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LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

Issue 16 1997



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Max Miller
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Kevin "Bloody" Wilson
Bob Hope & Bing Crosby

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PLEASE SIR!

by Peter Tatchell

WHEN London Weekend gained their ITV franchise in 1967, their Head Of Comedy, Frank Muir, commissioned a batch of sitcoms which went on to become classics. **Doctor In The House** centred on the pandemonium created by a handful of young medical students while **On The Buses** dealt with a group of older players (at work and in a family setting). Completing the “big three” (and the first to make it to air) mixed young and old in a classroom environment.

Please Sir! was the brainchild of John Esmonde and Bob Larbey who exploited the generation-gap hostility between a rebellious gang of have-nots and their equally-frustrated teaching staff in a dismal backwater of the British education system. Into the fray comes Bernard Hedges, fresh from teacher’s college and eager to inspire his charges with a word called “hope” ... that knowledge and ambition will eventually allow them to escape their bleak predicament.

The key role of Hedges was a triumph for little-known John Alderton, who offered just the right amount of naivete to act as a believable bridge between the two factions. His co-workers at Fenn Street School in London’s east-end were ineffectual headmaster Maurice Cromwell (played by Noel Howlett), his second-in-command (and the power behind the throne) Doris Ewell (Joan Sanderson), the doddering Mr. Smith (Erik Chitty) and jaded Welshman Mr. Price (Richard Davies). To complete the roster, and worm his way into the staffroom and the eternal respect of the headmaster, is school janitor and World War 2 legend-in-his-own-mind Norman Potter (a scene-stealing performance by **ITMA**-alumnus Deryck Guyler).

The mainstays of notorious class 5C were cockney bullyboy Eric Duffy (Peter Cleall), his girlfriend Sharon Eversly (Penny Spencer), sartorial second-in-command Peter Craven (Malcolm McFee), mummy’s-boy Frankie Abbott who wanted to be a thug (David Barry), Maureen Bullock, who yearned to heal humanity medically or spiritually (Liz Gebhardt) and the intellectually-anorexic Dennis Dunstable (Peter Denyer).

Please Sir! premiered near the end of the black-and-white era in late 1968, and for some reason it was decided that episodes would run in a 45-minute timeslot (instead of the usual half-hour). Possibly radical programming concepts were in keeping with the forward-thinking ideals of the new ITV companies, but it can’t have been easy for overseas buyers to adjust their schedules to accommodate the decision. Whatever the motivation, when the show returned for a second season a year later stories ran to the traditional 30-minute slot. And, by then, they were being taped in colour.

Having a regular cast of a dozen players gave scriptwriters Esmonde and Larbey plenty of avenues to pursue with all of the participants highlighted in at least one or two storylines. Along the way, several family members also appeared on an occasional basis ... Dunstable’s crapulous father (Peter Bayliss) and Abbott’s domineering mother (Barbara Mitchell, previously seen on **The Larkins**) made a number of visits.

By the third series (in late 1970) it was decided Hedges should have a love interest in the person of nurse Penny Wheeler (Jill Kerman) and sitcomland had another wedding at the end

of the season. It was also felt 5C had been in the classroom long enough and should end their schooldays in a poignant penultimate episode.

So popular had the programme become, **Please Sir!** was transferred to the movies soon after, with all the characters taking part in a storyline that saw 5C off to a riotous holiday at camp (and offered an alternative first-meeting of Bernard and his lady-love). The only cast change was in Carol Hawkins taking over the part of Sharon from Penny Spencer (who relinquished the role from this point on). When it premiered in June 1972, the Rank studios found it had another small screen/big screen success.

Back at London Weekend, it was decided to continue with the original but also commission a spinoff series (titled **The Fenn Street Gang**) which would follow the lives of the 5C students as they make their way into the outside world. In order to ease Esmonde and Larbey’s workload (to come up with 42 stories), other writers were engaged to supply scripts.

The only glitch in their plan of having two series which would run concurrently was that John Alderton was wary of becoming typecast in the role of the befuddled teacher and after nearly three dozen stories had decided to move on (to further successes with **Upstairs Downstairs**, **No Honestly**, **My Wife Next Door** and **The Upchat Line**). He agreed to allow his character to be eased out of the proceedings by appearing in the first two **Please Sir!**s and three editions of the spinoff. The plot devised has Hedges taking up a university course, but having inadvertently resigned six weeks too soon, he is forced to raise cash by taking part-time work with various **Fenn Street Gang** members.

The basic premise behind the new series was to follow the various Gang members trying to find employment, and viewers continued to enjoy their interaction and sympathetic characters. (In addition to the Hawkins for Spencer swap in the Sharon role, Leon Vitali took over the Craven role from Malcolm McFee who was unable to appear in the show’s first series. He subsequently returned for the follow up seasons.)

Unfortunately back at Fenn Street School the teaching fraternity half of the cast (minus Alderton) was not enjoying similar success. No suitable replacements having been found for the 5C protagonists, writers concentrated on the staffroom, and the addition of David Ffitchett-Brown (Richard Warwick) and Mr. Dix (Glynn Edwards) (as a brain versus brawn struggle) failed to gel, and they were eventually replaced by the more phlegmatic Mr. Hurst (Bernard Holley) and Miss Petting (Vivienne Martin). The writing was on the wall (or blackboard), and **Please Sir!** concluded its run in early 1972.

The Fenn Street Gang however continued on for a second and third season, with Eric and Sharon finally making it to the altar and Maureen qualifying as a nurse. Both Gebhardt and Denyer were written out of the final eight-part run, which concentrated on the newlyweds and the Craven and Abbott characters.

Eventually, there was yet another spinoff (of sorts) with Craven’s shady employer of a handful of episodes Stanley Bowler (played by George Baker, a decade before becoming Ruth Rendell’s Inspector Wexford), getting his own series. **Bowler** lasted just one batch of thirteen programmes.

Please Sir!

unless noted, all scripts by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey

Series 1 (black & white)

November 8 to December 20 1968 (7×45 minute episodes)

1. *The Welcome Mat*

Bernard Hedges leaves teachers' training college and is assigned to tough East End school Fenn Street

2. *A Picture Of Innocence*

Bernard's attempts to enrol his class in the various school societies leads to trouble

3. *Maureen Bullock Loves Sir*

Maureen's adolescent crush on Hedges isn't helped by the local gossip merchant, Potter

4. *A Near Greek Tragedy*

Bernard is at loggerheads with the headmaster over how to handle the return of a notorious troublemaker to 5C

5. *Barbarian Librarian*

5C is given permission to use the library after school but the aftermath is not a pretty sight

6. *Student Princess*

An attractive student teacher captivates everyone except Hedges and Miss Ewell

7. *It's The Thought That Counts*

Hedges is in an awkward position when his predecessor is ready to resume after a broken leg

Series 2 (now colour)

September 20 to December 13 1969 (13 episodes)

1. *They're Off*

Hedges tries to interest 5C in mathematics by giving examples in the form of horse race betting

2. *Common Law*

5C forms a posse when Sharon is confronted by a prowler as she walks home across the common

3. *Panalal Passes By*

Bernard decides to reactivate the Parent-Teacher nights but an Indian couple are the only ones to attend

4. *The Sporting Life*

In his new role as acting sports master, Hedges attempts to solve a problem concerning Duffy

5. *Norman's Conquest*

A television wildlife programme inspires 5C to adopt a jerboa (a desert rat) which they decide to name Norman

6. *X Certificate*

Hedges organizes 5C to make a film of the Fenn Street area to screen on Open Day

7. *The Decent Thing*

Bernard wakes up in the bedroom of Sharon's mother after a riotous party the night before

8. *The Generation Gap*

5C takes part in a programme to help the elderly citizens of surrounding areas but one old man refuses any assistance

9. *Life Without Doris*

Relatives from Australia try to entice Doris to emigrate

10. *School Captain*

When Mr. Cromwell divides the school into four houses, Duffy rigs the voting for school prefects

11. *Out Of The Frying Pan*

Hedges arranges for the cook to be removed

12. *Mixed Doubles*

Frankie is in trouble with the police for wantonly breaking a shop window

13. *Dress Circle*

Accused of being scruffy, Hedges and 5C dress to the nines for the school's theatrical performance

* a Please Sir! segment was featured on ITV's *All Star Comedy Carnival* on December 25 1969

Series 3

September 20 to December 27 1970 (not Dec 20)(14 episodes)

1. *Ag Bow Rumber*

Bernard returns for the new term to an empty classroom with 5C nowhere in sight

2. *Stitches And Hitches*

Hedges is accused of improper behaviour towards a nurse when he visits Frankie in hospital

3. *Knick Knack, Taffy Whack!*

Rumours abound as to why Price has been granted a week's unofficial leave

4. *Enter Mister Sibley*

5C see no need for the advice of a visiting careers officer and are even less interested in Potter's attempts at army recruitment

5. *It's A Saint Bernard's Life*

A visit to a convalescing Mr. Smith inspires Bernard and Penny to dream of their future

6. *Two And Two Make Nun*

Maureen decides if she can't have Hedges she will enter a nunnery

7. *The Honour Of The School*

Hedges takes on the head of Weaver Street School in a golf match

8. *Cromwell's Last Stand*

The headmaster decides to change his image in order to win the affections of Miss Ewell from Mr. Sibley

9. *Catch A Falling Drop Out*

Maureen's rebellious new boyfriend encourages her to steal a silver cup from the local Conservatives

10. *A Star Is Born*

Potter has been asked to take part in a beer advertisement, but it could cost him his job

11. *The Facts Of Life*

It's up to Price to tell 5C about the birds and the bees

12. *Situations Vacant*

With their school days about to end, all the 5C students have managed to line up employment except Dunstable

13. *Peace In Our Time (b/w)*

Bernard resolves not to become emotional about his last day with 5C

14. *And Everyone Came Too (b/w)*

Bernard and Penny pretend they plan to honeymoon overseas

Please Sir! (the motion picture)

(Rank, 101 minutes) released in Britain on June 9 1972 starring John Alderton, Deryck Guyler, Noel Howlett, Joan Sanderson, Richard Davies, Erik Chitty, Peter Cleall, Carol Hawkins, Liz Gebhardt, David Barry, Peter Denyer, Malcolm McFee, Jill Kerman, Patsy Rowlands, Barbara Mitchell, Peter Bayliss, Norman Bird, Jack Smethurst



Series 4

September 18 1971 to February 13 1972 (not Dec 25)
(21 episodes)

1. *Identitwit*

Bernard's attempts to make sure a reluctant student arrives at school land him in hot water

2. *The Pruning Of Hedges*

Bernard decides to do a university course but finds it difficult to hand in his resignation

3. *Vive La Revolution* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

The headmaster faces opposition to the school magazine from a shopkeeper and the alternative press

4. *A Rather Nasty Outbreak* (by Tony Bilbow)

The arrival of fitness fanatic Mr. Dix causes alarm for both pupils and staff members

5. *David And Goliath*

Fenn Street has a new long-haired form master named David Ffitchett-Brown

6. *A. W. O. L.* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

David tries to liven up classes to entice Fenn Street truants back from the local billiard hall

7. *What's A Class Between Friends* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Cromwell becomes dictatorial when he launches a new system of administration

8. *Our Mr. Price* (by Tony Bilbow)

It appears Mr. Price has finally decided to leave

9. *Black Power* (by Tony Bilbow)

Potter is being shown up by the efficiency of his new assistant

10. *False Alarm*

Weaver Street school is closed and its pupils relocate to Fenn Street

11. *Sibley, Mumsie, Dodo And Georgie* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Miss Ewell and Mr. Sibley are becoming romantically linked

12. *Nemesis For Norman*

Potter's duties as standard bearer at his regimental reunion are disrupted by the arrival of an old army mate

13. *United We Sit*

The students revolt when Mr. Cromwell insists on shorter hair and longer dresses

14. *Old Fennian's Day* (by Tony Bilbow)

The headmaster tries to start up a past pupils association

* a Please Sir! segment was featured in ITV's *All Star Comedy Carnival* on December 25 1971

15. *What Are You Incinerating?* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

An explosion is imminent when Mr. Price's chemicals are put in the school incinerator

16. *The Ugly Duckling*

Miss Petting and the headmaster discuss their disappointments, from dance classes to Gilbert and Sullivan

17. *Cup Fever*

Doris bans the school soccer champion from playing in an important match

18. *Please Give Generously* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Stringer vows revenge after being forced to take part in a charity walk

19. *Blodwyn All Over* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

The headmaster has hired a blonde secretary

20. *The Price War* (by Tony Bilbow)

Stringer makes life miserable for Price for helping send his father to prison

21. *The Fixer*

The Sibleys decide to honeymoon in Tunisia



The Fenn Street Gang

Series 1

September 24 1971 to February 11 1972 (21 episodes)

1. *Should Auld Acquaintance*

Having left the classroom, the pupils of 5C agree to get together once a week

2. *The Start Of Something Big* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Abbott must shadow a man in Sharon's boutique

3. *Leave It To Me Darling*

Having resigned six weeks too soon for university, Hedges helps Dennis prepare a brewery horse for a gymkhana

4. *Horses For Courses* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Duffy and Abbott help Craven hide his damaged PMG cycle

5. *Meet The Wizard* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Hedges gets a temporary job collecting debts with Abbott

6. *Distant Horizons* (by Tony Bilbow)

Duffy and Sharon's quarrel leads to her seeing a young science student with an interest in the arts

7. *Change Partners*

Hedges gets a part-time job as an escort for a lonely German blonde with a jealous husband

8. *The Thin Yellow Line*

Frankie enlistment in the army isn't made easy by the drill instructor and the constant visits of his mother

9. *All Mod Cons* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Duffy lets Dennis stay in the empty flat he is redecorating

10. *These Foolish Things*

Abbott ends up in hospital after stabbing his foot with a bayonet to get out of the army

11. *Rough Justice* (by Tony Bilbow)

Three youngsters con Dennis into taking the blame for their thefts

12. *Who Was That Lady?* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Maureen causes trouble when she tries to help Eric and Sharon get back together

13. *Kill Or Cure*

With all the help in the world Maureen still can't pass her exams

14. *When Did You Last See Your Father?* (by David Barry)

Abbott tries to find out what really happened to his father

* a Fenn Street Gang segment was featured on ITV's *All Star Comedy Carnival* on December 25 1971

15. *A Fair Swap* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Maureen is held hostage as part of a student stunt

16. *The Clean Weekend*

Sharon agrees to go to Brighton as Mrs. Duffy

17. *Tally Ho!* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Dennis helps his father get work as a debt collector

18. *Horse Of The Year*

Dennis buys an old nag to save it from the glue factory

19. *From Sudbury With Love* (by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker)

Abbott is seen as the ideal husband for an Italian girl

20. *Who's Minding The Shop?*

When Eric's van injures a man, the gang volunteer to run his dry-cleaning business until he's out of hospital

21. *The Great Frock Robbers*

Abbott fails as the boutique's store detective when the entire stock is stolen

Series 2

October 15 1972 to February 18 1973 (not Dec 24)

(18 episodes)

1. *The Crunch*

Eric is forced to make budget cuts when he is left in charge of the decorating business

2. *Smart Lad Wanted*

Craven's new job involves him in a thousand pound heist

3. *The Woman For Dennis*

Dunstable thinks he has found Miss Right at the local laundry but his friends aren't so sure

4. *Menagerie a Trois*

Frankie's mum falls for her new lodger

5. *That Sort Of Girl*

Sharon enters a beauty contest in the hope the prizemoney will help Eric's business

6. *The Left Hand Path*

Craven loses his boss's money gambling at Henley Regatta

7. *The Lady With The Lamp*

Having passed her exam, Maureen is finally a nurse

8. *The Loneliest Night Of The Week*

Dennis and Frankie are having trouble chatting up the birds

9. *Father's Day*

Dennis allows his father to move in after his mother can no longer put up with his drunken behaviour

10. *Low Noon*

details unknown

* a Fenn Street Gang segment was featured on ITV's *All Star Comedy Carnival* on December 25 1972

11. *And Baby Makes Four*

details unknown

12. *Is That A Proposal, Eric?*

details unknown

13. *Private Eye And Public Nuisance*

details unknown

14. *Dipsomania On Sea*

Dennis has to contend with his father on a seaside holiday

15. *Is Anybody There?*

Maureen has taken up spiritualism

16. *How To Handle A Woman*

Craven wants his father to be more assertive with his mother

17. *Business Deficiency*

To appear professional, Eric hires an office and a secretary

18. *Absent Friends*

Eric and Sharon throw a party to celebrate their engagement

Series 3

May 27 to July 15 1973 (8 episodes)

1. *An Englishman's Home*

Eric and Sharon start looking for a home

2. *Mother Knows Best*

Frankie's mum tells everyone he's dying so his girlfriend will break up with him

3. *Alone At Last*

The newly-married Mr. and Mrs. Duffy spend a night in London before jetting off for a Majorca honeymoon

4. *Making Whoopee*

The Duffy's honeymoon in the Mediterranean is proving to be unforgettable

5. *After The Ball*

Abbott causes Craven all manner of problems

6. *The Ant And The Grasshopper*

Craven is finding that working as Duffy's assistant is putting their friendship to the test

7. *Abbott Of Arabia*

Celeste craves for a man like the hero of *The Desert Song*

8. *Full Circle*

Sharon has something important to tell Eric but they aren't speaking to each other

Bowler

July 29 to October 21 1973 (13 episodes)

1. *The Ides Of March*

2. *Members Only*

3. *Come Round Any Old Time*

4. *They Never Come Back*

5. *Faithfully Yours*

6. *On The Fiddle*

7. *Monarch Of The Glen*

8. *Thou Shalt Not Grass*

9. *Sweet And Sour Charity*

10. *R.I.P.*

11. *The Family Tree*

12. *Bowler's Analysis*

13. *Without Let Or Hindrance*

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WILLIE RUSHTON

by Mark McKay

RARELY has a humorist excelled in so many diverse fields. Actor, musician, raconteur, author, cartoonist and wit — Willie Rushton was all of these, and astonishingly prolific in the application of his talents.

Born in Chelsea on 18 August 1937 and educated at Shewsbury, he spent much of his schooldays developing his unique drawing style. Demonstrating a flair for caricature, the thousands of illustrations he has contributed to newspapers, books, posters and record sleeves are instantly recognisable as his work. After a short employment in a solicitor's office, he embarked on a full-time occupation enlivening the pages of *The Tribune* and *Liberal News* with his political cartoons.

Together with schoolchums Richard Ingrams and Christopher Booker he founded the enduring satirical magazine, *Private Eye*. The first edition hit the streets in October 1961, and Rushton continued to submit material regularly right up until his sudden death last December, at age 59.

Private Eye, supported by major shareholder Peter Cook, spawned numerous books and records, all preserving the publication's characteristically amateurish look.

The 'satire boom' of the early 60s soon carried Rushton on to greater heights. He joined David Frost, Millicent Martin, Roy Kinnear and Lance Percival for BBC television's **That Was The Week That Was**. A mixture of topical monologues, songs and sketches, and transmitted live with the atmosphere of an election-night tally room, **TW3** (as it became known) was an instant hit. It quickly established a justified reputation for being controversial, ensuring a full mailbag every week. Despite being scheduled for a late-night Saturday timeslot, it was soon attracting an audience of over 12 million.

The young, beardless W. G. Rushton amused viewers with affectionate impressions of British PM Harold Macmillan, but his successor, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, did not get off so lightly. Rushton briefly became Douglas-Home's political opponent, standing against him in a 1963 by-election. He polled a magnificent 45 votes.

TW3 was followed by another Frost venture, the considerably less successful **Not So Much A Programme, More A Way Of Life**, plus a spot in the pub-orientated **Stars And Garters**.

In 1966 Rushton journeyed to Australian shores. He made a series of shows for Channel 9 titled **From Rushton With Love**, assisted by local singer and dancer, Arlene Dorgan. The pair were married two years later in the Sydney suburb of Crow's Nest. An album release (on the Bulletin label) of largely original songs from the series displays a gift for clever, well-constructed lyrics. This is most evident in *St. Vitus' Dance*, a single lifted from the LP which questions Vitus' claim to sainthood merely on the basis of Terpsichorean prowess.

Back in England Rushton pursued his various careers, accepting all manner of work thrown in his direction. With the looks and demeanour of an old-fashioned country squire, he appeared in several films, including *The Bliss Of Mrs. Blossom*, *Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines*, and

the 70s sex comedies *Keep It Up Downstairs* and *Adventures Of A Private Eye*.

On the small screen, he played deceased playwright Plautus in Frankie Howerd's Ancient Roman romp, **Up Pompeii!**, was a regular panellist in **Celebrity Squares** and had his own unmemorable series, **Rushton's Illustrated**.

He also turned his hand to prose. A parody of Jilly Cooper's *Superwoman*, retitled *Superpig*, became a best-seller, and led to a number of other entertaining books. His first novel, *W. G. Grace's Last Case* was published in 1984.

The prestigious Victoria & Albert museum commissioned 24 full colour illustrations to preserve for posterity. Originally distributed in a limited edition, they were later reissued under the title *Great Moments In History*.

For the past twenty years, Willie has starred in radio's 'antidote to panel games', **I'm Sorry, I Haven't A Clue**, alongside colleagues Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden (a panel introduced by chairman Humphrey Lyttelton, as 'a veritable 'Who's That?' of British comedy'). Also present are (fictitious) scorers Samantha and Sven. The two teams (Rushton & Brooke-Taylor versus Cryer & Garden) have battled their way through a variety of apparently improvised (but in fact, prearranged) parlour games.

In 'Cheddar Gorge' each player must add a word at a time to a sentence, trying not to complete it. 'Pick Up Song' tests how closely they can keep in time to a popular song recording, after the music has been faded out. 'Smugglers & Customs Officers' sees one team (the smugglers) describing the contents of their luggage to their opponents (the customs officers), disguising the names of contraband objects in larger words or phrases. Most extraordinary of the lot is the cult 'Mornington Crescent'. In this round, each contestant, adhering to a set of baffling and hotly-contested rules known only to a privileged few, works his way round the London Underground map, in an attempt to be the one to finally reach the eponymous Northern Line tube station.

I'm Sorry, I Haven't A Clue proved a showcase for the sharpness and audacity of Willie's wit, although he was always careful not to stray into areas of bad taste: "I do draw the line at any joke involving a charabanc of nuns and Oliver Reed".

In 1982 he made his West End stage debut, playing the lead in Eric Idle's *Pass The Butler*, directed by Jonathan Lynn. More recently he has performed at the Amnesty International charity gala, *The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball* and teamed up with Barry Cryer for a run of two-man soirées, issued on video as *Two Old Farts In The Night*.

Cats and cricket remained two of Rushton's great delights. Although a satirist, he was also a proud patriot and dreaded the impending European unification in 1992 ("when it will become compulsory to be Belgian"). He claimed to be an advocate of the great British cause, 'to really annoy foreigners'. Yet his supportive fan mail from all corners of the globe showed this was one challenge which still eluded him.

He is survived by his wife and their son, Toby.

Radio

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (Radio 4)

Panellists: Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden, Barry Cryer (from 2/1), Willie Rushton (from 3/1), Bill Oddie (series 1 & 2), Jo Kendall (Series 1: 1-3, 8, 9, 12, 13), John Cleese (Series 1: 4-7, 10-13), John Junkin (4/3, 4/4, 13/1, 13/2), Jonathan Lynn (6/2, 6/7), Denise Coffey (7/5, 7/9, 8/4, 8/8, 10/1, 10/2, 19/3, 19/4), Mike Harding (11/9, 11/10, 13/3, 13/4, 13/7), Kenny Everett (12/3, 12/4), Bill Tidy (12/7, 12/8, 15/3, 15/7, series 18, 19/3, 19/4), Stephen Fry (13/5, 13/6, 13/10, 14/2, 14/4, 15/5, 15/9), Jeremy Hardy (?), Tony Hawks (?), Paul Merton (19/1, 19/2, 19/5, 19/6, 20/1, 20/2, 21/3, 21/4, 21/5, 21/6, 24/1, 24/2)

Chairman: Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer (1/2, 1/3, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11), Bob Table (14/6)

Series 1: 11 April to 4 July 1972 (13 eps.)

Series 2: 30 April to 23 July 1973 (13 eps.)

Series 3: 28 August to 2 October 1974 (6 eps.)

Series 4: 29 July to 16 September 1975 (8 eps.)

Series 5: 6 March to 10 April 1977 (6 eps.)

Series 6: 22 August to 24 October 1978 (10 eps.)

Series 7: 16 July to 17 September 1979 (10 eps.)

Special: 24 December 1979

Special: 24 December 1980

Series 8: 22 August to 24 October 1981 (10 eps.)

Special: 25 December 1981

Series 9: 20 March to 29 May 1982 (not 3 April) (10 eps.)

Series 10: 26 February to 30 April 1983 (10 eps.)

Series 11: 7 April to 9 June 1984 (10 eps.)

Series 12: 4 May to 6 July 1985 (10 eps.)

Series 13: 26 July to 27 September 1986 (10 eps.)

Special: 25 December 1986

Series 14: 17 August to 19 October 1987 (10 eps.)

Series 15: 7 January to 11 March 1989 (10 eps.)

Series 16: 3 February to 10 March 1990 (6 eps.)

Series 17: 17 November to 22 December 1990 (6 eps.)

Series 18: 22 June to 27 July 1991 (6 eps.)

Series 19: 19 October to 7 December 1991 (8 eps.)

Series 20: 23 May to 27 June 1992 (6 eps.)

The Best Of ISIHAC: 3 to 10 August 1992 (2 eps.)

Series 21: 14 November to 19 December 1992 (6 eps.)

Special: 26 December 1992

Series 22: 6 November to 11 December 1993 (6 eps.)

Special: 25 December 1993

Series 23: 28 May to 2 July 1994 (6 eps.)

Series 24: 5 November to 10 December 1994 (6 eps.)

Series 25: 27 May to 1 July 1995 (6 eps.)

Series 26: 11 November to 16 December 1995 (6 eps.)

Special: 25 December 1995

Series 27: 1 June to 6 July 1996 (6 eps.)

Series 28: 9 November to 14 December 1996 (6 eps.)

How To Survive The Office Party

Radio 4, 23 December 1980

How To Survive The School Holidays

Radio 4, 28 December 1981

Molesworth

Willie plays the adult hero of the books by Willans & Searle
Radio 4, 23 March to 13 April 1987 (4 eps.)

Home Life/The Office/Leisure/The Arts

The Best Of British

Rushton presents this humorous look at British traditions
Radio 4, 9 to 30 January 1988 (4 eps.)

Heroism/Holidays/The Great Game/Etiquette

An Antidote To Christmas

Radio 3, 25 December 1996



Films

Nothing But The Best (1963)

It's All Over Town (1963)

Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines (1965)

The Mini Affair (1968)

The Bliss Of Mrs. Blossom (1968)

The Best House In London (1969)

Monte Carlo Or Bust! (1969)

Flight Of The Doves (1971)

The Adventures Of Barry McKenzie (1973)

Keep It Up Downstairs (1976)

The Chiffy Kids (1977) (6 part serial)

Adventures Of A Private Eye (1977)

Adventures Of A Plumber's Mate (1978)

The Blues Band (1981) (short)

The Magic Shop (1982) (short)

Consuming Passions (1987)

Television

That Was The Week That Was

BBC-TV, Saturdays

Series 1: 24 November 1962 to 27 April 1963 (23×50mins)
with David Frost, Millicent Martin, Timothy Birdsall, Kenneth Cope, David Kernan, Roy Kinnear, Bernard Levin, Lance Percival, Al Mancini

[Special: *That Was The Year That Was* 29 December 1962]

Series 2: 28 September 1963 to 28 December 1963 (14×50mins)

with David Frost, Millicent Martin, Kenneth Cope, David Kernan, Roy Kinnear, Robert Lang, Bernard Levin, Al Mancini, Lance Percival, Irwin Watson

[Specials: *Dick Whittington And His Fascist Hyena* 21 December 1963 & *That Was The Year That Was* 28 December 1963]

Not So Much A Programme, More A Way Of Life

BBC-TV, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

13 November 1964 to 11 April 1965

with David Frost, P. J. Kavanagh, John Bird, Eleanor Bron, John Fortune, Roy Hudd, John Wells

Rushton appeared in only the first few episodes

Do Not Adjust Your Set — There Is A Fault In The Programme

with Arlene Dorgan, Rod Hull

9 Network (Aust.), 14 September 1966

From Rushton With Love

with Arlene Dorgan, Rod Hull

9 Network (Aust.), Mondays

10 October to 14 November 1966 (6 eps.)

Quiz Of The Week

BBC1, Saturdays

Series 1: 5 July to 30 August 1969 (9 eps.)

Series 2: 20 June to 15 August 1970 (not 25 July) (8 eps.)

Up Pompeii!

BBC1, Mondays

Series 1 only: 30 March to 11 May 1970 (7 eps.)

with Frankie Howerd, Max Adrian, Elizabeth Larner, Kerry Gardner, Jeanne Mockford

Up Sunday

BBC2, Sundays

Series 1: 6 February to 16 July 1972 (not 2 April, 28 May, 11 June) (21 eps.)

Series 2: 5 November 1972 to 28 January 1973 (13 eps.)

Series 3: 1 April to 17 June 1973 (12 eps.)

Series 4: 28 October to 23 December 1973 (9 eps.)

Rushton's Illustrated

ATV, Mondays

with Roy Kinnear, Hugh Paddick, John Junkin

18 February to 17 March 1980 (5 eps.)

Does The Team Think?

Thames, Thursdays (series 1), Tuesdays (series 2)

Series 1: 14 January to 11 March 1982 (9 eps.)

Series 2: 17 May to 21 June 1983 (6 eps.)

with Jimmy Edwards, Beryl Reid, Frankie Howerd, Tim Brooke-Taylor

Recordings

Private Eye Sings Private Eye

Artists & Repertoire EP ARP 1212 (1962)

with Rushton, Christopher Booker, Richard Ingrams and J. Campbell Murdoch

Overture. A Letter From Sir Herbert Gussett/Lift Up Your Parts/The Common Market — A Great Nation Speaks/Dramatic Readings From 'The Times' — The National Theatre/A Word From Mervyn Poove/The True Story Of James Gaithen/Harold Macmillan Sings

That Was The Week That Was

Parlophone LP PMC 1197/PCS 3040 (1963)

Studio remakes of selected sketches from the show

That Was The Week That Was/I've Heard Of Politics But This Is Ridiculous/326098 L/Cpl. Wallace A. J. Royal Signals/Emergency Call/Lawrence Of Arabia/Regella/Party Line/Salvation Army/Dixon/Peter Cadbury/Engagement/If You're Game, Baby/Safe Comedian/Stop Press/Ad Nauseam/Skybolt/Faith In This Nuclear Age/Fly Buttons/Well I Must Admit, Sir/Closing Titles

That Was The Week That Was — John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Brunswick LP LAT 8566 (1963)

Soundtrack of the edition of 23 November 1963

Funny Game, Politics

Parlophone LP PMC 1225/PCS 3056 (1964)

satirical sketches from Rushton, Millicent Martin, Kenneth Cope, Roy Kinnear, Lance Percival

Who Do You Fancy?/Call To Action/Listen With Mother/Good Day To You, Sir/H.P. Sauce/Zero Zombie Swings Liberal/Policy For Britain/Funny Game, Politics/Consumers' Guide/Raise The Standard-1/My Dear Prime Minister/Mr. Wilson At Home/This'll Kill You/Raise The Standard-2/How To Be Happy With The Bomb/Raise The Standard-3

His Master's Vass

Lyntone flexidisc

attached to Private Eye of October 2 1964

Private Eye's Blue Record

Transatlantic LP TRA 131 (1964)

untitled tracks by Rushton, Peter Cook, Dudley Moore, Barry Humphries, Richard Ingrams and John Wells

Madame Butterfly/Say You Want Me

Spin single

St. Vitus Dance/I Want To Ring Bells

Spin single EK-1690

Will Rushton (Now In Bottles)

Bulletin LP (Australia) R66 608 (1967)

From Rushton With Love (Theme)/Woollahra (Processional March)/Fornicatione/Madam Butterfly/British Born/Say You Want Me/St. Vitus' Dance/Pink Elephants/Penelope/Anyone Can Dream/The World Would Be A Better Place/All Things Bright And Beautiful/I Hate Flying/I Want To Ring Bells

The Loneliness Of The Long Playing Record

Lyntone flexidisc LYN 1677

attached to Private Eye of February 14 1969

Dear Sir, Is This A Record?

Lyntone flexidisc

attached to Private Eye of December 5 1969

Neasden/Trout
Spark single SRL 1059 (1972)

The Collected Works Of William Rushton

Spark LP SRLM 102 (1972)

Own Sweet Way/All Things Bright And Beautiful/St. Vitus' Dance/I'm Going To Find A Bar/I Hate Flying/A Merry Xmas To All Our Leaders/The Joys Of Pantomime/The Billiard Table/That Word/We Bleed Blue/Murielle/Fornicatione/Penelope/Madame Butterfly/The World Would Be A Better Place



1964 - 1970 Private Eye's Golden Years Of Sound

Lyntone LP Lyn 2745/6 (1973)

a collection of the eight flexidiscs to date

His Master's Vass/I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus/The Rites Of Spring/B.B.C. Gnome Service/Abominable Radio Gnome/The Loneliness Of The Long Playing Record/Dear Sir, Is This A Record?/Just For The Record

Hullo Sailor

Lyntone flexidisc

attached to Private Eye of December 1 1972

Farginson

Lyntone flexidisc LYN 3034

attached to Private Eye of March 21 1975

The Tale Of Ale

Polygram double LP FRRD 023/24 (1977)

with various artists

This Christmas/Love Can Only Exist In The Best Hotels
Bronze single BRO 197

Private Eye Presents Golden Satiricals

Springtime/Island LP HAHA 6002 (1981)

a collection of the ten flexidiscs to date

His Master's Vass/I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus/The Rites Of Spring/The B.B.C. Gnome Service/The Abominable Radio Gnome/The Loneliness Of The Long Playing Record/Dear Sir, Is This A Record?/Just For The Record/Hullo Sailor/Farginson

Listen For Pleasure double cassettes:

Alice In Wonderland LFP 7063 (1981)

Through The Looking Glass LFP 7116 (1984)

Thomas The Tank Engine stories by Rev. W. Awdry read by Rushton on Argo double cassettes:

The Railway Stories ARGO 1058 (1982)

More Railway Stories ARGO 1151 (1982)

The Kenny Everett Naughty Joke Box

Titanic LP SHIP 240330 (1984)

stand-up from Rushton, Kenny Everett, Barry Cryer, John Junkin, Lenny Bennett, Pat Mooney

Record Damages

Lyntone flexidisc LYN 19463/4

attached to Private Eye of December 11 1987

Skeye Flexi-Dish

Lyntone flexidisc

attached to Private Eye of April 1 1989

Asterix stories read by Rushton on Listen For Pleasure double cassettes:

Asterix The Gladiator LFP 7238 (1986)

Asterix In Britain LFP 7294 (1987)

Asterix And The Magic Carpet LFP 7370 (1988)

Asterix The Gaul LFP 7493 (1990)

Hodder Children's Audio cassettes:

Asterix And The Black Gold HH427 (1995)

Asterix And The Great Divide HH428 (1995)

Asterix And Cleopatra HH429 (1995)

Asterix HH430 (double cassette) (1995)

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1388 (1993)

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue 2

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1698 (1995)

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue 3

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1888 (1996)

Stories From Hans Andersen

Chivers Children's Audio Books cassette (1994)

Two Old Farts In The Night

Polygram Speaking Volumes cassette 526 357 4 (1994)
with Barry Cryer

Videos

The Kenny Everett Naughty Joke Box

Thorn EMI (1984)

stand-up from Rushton, Kenny Everett, Barry Cryer, John Junkin, Lenny Bennett, Pat Mooney

Jackanory presents Winnie-the-Pooh

BBC Video BBCMS042 (1985)

Willie reads four classic A. A. Milne stories

The Carnival Of The Animals

Yorkshire TV (1987)

with James Galway

Two Old Farts In The Night

Polygram 6330383 (1994)

with Barry Cryer

Books

Private Eye On London (co-author)
Weidenfeld and Nicolson (hbk) (1962)

Private Eye's Romantic England (co-author)
Weidenfeld and Nicolson (hbk) (1963)

William Rushton's Dirty Book
Private Eye Publications (pbk) (1964)

The 'I didn't know the way to King's Cross when I first came here but look at me now' Book
New English Library (pbk) (1966)

How To Play Football
Margaret & Jack Hobbs (pbk) (1968)

The Day Of The Grocer
André Deutsch (hbk) (1971)

The Geranium Of Flüt
André Deutsch (pbk) (1975)

Superpig
Macdonald and Jane's (hbk) (1976)

Pigsticking
Macdonald and Jane's (hbk) (1977)

The Reluctant Euro
Queen Anne Press (hbk) (1980)/Macdonald Futura (pbk)

The Filth Amendment
Queen Anne Press (hbk) (1981)

Think Of England (contains only illustrations)
Penguin (pbk) (1982)

W. G. Grace's Last Case
Methuen (hbk/pbk) (1984)

Great Moments Of History
Charles Herridge (pbk) (1985)

Adam And Eve (with the artists of the Portal Gallery)
Bell & Hyman (1985)

The Alternative Gardener
Grafton (1986)

Marylebone Versus The World!!
Pavilion (hbk) (1987)

Spy Thatcher
Pavilion (pbk) (1987)

Every Cat In The Book
Pavilion (1993)

• Willie also illustrated publications by other authors and contributed to Private Eye compilations and these spin-offs:

That Was The Week That Was
Edited by David Frost & Ned Sherrin
W. H. Allen (hbk) (1963)

The BBC book of That Was The Week That Was
by George Campsey
BBC (pbk) (1963)

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue
by Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden,
Humphrey Lyttelton & William Rushton
Robson (hbk) (1980)/Unwin (pbk) (1981)

BOB HOPE

by Peter Tatchell

It was a unique situation in Hollywood history. Two established stars teaming up to create a successful (if occasional) double act that endured for four decades.

When Paramount signed a couple of its major stars to play the leads in a film called **Road To Singapore** in 1940 it ended up with a result that was greater than the sum of its main ingredients. The picture was originally to have starred Fred MacMurray and Jack Oakie (or possibly George Burns and Gracie Allen, depending on which strain of movieland folklore you prefer) but the casting of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope in the roles resulted in one of the most inspired pieces of screen teamwork yet seen.

At the time, both were hugely successful on radio, a medium which had fostered many celebrated "feuds". Winchell versus Bernie, Fields versus McCarthy and (most notably) Benny versus Allen ... all were crowdpleasers across American airwaves and occasionally the stunt was transferred to film. But Hope and Crosby were not rivals until **Road To Singapore** came along.

As a picture, it was a fairly standard bit of hokum having much in common with the dozens of other vehicles featuring the Paramount roster of star names in the late 1930s. On a par with the various editions of **The Big Broadcast**, with a few Crosby vocals thrown in to entice his legion of fans to fill out the audience. But it was the banter, jibes and undeniable chemistry between the leads that allowed the film to rise above the mediocre.

The pair had met back in 1932 when Hope was appearing at New York's Capitol Theatre, and emerging Hollywood star Crosby joined him on stage as part of a movie promotion. They worked up a bit of repartee for the performance and in the process became firm friends for almost half a century.

It took another handful of years for Hope to get his break on the west coast, and despite both being contracted to the same studio the only time they appeared together in front of the camera was in an obscure 1938 golfing short **Don't Hook Now**. Then, in July 1938, Bing invited Bob to be a guest on his successful **Kraft Music Hall** radio show.

With the Road movie, the insults and character assassination got off to a flying start. Hope's screen persona of a cowardly woman-chaser meshed well with the more staid Crosby as they avoided all manner of responsibility and headed for the nearest tropical isle and the charms of its resident damsel.

In the case of **Road To Singapore** this happened to be Dorothy Lamour (also a regular on the Paramount payroll) and with the success of the picture she became a familiar face in all six of the sequels, as well as a number of radio and television appearances over the years with the duo.

Within a year of their pairing, Crosby, Hope and Lamour safaried through the studio's backlot along the **Road To Zanzibar** and soon after to the **Road To Morocco**. Familiarity sometimes breeds good box-office and the public flocked to see each new chapter of the Bing, Bob and Dotty show.

and BING CROSBY



Audiences loved the regular “pattycake pattycake” routines, the quips direct to the camera and the in-jokes with other actors strolling across the set to interrupt the action. With either lead likely to ad-lib an insult or two mid-scene (much to the bewilderment of the director and technicians), the films at times had a surreal atmosphere to them.

With America entering the Second World War, both Hope and Crosby made countless broadcasts together on their regular weekly programmes, as well as a number of gratis performances for the newly-set-up Armed Forces Radio Service. They also appeared in wartime shorts and the occasional all-star feature, and Bing began making walk-ons in some of his partner’s solo vehicles.

The public (in and out of uniform) were soon receiving a regular diet of jokes about a balding groaner with four sons and wardrobe full of Hawaiian shirts and a ham with a skinose and an insatiable craving to be recognized as a great actor. Whilst entertaining overseas, they were even filmed dancing an eccentric version of “mairzy dotes” to a rapturous audience of servicemen. Anything for the war effort.

By 1945 Paramount had the team back in front of the cameras for **Road To Utopia** which (for a change) traded the

jungle heat for Alaskan snowfields, and had a novelty introduction by humorist Robert Benchley. Two years later, the trio were South American bound in **Road To Rio**.

By the end of the 1940s, the entertainment world was in the throes of a major turnaround. Peacetime technologies had concentrated on the development of television, and radio was starting to lose advertising dollars to the increasingly popular medium.

Hope tackled the challenger head on, and made his network debut in a 90-minute special on April 9 1950. It was to be the start of the second phase of his career and see a longevity unparalleled by any other major performer. Crosby, on the other hand, decided to resist the lure of the small screen and put off his tv debut for several years.

Back on radio, the pair signed sponsorship agreements with Chesterfield Cigarettes (who were eager to capitalize on the ongoing rivalry). As a result, the next two seasons (1950/1 and 1951/2) saw them together for a mammoth seventeen broadcasts as they exchanged guestshots on each other’s programmes.

Paramount reunited them with Dorothy Lamour for the first colour Road picture **Road To Bali** in 1952 (which featured an unannounced walk-on by the studio’s other major comedy team, Martin and Lewis).

By the middle of the decade big-time radio had ended and could no longer afford the talents of two of its greatest stars. Hope now concentrated on his monthly television specials, while Crosby was happy to see his career slow down to the occasional movie, all but avoiding the new “monster” in much the same way as the major silent stars reacted to the talkies.

They reunited for some live appearances and several of Hope’s N.B.C. specials, but it was not until 1961 that they returned to the big screen for one final hurrah. And instead of Paramount in Hollywood, they signed a deal with United Artists to make **The Road To Hong Kong** in England.

Unlike the previous six teamings, Joan Collins was chosen as the female lead with Dorothy Lamour making a token guest-appearance for old times sake (and to offer assistance, and a few in-jokes during the climactic chase sequence). Cameos by David Niven, Peter Sellers, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Zsa Zsa Gabor helped liven up the proceedings in what turned out to be quite an enjoyable end of the road.

The rest of the 1960s saw Bing in an ill-fated television sitcom and regular hosting roles on **The Hollywood Palace**, plus the occasional teamup with Bob on the latter’s specials. April 1976 saw them together for the last time, although Hope had been trying for some time to broker a deal to film **The Road To The Fountain Of Youth**, which would see the pair as a couple of elderly hustlers.

But it was not to be. In October 1977, Bing Crosby collapsed and died on a golf course in Spain and one of Hollywood’s greatest double acts was no more. Within days, his sparring partner hosted a 2 hour television tribute to his friend (and later even considered reviving the movie idea with David Niven and then George Burns) before conceding that the show was over.

Films

- Don't Hook Now** (1938 short)
Road To Singapore (1940 Paramount)
Road To Zanzibar (1941 Paramount)
My Favorite Blonde (1942 Paramount)
 * Bing makes cameo
Road To Morocco (1942 Paramount)
Star Spangled Rhythm (1942 Paramount)
 * Bing and Bob guest star
The Princess And The Pirate (1944 Goldwyn)
 * Bing makes cameo
Road To Utopia (1944 Paramount)
All-Star Bond Rally (1945 short)
Hollywood Victory Canteen (1945 short)



- My Favorite Brunette** (1947 Paramount)
 * Bing makes cameo
Variety Girl (1947 Paramount)
 * Bing and Bob guest star
Road To Rio (1947 Paramount)
The Greatest Show On Earth (1952 Paramount)
 * Bing and Bob make cameo
Son Of Paleface (1952 Paramount)
 * Bing makes cameo
Road To Bali (1952 Paramount)
Scared Stiff (1953 Paramount)
 * Bing and Bob make cameo
Alias Jesse James (1959 United Artists)
 * Bing makes cameo
The Road To Hong Kong (1962 United Artists)

Radio

- July 14 1938 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall** (60m)
 February 23 1941 **Gulf Screen Guild Theatre: Altar Bound**
 March 18 1941 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 April 10 1941 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall** (60m)
 October 29 1942 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall** (60m)
 Christmas 1942 AFRS **Command Performance** (60m)
 January 26 1943 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 April 5 1943 **Lux Radio Theatre: Road To Morocco** (60m)
 September 21 1943 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 late 1943 AFRS **Command Performance #86**
 February 15 1944 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 April 13 1944 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall**
 mid 1944 AFRS **Command Performance #118**
 mid 1944 AFRS **Command Performance #122**
 mid 1944 AFRS **Command Performance #123**
 June 15 1944 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall**
 October 12 1944 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall**
 late 1944 AFRS **Command Performance #142**
 November 14 1944 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 late 1944 AFRS **Command Performance #154**
 December 19 1944 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 February 15 1945 AFRS **Command Performance: Dick Tracy In B-Flat** (60m)
 May 29 1945 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 Christmas 1945 AFRS **Command Performance** (90m)
 May 2 1946 Bing's **Kraft Music Hall**
 October 16 1946 Bing's **Philco Radio Time**
 December 24 1946 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 January 29 1947 Bing's **Philco Radio Time**
 June 18 1947 Bing's **Philco Radio Time**
 October 28 1947 Bob's **Pepsodent Show**
 December 7 1948 Bob's **New Swan Soap Show**
 December 15 1948 Bing's **Philco Radio Time**
 November 2 1949 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 November 15 1949 Bob's **New Swan Soap Show**
 December 20 1949 Bob's **New Swan Soap Show**
 February 1 1950 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 March 21 1950 Bob's **New Swan Soap Show**
 May 24 1950 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 3 1950 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 10 1950 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 11 1950 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 18 1950 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 December 26 1950 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 January 10 1951 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 January 23 1951 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 January 31 1951 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 2 1951 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 October 17 1951 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 December 18 1951 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 December 25 1951 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 December 26 1951 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 January 15 1952 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 January 16 1952 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 March 11 1952 Bob's **Chesterfield Show**
 April 9 1952 Bing's **Chesterfield Show**
 December 4 1952 Bing's **General Electric Show**
 January 14 1953 Bob's **Jello Show**
 January 15 1953 Bing's **General Electric Show**

Television

- June 17 1956 **The Road To Hollywood** (90m)
March 2 1958 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
February 27 1962 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
May 14 1962 **Bing Crosby Springtime Special** (60m)
October 24 1962 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
February 15 1964 **Bing Crosby Show** (60m)
December 15 1965 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
November 16 1966 **Bob Hope Special:**
Fantastic Stomach (60m)
February 12 1968 **Bob Hope Special**
from **Madison Square Garden** (60m)
October 23 1968 **Bing Crosby Show** (60m)
February 17 1969 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
December 18 1969 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
February 16 1970 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
February 15 1971 **Bob Hope Special** (60m)
February 26 1972 **Bing Crosby And His Friends** (60m)
October 9 1974 **Bing Crosby And His Friends** (60m)
October 24 1975 **A Quarter Of A Century Of Bob**
Hope On Television (2 hours)
April 21 1976 **From Montreal, The Bob Hope**
Olympic Benefit (90m)
March 20 1977 **Bing! A 50th Anniversary Gala** (90m)
October 28 1977 **Bob Hope - On The Road With Bing**
(2 hour tribute)

Records

Put It There, Pal/Road To Morocco
Decca 78rpm 40000 (December 8 1944)

Chicago Style/Road To Bali
Decca 78rpm 28513 (June 23/24 1952)

Hoot Mon/Merry-Go-Run Around*
Decca 78rpm 28514 (June 23/24 1952)
(* with Peggy Lee)

The Road To Bali
Decca 10" LP 5444
Road To Bali/To See You Is To Love You (Bing Crosby vocal)/Chicago Style/Merry-Go-Run Around/Moonflowers (Peggy Lee vocal)/Hoot Mon

Paris Holiday
United Artists LP UAL 40001
features four Hope vocals (including two with Crosby *):
Paris Holiday*/The Last Time I Saw Paris/Nothing In Common*/April In Paris

The Road To Hong Kong
Liberty LP LOM 16002
Team Work/The Road To Hong Kong/Let's Not Be Sensible (Crosby and Joan Collins)/Warmer Than A Whisper (Dorothy Lamour vocal)

Bing Crosby And Bob Hope With Dorothy Lamour
Radiola LP MR 1044
features Bing's Philco Radio Time broadcast of January 29 1947 and Bob's New Swan Show broadcast of December 7 1948

Bing, Bob And Judy
Totem LP 1009
features Bing's Chesterfield Show broadcasts of October 11 and 18 1950

Bing Is Back
Totem LP 1002
features Bing's Philco Radio Time broadcast of October 16 1946 (plus additional show with Judy Garland as guest)

Bing And Bob
Spokane LP 22
features Bing's Kraft Music Hall broadcasts of April 13 and June 15 1944

Bob Hope And His Friends
King Of Comedy 3LP set KOC 1226
includes Buttons And Bows/Please/Swinging On A Star/Thanks For The Memory/White Christmas/Put It There, Pal and Team-work/Road To Morocco

Bob Hope In Hollywood
M.C.A. LP 906-1
includes the Crosby/Hope duets:
Put It There, Pal*/Road To Morocco*/Road To Bali/Merry-Go-Run Around/Hoot Mon/Chicago Style
(* previously unissued alternate take)

The Bob Hope Collection
Deja Vu LP DVLP 2124
includes the Crosby/Hope duets:
Road To Bali/Merry-Go-Runaround/Hoot Mon/Chicago Style/Put It There, Pal/Road To Morocco/Road To Morocco parody (also with Dorothy Lamour)/Buttons And Bows parody /You're The Top parody (also with Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland) (the last three tracks are taken from 1940s radio broadcasts)

Bob Hope And Friends - Thanks For The Memories
M.C.A. CD MCAD 10611
includes the Crosby/Hope duets:
Put It There, Pal*/Road To Morocco*/Chicago Style/Merry-Go-Runaround/Hoot Mon/Road To Bali (* two versions)

Mail Call
Tandem LP 1903, LaserLight CD 15 413
features the AFRS Command Performance broadcast #122 plus an AFRS Mail Call broadcast featuring Crosby (but not Hope)

Dick Tracy In B-Flat
Curtain Calls LP 100/1, Pro-Arte CD CDD 505 (as **The Original Dick Tracy**)
features the complete 1945 AFRS Command Performance broadcast which starred Bing, Bob, Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Jimmy Durante, The Andrews Sisters, Dinah Shore, Jerry Colonna, Frank Morgan, Cass Daley and Harry Von Zell

Bing Crosby - WWII Radio
LaserLight CD 12 299
features Bing's Kraft Music Hall broadcasts of April 13 1944 and June 15 1944

Bob Hope's Christmas Party
Vintage Jazz Classics VJC 1031-2
features the 1945 Command Performance all-star Christmas broadcast hosted by Bob, with an appearance by Bing

The Radio Years - Bing Crosby On Radio In The Thirties
CD RY 18
includes duet I Knew You Were Coming

MAX MILLER ON DISC

by Mark McKay and Peter Tatchell

"THE pure gold of the Music Hall" was the imposing title bestowed upon the notorious risqué comedian, born Henry Sargent in Brighton in 1895. In reality, he belonged more to the era of Variety, rather than its Victorian antecedent. But how far he lived up to his now legendary status is difficult to ascertain today.

Stories of filthy gags, raising BBC executives' blood pressure and earning Miller instant disqualification from the airwaves, are legion. One supposedly concerns his encounter with a beautiful naked lady on a treacherous mountain pass, only wide enough for one person at a time: "I didn't know whether to block her passage or toss myself off!" In another, Max is misreading an optometrist's wall chart: "Every time I see 'F', you see 'K'". Fact or fiction — who can tell? Unfortunately, no authentication is to be found in any official BBC paperwork.

Other misdemeanours are better documented. As an established Top of the Bill, Max understandably felt that he was in charge. At the 1950 Royal Variety Performance he outstayed his allocated eight minute slot, steadfastly refusing to leave the Palladium stage despite persistent signalling from the prompt corner. Theatrical impresario Val Parnell was furious at this deliberate breach of protocol, and threatened "You'll never work in one of my theatres again."

The threat remained good for a couple of years, but time and big money-earning potential heals all wounds. Max was soon treading the boards of the Palladium once more, back 'by public demand'.

On stage, Miller would step right up to the footlights to deliver his ribald material, away from the prying ears of an unseen menace (presumably the theatre management) lurking in the wings. He cleverly relinquished responsibility for any smuttiness suggested by his patter. Two joke books were presented — one white (clean), the other blue (on the naughty side) — and the audience asked to choose one. Invariably the Blue Book was selected. At every reaction Maxie would smile knowingly, pretending that his innocent remarks had been misconstrued: "You're the sort of people who give me a bad name!"

In Max's act he would proudly boast "there'll never be another, lady!" Perhaps not, but since his death in 1963, others seem to have inherited some particular Max Miller characteristics. His cherubic moon-face and twinkle in the eye were handed down to Benny Hill, who also shared the same delight in bawdy seaside-postcard innuendo. His outrageous on-stage dress sense (would you believe garish floral jacket and plus-fours seemingly made from a sofa covering, kipper tie, striped socks and two-toned shoes?) has been passed on to Dame Edna Everage and Julian Clary (although Max never professed himself other than heterosexual, his attire must have raised some eyebrows!).

During the thirties and forties, Max made a number of films, generally appearing as a fast-talking travelling salesman-type. Four of these, including his most significant starring feature, *Educated Evans* and its sequel, *Thank Evans*, are



regrettably no longer extant. And in the fifties he made several appearances on television (of which some footage survives).

Max also stepped into the EMI studios to commit various little ditties to wax. Judging by his movies and songs, it's hard to see what all the fuss was about.

The best surviving illustration of Miller in top form must be the half-dozen recordings made in front of a full house at some of London's largest variety theatres. Released originally as 78rpm disc sets, Max is heard at the peak of his career. Almost bowled over by waves of laughter, his breathtaking power over an audience is apparent enough. Just what "the Cheeky Chappie" did to earn this adoration is unclear.

Bibliography

The Max Miller Blue Book (paperback)
compiled by Barry Took (Robson Books, London, 1975)

Max Miller - The Cheeky Chappie
by John East (W.H. Allen, London, 1977, Robson ppk reprint)

Discography

Confessions Of A Cheeky Chappie (2 parts)
Broadcast 78rpm 3266 (c. October 1932)

Max The Auctioneer (2 parts)
Rex 78rpm 8665 (March 1935)

Confessions Of A Cheeky Chappie (2 parts)
Rex 78rpm 8604 (May 1935)

The Woman Improver/Mary From The Dairy
HMV 78rpm BD 385 (November 4 1936)

Ophelia/Down In The Valley
HMV 78rpm BD 396 (December 18 1936)

Backscratcher/Impshe
HMV 78rpm BD 408 (January 22 1937)

Why Should The Dustman Get It All?/You Can't Blame Me For That
HMV 78rpm BD 417 (February 19 1937)

How The So-And-So Can I Be Happy?/The Girl Next Door
HMV 78rpm BD 419 (March 128 1937)

Weeping Willow/You Can't Go Away Like That
HMV 78rpm BD 432 (April 28 1937)

The Love Bug Will Bite You/Julietta
HMV 78rpm BD 427 (April 28 1937)

The Old Oak Tree/Put It Down
HMV 78rpm BD 450 (July 2 1937)

The Windmill/La-De-Da
HMV 78rpm BD 439 (July 16 1937)

I Never Thought That She'd Do That To Me/Let's All Have A Charabanc Ride
HMV 78rpm BD 458 (October 13 1937)

Just Another Sally/The Christmas Dinner
HMV 78rpm BD 475 (November 12 1937)

Ain't Love Grand?/Annie, The Farmer's Daughter
HMV 78rpm BD 482 (December 1 1937)

She Said She Wouldn't/I'm The Only Bit Of Comfort That She's Got
HMV 78rpm BD 505 (January 19 1938)

Winnie The Whistler/Doh-Re-Me
HMV 78rpm BD 533 (March 10 1938)

Every Sunday Afternoon/Um-Ta-Ra-Ra
HMV 78rpm BD 541 (April 6 1938)

Does She Still Remember?/I Bought A Horse
HMV 78rpm BD 563 (May 5 1938)

The Girls Who Work Where I Work/Happy School Days
HMV 78rpm BD 583 (August 15 1938)

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)
HMV 3x78rpm BD 615/BD 616/BD 617 (October 7 1938)
(incl. She Shall Have Music Wherever She Goes/Lulu/The Hiking Song)

Max Miller In The Theatre Again (Holborn Empire - Second House)
HMV 3x78rpm BD 646/BD 647/BD 648 (October 7 1938)
(incl. When We Go On Our Honeymoon/I Thought We Came Here To Pick Some Flowers/All Because I Rolled My Eyes)

Everything Happens To Me/At The Bathing Parade
HMV 78rpm BD 697 (April 5 1939)

No, No, No/Maria Fell For Me
HMV 78rpm BD 710 (April 5 1939)

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire)
HMV 3x78rpm BD 770/BD 771/BD 772 (November 1939)
(incl. Passing The Time Away/Down Where The Rambling Roses Grow/I Don't Like The Girls/Mary Ann)

Max Miller With The Forces
HMV 3x78rpm BD 883/BD 884/BD 885 (November 1940)
(incl. A New Kind Of Old-Fashioned Girl/Stringing Along With You/Sitting In The Old Arm Chair/The Hiking Song)

Max Miller Entertains The War Workers
HMV 2x78rpm BD 890/BD 891 (November 1941)
(incl. The Grand Old Man/Every Sunday Afternoon)

That's The Way To Fall In Love + When You're Feeling Lonely/She'll Never Be The Same Again
HMV 78rpm BD 987 (November 14 1941)

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire)
HMV 2x78rpm BD 1022/BD 1023 (October 12 1942)
(incl. Sitting In The Park With Sarah/Cheeky Chappie/I Never Slept A Wink All Night)

Let's Have A Ride On Your Bicycle/My Old Mum
Philips 78rpm PB 199 (c. October 1953)

Mary From The Dairy/Voulez-Vous Promenade?
Philips 78rpm PB 236 (c. January 1954)

Oh Yes! She Knows Her Onions/Pleasant Dreams (both with The Beverley Sisters)
Philips 78rpm PB 274 (c. April 1954)

Friends And Neighbours/Two Little People
Philips 78rpm PB 296 (c. July 1954)

Don't Forget Your First Sweetheart/Someone Else I'd Like To Be
Philips 78rpm PB 362 (c. November 1954)

London Belongs To Me/Something Money Can't Buy
Philips 78rpm PB 427 (c. February 1955)

The Budgie Song/Ain't It Ni-ice!
Philips 78rpm PB 518 (c. October 1955)

Max At The Met
Pye/Nixa 10" LP (November 30 1958)
(incl. Passing the Time Away/Be Sincere/The Girls I Like/Fan Dancer/Mary Ann)

Max At The Met
Pye/Golden Guinea LP GGL 0195, Pye/Marble Arch LP MAL 740

With A Little Bit Of Luck/Influence/Max At The Met/Mother Brown Story/There's Always Someone Worse Off Than You

Max At The Met
Pye EP NEP 24154
(incl. Passing The Time Away/Be Sincere)

Max At The Met (Part 2)
Pye EP NEP 24162
(incl. Be Sincere/The Girls I Like/The Fan Dancer/Mary Ann)

The Girls I Like/The Mother Brown Story
Pye/Nixa 78rpm N 15050 (c. April 1956)

Be Sincere/With A Little Bit Of Luck

Pye/Nixa 78rpm/single (7)N 15141 (c. April 1958)

Influence/There's Always Someone Worse Off Than You

Pye single 7N 15349

That's Nice, Maxie!

Pye LP NPL 18064, Marble Arch LP MAL 597

(incl. Josephine/Twin Sisters/On The Banks Of The Nile/Hiking)

The Cheeky Chappie!

Pye LP NPL 18079, Marble Arch LP MAL 1257, Hallmark LP HMA 240 (September 9 1962)(retitled **You Can't Help Liking Him**)

(incl. Lulu/She Said She Wouldn't/Doin' All The Nice Things)

The Market Song/Tit-Bits (both with Lonnie Donegan)

Pye single 7N 15493

50 Years Of Radio Comedy

B.B.C. Records LP REC 138

includes an undated broadcast extract

• *The following releases all reissue 78rpm material...*

Max Miller In The Theatre

Australian H.M.V. 10" LP ODLP 7504

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)/

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1939)

Max Miller In The Theatre

E.M.I./One-Up LP OU 2075

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)/

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - Second House)

The Cheeky Chappie

H.M.V. EP 7EG 8558

Mary From The Dairy/She Said She Wouldn't/Every Sunday Afternoon/Ain't Love Grand!

All Good Stuff, Lady!

E.M.I./Note LP NTS 214, E.M.I./Golden Age LP GX 2503 (retitled **The Golden Age Of Max Miller**)

Mary From The Dairy/The Woman Improver/Ophelia/Down In The Valley/The Old Oak Tree/Put It Down/I Never Thought That She'd Do That To Me/Let's All Have A Charabanc Ride/Ain't Love Grand/Annie The Farmer's Daughter/She Said She Wouldn't/I'm The Only Bit Of Comfort That She's Got/Every Sunday Afternoon/Um-Ta-Ra-Ra/I Bought A Horse/Does She Still Remember/Everything Happens To Me/At The Bathing Parade/She'll Never Be The Same Again/No, No, No

The Cheekie Chappie

Philips/Wing LP WL 1190

Let's Have A Ride On Your Bicycle/Don't Forget Your First Sweetheart/You Broke Your Promise/Someone Else I'd Like To Be/Something Money Can't Buy/Little Swiss Miss/Friends And Neighbours/Oh Yes! She Knows Her Onions (+ The Beverley Sisters)/London Belongs To Me/Voulez-Vous Promenade/My Old Mum/Mary From The Dairy

The Golden Hour Of Max Miller

Pye/Golden Hour GH 584 (extracts from Pye LPs)

Max At The Met and The Cheeky Chappie!

You Can't Help Liking Him - Golden Hour Presents Max Miller

Pye/Golden Hour LP GH 675 (extracts from Pye LPs)

That's Nice Maxie! and The Cheeky Chappie!

The Cheeky Chappie

Pavilion/Flapper CD PAST CD 9714

Ophelia/Down In The Valley/Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)/Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - Second House)/Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1939)/You Can't Go Away Like That

The Pure Gold Of The Music Hall

Pavilion/Flapper CD PAST CD 9736

Julietta/The Love Bug Will Bite You/Max With The Forces/Confessions Of A Cheeky Chappie (1935)/The Woman Improver/Weeping Willow/You Can't Blame Me For That/Backscratcher/Impshe/Max The Auctioneer/The Girl Next Door/How The So-And-So Can I Be Happy?/Doh-Re-Me/Everything Happens To Me/At The Bathing Parade/No, No, No

The Cheeky Chappie

E.M.I. 2CDs CDECC 10

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)/

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1942)/

Max Miller With The Forces/Max Miller Entertains The War

Workers/Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - Sec-

ond House)/Ain't Love Grand/Every Sunday Afternoon/The

Old Oak Tree/Everything Happens To Me/Max Miller In The

Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1939)/At The Bathing Pa-

rade/I Never Thought That She'd Do That To Me/Mary From

The Dairy

Max At The Met/That's Nice Maxie ... Plus

C-Five CD C5LCD 598

Max At The Met (LP)/That's Nice Maxie (LP)/Tit Bits*/The

Market Song* (* with Lonnie Donegan)

The Cheeky Chappie! ... Plus

C-Five CD C5LCD 613

The Cheeky Chappie (LP)/With A Little Bit Of Luck/Influ-

ence/Mother Brown Story/There's Always Someone Worse

Off Than You

Max Miller

C-Five CD C5LCD 631

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - Second House)/

The Girls Who Work Where I Work/Every Sunday After-

noon/Max Miller With The Forces/Doh-Re-Me/No, No, No/

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1939)

The Cheeky Chappie Entertains

Magpie 3CDs 4 (contains the above three C-Five discs)

The Cheeky Chappie

Conifer/Happy Days CD CMSCD 209

Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Empire - 1939)/

The Favourite Lodger*/Max Miller With The Forces/That's

The Way To Fall In Love + When You're Feeling Lonely/

Max Miller Entertains The War Workers/She'll Never Be The

Same Again/Max Miller In The Theatre (Finsbury Park Em-

pire - 1942) (* previously unissued track)

There'll Never Be Another

Hallmark CD 303392

Max Miller In The Theatre (Holborn Empire - First House)/

Max Miller With The Forces/Max Miller In The Theatre

(Finsbury Park Empire - 1942)/That's The Way To Fall In

Love + When You're Feeling Lonely/Max Miller In The

Theatre (Holborn Empire - Second House)

SLEDGE HAMMER

... a forgotten classic

by Andrew Kutzer

CREATED and produced by Alan Spencer for the American A.B.C. Network, **Sledge Hammer!** appeared in 1986 with a theme by Danny Elfman to parody the Dirty Harry/Miami Vice Style of vigilante cop shows that continually pervade the airwaves. Inspector Sledge Hammer is a dedicated ultra right wing, ultra macho police detective who dresses in loud designer clothes, never drinks or smokes and adheres to a strict macrobiotic diet. His best friend is his .44 Magnum, whom he talks to and calls his 'amigo'.

Often, Sledge will use whatever methods are necessary to clean up the 'slimeballs' of the city, once blowing up an entire building to bring down a sniper. Usually, an inept performance is prefaced with his catchcry - "Trust me - I know what I'm doing". These methods find him at odds with his supervisor, the bombastic Captain Trunk, who is frequently felled by Hammer with a judo throw and an apologetic "just reflex". His character is perhaps best summed up by his partner Detective Dori Doreau - "Granted Sledge is irresponsible, undependable, egotistical, insensitive, chauvinistic, sadistic and cruel, but other than that he's a terrific guy".

Sledge is first teamed up with Doreau in the pilot episode. An expert in terrorist psychology and defence tactics, Dori is the rational counterpoint to Sledge's 'gut instinct' cop and acts as his conscience. More often than not, it is Dori who solves the cases, leaving Sledge to mop up the crooks and save the day. Occasionally, she will be prevailed upon to defend herself with martial arts, to which Sledge will reply - "Dori, that was excessively violent and completely unnecessary. I loved it!". At first she is repulsed by Hammer's attitudes, but a gradual friendship develops. Unfortunately, she is never able to pursue the relationship further - Hammer's idea of a compliment is to say - "You know Doreau, sometimes you think like a man".

In the hands of a lesser actor, the central character could have come across as arrogant and unlikable. However, David Rasche's masterful interpretation manages to walk a tightrope by instilling Sledge with the right amount of vulnerability and charm necessary for the character's acceptance. It was Rasche's portrayal of a KGB agent in the Dudley Moore movie **Best Defense** that led him to be cast as tv's most lovable psychotic. Initially, he was turned off by the character. "The first time I read the script I thought, *This is too weird. It's awful. It's fascist.* Then I read it again and thought *No, it's fine*".

Rasche started out to become a minister like his father, but decided instead to take up acting. There followed a stint in the Second City improvisational troupe alongside the likes of John Belushi, Harold Ramis and John Candy. Later work ranged from Shakespeare to Broadway and various minor roles in movies and television, including that of a memorably bad improviser in Woody Allen's **Manhattan**. Of the **Sledge Hammer** role itself, Rasche said - "I always insist that his

fascist tendencies are corrected so that people don't get the idea that it is funny or cute to throw out the Bill Of Rights. It's exactly the opposite".

As for Rasche's compadres, Anne-Marie Martin was lawyer Gwen Davies in **Days Of Our Lives** for several years before taking on the role of Doreau. Harrison Page, Sledge's long-suffering supervisor, had previously starred in the U.S. version of **Love Thy Neighbour**, **Gimme A Break** and **CPO Sharkey**. Other semi-regulars included Leslie Morris and Patti Tippo as Officers Mayjoy and Daley, and Kurt Paul as ghoulish Coroner Norman Blates.

A small army of story editors, under producer Spencer (later executive producer), handled most of the scriptwriting chores and helped the series to attain a consistently high standard. Several episodes were directed by comedy veterans Bill Bixby (**My Favorite Martian**) and Dick Martin (**Laugh In**). Leonard Stern, stalwart of such shows as **Sergeant Bilko**, **The Honeymooners** and **Get Smart** served as Creative Consultant.

Like **Get Smart**, **Sledge Hammer!** ran the gamut from burlesque social satire to pure slapstick. Images of Sledge running amok on a police firing range with his 'loudener' (most police use silencers), or as a school crossing supervisor shooting the tyres of a car refusing to stop, remain long in the memory. Some episodes, like *Witness* or *Vertical*, are outright sendups of their source material. Others, such as *Magnum Farce* or *Play It Again*, Sledge built themselves around particular themes. In *All Shook Up*, arguably Sledge's finest half-hour, he performs an hilarious parody of Elvis mumbling songs vaguely reminiscent of *Love Me Tender* and *An American Trilogy*. The audience sits aghast until Sledge pulls out his gun and fires, causing spontaneous applause.

In fact, **Sledge Hammer!** had everything necessary to guarantee success - everything bar an audience. When the ratings figures came in for the first season, the series was averaging a disappointing 10.5% and Spencer resigned himself to the show's demise. At season's end he had his principal characters killed off in an atomic bomb blast. However, A.B.C. decided to renew the show for a further year. To work around the conclusive finale, the first new episode began with a reprise of Sledge's bomb disarming prowess. A captioned voiceover then informed viewers that ... *the following season of Sledge Hammer! takes place five years before that nuclear explosion.*

Mr and Mrs America remained unconvinced. Placed against N.B.C.'s indestructible **Cosby Show**, then in its fourth year of production, the series could not hope to improve on its previous showing and was discreetly cancelled. Rarely seen since, **Sledge Hammer!** - heir apparent to the throne of **Get Smart** - remains one of the most brilliant and underrated shows on television.



Series 1

September 23 1986

(pilot) by Alan Spencer

Inspector Sledge Hammer is called out of suspension by the Mayor after his daughter is kidnapped by terrorists

September 26 1986

Hammer Gets Nailed by Michael Reiss, Al Jean

Hammer's involvement in a tv expose on the police force hastens staff cutbacks and he is reduced to a school crossing monitor until a bomb in a clock shop brings him back

October 3 1986

Witless by Alan Spencer

A million dollar contract on Sledge's life sends him into hiding in an Amish-type village

October 17 1986

They Shoot Hammers, Don't They? by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack, Alan Spencer

Hammer's crooked ex-partner John Kogan breaks out of prison bent on a final showdown

October 24 1986

Dori Day Afternoon by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack

Sledge and Dori are held hostage during a bank robbery while the robbers demand a plane to Rio

October 31 1986

To Sledge With Love by Jim Fisher, Jim Staahl

Hammer is called in to control the high school gang problem and convinces them to join the police force

November 7 1986

All Shook Up by Alan Spencer

An Elvis Presley serial killer sends Sledge undercover into the cutthroat world of Elvis impersonators

November 14 1986

Over My Dead Bodyguard by Michael Reiss, Al Jean

Hammer is in charge of guarding Captain Trunk, who is to testify against the mob

November 22 1986

Magnum Farce by Jim Fisher, Jim Staahl

Hammer infiltrates a gang of rogue vigilante cops led by the new female D.A.

November 29 1986

If I Had A Little Hammer by Deborah Raznick, Daniel Benton
Sledge and Dori pose as prospective parents to investigate a black market baby racket

December 13 1986

To Live And Die On TV by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack

Hammer becomes a contestant in the world of game shows to uncover a murderer

December 20 1986

Miss Of The Spider Woman by Michael Reiss, Al Jean

Poisoned by a mysterious woman, Hammer has twelve hours to find an antidote in the Andes mountains

January 3 1987

The Old Man And The Sledge by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack

Sledge saves his idol Gil Yates from a retirement home by finding him a job as a security guard in a jewellery store

January 10 1987

State Of Sledge by Al Jean, Michael Reiss

A jailed satantic cult leader uses his one phone call to have the precinct building surrounded by hordes of fanatics

January 17 1987

Haven't Gun, Will Travel by Gerald Gardner

Hammer's self-confidence is shattered when a police psychiatrist helps a gang of silver thieves to kidnap his gun

January 24 1987

The Color Of Hammer by Brian Pollack, Mert Rich

Sledge becomes a poolshark to find a blackmailer who targets city officials

January 31 1987

Brother Can You Spare A Crime? by Gerald Gardner

An arrested jewel thief convinces Hammer that he is his long lost brother

February 7 1987

Desperately Seeking Dori by Michael Reiss, Al Jean
A bump on the head causes Dori to act like Hammer

February 14 1987

Sledgepoo by Alan Mandel
Hammer poses as a hairdresser for the society's elite to thwart a gang of British jewel thieves

February 21 1987

Comrade Hammer by David Ketchum, Tony DiMarco
A defecting Russian scientist is escorted by Hammer and Doreau on the train to Springfield

April 21 1987

Jagged Sledge by Chris M. Ruppenthal
When Hammer is put on trial for the murder of a crime boss, the evidence is so damaging even Hammer thinks he's guilty

April 28 1987

The Spa Who Loved Me by Tino Insana, Robert Wuhl
A nuclear warhead is stolen by a female aerobics instructor's gang of bodybuilding terrorists

Series 2

September 17 1987

A Clockwork Hammer by Chris Ruppenthal
During the trial of Johnny 'Red Shoes' Haggis, Sledge is re-programmed to forget information and kill the D.A.

September 24 1987

Big Nazi On Campus by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack
When a professor's female assistant is murdered, Hammer and Doreau discover links to a nazi war criminal

October 1 1987

Play It Again, Sledge by David Ketchum, Tony DiMarco
After Sledge and Dori are given six month's suspension, the ghost of Bogart convinces Sledge to set up a detective agency

October 8 1987

Wild About Hammer by Alan Spencer
Psychotic Officer Elizabeth Jenkins develops a fatal attraction for Hammer

October 15 1987

Death Of A Few Salesmen by Mark Curtiss, Rod Ash
When six used car salesmen die after marrying the same woman, Sledge masquerades as Aussie car dealer Crocodile Bruce

October 29 1987

Vertical by David Ketchum, Tony DiMarco
Hammer's fear of heights prevents him from saving the life of a mobster's moll. Incredulous, he spies a waitress who is her exact double

November 5 1987

Dressed To Call by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack
Radio talkshow psychologist Dorothy Stone is stalked by an obsessed male

November 12 1987

Hammer Hits The Rock by Mark Curtiss, Rod Ash
Hammer enters Chadney Prison as *Nick The Dart* in order to break out with crime boss Clive Winston

November 19 1987

Last Of The Red Hot Vampires by Alan Spencer
Following the death of horror actor Vincent Lugarski, a spate of vampire killings dogs a film's production

November 26 1987

Hammeroid by Ron Friedman
Hammer is injured battling an android and his only chance for survival is to be turned into a *Robocop*

December 3 1987

Sledge In Toyland by Brian Pollack, Mert Rich
When a toy magnate and his mistress are murdered, Sledge must fend off the man's competitor and an army of killer toys

December 10 1987

Icebreaker by Mark Curtiss, Rod Ash
Sledge finds rivalry with a dashing British agent who romances Dori while assigned to protect a visiting archbishop

December 17 1987

They Call Me Mr Trunk by Mark Curtiss, Rod Ash
When Hammer arrests a man infected with a virus after breaking into a military germ warfare centre, the entire precinct is quarantined

January 7 1988

Model Dearest by David Ketchum, Tony DiMarco
A kidnapped model leads Doreau into a modelling agency where she finds a white slavery ring

January 15 1988

Sledge, Rattle 'n' Roll by Brian Pollack, Mert Rich
A trail of murder leads Hammer into a sleazy record producer's world of heavy metal

January 22 1988

Suppose They Gave A War And Sledge Came? by Chris Ruppenthal
Sledge is in his element when a killer uses a corporate survivalist war game as a cover for murder

January 29 1988

The Secret Of My Excess by Alicia Marie Schudt
When the governor's daughter falls in with the wrong crowd, Hammer must search the sleazy pits of the city for her without drawing attention

February 5 1988

It Happened What Night? by Mark Curtiss, Rod Ash
To smash a narcotics operation, Hammer and Doreau pose as newlyweds but are unable to remember events of the night before

February 12 1988

Here's To You, Mrs Hammer by Mert Rich, Brian Pollack
Hammer is shocked to find out that his old buddy plans to marry his ex-wife

Video

Two of the episodes were released in America (only) as a commercial video...

All Shook Up + Witness (NTSC)

KEVIN "BLOODY" WILSON

by Doug Ackerly

Twenty years ago, radio novice Doug Ackerly struck up a friendship with a performer on the threshold of international success. Here Doug pays tribute to his friend of many years and many names...

FIFTY-year-old Dennis Bryant (aka Kevin "Bloody" Wilson) was born in Sydney but is identified with the Western Australian gold-mining town of Kalgoorlie, where he worked as an electrician in the mines.

He fronted his own band, Bryan Dennis And The Country Club, and taught guitar. As Bryan Dennis, he also hosted a programme of country music on the local commercial radio station, 6KG, on Sunday mornings for seven years until July, 1980.

After moving to Perth, he incorporated bawdy parodies of well-known songs in his act at pubs and football clubs. In 1984, he put together a cassette of these which, without airplay, sold an amazing 22,000 copies in eighteen months at gigs and by mail order. When transferred to LP (and later CD), it sold many thousands more. Word of mouth also ensured his live appearances were packed out.

His second album, **Kev's Back**, which included the classics *Hey*, *Santa Claus* and *Dicktaphone*, sold 27,000 copies (triple platinum) and won an Australian Record Industry Association Award for Best-Selling Comedy Album of 1986. The disc also included the satirical *Living Next Door To Alan*. Based on the 1976 Smokie hit, the lyrics told of a group of aborigines who used a combination of welfare payments and land claims to move in next door to tycoon, Alan Bond.

Like fellow new-wave Australian comics Rodney Rude and Austentayshus, he was arrested for profanity during a performance in Brisbane, but this merely ensured greater notoriety.

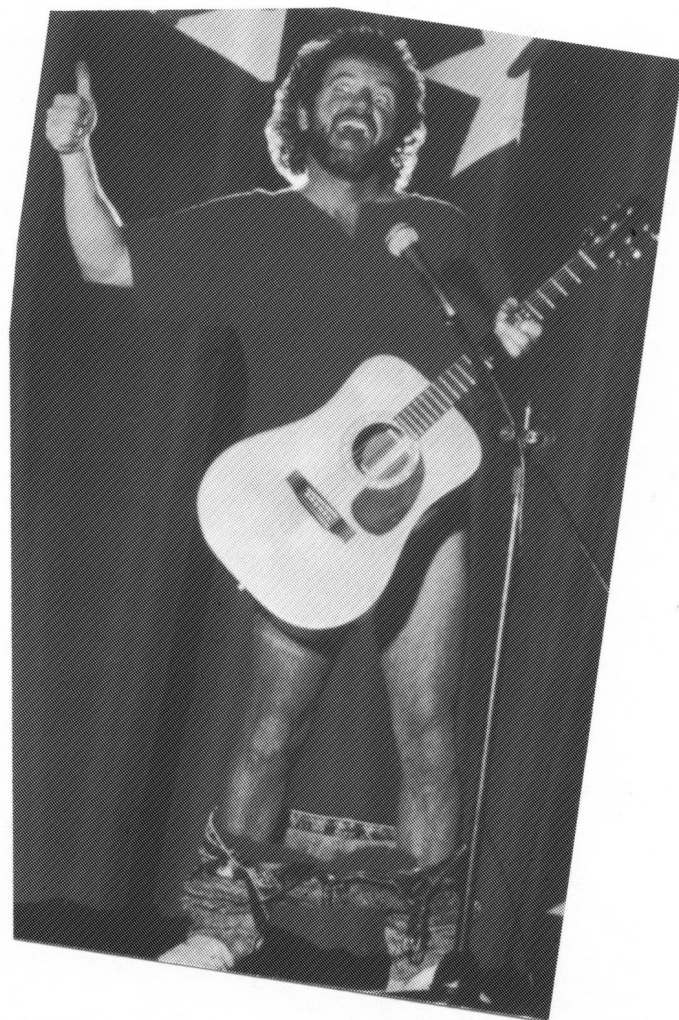
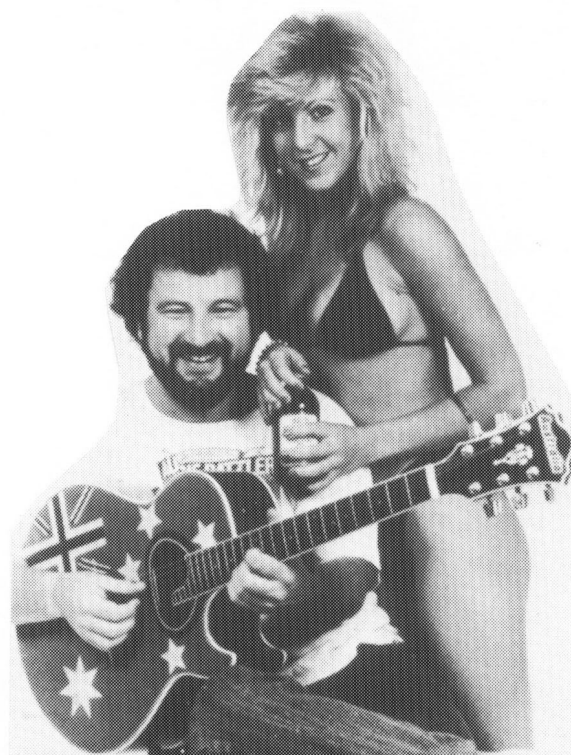
His infamy spread to the U.K. where he tours for three months every year. He has played Her Majesty's Theatre and the London Palladium and maintains an office and residence in Northampton. He has also opened an office in Las Vegas in the hope of cracking the U.S. market.

Where once he toured with a band and an opening act, he now performs his two-hour show of songs and standup comedy solo.

He has dispensed with his manager and (in 1993) severed links with Sony Music to set up his own record label, Both Barrels.

In 1994, he released a board game **Pub Crawl**, and he opened a comedy website on the internet a year later.

Wife Betty is his road manager and their two children have followed their father into show business. Travis is a highly regarded blues guitarist, and Tammy is a raunchy country singer who released her debut album last year under the name T.J. Dennis.



Discography

(Compiled by Paul Balsillie)

Your Average Australian Yobbo

Both Barrels/C.B.S. CD 465169 2 (1985)

Sunday Morning/I Gave Up Wanking/Cum Chin Mi Gurflen/
Arr F*** (The Instrumental)/Country Bumkin/That F***ing
Cat's Back/Stack The Fridge/Ailments Of The Eighties/Wow
Did I Get Whacked/The Festival Of Life

Kev's Back (The Return Of The Yobbo)

Both Barrels/C.B.S. LP SBP 8174, CD 467533 2 (1985)

The Last Lager Waltz/That's What He Really Said/Kev's
Courtin' Song/Breathe Through My Ears/Mick The Master
Farter/Living Next Door To Alan/The Pubic Hair Song/It Was
Over (Kev's Lament)/Dick'taphone/Hey Santa Claus

Born Again Piss Tank

Both Barrels/Columbia LP 460432 1, CD 460432 2 (1987)

Born Again Piss Tank/Kev's Love Song (Dinkum 'Bout Ya
Darlin')/Supa Mega Fuggly/Manuel The Bandito/I Knew The
Bride (When She Used To Be A Moll)/Fair And Just*/Anytime
At All/The Kid (He Swears A Little Bit)/Dick On Her Mind/
Rootin' In The Back Of The Ute
(* with Col Elliot)

My Australian Roots

Both Barrels/Columbia CD 465428 2 (1989)

You Orta' See Me (When I'm Pissed)/Double Decker Dog/
The Great Roberto/Me Dick's On The Dole/The Featherbrain
Championship/The First Six Rows/Olie And Olga/You Can
Never Find One*/Flowers/The Builder/Amazing Grass
(* with Col Elliot)

The Loveable Larrikin

Both Barrels CD BB01 (1990)

Stack The Fridge/The Last Lager Waltz/The Pubic Hair Song/
Ollie And Olga/The Festival Of Life/The Kid (He Swears A
Little)/I Gave Up Wanking/It Was Over (Kev's Lament)/
Manuel The Bandito/Hey Santa Claus

The Far-Canal Album

Both Barrels CD BB02 (1990)

Kev's Courtin' Song/Born Again Piss Tank/Dick On Her Mind/
Double Decker Dog/Amazing Grass/That Fucking Cat's Back/
Supa Mega Fugley/The Builder/Me Dick's On The Dole/
Dicktaphone

Let's Call Him ... Kev!

Both Barrels/Columbia CD 469188 2, BBCD 04 (1991)

Me Dick (Just Dialed Your Number)/Festival Of Farts/Big
Fat Bum/The Potato Song/The Perfect Ten/Bali Belly Song/
Jacko Can't Get Up/This One's Just For You/Rockin' And
Rootin'/(The Ode To) Huey And Billy

The Worst Of Kevin Bloody Wilson

Both Barrels/Columbia CD 472317 2 (1992)

The Last Lager Waltz/The Pubic Hair Song/Living Next Door
To Alan/The Festival Of Life/It Was Over (Kev's Lament)/
Hey Santa Claus/Kev's Courtin' Song/Born Again Piss Tank/
That F***ing Cat's Back/Dick'taphone/Bali Belly Song/
Chucka Browneye

Nashville Trash

Both Barrels CD BBCD 1493 (1993)

The Sheila Singer/Don't Touch Your Sister/When You're
Stoned/The All-Time Loser's Blues (Part 1)/Mean, Lean
Lovin' Machine/Tears And Snot/A Tool That'll Fix It/The
All-Time Loser's Blues (Part 2)/Damn Good Shit/Sex, Drugs
And Rock'n'roll

Backout From The Outback

Both Barrels CD BBCD 05 (1994)

The Great Roberto/Flowers/The First Six Rows/Sunday Morn-
ing Throwing Up/Rootin' In The Back Of The Ute/Chucka
Browneye/Mick The Master Farter/Feather Brain Champi-
onship/Fair And Just*/Living Next Door To Alan (* with Col
Elliot)

Let Loose Live In London

Both Barrels 2-CD BBT 2894 (1993)

I Gave Up Wanking/Kalgoorlie/Bungee Jumping/Happy To-
bacco/Electricity/Swearing/The Builder/Guitars/Nigel/Bali
Belly Song/Nashville/Tears And Snot/Don't Touch Your Sis-
ter/Hospitals/Poofters/The Kid (He Swears A Bit)/Mick The
Master Farter/Leprosy/Religion/The Festival Of Life
My Grandfather's Cock/American Humour/Politicians/Manuel
The Bandito/Living Next Door To Alan/That F#!ing Cat's
Back/Hey, Cheryl/Kev's Courtin' Song/Diesel Dykes/
Dictaphone/Hey, Santa Claus

Kev's Kristmas

Both Barrels CD BB 60896 (1996)

Hey Santa Claus/Kristmas Without Snow/He Only Comes Once
A Year/Ho Ho Fucking Ho/Santa's Fuckin' Roadies/Kristmas
On The Piss/Tattoo Of Santa/Roo Dog/Santa Was Stoned/
Grandad's Finger/Amazing Grass/What About Poor Old Santa
Claus

Cassette

Kimberley Cocktail (by Bruce Tuffin)

read by Kevin Bloody Wilson

Both Barrels double-cassette BBST 1894 (1994)

Videos

Live And Uncensored

498752

Let Loose Live In London

Both Barrels BBV 11093, Telstar TVE 6010 (80m)

features 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

Lovable Larrikin

Polygram 043 084 3

Game

The Kevin Bloody Wilson Pub Krawl Boardgame

BBBG 10994

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