joanne Campbell, Carole Patullo

Mitchell as a Walter Mittyish TV star who lives out his fantasies in a format featuring his real life wife and children. Unfortunately the idea proved too unusual for the viewers and it lasted only four editions.

### **LET THE BLOOD RUN FREE (10)**

Series 1: Aug 20 1990 to Nov 12 1990 (13 x 30m)

Series 2: Oct 19 1993 to Nov 23 1993;

Dec 4 1993 to Jan 22 1994 (not Jan 8) (13 x 30m)

Cast: Jean Kittson, Brain Nankervis, Peter Rowsthorn, Lynda Gibson, Helen Knight, David Swann.

Outlandish goings-on in a hospital run by maniacal staff, based on a stage show.

### **D\*A\*A\*S KAPITAL (2)**

Cast: The Doug Anthony All-Stars (Tim Ferguson, Richard Fidler, Paul McDermott), Flacco (Paul Livingston)

Anarchic sci-fi sitcom owing a debt to Red Dwarf and The Young Ones

Series 1: Jul 15 to Aug 26 1991 (7x30m)

1. Mermaid (aka Lust)
2. Games (aka Gluttony)
3. Camping (aka Envy)
4. K.K.K. (aka Avarice)
5. The French (aka Sloth)
6. Cockroach (aka Pride)
7. The Bomb (aka Anger)

Series 2: May 26 to Jul 7 1992 (7x30m)

1. Faith
2. Felicity
3. Humility
4. Chastity
5. Charity
6. Hope
7. Patience

*Book:*

### **D\*A\*A\*S KAPITAL**

ABC Books/Allen and Unwin ppk (1992)

contains the scripts from series 1

### **BLIGH (7)**

13 x 30m

Cast: W. Robert Adams, Steve Blackburn, Geoff Brooks, Marg Downey, Kim Gyngell, Jimeoin, Brendan Lumo, William McInnes, Peter Moon, Gina Riley, Magda Szubanski, Michael Veitch, Steve Vizard

Australian historical sitcom down the Black Adder trail.

Jun 25 1992 A Woman's Place

Jul 2 1992 The Last Quoll

Jul 9 1992 The Assassin

Jul 16 1992 A Visit Royal

Jul 23 1992 The Real Truth

Aug 13 1992 The Three Rs

Aug 20 1992 A Small Plague

Aug 27 1992 A Loaded Deck

Sep 3 1992 The Slap Of The Writ (pre-empted)

Sep 10 1992 The Vision

Sep 17 1992 Fair Trade And Free

Jan 27 1994 The First Treaty

Feb 2 1994 A Moral Tale

### **FRONTLINE (ABC)**

Series 1: May 9 to August 1 1994 (13 episodes)

Cast: Robert Sitch, Jane Kennedy, Bruno Lawrence, Santo Cilauro

Satire on the workings of Australian current affairs programmes

1. The Souffle Rises
2. The Desert Angel
3. City Of Fear
4. She's Got The Look
5. The Siege
6. Playing The Ego Card
7. We Ain't Got Dames
8. The Art Of Gentle Persuasion
9. The Invisible Man
10. ...Add Sex And Stir
11. Smaller Fish To Fry
12. Judge And Jury
13. The Night Of Nights

[The author is indebted to Matthew K. Sharp, Peter Blight and Peter Tatchell for their assistance in the preparation of this article]

# MICHAEL FLANDERS AND DONALD SWANN

by Matthew K. Sharp

“THE purpose of satire”, said Michael Flanders in the introduction to **At The Drop Of Another Hat**, “is to strip off the veneer of comforting illusion and cozy half-truth. And our job, as I see it, is to put it back again.” He and Donald Swann took to their task with vigour, playing to enthusiastic audiences around the world for ten years, and, thanks to the foresight of Parlophone records, their performances continue to delight listeners.

It all began in 1939, when Flanders and Swann, at school together, collaborated on a revue called **Go To It**. It was really Flanders’ show, with Swann providing only the piano accompaniment. The show later moved to The Everyman Theatre in Hampstead, but soon closed due to the blitz.

Flanders was called up and joined the navy, serving on a destroyer. A career as an officer was curtailed by an attack of polio in 1943. Swann, meanwhile, joined the Friend’s Ambulance Unit as a conscientious objector.

Having finished defending the British Isles, Flanders turned to broadcasting, an occupation he continued for much of the rest of his life, whilst Swann returned to music studies. Finding music very much at the forefront of his life, Swann contacted Flanders and they formed a partnership; Flanders supplying the words, which were set to music by Swann.

In 1948 Swann renewed acquaintance with revue producer Laurier Lister (whom he had known at Oxford), and the pair contributed *In The D’Oyley Cart* to his 1948 production, **Oranges And Lemons**. The success of this led to contributions to Lister’s following revues, **Penny Plain**, **Airs On A Shoestring** and **Fresh Airs**.

At this stage, their material was being performed by others, such as Max Adrian and Joyce Grenfell. An exception to this was in 1950, when they hired the Whistler Ballroom, and performed some of their new songs themselves. It was the beginning of a performing relationship.

In 1956, the pair were invited to the Darlington School Of Music to help demonstrate the art of revue writing. Flanders introduced the songs with the spoken preamble that would become the linking monologue in **At The Drop Of A Hat**.

Finding that the links were being as well received as the songs, Flanders and Swann decided to dispense with the lecture and put on the remainder in concert. They hired a small theatre, The New Lindsey, for a week, and with little fanfare, on the last day of 1956, **At The Drop Of A Hat** began. Word got around about the show, and audiences began to pick up. The run was extended to three weeks, before moving to the larger Fortune Theatre, where they stayed for over two years.

The show was very simple in its staging: one man at a piano, the other in a wheelchair, a standard lamp and a hat. Thus the audience was able to concentrate on what was being said, and sung, rather than on fancy costumes and backdrops. The shows were mainly made up of revue style songs, performed by the pair, linked by Flanders’ monologue. However, within this framework, both performers took time out to present their own items. Flanders had his extended monologue sketches, such as the introduction to *The Gnu*, *Greensleeves*, *By Air* and *Tried By The Centre Court*. Swann performed songs in a variety of languages, such as French (*Je*

*Suis Le Tenebreux*), Russian (*In The Desert*), and Greek (*Kokoraki*). This last also involved a certain amount of visual humour, with Flanders wheeling himself forward when he thinks the song is over, and is horrified to discover that it continues for verse after verse. It also demonstrates Swann’s adopted characterisation for the show: that of a musically brilliant polyglot with a childlike, naive side, thinking the Madeira song was about cake, for example.

That Flanders and Swann included such material indicated that they treated their audience as being more intelligent than revue audiences were often judged. They included jokes on archaic English punctuation (*Greensleeves*), and the occasional joke in Latin, for example, pointing out that often in cases of political scandal, there is no smoke without fire: nil combustibus pro fumo (referring to the later Profumo scandal).

The show was recorded for posterity, twice, by Parlophone. The first release was made early in 1957, at the beginning of **At The Drop Of A Hat**. This mono LP (PMC 1033) was also released in the USA (Angel 65042), although it would be several years before the pair actually played there. Four more tracks, which had been recorded at the same time as the LP, were re-recorded in the studio for issue on an EP (GEP 8636).

A second recording was made on the show’s final night, but this time in stereo. The UK version (PCS 3001) has almost the same track selection as the earlier mono disc, but leaves out *Kokoraki*, a suitable recording being unavailable. A stereo version was finally made in 1963 (during a performance of **At The Drop Of Another Hat**) and included in most re-issues. There was greater difference in the USA release (Angel 35797), which features three new tracks, whilst other tracks have been edited down or deleted altogether.

After the Fortune, the show moved to the USA, where another long run began on the 8th of October, 1959 at the Nine O’Clock Theatre in New York, followed by a tour across the USA and then to Switzerland. Returning to England, the pair took a year’s rest from performing and touring to write more material, and record another album.

The new record, **The Bestiary Of Flanders And Swann** (PCS 3026), differed from the previous ones in that it was recorded in a studio without an audience. Here they presented some of the animal songs from **At The Drop Of A Hat**, and others which had also been made famous by Ian Wallace. An EP was also extracted from the LP, and the album was issued in the USA (on Angel S 36112), minus the last track, *The Wompom* (which had been issued in the USA as one of the extra tracks on the **At The Drop Of A Hat** record).

Flanders and Swann returned to touring, taking the show around England before settling in at the Haymarket Theatre, London, from the 2nd of October 1963. Titled **At The Drop Of Another Hat**, the new show ran for almost a year. Another live LP (PCS 3052) was recorded early on in the run, featuring much of the new material. A further three tracks were released on an EP (GEP 8900).

Once again the show went on tour, this time to Australia and New Zealand, featuring a selection of material from both shows, then across the USA again before settling in on Broadway on the last day of 1966.

Flanders and Swann had avoided television throughout the run of the Hats, aside from the occasional guest performance.



However, there were two presentations in the UK; an hour length programme in 1961, based on **At The Drop Of A Hat**, and another hour on the 30th of April 1968, featuring songs from **At The Drop Of Another Hat**. The entire Broadway show was recorded in colour in 1967, running to two hours. Unfortunately, only the second half of this show is known to exist at the present; it has been released as **The Only Flanders And Swann Video** and represents the only known surviving visual record of the shows.

The Broadway show was the end of the Hats. The parting was amicable; Flanders and Swann decided that ten years was enough and they wished to pursue separate projects. A few ideas were tossed about for a third show, to be titled **Hat Trick**, but they came to nothing.

This was not to be the end of their performing career, however. Flanders and Swann got back together for BBC Radio to record a show telling the story of their collaboration before **At The Drop Of A Hat**. This was "And Then We Wrote... A Review Of Reviews", and was broadcast on Radio 4 on Christmas Eve, 1974. Songs from **Oranges And Lemons**, **Penny Plain**, **Airs On A Shoestring** and **Fresh Airs** were dusted down and performed with the help of Julian Orchard, Pat Lancaster, Charlotte Mitchell and Anne Rogers. The show was issued by EMI on an LP, EMCM 3088.

This was their last public performance; Michael Flanders died in April 1975. However, fans who thought that this meant no more new Hat material were wrong, as EMI released an LP, **Tried By The Centre Court** (EMI NTS 116), made up of material recorded privately by audience members, which was tweaked up by the EMI engineers, and the material unique to the EPs from the 60s (although the four tracks from **At The Drop Of A Hat** are taken from the 1957 live recording session and not the studio remakes for the EP). Donald Swann passed away after a battle with cancer in March 1994.

In 1991, the entire Flanders And Swann canon was re-released on CD, with the four albums spread over three CDs. The box set also included a 36 page booklet explaining the many topical references. After nearly four decades in the catalogues, the records of Flanders and Swann still remain, as Flanders once said, "a jolly nice noise".

## Albums

### **At The Drop Of A Hat** (Mono)

UK: Parlophone PMC 1033, USA: Angel 65042

A Transport of Delight/Song of Reproduction/A Gnu/Design For Living/Je Suis Le Tenebreux/Songs for our Time (Philological Waltz; Satellite Moon; A Happy Song)/A Song of the Weather/The Reluctant Cannibal/Greensleeves/Misalliance/Kokoraki - A Greek Song/Madeira M'Dear?/Hippopotamus/Encore: The Public May Leave

[Recorded at the Fortune Theatre, London, 1957]

### **At The Drop Of A Hat** (Stereo)

UK: Parlophone PCS 3001, EMI/One-Up ONCR 511, World Record Club WRC R 06234

A Transport of Delight/Song of Reproduction/The Gnu Song/Design For Living/Je Suis Le Tenebreux/Songs for our Time (Philological Waltz; Satellite Moon; A Happy Song)/A Song of the Weather/The Reluctant Cannibal/Greensleeves/Misalliance/Kokoraki - A Greek Song/Madeira M'Dear?/Hippopotamus

[Recorded at the Fortune Theatre, London, 2 May 1959, except for "Kokoraki", which does not appear on the original pressings of this album, and was recorded at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London, 1963.]

### **At The Drop Of A Hat** (Stereo)

USA: Angel S 35797

A Transport of Delight/Song of Reproduction/Greensleeves/In the Bath/The Gnu Song/Songs for our Time (Philological Waltz; Satellite Moon; A Happy Song)/A Song of the Weather/The Reluctant Cannibal/Design For Living/Tried by the Centre Court/Misalliance/Madeira M'Dear?/The Wom Pom/Hippopotamus

[Recorded at the Fortune Theatre, London, 2 May 1959]

### **The Bestiary of Flanders and Swann**

UK (Mono): Parlophone PMC 1164

UK (Stereo): Parlophone PCS 3026, EMI/One-Up ONCR 527

The Warthog (The Hog Beneath The Skin)/The Sea Horse/The Chameleon/The Whale (Mopy Dick)/The Sloth/The Rhinoceros/TwoSome - Kang & Jag (Kangaroo Tango and Jaguar)/Dead Ducks/The Elephant/The Armadillo/The Spider/Threesome - Duck Billed Platypus, The Humming Bird, The Portuguese Man-O'-War/The Wild Boar/The Ostrich/The Wompom

[Studio recordings, 1961.]

### **The Bestiary of Flanders and Swann**

USA (Stereo): Angel S 36112

[Tracks as above, except for "The Wompom", which was not included on this album as it already appears as a live performance on Angel S 35797.]

### **At The Drop Of Another Hat**

UK (Mono): Parlophone PMC 1216

UK (Stereo): Parlophone PCS 3052, EMI/One-Up ONCR 512

USA (Stereo): Angel S 36388

The Gas-Man Cometh/Sounding Brass/Los Olividados/In The Desert/III Wind/First and Second Law/All Gall/Horoscope/Friendly Duet/Bedstead Men/By Air/Slow Train/A Song of Patriotic Prejudice/Hippo Encore

[Recorded at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London, 1963]

### **Tried By The Centre Court**

UK Stereo: EMI/Note NTS 116

Twice Shy/Commonwealth Fair/p\*\* p\* B\*\*\*\* B\*\* D\*\*\*\*\*/Too Many Cookers <sup>1</sup>/Vanessa <sup>1</sup>/Tried By The Centre Court <sup>1</sup>/Paris/Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Cha Cha Cha/The Hundred Song/Built-Up Area <sup>2</sup>/In The Bath <sup>2</sup>/Sea Fever <sup>2</sup>/The Youth Of The Heart <sup>1</sup>/Food For Thought/Bed

[Except for those tracks marked <sup>1</sup> (recorded at the Fortune Theatre, London, 1957 in mono), and <sup>2</sup> (recorded at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London, 1964, in stereo), the majority of material was recorded non-professionally at a variety of performances.]

## **And Then We Wrote.... A Review of Reviews**

UK Mono: EMI EMCM 3088

With Julian Orchard, Pat Lancaster, Charlotte Mitchell, and Anne Rogers

In The D'Oyley Cart/Prehistoric Complaint/The Album/There's A Hole in My Budget/The Seven Ages Of Woman/Fragments/Pillar To Post/Guide To Britten/Excelsior/Rain On The Plage/Last Of The Line/Rockall/The Lord Chamberlain's Regulations (Smoking Is Permitted, The Safety Curtain, The Public May Leave)

[From the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of 24-12-1974.]

### **Flanders And Swann**

EMI Comedy Classics ECC 2. Double cassette pack

Re-issue of the stereo UK versions of "At The Drop Of A Hat" (PCS 3001) and "At The Drop Of Another Hat" (PCS 3052). It does not include the track "Kokoraki".

### **The Complete Flanders & Swann**

EMI CDS 7974642. Available as a 3 CD box set with a 36 page booklet, or as separate CDs.

#### 1. At The Drop Of A Hat. CDP 7974652

A Transport of Delight/Song of Reproduction/The Gnu Song/Design For Living/Je Suis Le Tenebreux/Songs for our Time/A Song of the Weather/The Reluctant Cannibal/Greensleeves/Misalliance/Kokoraki/Madeira M'Dear?/Too Many Cookers\*/Vanessa\*/Tried By The Centre Court\*/The Youth Of The Heart\*/Hippopotamus

[From PCS 3001, except \* from NTS 116]

#### 2. At The Drop Of Another Hat. CDP 7974662

The Gas-Man Cometh/Sounding Brass/Los Olvidados/In The Desert/III Wind/First and Second Law/All Gall/Horoscope/Friendly Duet/Bedstead Men/By Air/Slow Train/A Song of Patriotic Prejudice/Built Up Area \*/In The Bath \*/Sea Fever \*/Hippo Encore [From PCS 3052, except \* from NTS 116]

#### 3. The Bestiary Of Flanders And Swann. CDP 7974672

The Warthog (The Hog Beneath The Skin)/The Sea Horse/The Chameleon/The Whale (Mopy Dick)/The Sloth/The Rhinoceros/Twosome - Kang & Jag (Kangaroo Tango and Jaguar)/Dead Ducks/The Elephant/The Armadillo/The Spider/Threesome - Duck Billed Platypus, The Humming Bird, The Portuguese Man-O'-War/The Wild Boar/The Ostrich/The Wompom [From PCS 3026]

"Extiary": Twice Shy/Commonwealth Fair/p\*\* p\* B\*\*\*\* B\*\* D\*\*\*\*\*/Paris/Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Cha Cha Cha/The Hundred Song/Food For Thought/Bed

[From NTS 116]

20 Tons Of TNT/The War Of 14-18

[From Capitol P5884 single]

### **The Best Of Flanders & Swann — A Transport Of Delight**

EMI 7243 829399 2 4. CD.

(From At The Drop Of A Hat):

Act One: Introduction/A Transport of Delight/Song of Reproduction/The Gnu Song/Songs for our Time/A Song of the Weather/Greensleeves/Misalliance/Madeira, M'Dear?/Hippopotamus

(From At The Drop Of Another Hat):

Act Two: Introduction/All Gall/Horoscope/The Gas-Man Cometh/Sounding Brass/III Wind/First and Second Law/By Air/A Song of Patriotic Prejudice/Hippo Encore/Encore: The Wompom

## Singles

### **Misalliance/Music of a Gnu**

Parlophone (45) R 4354 [Mono studio recordings]

### **Twenty Tons of TNT/The War of 14-18**

Capitol P5884 [Mono studio recordings]

## EPs

### **More Out Of The Hat**

Parlophone GEP 8636

Vanessa/The Youth Of The Heart/Tried By The Centre Court/Too Many Cookers [Mono studio recordings]

### **Excerpts From at The Drop Of A Hat**

Parlophone GEP 8725

The Gnu Song/A Transport Of Delight/Song of Reproduction/The Hippopotamus [Excerpts from PMC 1033]

### **At The Drop Of A Hat**

Parlophone GEP 8769

A Song Of The Weather/Design For Living/Kokoraki/Madeira, M'Dear? [Excerpts from PMC 1033]

### **The Bestiary Of Flanders And Swann**

Parlophone GEP 8869

The Warthog/The Spider/The Rhinoceros/The Armadillo [Excerpts from PMC 1164]

### **More Out Of The New Hat**

Parlophone GEP 8900

Built Up Area/In The Bath/Sea Fever

[Live recordings made at the same concert as PCS 3052]

### **Favourites From At The Drop Of Another Hat**

Parlophone GEP 8912

The Gas-Man Cometh/All Gall/III Wind/A Song of Patriotic Prejudice [Excerpts from PCS 3052]

## Video

### **The Only Flanders & Swann Video**

MVP 9913393

There's A Hole In My Budget/All Gall/My Horoscope/The Armadillo/Friendly Duet/III Wind/Food For Thought/Built Up Area/ Twice Shy/I Sit Beside The Fire/Madeira M'Dear/Commonwealth Fair/A Song Of Patriotic Prejudice/Hippo Encore [From a TV broadcast of a Broadway show]

## Book

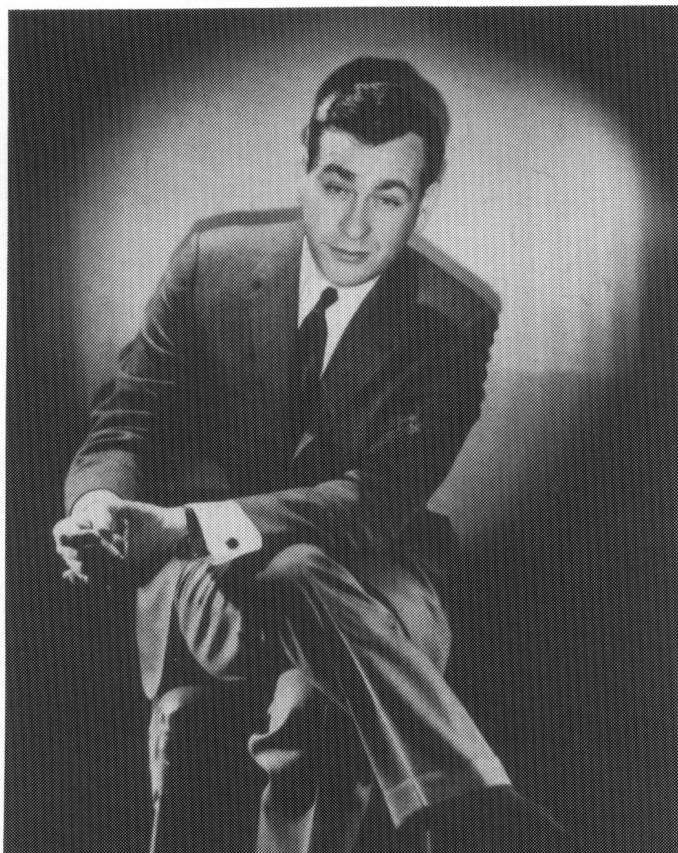
### **The Songs of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann**

Elm Tree Books/St George's Press. 1977.

In The Bath/Design For Living/Misalliance/The Gasman Cometh/Song Of The Weather/Pillar To Post/Rain On The Plage/Motor Perpetuo/The Slow Train/Last Of The Line/A Transport Of Delight/ Twenty Tons Of TNT/The Reluctant Cannibal/p\*\* p\* B\*\*\*\* B\*\* D\*\*\*\*\*/Budget Song/Ballad For The Rich/All Gall/Song Of Patriotic Prejudice/Tonga (Philological Waltz)/ The Lord Chamberlain's Regulations/The Album/Song Of Reproduction/III Wind/Guide To Britten/Excelsior/The Bedstead Men/Vanessa/ Twice Shy/Madeira M'Dear/The Armadillo/The Elephant/The Gnu/The Hippopotamus/The Ostrich/The Rhinoceros/The Sloth/The Spider/The Warthog/The Whale/The Wild Boar/The Wompom/Afterword (My Days Are Numbered)

# SHELLEY BERMAN

by Peter Tatchell



**T**HE album "Inside Shelley Berman" marked a breakthrough in the history of recorded comedy. It was the first to sell over a million copies and resulted in the long-play disc becoming the chief medium for collectors to access performances by the top comedy names over the next three decades.

Thirty-four-year-old Berman had graduated from a Chicago improvisational group to stand-up comic with a series of clever routines about the problems of everyday life and the frustrations we all face. Telephone conversations with such antagonists as doctors, receptionists, sales assistants and children figure largely in his work and the public was quick to identify with the neuroses and irritations he presented.

Berman's half a dozen releases of the early 1960s offer a consistency of quality material and paved the way for other examiners of the human condition Bob Newhart, Bill Cosby and Woody Allen.

## **Inside Shelley Berman**

Verve LP MG(V) 15003 (1958)

Child Psychiatry + Airline Routine/Department Store (The Woman On The Ledge)/Buttermilk/The Morning After The Night Before/ Embarrassing Moments/The Phone Answered By A Child

## **Outside Shelley Berman**

Verve LP MG(S) 615007 (1959)

Mort Sahl And Lenny Bruce + Franz Kafka On The Telephone/The Agent/Father And Son/The Child Psychologist At The P.T.A. (1)

## **The Edge Of Shelley Berman**

Verve LP MG(V) 15013 (1960)

First Date/Alvin And Shirley/Gertrude Stein And Alice B. Toklas/Another Embarrassing Moment + The Early Morning Telephone Call/The Child Psychologist At The P.T.A. (2)/A Comedian And His Audience

## **A Personal Appearance**

Verve LP V(6) 15027 (1961)

T.V. Commercials/Room Service/The Conventioneer/Intermission/The Black Speck/Moments Of Agony/The Dentist

## **New Sides**

Verve LP V 15036 (1963)

Credit Card Call/The Doctor/Pins In The Shirt + The Tag In The Pillow/Loan Company/Flowers/The Complete Neuroses/Jews Harp/Lost Dog

## **The Sex Life Of A Primate**

Verve LP V(6) 15043 (1964)

A revue for LP written and performed by Berman, which also features Jerry Stiller, Anne Meara and Lovelady Powell  
Spermatazoa Plus The Roe Make The Little Fishes Grow/Cleans And Dirty's/My Friends The Gorillas/Drugstore Problem/Associated Wives Of America/More Cleans And Dirty's/Cleans And Dirty's Rise Again/Divorce New York Style/An Expurgated #!?\*%/Sex Is Un-American/Ooby Dooby Ooby Doo/"It Was The Lark" Or Goodnight Already/The Beginning Is A Clean The End Is A Dirty

the following discs feature reissues of the above material:

## **Shelley Berman On The 'Phone**

H.M.V. single 45POP 732

Hold On (aka Department Store)/Nephew Trouble (aka Phone Answered By Child)

## **Excerpts From Inside Shelley Berman**

Verve promotional EP V-5067

## **Outside Shelley Berman (excerpts)**

Verve promotional EP V-5070

## **Great Moments Of Comedy With Shelley Berman**

Verve LP V 15048

The Morning After/Flowers/Airline Routine/Department Store/Father And Son/Complete Neuroses

## **Let Me Tell You A Funny Story**

Metro LP M(S) 546

same tracks as for Great Moments Of Comedy With Shelley Berman with the addition of linking dialogue by Berman himself

Berman may also be heard on the following discs:

## **A Family Affair**

United Artists LP UAL 4099/UAS 5099 (1962)

original cast album from the Broadway musical

## **More Funny Fone Calls**

Dot LP DLP 3517 (1963), Casablanca LP 811 367-1 M-1

Shelley is featured on one track of this Steve Allen disc



Ronald S. M.

