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LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

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Inside:
W. C. Fields
Family Ties
Woody Allen
Joyce Grenfell
Mother and Son
The St. Trinian's Films



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W.C. FIELDS

by Peter Tatchell

HE was arguably the funniest solo performer the motion picture has ever seen ... a legend from his heyday in the 1930s, through the "nostalgia boom" of the 1970s, and right up to the present day. By the time he found lasting fame with the arrival of the talkies, W.C. Fields had created a timeless character of international appeal. He combined the physical artistry of thirty year's juggling, a language peppered with the flowery rhetoric of Victorian England, and an attitude rife with bluster, humbug and all manner of political incorrectness.

Born William Claude Dukenfield on January 29 1880, he left home in his early teens after a family conflict and for many years struggled in poverty, eking out a living on the fringes of show business. Thus goes the myth which, for the most part, he himself created (though in recent times researchers have come to believe his early years weren't quite as stark as he made out and many of his alleged hardships were more the creation of his fertile imagination). It's a fact however that his patience and persistence in teaching himself to juggle led to a vaudeville act which apparently had no equal and resulted in successful engagements across the country (and twice around the world). Attired as a tramp, those early performances contained no dialogue at all, with only the occasional gesture linking his amazing artistry.

By 1915, the great Florenz Ziegfeld signed him for his **Follies**, and Fields began to talk on stage. That same year he transferred two of his most famous routines to film, with cameras at the Long Island studios capturing his pool table and golfing sketches for the one-reelers **Pool Sharks** and **His Lordship's Dilemma** (the latter now unfortunately lost). It's a little-known fact that Fields had also taken part in a sequence filmed for one of Ed Wynn's **Ziegfeld Follies** skits some months earlier (though it's unlikely the footage would have survived beyond the show's run).

W.C. Fields appeared in six editions of the **Follies** (with such other Broadway luminaries as Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers, Fannie Brice and Bert Williams) before switching to **George White's Scandals** in 1922. A year later, he was talked into starring in play called **Poppy**, and in the process created the loveable rogue, Professor Eustace P. McGargle. Finding it difficult to remember lines, he often adlibbed expressions like *never give a sucker an even break* and *it's the old army game*, much to the delight of audience and cast members, who would wonder what he'd say next.

Fields returned to the **Ziegfeld Follies** midway through the run of the 1924 edition, and stayed on for the following year's version as well. He also took part in a number of silent movies in the twenties (originally shot at the Astoria studios on Long Island, but later moving out to Hollywood), including an adaptation of **Poppy** called **Sally Of The Sawdust** (which was directed by D.W. Griffith). More than half of his Paramount films of the period no longer survive, though their success was greatly hampered by the absence of sound (and in fact several were remade as talkies in the 1930s). As a result, Fields wasn't too disappointed when Paramount failed to renew his contract in the wake of dwindling box-office returns.



In 1928, Fields signed with another Ziegfeld rival, Earl Carroll, to star in his **Vanities**, and two years later (after appearing as Captain Andy in a brief out-of-town revival of **Show Boat**) returned to New York to play the part of an outlandish con-man in a play called **Ballyhoo**. Though producers may have envisaged the usual book show, Fields saw the venture as a perfect excuse to interpolate a number of popular sketches from his earlier successes, and the finished product evolved into something of a W.C. Fields retrospective. Broadway (like the rest of the country) was in the midst of the Depression and, despite acclaim for his performance, the show had trouble attracting customers. Faced with union problems, the production was forced to close after a brief run, and W.C. Fields made a momentous decision. He now realized his future lay five thousand miles away in Hollywood and turned his back on the live theatre for the rest of his career.

Fields had made his initial foray into the talkies in a two-reel short called **The Golf Specialist** some months earlier at Long Island, but his first full-length film was for Warner Bros on the west coast in 1931. Titled **Her Majesty Love**, it also starred another Ziegfeld star Marilyn Miller, but was not a success. Eventually Paramount re-signed him, and W.C. Fields stayed with the studio for most of the decade.

After a couple of pictures where he shared top-billing, Fields appeared in a batch of four two-reelers produced by one-time comedy king Mack Sennett (all reworking material he'd originally performed in **The Earl Carroll Vanities** or **Ziegfeld Follies**). He also took part in a short with golfing legend Bobby Jones called **Hip Action** before joining a roster of Paramount names like Stu Erwin, Burns and Allen, Charlie Ruggles and Alison Skipworth in several features.



Gradually, Fields was taking centre stage in films that were becoming classics. 1934 resulted in a series of gems ... **You're Telling Me**, **The Old Fashioned Way** (in which he performs one of his remarkable juggling routines) and his masterpiece, **It's A Gift**. It had everything .. the nagging wife, the unruly children and the legendary Mr. Muckle (the deaf blind man who happens to be a hotel house detective). W.C. Fields had reached the peak of his career.

Paramount agreed to loan him to M.G.M. for their version of the Dickens classic **Great Expectations**, and Fields assumed the role he'd been born to play ... Wilkins Macawber. Then it was back to the home lot for **Mississippi** (a **Show Boat** clone, with Bing Crosby), **The Man On The Flying Trapeze** (with another round of marital misery) and a new version of **Poppy**.

In the midst of his professional success, Fields was beginning to suffer serious health problems that would plague him for the rest of his life. When he was hospitalised with what was initially announced as pneumonia, industry sources believed his excessive drinking was finally taking its toll, and W.C. was unable to work for a lengthy period.

In March 1937 (from a hospital bed) he broadcast some highly amusing remarks as part of a radio tribute to Paramount chief Adolph Zukor and network executives were quick to note the comedian's potential for the medium. As a result, within six weeks he was signed for a regular spot on the airwaves ... on the popular Sunday night **Chase And Sanborn Hour**. Each week the featured spot of the programme would see Bill Fields trading barbs with ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his dummy Charlie McCarthy. And sixty years later, recordings of the repartee hold up as one of the few examples of 1930s radio comedy to stand the test of time. Fields stayed with the series for just seventeen episodes before resuming his film work, but later guest-starred with Bergen on a further half-dozen broadcasts until the year of his death.

Towards the end of 1938, Lucky Strike cigarettes signed him to appear on their weekly **Your Hit Parade**. The result was a curious mix of a lengthy Fields sketch in amongst the regular vocals (and provided yet another excuse for him to revive material that had already appeared on Broadway and in early 1930s 2-reelers). The venture lasted only four editions,

however, before a dispute caused a parting of the ways. Rumour has it the sponsor wasn't thrilled by Fields reputedly mentioning his son "Chester" (as a veiled reference to one of their competitors in the smoking market).

By the late 1930s, Bill was becoming more irascible in his public and private life, and eventually Paramount decided they didn't need the aggravation, and terminated his contract. He wasn't out of the movies for long with (then) small-time studio Universal quickly signing him to write and appear in a series of features.

First in line was a motion picture translation of the Fields vs. McCarthy radio feud called **You Can't Cheat An Honest Man** followed by a sparring match with another show business legend, Mae West (who had also been dumped by Paramount) in **My Little Chickadee**. Both movies were enjoyable romps and paved the way for what many consider to be the quintessential W.C. Fields picture, **The Bank Dick**. By normal cinema standards the plot was a mess but it gave full rein to the Fields angst and persona, and convinced Universal to allow him even more latitude in **Never Give A Sucker An Even Break**.

1940 was an election year in the U.S. and W.C. Fields decided to stage a dummy campaign. In his quest to be president, he contributed several articles for *This Week* magazine and these were the basis for a book called **Fields For President**.

As the Second World War erupted around the globe, a life of hard drinking was finally catching up with Bill Fields and his health was deteriorating. Unable to continue in starring roles, he made a handful of walk-ons and cameos for several studios before retreating to the occasional radio guesting.

The Armed Forces Radio Service enticed him to do a specially written monologue about temperance for their Christmas 1944 **Command Performance** programme, and he subsequently made a commercial recording of the piece which appeared as part of a set of 78rpm records.

By 1946 Fields was forced to relocate to a sanatorium to await "the fellow in the bright nightgown". One visit a drinking buddy noticed him reading a bible and asked his motivation for such an out-of-character pursuit. "I'm looking for loopholes" was the reply. W.C. Fields died on Christmas day.

Broadway Shows

The Ham Tree (1905)

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1915

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1916

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1917

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1918

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1920

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1921

George White's Scandals Of 1922

Poppy (1923)

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1924

The Ziegfeld Follies Of 1925

Earl Carroll's Vanities Of 1928

Ballyhoo (1930)

Films

(* signifies that no footage is known to survive)

Pool Sharks (1915 Gaumont/Mutual 1-reel short)

* His Lordship's Dilemma (1915 Gaumont/Mutual 1-reel short)

^{Ja} Janice Meredith (1924 M.G.M.)

^f Sally Of The Sawdust (1925 United Artists)

* That Royle Girl (1925 Paramount)

It's The Old Army Game (1926 Paramount)

So's Your Old Man (1926 Paramount)

* The Potters (1927 Paramount)

Running Wild (1927 Paramount)

* Two Flaming Youths (1927 Paramount)

* Tillie's Punctured Romance (1928 Paramount)

* Fools For Luck (1928 Paramount)

The Golf Specialist (1930 R.K.O. 2-reel short)
(Fields' first talkie)

Her Majesty Love (1931 Warner Bros.)

Million Dollar Legs (1932 Paramount)

If I Had A Million (1932 Paramount)

The Dentist (1932 Paramount 2-reel short)

The Fatal Glass Of Beer (1933 Paramount 2-reel short)

The Pharmacist (1933 Paramount 2-reel short)

The Barber Shop (1933 Paramount 2-reel short)

Hip Action (1933 Warner Bros. 1-reel short)

International House (1933 Paramount)

Tillie And Gus (1933 Paramount)

Alice And Wonderland (1933 Paramount)

Six Of A Kind (1934 Paramount)

You're Telling Me (1934 Paramount)

The Old Fashioned Way (1934 Paramount)

Mrs. Wiggs Of The Cabbage Patch (1934 Paramount)

It's A Gift (1934 Paramount)

David Copperfield (1935 M.G.M.)

Mississippi (1935 Paramount)

The Man On The Flying Trapeze (1935 Paramount)

Poppy (1936 Paramount)

The Big Broadcast Of 1938 (1938 Paramount)

You Can't Cheat An Honest Man (1939 Universal)

My Little Chickadee (1940 Universal)

The Bank Dick (1940 Universal)

Never Give A Sucker An Even Break (1941 Universal)

Tales Of Manhattan (1942 Twentieth Century-Fox)
(Fields segment cut before release)

Follow The Boys (1944 Universal)

Song Of The Open Road (1944 United Artists)

Sensations (Of 1945) (1944 United Artists)

(Fields also appeared in two **Hollywood On Parade** shorts in the early 1930s and filmed a U.S.O. wartime short **The Laziest Golfer** which was apparently never issued)

Radio

California Melodies

Fields guest-starred on May 30 1933

Borden's 45 Minutes In Hollywood

Fields guest-starred on March 17 1934

Adolph Zukor Dinner

Fields was heard (from his hospital bed) on March 29 1937

The Chase And Sanborn Hour (NBC)

sponsor: Chase and Sanborn coffee

May 9 to September 12 1937 (Fields absent Aug 15 and 29)
(17x60m editions)

features

May 16: Moths/Snake Story

May 30: Scurvy Among The Extras

Jun 27: Father's Day

Jul 11: Communing With Nature

Sep 5: Life Among The Bolivians

Sep 12: Elephants Et Al

undated: Romeo And Juliet

* Fields later guest-starred on the broadcast of June 5 1938

Laughs Take A Holiday

The Lux Radio Theatre (CBS)

* Fields starred in an adaptation of Poppy on March 7 1938
(60m)

Your Hit Parade (CBS)

sponsor: Lucky Strike cigarettes

October 15 to November 5 1938 (4x45m editions)

features

October 22: Swim To Catalina/Promotions Unlimited

undated: The Pharmacist

undated: Strike Up The Band

undated: Fire In The Home

Dick Powell's Tuesday Night Party (CBS)

sponsor: Lifebuoy Soap

* Fields guest-starred on the broadcast of March 21 1939 (30m)

features Tales Of Michael Finn

The Edgar Bergen And Charlie McCarthy Show (NBC)

sponsor: Chase and Sanborn coffee

* Fields guest-starred on 6x30m broadcasts:

September 21 1941, November 8 1942, September 19 1943,

February 20 1944, March 26 1944, March 24 1946

features

Sep 21 1941: The Skunk Trap

Feb 20 1944: Children

Mar 26 1944: Golf Game

Mar 24 1946: Old Friends And Old Wine/Feathered Friends

Command Performance (AFRS)

* Fields guest-starred on the Christmas 1944 edition (2hr)

features The Temperance Lecture

Request Performance (CBS)

sponsor: Campbell soup

* Fields guest-starred on October 28 1945 (30m)

features The Temperance Lecture and The Day I Drank A
Glass Of Water

Discography

W.C. Fields' Famous Lectures

Variety Records 3x78rpm V 101 (c. 1945)

studio recordings of:

The Day I Drank A Glass Of Water (2 sides)/The Temperance
Lecture (4 sides)

W.C. Fields - His Only Recording, Plus 8 Songs By Mae West

Proscenium LP 22

(reissued as **W.C. Fields And Mae West ...** American LP
AAT 120)

features the above 78rpm recordings, plus 1950s Mae West
vocals

The Temperance Lecture

Jay 10" LP 2001 (also issued as

**Original And Authentic Recordings By The Great W.C.
Fields ...** Blue Thumb LP BTS 3,

The Best Of W.C. Fields ... Sutton LP (S)SU 273,

Anyone Who Hates Dogs And Children Can't Be All Bad
(in Britain))

further reissue of the above 78rpm recordings (plus one 1950s
Mae West vocal)

W.C. Fields On Radio

Columbia LP CS 9890

features extracts from *Chase And Sanborn Hour*, *Your Hit
Parade*, *Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy Show* and *Com-
mand Performance* broadcasts:

The Skunk Trap/Children/Old Friends And Old Wine/Feath-
ered Friends/Moths/The Snake Story/The Temperance Lecture
(*AFRS* version)/Promotions Unlimited/The Swim To Catalina
Island/The Pharmacist

The Further Adventures Of Larson E. Whipsnade

Columbia LP KC 33240

extracts from *Chase And Sanborn Hour*, *Your Hit Parade*,
Dick Powell's Tuesday Night Party and *Edgar Bergen & Char-
lie McCarthy Show* broadcasts:

Strike Up The Band/Fire In The Home/Life Among The Bo-
livians/Tales Of Michael Finn/Romeo And Juliet/Scurvy
Among The Extras, Jabberwocky & Etcetera

The Great Radio Feuds

Columbia LP KC 33241

extracts from *Chase And Sanborn Hour* and *Edgar Bergen &
Charlie McCarthy Show* broadcasts:

Communing With Nature/Father's Day/The Golf Game/El-
phant's Et Al/Laughs Take A Holiday

The Best Of W.C. Fields

Columbia 2LP CG 34144

a selection from above three LPs (plus one extra track):

The Pharmacist/The Temperance Lecture (*AFRS* version)/The
Snake Story/Promotions Unlimited/Father's Day/The Golf
Game/The Skunk Trap/Tales Of Michael Finn/Strike Up The
Band/Fire In The Home/Romeo And Juliet/The Purple Bark
Sarsaparilla Pitch*

(* from the *You Can't Cheat An Honest Man* soundtrack)

Mae West And W.C. Fields - Side By Side

Harmony LP HS 11405

features five Mae West 1930s vocals plus three W.C. Fields broadcast extracts:

The Temperance Lecture (*AFRS version*)/Promotions Unlimited/The Pharmacist

The Uncensored W.C. Fields

Murray Hill 3LP boxed set M5467X

The Temperance Lecture (*78rpm version*)/The Pharmacist/Moths/Ventriloquist Fields Hoodwinks Bartender (from *Poppy*)/Fields Makes Change At Carnival (from *You Can't Cheat An Honest Man*)/Whipsnade - Ping Pong Champ (from *You Can't Cheat An Honest Man*)/Bartender Fields Tangles With Lady Patron (from *My Little Chickadee*)/Fields Visits Ice Cream Parlor (from *Never Give A Sucker An Even Break*)/The Day I Drank A Glass Of Water (*78rpm version*)/Fields Fights Indians Single Handed (from *Mississippi*).

The Swim To Catalina Island/Promotions Unlimited/Fields Threatens Charlie McCarthy (*montage*)/Feathered Friends/The Skunk Trap/Children/Old Friends And Old Wine/Tales Of Michael Finn.

Biography In Sound radio tribute

W.C. Fields - The Original Voice Tracks From His Greatest Movies

Decca LP DL 79164, M.C.A. LP MCA 2073

a selection of soundtrack excerpts, with linking narration by Gary Owens

The Philosophy Of W.C. Fields/The Sound Of W.C. Fields/The Rascality Of W.C. Fields/The Chicanery Of W.C. Fields/W.C. Fields - The Braggart And Teller Of Tall Tales/The Spirit Of W.C. Fields/W.C. Fields - A Man Against Children, Motherhood, Fatherhood And Brotherhood/W.C. Fields - Creator Of Wierd Names

Nostalgia - W.C. Fields

Mark 56 LP 571

features extracts from two *Your Hit Parade* broadcasts, with narration by W.C. Fields Jr.

The Pharmacist/Promotions Unlimited

Lux Radio Theatre - W.C. Fields In Poppy

Mark 56 LP 595, Columbia LP KC 33253

When Radio Was King! - W.C. Fields: His Temperance Lecture

Memorabilia LP MLP 732

Temperance Lecture (*AFRS version*)/Promotions Unlimited

The Best Of W.C. Fields

Empala LP EMP 101

Swimming To Catalina/Promotions Unlimited/The Pharmacist/W.C. Fields Famous Snake Story

Tribute To W.C. Fields

Hudson LP HL 2002

Snake Story/Swimming To Catalina/Africa/The Pharmacist

The Best Of W.C. Fields

Nostalgia Lane LP NLR 1028

The Temperance Lecture/The Day I Drank A Glass Of Water/Selling A Dog (from *Poppy*)/Bar Scene (from *My Little Chickadee*)/False Arrest/The Pharmacist/Tales Of Michael Finn/The Skunk Trap

The Magnificent Rogue - The Adventures Of W.C. Fields Radiola LP MR-1049

features the *Biography In Sound* 60-minute radio tribute to Fields (broadcast February 28 1956), narrated by Fred Allen. Disc also includes The Day I Drank A Glass Of Water (*Request Performance* version)

Listener's Choice - The Best Of W.C. Fields

Metacom CD 908

features extracts from broadcasts and film soundtracks:

Romeo And Juliet/Skunk Trap/Scurvy Among The Extras/Bartender Fields And Chicago Molly (from *My Little Chickadee*)/The Ballad Of Michael Finn/Moth Problems/The Pet Rattlesnake/The Ice Cream Parlor (from *Never Give A Sucker An Even Break*)/The Talking Seal (aka The Swim To Catalina Island)/The Temperance Speech (*AFRS version*)/Strike Up The Band/Life Among The Bolivians

Bibliography

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by W.C. Fields (Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1940, reprinted 1971)

W.C. Fields: His Follies And Fortunes

by Robert Lewis Taylor (Doubleday & Co., New York, 1949 and Cassell & Co., London, 1950)

Minutes Of The Last Meeting

by Gene Fowler (Viking Press, New York, 1954)

(* about Fields and his associates)

The Films Of W.C. Fields

by Donald Deschner (Citadel Press, New York, 1966)

The Art Of W.C. Fields

by William K. Everson (Bonanza Books, New York, 1967 and George Allen & Unwin, London, 1968)

W.C. Fields And Me

by Carlotta Monti (Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, 1971 and Michael Joseph Ltd., London, 1974)

W.C. Fields By Himself: His Intended Autobiography

by Ronald J. Fields (Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1973)

W.C. Fields

by Nicholas Yanni (Pyramid Books paperback, New York, 1974)

W.C. Fields - A Life On Film

by Ronald J. Fields (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1984)

W.C. Fields - A Bio-Bibliography

by Wes D. Gehring (Greenwood Press, 1984)

Man On The Flying Trapeze

by Simon Louvish (Faber & Faber/Penguin, 1996)

* there have also been numerous books of quotations, scripts and other material relating to Fields' movies

THE ST. TRINIAN'S MOVIES

by Mark McKay

ENGLAND was still recovering from five years of an arduous and bloody war when she found herself in the throes of a new relentless wave of terrorism. Striking naked fear in the hearts of policemen and shopkeepers, inducing nervous breakdowns through all levels of the Ministry of Education, this evil manifested itself in the ostensibly innocent form of an English public school girl.

The horrific institution which turned out this daughter of Beelzebub was an impressive Gothic pile situated in picturesque rural surroundings, known as St. Trinian's. The ancient stone walls rang out with tormented cries of agony, the clamour of drunken revelry and the rat-a-tat of heavy artillery.

The whole sordid affair can be traced back to just one man — cartoonist Ronald Searle — on the brink of a brilliant career. In October 1941, he set the ball rolling with a submission to *Lilliput* magazine. It was a sketch of five schoolgirls equipped with hockey-sticks crowding around their school noticeboard. The caption read: 'Owing to the international situation, the match with St. Trinian's has been postponed.'

Interesting then, that the original drawing featured only pupils from another (unnamed) seat of learning. The second and subsequent cartoons did not appear until five years later. The reason for the delay becomes apparent when it is explained that they were produced in furtive conditions while the artist was enduring appalling hardships in the notorious Changi Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Now the characteristic violence was evident in Searle's work, as the students set their teachers dangling from makeshift nooses and burnt down substantial portions of their beloved Alma Mater.

One hopes that the young ladies who regularly attended St. Trinian's school in Edinburgh (founded 1922) were considerably better behaved, for this was the inspiration behind the phenomenon.

The following years saw the gym-slip and black stockinged terrors popping up in hardback collections of illustrations, assorted poems, revue songs and even a romantic novel. By 1954, the movies beckoned. *The Belles Of St. Trinian's* was written and directed by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat, who had enjoyed earlier cinematic success with *The Happiest Days Of Your Life*, the story of a girls' school under the command of Margaret Rutherford forced into sharing facilities with a boys' school, much to the distaste of headmaster Alastair Sim.

For the new film, the lugubrious Sim slipped on a twin-set and pearls to portray snooty headmistress Millicent Fritton, reduced to backing horses to pay off the outstanding school debts. In a tour de force performance he also played her twin brother Clarence, a disreputable bookmaker. It proved quite an achievement from a technical point of view as well, as they both appear in frame simultaneously, even interacting with each other.



Miss Fritton is touchingly protective of her young charges, explaining to three new girls the unique qualities of a St. Trinian's education: 'In other schools girls are sent out quite unprepared into a merciless world, but when our girls leave here it is *the merciless world* which has to be prepared'. When things start to get a little out of control and a firm hand is required, she can rise to the occasion. Fed up with firebugs wreaking havoc, she delivers this ultimatum to the class: 'I can no longer afford to have continual arson about in my school' (a clear case of 'slipping one past the censor').

The standard ingredients from the cartoons are all transferred to celluloid. The children smoke like chimneys, brew illicit gin in chemistry class, brandish dangerous weapons and inflict torture on their fellow students. All their nefarious activities are overseen with complete indifference by the members of staff.

But it could be argued that the common room is unlikely to boast the cream of the teaching profession when advertisements for new mistresses proudly announce 'no previous experience necessary'. This may explain why Miss Rose Waters (Scripture and needlework), a sinister figure in the Morticia Adams mould with a criminal record as long as her arm, is on the payroll. Or why English literature is taught by Miss Gale (Irene Handl), an uneducated cockney and geography lessons given by Miss Drownder (Hermione Baddeley), an incurable dipsomaniac, seem to be largely concentrated on wine-growing areas of France.

Another incongruous member of the establishment is Harry (George Cole), a former boot-boy engaged by the headmistress in 1940. This Arthur Daley-prototype spiv (no doubt inspired by similar creations of Sid Field and Arthur English), who sports a pencil moustache and check-suit, assumes the role of shop steward to the students. The latter refer to him affectionately as 'Flash'.

Mere mention of St. Trinian's (school motto, *in flagrante delicto*) causes the bowler-hatted men at the Ministry of Education to come over all of a quiver. With nervous systems delicately poised on a knife-edge, they seek solace in booze, pills or specially prescribed therapeutic exercises.

However, enthusiastic police superintendent Sammy Kemp-Bird is anxious to put a stop to the prevalence of criminal activity in the area. He sends his fiancée, gawky sergeant Ruby Gates (Joyce Grenfell), on an undercover assignment to investigate the goings-on at the school, assuming the post of games mistress.

The same combination of freaky teachers, rebellious children, harassed ministry men and hopelessly outnumbered officers of the law, gave *Lauder and Gilliat* enough scope for four further St. Trinian's features.

Blue Murder At St. Trinian's depicted a European invasion, as the hellcats journeyed across the Continent, leaving a trail of mayhem and destruction in their wake. Transport of an uncertain age was provided by the seedy Capt. Romney Carlton-Ricketts (Terry-Thomas at his caddish best). Sabrina (famous in the 1950s for her well-developed embonpoint) made a mute contribution as school swot, Virginia.

An unusually dishevelled Cecil Parker (playing shady Professor Marcus Canford, late of the University of Bagdad) found himself stranded on a desert island with only Ruby Gates and Flash Harry for company in the third offering, *The Pure Hell Of St. Trinian's*.

Unfortunately, by this stage the anarchy and immorality of the original concept had been noticeably watered down. The Searly girls of the 60s were merely a trifle high-spirited compared with their demonic predecessors.

For the next film, released in 1966, it seemed reasonable enough that the girls should become embroiled in the crime of the decade. *The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery* became the first in the series to be filmed in colour. Frankie Howerd, as a gang leader doubling as a ladies' hairdresser (reminiscent of rôles portrayed by Peter Sellers in *The Wrong Arm Of The Law* (1963) and Norman Wisdom in *On The Beat* (1962)), and good-time-gal headmistress Dora Bryan dispensed the laughs.

And so ended the classic run of *St. Trinian's* films. Fourteen years later Frank Launder directed an ill-advised final project before retiring, the unmemorable *Wildcats Of St. Trinian's*. Sheila Hancock added to the gallery of teaching grotesques a most peculiar Dutch Headmistress, complete with eye-patch and chocolate addiction. George Cole wanted no part in the production, which featured two of the girls in a topless photo shoot, so his Flash Harry part went instead to Joe Melia.

In recent years, the academic world has been basking in a welcome atmosphere of serenity. But a word of warning for educationalists everywhere. Like a phoenix from the ashes, St. T's will rise again and the playing fields will once more echo with the clash of switchblades and knuckledusters.

Books

Hurrah For St. Trinian's
by Ronald Searle (Macdonald & Co. 1948)

The Female Approach
by Ronald Searle (Macdonald & Co. 1949)

Back To The Slaughterhouse
by Ronald Searle (Macdonald & Co. 1951)

The Terror Of St. Trinian's
by Timothy Shy & Ronald Searle (Max Parrish & Co. 1952)

Souls In Torment
(Perpetua 1953)

The St. Trinian's Story
Compiled by Kaye Webb (Perpetua 1959; Penguin 1961)

Ronald Searle's Golden Oldies 1941-61
by Ronald Searle (Pavilion 1985)

Films

The Belles Of St. Trinian's

British Lion (September 1954)
Starring Alastair Sim (*Millicent & Clarence Fritton*), Joyce Grenfell (*PW Sgt Ruby Gates*), George Cole (*Flash Harry*), Hermione Baddeley (*Miss Drownder*), Betty Ann Davies (*Miss Waters*), Beryl Reid (*Miss Wilson*), Renee Houston (*Miss Brimmer*), Irene Handl (*Miss Gale*), Richard Wattis (*Manton Bassett*), Lloyd Lamble (*Supt Kemp-Bird*)

The Sultan of Makyad, owner of *Arab Boy*, a racehorse entered in the Gold Cup, enrolls his daughter at St. Trinian's School for Girls. The headmistress's shady bookmaker brother, who also has a horse in the race, persuades his sister to take his street-wise daughter, Bella, for a term. When Bella sees the form of *Arab Boy*, she attempts to kidnap the animal. However the fourth form, who have money riding on the sultan's horse, have stowed him away in their dormitory for safe-keeping until the big day.

Blue Murder At St. Trinian's

British Lion (December 1957)
Starring Terry-Thomas (*Capt Romney Carlton-Ricketts*), George Cole (*Flash Harry*), Joyce Grenfell (*PW Sgt Ruby Gates*), Alastair Sim (*Millicent Fritton*), Sabrina (*Virginia*), Lionel Jeffries (*Joe Mangan*), Eric Barker (*Culpepper Brown*), Richard Wattis (*Manton Bassett*), Lloyd Lamble (*Supt Kemp Bird*)

Flash Harry, acting on behalf of St. Trinian's marriage bureau, travels to Rome to visit Prince Bruno, who is seeking a bride. The Prince insists on seeing all the girls in person, but can't wait till the end of term. So, back in England, the girls fix a UNESCO examination offering a continental bus trip for the school scoring the highest marks. Accompanying them on the journey is Myrna's father, "Gelignite" Joe Mangan, who has pulled a diamond robbery, and now assumes the guise of the new headmistress. The stolen jewels are secreted into a ball intended for an Italian water polo game.

The Pure Hell Of St. Trinian's

British Lion (December 1960)

Starring Cecil Parker (*Prof. Marcus Canford*), George Cole (*Flash Harry*), Joyce Grenfell (*PW Sgt Ruby Gates*), Eric Barker (*Culpepper-Brown*), Thorley Walters (*Butters*), Irene Handl (*Matilda Harker-Packer*), Dennis Price (*Gore-Blackwood*), Sidney James (*Alphonse O'Reilly*), Julie Alexander (*Rosalie Dawn*), Lloyd Lamble (*Supt Kemp Bird*)

Following a devastating fire, Professor Canford offers to re-establish St. Trinian's at Hannington Manor. His appointed headmistress is mutton-dressed-as-lamb Tilly Harker-Packer. Together they stage a school Festival of Culture, featuring a performance of the soliloquy from Hamlet as striptease, and send the sixth form on an educational trip to the Greek Islands. But the chartered yacht makes its way instead to Arabia, where the young ladies are to be recruited for an emir's harem. Happily, a rescue team is on its way — the fourth form girls, policewoman Ruby Gates and a British army mobile bath unit!

The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery

British Lion (February 1966)

Starring Frankie Howerd (*Alphonse Askett*), Dora Bryan (*Ambler Spottiswoode*), George Cole (*Flash Harry Hackett*), Reg Varney (*Gilbert*), Raymond Huntley (*Sir Horace*), Richard Wattis (*Richard Bassett*), Portland Mason (*Georgina*), Terry Scott (*Sgt*), Eric Barker (*Culpepper-Brown*)

The new Labour Minister of Education provides funding for St. Trinian's to relocate to Hamingwell Hall, where the loot from a £2.5 million railway haul happens to be hidden. Following an abortive attempt to reclaim the cash, gang leader Alphonse Askett enrolls his daughters in the school. Acting on their information, Parents' Day is chosen for the grab, with the crooks masquerading as caterers. A complicated train chase sees criminals, schoolgirls, staff and police in a mad scramble for the bounty.

The Wildcats Of St. Trinian's

Enterprise (March 1980)

Starring Sheila Hancock (*Olga Vandemeer*), Michael Hordern (*Sir Charles Hackforth*), Rodney Bewes (*Peregrine Butters*), Maureen Lipman (*Katy Higgs*), Joe Melia (*Flash Harry*), Thorley Walters (*Hugo Culpepper-Brown*), Julia McKenzie (*Dolly Dormancott*), Rose Hill (*Miss Martingale*), Luan Peters (*Miss Adams*)

Princess Roxanne of Mabuta is kidnapped en route to Highdown School, and Matilda Harcourt of St. T's is sent on in her place. When the principal of Highdown discovers the substitution, she orders the immediate expulsion of the insolent Matilda. This leads to industrial action across three schools by the newly-formed student union. Various ministry officials are sent in to break the strike, but it appears the only solution is to accede to the girls' humiliating list of demands. So the Minister reluctantly agrees to pose in the nude for live art classes.

Videos

The Belles Of St. Trinian's

Warner Home Video PES 38077

Blue Murder At St. Trinian's

Warner Home Video

The Pure Hell Of St. Trinian's

Warner Home Video PES 38080

The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery

Warner Home Video PES 38079

The Belles Of St. Trinian's/Blue Murder At St. Trinian's

Warner Home Video S038333

The Pure Hell Of St. Trinian's/The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery

Warner Home Video S038334



JOYCE GRENFELL

by Matthew K. Sharp

WHEN Joyce Grenfell passed away in 1979, the world lost one of its great humorists - always witty, often satirical, but never dirty.

It's astounding to think that this much-loved artiste should have started on the road to fame by accident. Despite spending a term at R.A.D.A., Grenfell never had much desire to go on the stage, and was working as a radio critic for *The Observer*. Joyce had seen a lecture at a Women's Institute on crafts, and, suitably embroidered, her parody of the talk became a party piece amongst friends. One night her audience included the revue producer Herbert Farjeon, who was interested in having the item in his next production, *The Little Revue*.

After some initial trepidation, Grenfell agreed to perform the item, *Useful And Acceptable Gifts* ("which are not only easy to make, but ever so easy to dispose of"), plus another which compared three kinds of mothers. She was a success, and a career on the stage was begun. Later that same year, 1939, Joyce recorded the two sketches for HMV.

Although review work continued during the war, including a tour to entertain the troops, recordings were sparse, and mainly musical numbers. It was not until the 1950s, with the introduction of the long playing record, that Grenfell's monologues were made available on disc.

By 1954, Joyce began a series of her own revues, the first being *Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure*. As standard for revues at that time, it was composed of comic monologues, "charm numbers" (the straight songs) and "point numbers" (the humorous songs). It was a formula that she would use throughout her career.

The monologues feature a wide range of characters, showcasing her skills with accents. Favourites include *A Terrible Worrier*, about an elderly lady from Buckinghamshire, who is loathe to enter a raffle in case she wins the first prize of a cruise ("Well, they could *make* you go, couldn't they?"); the wife of a university vice-chancellor who appears in the *Eng. Lit.* sketches, and has a wonderfully orotund manner of speech ("Is there a favourable chance of you finding yourself in close proximity to a kettle?"); and the American *Fan*, unself-consciously using her theoretical knowledge to advise a practising professional.

It was said that Joyce's monologues were written without malice for the subject. One of the few exceptions to this is *Writer Of Children's Books*, a splendidly vicious satire on Enid Blyton and her simplistic, repetitive characterisations, plots, and writing style: "It's always the same with me. No, I never rewrite, and I never read what I have written."

Most popular were the series of sketches set in a nursery school, with Grenfell as the beleaguered teacher in charge of a particularly disruptive selection of four year olds. The worst of these little terrors was George, frequently being admonished with the catchphrase: "George! Don't do that." We never discovered exactly what *that* was, but the tone of reprobation and faint disgust in Joyce's voice conjures up all manner of horrible deeds.



Grenfell was a favourite on radio and television, on panel shows such as *Face The Music* and *We Beg To Differ*, but actual performances were rarer. With Stephen Potter, she wrote and performed *How To...*, an occasional series of satirical programs for BBC Radio which ran to 29 editions between 1942 and 1962. BBC Television viewers were treated to a short series, titled simply **Joyce Grenfell** (four half-hour episodes from January 21 1972), in which Joyce presented her sketches and songs in minimalist surroundings. Extracts from the series were later issued on video.

Despite appearing in almost two dozen films, Joyce's roles were often small, but always effective (particularly policeman Ruby Gates in the St. Trinian's films and a cameo as the proprietress of a run-down hotel in *Genevieve*).

After losing an eye in 1972, Grenfell retired. E.M.I. helped fans ward off withdrawal symptoms by re-issuing much of her work for them, but for a long time there was no new material. Instead of performing, Joyce channelled her creative energies into the first volume of her autobiography, *Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure*, published in 1976. A sequel, *In Pleasant Places*, was released two years later.

She ventured back to the recording studio on several occasions. 1977 saw the release of an album comprised solely of Nursery School monologues. A double LP of previously unrecorded sketches and songs was released the following year. The final recording in 1979 saw Joyce reminiscing about her career, telling anecdotes and performing short extracts from her monologues; it is notable because it is the only LP featuring material recorded in front of an audience.

Joyce Grenfell's legacy lives on thanks to the numerous books published both before and after her death which include the scripts of much of her best work, plus a great deal of autobiographical material including letters and diaries, all of which are peppered with her unique humour.

More importantly, E.M.I. have been busy re-releasing almost all of their back catalogue of recordings; frustratingly, there has been no "complete" Joyce Grenfell release, and fans who wish their collection to be comprehensive have no choice but to buy the same tracks several times over.

Discography

Useful And Acceptable Gifts (An Institute Lecture Demonstration)/Two Character Studies (The American Mother/The Village Mother)

HMV 78rpm B-8930 (1939)

I'm Going To See You Today/There Is Nothing New To Tell You

HMV 78rpm B-9295 (1942)

Du Maurier/The End Of The News (from *Sigh No More*)

Decca 78rpm F-8561 (1945)

Noel Coward - Vocal Gems

HMV 12" 78rpm C-3635/3636 (2 discs) (1947)

Joyce Grenfell appears on the following tracks:

One, Two, Three/A Room With A View/London Pride/Mad About The Boy/Parisian Pierrot

Keepsake/Maud (with Julian Orchard) (from *Penny Plain*)

Columbia 78rpm DB-2918 (1951)

All The Pretty Little Horses/Yellow Rose Of Texas

Columbia 78rpm DB-2947 (1951)

I Don't 'Arf Love You/Narcissus

(with Norman Wisdom)

Columbia 78rpm DB-3161 (1952)

I'm Going To See You Today/Drifting

Columbia 78rpm DB-3192 (1952)

Joyce Grenfell

Elektra LP EKL 184 (1953)

Hello Song/Two Songs My Mother Taught Me/Three Brothers/I Like Life/Mediocre Waltz/Life And Literature/Thought For Today/Nursery School/Life Story/Time To Waste/Artists' Room/Committee

Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure

Philips LP BBL 7004 (1955)

Welcome/The Music's Message/Mrs. Mendlicote/Understanding Mother/Three Brothers/Palais Dancers/Ordinary Morning/Shirley's Girlfriend/Folk Song/Songs My Mother Taught Me (Hand Me Down My Bonnet/The Yellow Rose Of Texas/Since Bacon Has Gone Up/Night-Sit Down, Sister)/Hostess/Farewell

Ordinary Morning/Three Brothers

Philips 78rpm BB 2004 (1955)

Joyce Grenfell At Home

HMV LP CLP 1155 (1958)

Opening Numbers/Ballad/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/London Scottish/Boat Train/Joyful Noise/Woman On The Bus/Songs My Mother Taught Me (Old Joe Clark/Step Light, Lady/All The Pretty Little Horses)/Shirley's Girlfriend - Fun Fair/Time/It's Almost Tomorrow

Joyce Grenfell

HMV LP CLP 1810 (1964)

Encores/Nursery School - Flowers/Picture Postcard/What Shall I Wear?/Visitor/Dear Francois/I'm Going To See You Today/Shirley's Girlfriend - Picnic/Songs My Mother Taught Me (I Hear A Voice/Snowball/All The Pretty Little Horses)/Writer Of Children's Books/Oh! Mr Du Maurier/Telephone Call/Olde-Tyme Dancing

Joyce Grenfell At Home

HMV EP 7EG 8787

Nursery School/Joyful Noise

I'm Going To See You Today/Flowers

HMV single POP 1407

Olde Tyme Dancing

HMV EP 7EG 8936

Olde-Tyme Dancing/Telephone Call/Nursery School - Flowers/I'm Going To See You Today

The Words And Music Of Noel Coward

HMV LP CLP 1928/CSD 1640 (1965)

Joyce Grenfell appears on two tracks:

If Love Were All/The Party's Over Now

Nursery School - Going Home Time/I Wouldn't Go Back To The World I Knew

HMV single POP 1617

Joyce

Columbia LP S(C)X 6362 (1969)

Bring Back The Silence/Old Girls School Reunion/Three Brothers/Nicodemus/Hostess/Lally Tullett/Hymn/Wrong Songs For Wrong Singers (or Songs To Make You Sick)/The Wedding Is On Saturday/Fan/I Wouldn't Go Back To The World I Knew/Thursdays/Duet (with William Blezard)/Nursery School - Going Home Time/Slow Down

The following two albums comprise material from the HMV and Columbia LPs listed above.

The Joyce Grenfell Collection

EMI One-Up LP OU 2149

I'm Going To See You Today/Encores/Picture Postcard/Dear Francois/Old Girls School Reunion/Joyful Noise/Nursery School - Flowers/Time/Three Brothers/Shirley's Girlfriend - Fun Fair/Oh! Mr Du Maurier/Boat Train/I Wouldn't Go Back To The World I Knew/Songs My Mother Taught Me (Old Joe Clark/Step Light, Lady/All The Pretty Little Horses)/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/Olde-Tyme Dancing

The Second Joyce Grenfell Collection

EMI Encore LP ONCR 524

Opening Numbers/Nursery School - Going Home Time/Hymn/The Wedding Is On Saturday/If Love Were All/Thursdays/Fan/Slow Down/Bring Back The Silence/Shirley's Girlfriend - Picnic/Wrong Songs For Wrong Singers (or Songs To Make You Sick)/Telephone Call/Hostess/London Scottish/Lally Tullett/The Party's Over Now

George - Don't Do That

EMI Starline LP SRS 5199 (1977)

Nursery School - Story Time/Nursery School - Going Home Time/Nursery School - Flowers/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/Nursery School - Nativity Play/Nursery School - Sing-Song Time

(This LP includes the three Nursery School tracks previously issued on H.M.V. & Columbia, plus three newly recorded tracks.)

The New Joyce Grenfell Collection

EMI Double-Up 2LPs DUO 128 (1978)

There's Nothing New To Tell You/Ethel/Opera Interval/Learn To Loosen (The Music's Message)/Mulgarth Street/I Like Life/Life Story/Eng. Lit. I/Green Summer (In The Green Time Of Moon Daisies)/First Flight/Irish Folk Song/Life And Literature/I'm Going Away/One Is One And All Alone/Not In The Mood For News/A Terrible Worrier/Gipsy/Time To Waste/Unsuitable/Visitor/Drifting/Two Songs My Mother Taught Me (I'll Lend You My Horse/Hand Me Down My Bonnet)/Artists' Room/Leonie/Security Song/Ferry Boats Of Sydney/Committee/Come Catch Me

Joyce Grenfell Talking

Cube Records LP HIFLY 34 (1979)

Familiar Faces/Looking Back/Theatre/Women's Institute/Speeches/Characters And Monologues/Writing Monologues/American Tour/Writing Books And Retirement/Second Book - "In Pleasant Places"/Films, TV, Radio and Radio Games/Favourite Characters - Best Moments

The following four compilations comprise tracks from the LPs "Joyce Grenfell At Home", "Joyce Grenfell", "The Words And Music of Noel Coward", "Joyce", "George - Don't Do That", and "The New Joyce Grenfell Collection."

*Tracks from earlier singles are marked **

there are also two tracks previously unissued, indicated †.

Requests The Pleasure - The Best Of Joyce Grenfell

EMI 3 CD Set 0777 7 80552 2 8 (1992)

I'm Going To See You Today/Nursery School - Flowers/Learn To Loosen (The Music's Message)/Visitor/Old Tyme Dancing (Stately As A Galleon)/I Wouldn't Go Back/Committee/Green Summer (In The Green Time Of Moon Daisies)/The Wedding Is On Saturday/Narcissus */The Old Girls' School Reunion/Wrong Songs For Wrong Singers (or Songs To Make You Sick)/Shirley's Girlfriend - Fun Fair/Dear Francois/Nicodemus/Drifting */Nursery School - Sing-Song Time/Ballad/Hostess/Artists' Room/Lullaby †/Opening Numbers/Oh! Mr Du Maurier/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/I Like Life/A Terrible Worrier/Hymn/Writer Of Children's Books/Picture Postcard/Boat Train/Duet/Shirley's Girlfriend - Picnic/Ethel/Opera Interval/Three Brothers/Nursery School - Story Time/Slow Down/Two Character Studies: The American Mother, The Village Mother */Unsuitable/One Is One And All Alone/It's Almost Tomorrow/Encores/Nursery School - Nativity Play/The Woman On The Bus/Fan/Time/First Flight/There's Nothing New To Tell You/Shirley's Girlfriend - Foreign Fella †/I Don't 'Arf Love You */Telephone Call/Bring Back The Silence/Life And Literature/Maud */Eng. Lit I/Joyful Noise/Life Story/Ferry Boats Of Sydney/Nursery School - Going Home Time/London Scottish/Useful And Acceptable Gifts *

George Don't Do That - The Best Of Joyce Grenfell

EMI CD 7243 8 28713 2 3

I'm Going To See You Today/Nursery School - Flowers/Old Tyme Dancing (Stately As A Galleon)/Visitor/The Woman On The Bus/Telephone Call/Narcissus */The Wedding Is On Saturday/Dear Francois/Shirley's Girlfriend - Fun Fair/Hostess/Fan/Picture Postcard/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/Three Brothers/Nicodemus/I Wouldn't Go Back/Shirley's Girlfriend - Picnic/Oh! Mr Du Maurier/Boat Train/London Scottish/Writer Of Children's Books/Bring Back The Silence/Useful And Acceptable Gifts *

Cassettes

Joyful Joyce

EMI Double cassette ECC 18 (0777 7 96778 4 9)

Opening Numbers/Nursery School - Free Activity Period/Joyful Noise/Picture Postcard/What Shall I Wear/Visitor/Dear Francois/Nursery School - Flowers/I'm Going To See You Today/Shirley's Girlfriend - Picnic/Oh! Mr Du Maurier/Writer Of Children's Books/Old Tyme Dancing (Stately As A Galleon)/Telephone Call/Bring Back The Silence/The Old Girls' School Reunion/Three Brothers/Nicodemus/Hostess/Lally Tullet/Hymn/Wrong Songs For Wrong Singers (or Songs To Make You Sick)/The Wedding Is On Saturday/Fan/I Wouldn't Go Back/Thursdays/Duet/Nursery School - Going Home/Slow Down

More Joyful Joyce

EMI Double cassette ECC 31 (7243 8 28632 4 3)

Encores/Nursery School - Nativity Play/The Woman On The Bus/Time/First Flight/There's Nothing New To Tell You/Shirley's Girlfriend - Fun Fair/Learn To Loosen (The Music's Message)/Narcissus */Nursery School - Sing-Song Time/I Like Life/It's Almost Tomorrow/Boat Train/Ballad/London Scottish/Artists' Room/If Love Were All (*from Bitter Sweet*)/Not In The Mood For News/Nursery School - Story Time/Unsuitable/Life Story/Gipsy/Time To Waste/Two Songs My Mother Taught Me (I'll Lend You My Horse/Hand Me Down My Bonnet)/Opera Interval/Lullaby †/I Don't 'Arf Love You */Mulgarth Street/Ethel/Life And Literature/Green Summer (In The Green Time Of Moon Daisies)/Shirley's Girlfriend - Foreign Fella †/Leonie/Drifting */One Is One And All Alone/The Party's Over Now (*from Words And Music*)

Bibliography

George - Don't Do That... (Macmillan, 1977)

"Stately As A Galleon" (Macmillan, 1978)

Turn Back The Clock (Macmillan, 1983)

The following books are mainly autobiographical:

Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure (Macmillan, 1976)

In Pleasant Places (Macmillan, 1978)

Joyce - By Herself And Her Friends (Macmillan, 1980)

An Invisible Friendship - An Exchange Of Letters 1957-1979 (Macmillan, 1981)

Darling Ma - Letters To Her Mother 1932-1944 (Hodder And Stoughton, 1988)

The Time Of My Life - Entertaining The Troops - Her Wartime Journals (Hodder And Stoughton, 1989)

Video

Joyce Grenfell Entertains

BBC Video BBCV 7056/Castle Vision CVI CA 1009

Old Girls' School Reunion/Sunday Morning/A Terrible Worrier/Wrong Songs For Wrong Singers/Mulgarth Street/Eng Lit/A Joyful Noise/An American Mother/Come Catch Me/Stately As A Galleon/First Flight/Nursery School - Story Time (*From the 1972 BBC series "Joyce Grenfell"*)

MOTHER AND SON

by Peter Tatchell



IT'S not often a performer can escape from typecasting, but Garry McDonald succeeded in shaking off his almost indelible Norman Gunston persona in the 1980s with a sitcom that has become one of Australia's favourites, **Mother And Son**.

In late 1982, writer Geoffrey Atherden came up with the idea of a mid-thirties journalist, Arthur Beare, who finds himself trapped in a domestic situation where he must look after his widowed mother, Maggie, who has become increasingly forgetful and erratic. Arthur's own life is in a spot of turmoil with his wife Deirdre having walked out on him, no longer willing to share a home with her husband's dotty and interfering mother.

Cast in the pivotal role of Maggie Beare was respected stage actress Ruth Cracknell who was able to inject just the right degree of subtlety to ensure her part did not become farcical or unbelievable. The mental frailties of Alzheimer's Disease, senile dementia and the like are an everyday part of life and it's a tribute to both writer and performer that it's handled with affection and not mockery. Like the famous **Fawlty Towers** episode with the deaf Mrs. Richards, the humour comes from how the situation is exploited by the sufferer, who exaggerates the incapacity to gain maximum benefit.

Rounding out the cast (and ensuring it doesn't go too far down the **Stephoe And Son** or Ronnie Corbett's **Now Look Here** trail), **Mother And Son** also features Henri Szeps as Maggie's other son, Robert, a dentist whose selfish approach to the situation makes him the erstwhile antagonist of the piece, and his wife Liz, played by Judy Morris.

Mother And Son became a resounding success (and a reliable ratings winner) for the A.B.C. throughout the 1980s, and even inspired the TEN Network to purchase repeat rights

for the first 28 episodes (which they aired in 1991). A year later the A.B.C. screened a fifth season of shows, followed in 1994 with a further batch, which to date remains the final series.

With the Australian production apparently concluded, writer Atherden was commissioned by the B.B.C. to adapt his original scripts for a British version. An eight episode season called **Keeping Mum** (which aired in the U.K. mid-year) was the result.

Videos

A.B.C./Festival 12685
The Money/The Aunt/The Accident

A.B.C./Festival 12686
The Card Game/The Promotion/The Funeral

Book

Mother And Son by Geoffrey Atherden
(A.B.C. Books, 1992)
Scripts for *The Home* (aka *Maggie Takes A Holiday*)/*The Oysters* (aka *Maggie Alone*)/*The Funeral*/*The Last Will*/*The Surprise*

Audio

A.B.C. double-cassette
contains soundtracks of the five episodes featured in the book

Episode Guide

Season 1: ABC Jan 16 to Feb 27 1984 (7x30min)

Maggie Takes A Holiday

Arthur decides the time has come for Maggie to move to a nursing home

Maggie Gets The Milk

Maggie has been taking advantage of the local Meal On Wheels service

Maggie Alone

When she arrives home in a garbage truck, Arthur decides something must be done about Maggie's wanderings

Arthur's Holiday (aka Arthur vs. Miss Right)

Arthur plans a fortnight in New Zealand with a lady friend

Arthur's Night Out

Maggie is intent on stopping Arthur having an evening out with Deirdre

Maggie In Love

Maggie surprises everyone by inviting a gentleman friend to her birthday dinner

Maggie Makes A Will

Maggie insists she is dying and refuses to leave her bed

Season 2: ABC Mar 4 to Apr 15 1985 (7x30min)

The Money

Arthur and Robert are both in urgent need of funds and believe Maggie's stockpile of uncashed pension cheques might solve their problems

The Divorce

Maggie isn't pleased when she learns Arthur and Deirdre's divorce is about to become finalised

The Funeral

Maggie causes chaos when she attends a burial

The Promotion

Arthur is offered a new job, but it means moving to Canberra

The Aunt

Arthur arranges for his Aunt Lorna to visit so he'll be able to have more time with his new ladyfriend

The Card Game

Maggie wants to join in Arthur's card evening but would prefer snakes and ladders to poker

The Morning After

When Arthur has a new girlfriend, Maggie decides to move in with Robert

Season 3: ABC Mar 3 to Apr 7 1986 (6x30min)

The Sign

When Maggie meets the new minister she donates all of Arthur's clothes to his church

The Picnic

Maggie wanders off from a family outing

The Accident

Maggie goes to buy Arthur something to eat and ends up at the local Baby Health Centre

The Last Will

Maggie lets everyone know what she's left them in her will

The Neighbours

When Maggie suspects the foreign lady next door is watching her, an all-out war develops

The Cruise

Maggie is planning on an ocean trip with a strange man

Special: ABC Dec 22 1986 (30min)

The Christmas Drinks

Arthur has organised a Christmas Eve party but Maggie wants him to take her to church for carol singing

Season 4: ABC Feb 1 to Mar 14 1988 (7x30min)

The Medals

Maggie wants to take part in the ANZAC Day march

The Friend

Arthur thinks he can "buy" a friendship

The Car

Maggie decides to sell her late husband's car

The Surprise

Robert is in the company of a ladyfriend when he arrives home to a surprise party

The Dog

Maggie craves a bit of affection and buys a puppy

The Fridge

When Maggie helps one son and not the other, it causes friction between the brothers

The Last Straw

Arthur has had enough and decides to move out

Season 5: ABC Feb 10 to Mar 23 1992 (7x30min)

The Deed

Arthur's decision to leave inadvertently results in the status quo

The Budgie

An altercation between Robert and Maggie causes the arrival of a budgerigar and all manner of chaos for ten dentists

The Big Sleep

Arthur is forced to move his father's ashes

The Clock

Maggie isn't pleased knowing her wedding anniversary clock is across the street

The Rest

Maggie returns from a respite care break in the middle of the night

The Baby

Arthur can't understand why an infant has suddenly taken up residence in the Beare home

The Sunday Roast

Arthur decides to invite his new ladyfriend to Sunday dinner

Season 6: ABC Feb 7 to Mar 21 1994 (7x30min)

(episodes were untitled)

A visit to the doctor convinces Arthur he is not long for this world

Aunt Lorna wants Maggie to accompany her on a trip to London

It's up to Arthur to settle the feuds between Maggie and Lorna and Liz and Robert

Maggie's choice of her favourite son causes Arthur to move into the caravan

Maggie has to bake 18 dozen lamingtons on the day she is to report for jury duty

Robert divulges details about Arthur's medical tests

Maggie's loss of her wedding ring further complicates Arthur's day

FAMILY TIES

by Matthew K. Sharp

THE 1980's saw the resurgence of the family sitcom in America. Viewers found themselves awash with Moms, Pops and cute little wisecracking kids, all of them good looking and ever so *nice* to each other. Although many of these shows threatened to drown in their own saccharine sweetness, there were a few watchable examples of the genre. One of the best was **Family Ties**.

The basic situation had parents Steven and Elyse Keaton (played by Michael Gross and Meredith Baxter Birney), former flower children who had married in the age of peace and love, trying to maintain their left-of-centre political views in spite of their capitalist, materialist children. Creator Gary David Goldberg had originally pitched the idea to CBS in 1980, who declined. Goldberg found NBC more willing, and the series became part of the 1982 Fall Season.

In the early episodes, the emphasis was firmly placed on the parents, and the troubles they had in understanding just how they could have gone so wrong in bringing up their children. Although, for people who were theoretically opposed to capitalism, Steven and Elyse didn't do so badly. They had a large house in a good neighbourhood, both had jobs that presumably paid fairly well (Elyse had been an architect before she quit to devote herself to being a housewife, but returned to her career during the run of the series; whilst Steven was the manager of a public TV station), and they even had investments in shares.

During the course of the first season, it rapidly became obvious that it was the children who were stealing the show, in particular eldest son Alex, and the balance was changed to spread the limelight more evenly. Michael J. Fox, who played Alex P. Keaton, was soon seen as the star of the show. He nearly didn't get the chance; network executives didn't think he was good-looking enough, and it was only by Goldberg's insistence that Fox got the role.

Alex was the complete antithesis of his parents. From an early age he loved money and was a staunch Republican supporter. He excelled at academia, and was an all-round egotist and over-achiever. This last was occasionally his downfall, and his sisters learnt to regret asking Alex for help on school projects when his enthusiasm would turn a simple task into an epic production.

Alex's love wasn't reserved solely for money; he managed to have a number of regular girlfriends during the series. His high school sweetheart Rachel Miller (Daphne Zuniga, later to achieve fame in the infamous **Melrose Place**) was seen briefly at the end of season two, whilst Ellen Reed (Tracy Pollan) took up much of his early college years during season four. Longest lasting was Lauren Miller (there must be something about those Miller girls), played by Courtney Cox (now gone on to stardom in **Friends**), who first met Alex when he took part in a psychological analysis project she was conducting. Romance blossomed, but it was always slightly fragile and the relationship ended just before the series concluded.

Second child Mallory (Justine Bateman) was less of an intellectual than Alex, destined never to achieve the kind of

grade he did (although she did once beat him on an IQ test, much to his surprise). Mallory does have abilities in other directions, especially clothes and fashion. She can tell fabrics apart whilst blindfolded, and her designs were so good they not only helped her win a competition, but were stolen by the boss of a design firm.

Mallory had a succession of boyfriends early on, but the one person she was determined not to get involved with was next-door neighbour, Skippy Handelman (Marc Price), who was clumsy and geeky, and had an enormous but unrequited crush on her. Skippy was a close friend of Alex's, and occasionally turned to the Keaton family for support during a crisis, such as the time he found out he was adopted.

By season four, Mallory had met the man of her dreams: Nick Moore (Scott Valentine), a scruffy artist who produces sculptures made from junk. Steven and Elyse were appalled by their daughter's choice, whilst Alex looked upon Nick as a somewhat lower life-form. Despite this he stayed with Mallory right to the end, and the character proved so popular that he almost got his own spin-off series. The pilot edition of **The Art Of Being Nick** aired on NBC on August 27, 1987, but it was not a success and Nick rapidly returned to the Keaton fold.

Youngest daughter Jennifer started out as the baby of the family, but never really developed into a fully rounded character (although this was not due to any deficiency in Tina Yothers' portrayal). Smarter than Mallory, but not up to Alex's level, she provided useful support to the other characters. Jennifer's finest hour was her stand against censorship when she finds her choice for a book report, *Huckleberry Finn*, has been banned by the school board. This "activist" side was incorporated into several later episodes.

The birth of son Andrew towards the end of Season Three provided more than just a brother for Alex - here was a brand new person to mould into his own image. Andrew (played by Brian Bonsall from season five) indeed became an Alex writ in miniature, despite concerted parental objections.

Like many comedies of the era, each episode of **Family Ties** was not just about eliciting laughs - there was 'The Issue' to be dealt with. As the theme song rather ungrammatically said, "there ain't no nothing we can't love each other through"; and sure enough, support from the family helped its members weather everything from infidelity and unmarried mothers to racism and drug abuse. Honesty, loyalty and trust were the values instilled into the characters (and us at home), although it never actually seemed to work very well, with everyone soon slipping back into their old habits.

When the final episode aired in 1989, Gary David Goldberg insisted that the show was definitely finished - it had been a show for the 1980's about 1980's values, and as a new era dawned, it was time to move on. Thus far, there have been no reunion specials or "whatever-happened-to" telemovies, although Meredith Baxter Birney has made a guest appearance as Michael J. Fox's mother in his sitcom **Spin City**.

Despite the occasional preachiness, **Family Ties** still holds up well as a fine example of the American sitcom, and is worth taking a look at during the next rerun, to catch a glimpse of a bygone age when sitcom families were still functional.



Season One

- 1 **Premiere** (September 22 1982)
Steven and Elyse are appalled when Alex announces he is attending a dance with a budding socialite at a country club which has a restricted membership policy.
- 2 **Not With My Sister You Don't** (September 29 1982)
Whilst Steven and Elyse take a holiday, Alex takes over as head of the family and throws a party, but worries about Mallory's date.
- 3 **I Know Jennifer's Boyfriend** (October 6 1982)
Jennifer decides to give up boys when she is teased about her new boyfriend.
- 4 **Summer Of '82** (October 20 1982)
Alex starts dating Stephanie, a college senior, and thinks marriage cannot be far away; but he receives a shock when he learns that she views their relationship as nothing but a casual fling.
- 5 **I Never Killed For My Father** (October 27 1982)
When Steven's father visits, the usual disagreements flare up until Steven learns something shocking about the old man.
- 6 **Give Uncle Arthur A Kiss** (November 3 1982)
Mallory doesn't know what to do or who to turn to when one of Steven's co-workers, who is also a close friend of the family, makes a pass at her.
- 7 **Big Brother Is Watching** (November 10 1982)
In his role as editor of the school newspaper, Alex decides to print a list of students caught cheating, but faces a dilemma when he finds Mallory is on the list.
- 8 **No Nukes Is Good Nukes** (November 17 1982)
On Thanksgiving day, Steven and Elyse are arrested for taking part in an anti-nuclear rally.
- 9 **Death Of A Grocer** (November 24 1982)
Alex gives up his job in a grocery store to take up a position in a supermarket.
- 10 **Suzanne Takes You Down** (December 1 1982)
Elyse hires her friend Suzanne, whose marriage has just broken up. Elyse soon regrets the decision, but feels unable to fire Suzanne without feeling guilty.

- 11 **Elyse Di Arc** (December 8 1982)
Elyse has so many commitments that Steven is beginning to feel neglected. The last straw comes when she is too busy to celebrate Steven winning an award.
- 12 **Have Gun, Will Unravel** (December 15 1982)
The Keatons consider buying a gun after their house is broken into, but the responsibilities of gun ownership seem too great.
- 13 **A Christmas Show** (December 22 1982)
The Keaton family reminisce about the birth of the three children whilst they are stuck at home during a storm.
- 14 **Oops** (January 12 1983)
A friend of Mallory's who has fallen pregnant asks Elyse for help, but Elyse's advice backfires.
- 15 **Sherry's Baby** (January 19 1983)
Mallory is offered a membership of a sorority house in return for introducing one of the girls to Alex.
- 16 **The Fugitive, Part 1** (January 26 1983)
Elyse's brother Ned starts acting strangely during a visit to the Keaton home.
- 17 **The Fugitive, Part 2** (February 9 1983)
Ned reveals that he has embezzled \$4.5 million, and is on the run from the FBI.
- 18 **Margin Of Error** (February 16 1983)
After success in a classroom experiment, Alex secretly invests some of Steven's money in the stockmarket.
- 19 **French Lessons** (February 23 1983)
Mallory's handsome French tutor finally asks her out after receiving some dubious dating tips from Alex.
- 20 **I Gotta Be Ming** (March 9 1983)
Alex becomes a "big brother" to a young Vietnamese boy, Ming, and tries to mould him into a clone of himself.
- 21 **Stage Fright** (March 16 1983)
Alex becomes the captain of the high school team chosen to go on a TV quiz. When one of the team drops out, he is faced with the difficult task of training Mallory as a replacement.
- 22 **The Fifth Wheel** (March 28, 1983)
Alex is forced to babysit Jennifer under duress, and pays more attention to his poker game until she disappears.

Season Two

- 23 **Tender Is The Knight** (September 28 1983)
Alex falls in love with an independent minded girl, and tries to tame her ways.
- 24 **The Homecoming** (October 12 1983)
Mallory is re-united with her high school boyfriend, but he seems to be less interested in her than he once was.
- 25 **The Harder They Fall** (October 19 1983)
Alex's hopes that his parents will make a good impression at a teacher-parent night are dashed when Elyse feels insulted by one of the teachers and punches him in the jaw.
- 26 **This Year's Model** (October 26 1983)
Mallory enters a photo of herself and Elyse in a mother-daughter contest run by a modelling agency, but only Elyse is chosen to be a model.
- 27 **Not An Affair To Remember** (November 2 1983)
Steven's assistant is showing undue interest in him, and when he becomes involved in an argument at home, he seriously considers having an affair.
- 28 **Speed Trap** (November 9 1983)
Needing an extra boost to help him with exams, Alex takes amphetamines, but his over-energetic behaviour causes him to place his future at college in jeopardy.

29 **Sweet Lorraine** (November 16 1983)
Alex's blind date turns out to be a middle-aged French woman, which worries his parents more than it does him.

30 **Batter-Up** (November 30 1983)
Jennifer asks Skippy's clumsy sister Arlene to join a baseball team, without mentioning that they only need her to stop from forfeiting a game.

31 **A Keaton Christmas Carol** (December 14 1983)
Alex has a Dickens inspired dream, in which he takes the role of Scrooge.

32 **To Snatch A Keith** (December 21 1983)
Steven and Elyse offer assistance to a friend who's trying to stop his ex-wife taking their son to California.

33 **Birthday Boy** (January 5 1984)
Alex would rather go to a cocktail bar with his friends to celebrate his 18th birthday than have dinner with his family.

34 **Go Tigers** (January 12 1984)
Alex's chances of admission to Princeton College are put at risk when Mallory interrupts his interview with the dean.

35 **M Is For The Many Things** (January 19 1984)
Elyse has trouble accepting that her mother has started to date after getting a divorce.

36 **Say Uncle** (January 26 1984)
Alex discovers that his uncle Ned's excessive cheerfulness during a visit is camouflage for a drinking problem.

37 **Ladies' Man** (February 2 1984)
Alex surprises everyone when he comes out in favour of feminism, but it's just a ruse to impress a girl.

38 **Ready Or Not** (February 9 1984)
Mallory has to decide the right course of action when her boyfriend suggests they should consummate their relationship.

39 **Double Date** (February 16 1984)
Alex manages to get two dates for the prom, and, too scared to cancel either, devises a plan which misguidedly relies on Skippy for its success.

40 **Lady Sings The Blues** (February 23 1984)
Elyse auditions at a nightclub to try to revive her career as a singer of protest songs.

41 **Baby Boy Doe** (March 8 1984)
Skippy finds out that he was adopted, and, upset that he didn't know sooner, sets out to find his natural mother.

42 **The Graduate** (March 15 1984)
Alex's romance with Rachel hits trouble when she is announced as class valedictorian.

43 **Diary Of A Young Girl** (May 3 1984)
Worried that she may die during an operation to remove her tonsils, Jennifer records her feelings in a diary.

44 **Working At It** (May 10 1984)
Feeling constrained as a housewife, Elyse returns to her job as an architect, but finds it difficult to cope with both roles.

45 **The Gambler** (September 20 1984)
Elyse has to give a speech in Atlantic City, but gets carried away by the lure of easy money using Alex's method for winning at the gambling tables.

Season Three

46 **Here We Go Again** (September 27 1984)
When Steven and the children return from a camping trip, Elyse finds it hard to get a word in to tell them she's pregnant.

47 **Little Man On Campus** (October 4 1984)
Alex's joy at being taught political science at college by one of his heroes turns to despair when he gets a bad mark.

48 **Love Thy Neighbor** (October 11 1984)
Jennifer is puzzled when her friend Scott shows more interest in Mallory than in going to a ball game.

49 **Keaton 'N Son** (October 18 1984)
Alex's commitment to a job at Steven's TV station wavers when a job at a bank becomes available.

50 **Fabric Smarts** (October 25 1984)
Mallory's grades begin to drop after she gets a part-time job in a fashion boutique, so Alex offers to tutor her.

51 **Hotline Fever** (November 1 1984)
Alex volunteers to help out with a telephone counselling service with his rival, but they have to put their differences to one side when their first call is a potential suicide.

52 **4RMS OCN VU** (November 8 1984)
Whilst Steven and Elyse are away, Mallory smashes the car, and Alex rents out a room to help pay for the repairs.

53 **Best Man** (November 15 1984)
Alex's weekly poker games come to an end when one of his friends gets engaged. Still angry, he refuses to be best man at his mate's wedding.

54 **Lost Weekend** (November 22 1984)
Steven and Elyse's plans to spend a family weekend together before the baby is born are spoilt when they find the children would rather be out with their friends.

55 **Don't Kiss Me, I'm Only The Messenger** (November 29 1984)
Alex assists when Skippy is too nervous to ask a girl out, but misunderstandings ensue and the girl falls for Alex.

56 **Help Wanted** (December 6 1984)
Alex hires a pretty but incompetent housekeeper, Karen, and although Steven wants to fire her, the rest of the family are determined to keep her.

57 **Karen 11, Alex 10** (December 13 1984)
When Alex's date for a college dance suddenly cancels, he asks Karen to be a replacement.

58 **Oh, Donna** (January 3 1985)
Alex becomes particularly interested in a young unwed mother who is one of the participants in Elyse's childbirth classes.

59 **Auntie Up** (January 10 1985)
Mallory's favourite aunt dies, and her grief is compounded when the rest of the family seem more interested in their garage sale.

60 **Philadelphia Story** (January 17 1985)
Whilst writing a history essay, Alex falls asleep and dreams that he's present at the historic moment when the American Constitution was created on July 3rd, 1776.

61 **Birth Of A Keaton, Part 1** (January 24 1985)
The Keaton family take part in a pledge drive for Steven's TV station, but Elyse goes into labour while they're at the studio.

62 **Birth Of A Keaton, Part 2** (January 31 1985)
With a snowstorm making it impossible to get Elyse to the hospital, the only option is to give birth in Steven's office.

63 **Cry Baby** (February 7 1985)
The new baby is the centre of everyone's attention - so much so that Jennifer feels ignored and starts to misbehave.

64 **Don't Know Much About History** (February 14 1985)
Alex and his rival James offer their services as tutors, but problems arise when they fall for the same client.

65 **Bringing Up Baby** (February 21 1985)
A quiet evening alone is an impossibility for Steven and Elyse when their children and jobs intrude in their leisure time.

66 **Cold Storage** (March 7 1985)

Whilst the rest of the family are away, Mallory has the house to herself - but her plans don't include getting locked in the basement with Skippy.

67/8 **Remembrances Of Things Past** (March 28 1985; 60 mins)

After the death of their father, Steven and his brother return home to comfort their mother. The visit rekindles some old memories, but the brothers are divided when it comes to selling the old family home.

69 **Return Of The Native** (*Not shown in original run*)

When a friend returns after visiting Europe, she finds herself unable to tell her travel anecdotes when the Keatons start to recall various dating experiences.

70 **Matchmaker** (*Not shown in original run*)

After Mallory has yet another dating disaster, Alex steps in and, with the aid of his computer, finds her the perfect boy.

Special

Family Ties Vacation (September 23 1985; 120 mins)

When Alex wins a summer scholarship to Oxford University, the Keaton family take a holiday in England.

Season Four

71 **The Real Thing, Part 1** (September 26 1985)

Alex decides he needs a girlfriend, and so picks one out of the freshman directory. It's love at first sight, but not with his choice, but her roommate, Ellen.

72 **The Real Thing, Part 2** (October 3 1985)

Alex's new found romance with Ellen has hit a snag - she's marrying someone else.

73 **Mr Wrong** (October 17 1985)

Mallory's new boyfriend, Nick, is not met with open arms when introduced to the Keaton family.

74 **Designated Hitter** (October 24 1985)

Jennifer's boyfriend feels his manhood is in question when she defends him physically. Alex also feels threatened when Mallory scores higher than him on an IQ test.

75 **Don't Go Changin'** (October 31 1985)

Alex is stunned when he finds Ellen doesn't think he's perfect, and so he auditions for a dance class to impress her.

76 **The Old College Try** (November 7 1985)

Mallory announces she doesn't want to go to college, despite Elyse having arranged an interview for her.

77 **My Tutor** (November 14 1985)

Alex hires a 13 year old maths whiz as a tutor, but finds the tutor would rather spend time with Jennifer.

78 **Mr Right** (November 21 1985)

Alex coaches Nick so he can meet the standards required by Steven and Elyse; but Mallory loses interest in the new Nick.

79 **Just One Look** (December 5 1985)

Steven is excited at meeting an old friend from college, but his enthusiasm is diminished when he learns that his friend used to go out with Elyse.

80 **How Do You Sleep?** (December 12 1985)

Alex is suffering from insomnia, but won't seek help because he is embarrassed to admit any failings.

81 **You've Got A Friend** (December 19 1985)

Mallory catches a shoplifter, but becomes friendly with her when it is revealed the girl is from a home for abused children.

82 **Nothing But A Man** (January 2 1986)

Steven gets a long sought-after promotion, but the new job means more work and leads to trouble when he misses the celebratory dinner Elyse had prepared.

83 **The Disciple** (January 9 1986)

Jennifer asks Alex to help her with a school project, but soon regrets having done so when Alex, as usual, goes overboard.

84 **Where's Poppa?** (January 16 1986)

When Ellen refuses to ask her father to Leland College open day, Alex invites him without telling her.

85 **Fool For Love** (January 23 1986)

Skippy is still having trouble coming to terms with the fact that Mallory is in love with Nick, and challenges Nick to a fight at the homecoming dance.

86 **Checkmate** (January 30 1986)

Alex's must-win attitude in a chess competition changes when he learns his Russian opponent plans to defect.

87 **Engine Trouble** (February 6 1986)

Alex can't bring himself to accept that Elyse is better in a car maintenance course than he is.

88/9 **A Word To The Wise** (February 13 1986; 60 mins)

The Keaton family decide it's time Ellen learned more about Alex and his past actions, so they each recount an anecdote depicting Alex in a bad light.

90 **Art Lover** (February 20 1986)

Mallory becomes jealous after Nick is feted by a rich art patron who wishes to take him under her wing.

91 **Teacher's Pet** (2 March 1986)

Alex gets a job as teacher to one of Ellen's classes, and stuns her by giving her a poor mark.

92 **My Buddy** (6 March 1986)

Steven tries to get closer to Jennifer by attending an event held by the Campfire Girls.

93 **Once In Love With Elyse** (May 1 1986)

Elyse's young co-worker develops a crush on her and wants to whisk her away to Europe.

94 **Paper Chase** (May 8 1986)

Mallory is in trouble when she faces failing her first year at high school due to poor marks in History.

95 **The Big Fix** (*Not shown in original run*)

Elyse is intent on finding the perfect woman for her co-worker, and refuses to listen to Steven who insists that her interference can only lead to trouble.

96 **It's My Party, Part 1** (*Not shown in original run*)

In an effort to become more popular, Jennifer throws a party, but only invites the "in" crowd from school.

97 **It's My Party, Part 2** (*Not shown in original run*)

Jennifer achieves her aim of becoming popular, but the family worries that she's being led astray by her new friends.

Season Five

98 **Be True To Your Pre-School** (September 25 1986)

Alex is horrified when he learns that Andrew's new pre-school encourages non-competitiveness, and so withdraws him from it immediately.

99 **Starting Over** (October 2 1986)

Alex is faced with having to start dating again after Ellen gets a dance scholarship to Europe.

100 **The Freshman And The Senior** (October 9 1986)

Mallory and her 63 year old classmate disagree over a project investigating the sexual activities of college students.

101 **My Back Pages** (October 16 1986)
Steven discovers his ideals have changed when he is asked to help revive the radical left-wing newspaper, *The Scavenger*, that he wrote during the 1960's.

102 **Beauty And The Bank** (October 30 1986)
Alex gets a job in a bank, but offends his female boss when he fills his reports with diet tips and recipes.

103 **Mrs Wrong, Part 1** (November 6 1986)
When Steven and Elyse oppose Nick and Mallory's plans to marry, the young couple's solution is to elope.

104 **Mrs Wrong, Part 2** (November 13 1986)
Nick and Mallory run away to New Jersey, unaware that Alex is following them.

105 **My Brother's Keeper** November 20 1986)
Alex helps Skippy get into a college fraternity, but discovers that the only reason he was accepted was part of a joke.

106 **High School Confidential** (December 4 1986)
Nick finds a job, but needs a high school diploma before he can be employed, so Mallory tutors him in English.

107 **Paper Lion** (December 11 1986)
In order to keep up with his younger colleagues, Alex's economics professor intends to commit fraud.

108 **My Mother, My Friend** (December 18 1986)
Mallory is delighted that her new friend gets on well with Elyse, until Mallory finds herself being ignored.

109 **Oh Brother, Part 1** (January 8 1987)
The Keatons are shocked when Steven's brother Ron announces he is getting a divorce, and already has a new girlfriend.

110 **Oh Brother, Part 2** (January 15 1987)
Steven has trouble helping Rob through his mid-life crisis; and the troubles increase when Rob's ex-wife arrives.

111 **Higher Love** (January 22 1987)
Nick feels rejected when Mallory joins a poetry group after falling for the leader.

112 **Architect's Apprentice** (January 29 1987)
Steven is surprised to discover that he and Nick have something in common when he interviews Nick about making a statue for the TV station lobby.

113 **Tale Of Two Cities, Part 1** (February 5 1987)
Alex accompanies his boss Rebecca to a banking convention in Chicago, and finds he has to share a room with her.

114 **Tale Of Two Cities, Part 2** (February 12 1987)
Alex has to act fast when Rebecca is in danger of losing her job after she gets drunk and insults the bank's director.

115/6 **Battle Of The Sexes** (February 19 1987; 60 mins)
Alex has been trying to get Andrew to adopt his male chauvinist attitudes, which prompts the family to recall past conflicts between the males and females.

117 **Band On The Run** (February 26 1987)
Alex hires Jennifer's band, Permanent Waves, for a college dance. When he sees how popular they are, he becomes their manager, and then insists that they change their musical style.

118 **Keaton Vs Keaton** (March 5 1987)
Alex and Mallory become rivals for a scholarship offered by Steven's TV station.

119/20 **A, My Name Is Alex** (March 12 1987; 60 mins)
Alex questions the meaning of life when a friend dies in a car accident, and the only thing that stopped Alex being in the car was his own selfishness.

121 **D Is For Date** (March 20 1987)
Jennifer's love life comes before academic achievement when she starts acting dumb to attract a school baseball player.

122 **Love Me Do** (April 30 1987)
Skippy gets a date with Mallory's friend Amy, but loses confidence when she asks him to spend the night with her.

123 **The Visit** (May 7 1987)
Elyse visits her sister's horrible family, leaving the rest of the Keatons to fend for themselves.

Season Six

124/5 **Last Of The Red Hot Psychologists**
(September 13 1987; 60 mins)
Alex agrees to help psychology student Lauren Miller with her study into over-achievers, and tries to stop himself falling in love with her by claiming he's too busy.

126 **Dear Mallory** (September 20 1987)
Mallory gets a job writing a personal advice column in a local newspaper, and finds herself inundated with people's problems.

127 **The Other Woman** (September 27 1987)
Andrew feels left out when Alex starts spending more time with Lauren.

128 **Dream Date** (October 4 1987)
Jennifer needs a date for the sophomore dance, and has to make do with the nerdy Simon, who is infatuated with her.

129 **Super Mom** (October 18 1987)
Elyse's increasing workload as an architect while keeping up with the housework begins to place a strain on her.

130 **Walking On Air** (October 25 1987)
Steven offers to help Mallory get a job as a journalist with his TV station, but her first assignment is less than successful.

131 **Invasion Of The Psychologist Snatchers**
(November 1 1987)
Alex feels his relationship is threatened when Lauren's ex-boyfriend asks her to dinner.

132 **The Way We Were** (November 8 1987)
The Keatons are upset to learn that Elyse's aunt, who is the family's storyteller, is developing Alzheimer's disease.

133 **Mister Sister** (November 15 1987)
Nick and Mallory's relationship is jeopardised when Nick gets a job as janitor at Mallory's sorority house and is made an honorary member.

134 **Citizen Keaton** (November 22 1987)
Mallory enters the running to become student body president at Grant College, with Alex's overenthusiastic help.

135 **Father Time, Part 1** (November 29 1987)
Steven's brother Rob visits again, this time with his two children. He is having trouble disciplining his daughter, who won't forgive him for getting a divorce.

136 **Father Time, Part 2** (December 6 1987)
After Marilyn stays out all night with a stranger, Rob decides to change the way he deals with her.

137/8 **The American Family** (December 13 1987; 60 mins)
Lauren is writing a psychology paper on the typical American family, and the Keatons help by recalling some of the incidents in their family life, which reveal them to be all but typical.

139 **Anniversary Waltz** (December 16 1987)
(This episode was originally made as part of Season Two.)
Steven and Elyse are about to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary - assuming they can stop arguing first.

140 **Miracle In Columbus** (December 20 1987)
As Christmas approaches, Alex gets a job as Santa in a department store, and meets the real Santa Claus.

- 141 **The Play Is The Thing** (January 10 1988)
Steven mounts a revival of a play he wrote in college (“A Draft Card For The Burning”), and gets jealous when Elyse performs a romantic scene with someone else.
- 142 **The Spirit Of Columbus** (January 17 1988)
Alex finds a way in which he can mass-market Nick’s sculptures, but Nick is unable to keep up with demand.
- 143 **The Blues Brother** (January 24 1988)
Alex learns that Eddie Dupree, a legendary blues singer, is still alive, and tries to coax him into performing again.
- 144 **Read It And Weep, Part 1** (February 7 1988)
Jennifer encounters unexpected trouble when she finds the book she has chosen for a book report - Huckleberry Finn - is banned by her school.
- 145 **Read It And Weep, Part 2** (February 14 1988)
Jennifer is suspended after refusing to change her book report topic, and enters into battle with the school authorities to put a halt to censorship.
- 146 **Quittin’ Time** (February 21 1988)
Lauren wants to demonstrate her love for Alex by quitting her degree to look after him full-time.
- 147 **Spring Reminds Me** (February 28 1988)
In trying to help a family friend who is struggling to cope with the loss of her daughter, Mallory finds herself becoming an unwilling substitute.
- 148 **The Boys Next Door** (March 6 1988)
Elyse attends a school reunion, and finds that her old flame, once voted Least Likely To Succeed, has come up in the world and is now a millionaire.
- 149 **Sign Of The Times** (March 13 1988)
Andrew is chosen to participate in a Buddy For A Day program at school, and stops speaking to show support for his deaf buddy.
- 150 **Father, Can You Spare A Dime?** (May 1 1988)
After a bank refuses to give him a loan, Nick approaches his father for money so he can open an art school for children.

Season Seven

- 151 **It Happened One Night** (October 30 1988)
The Keaton children try to meet up with their parents on a camping trip, but they are impeded by the lack of a map.
- 152 **Designing Women** (November 6 1988)
Mallory gets a job at a local fashion firm, but finds her designs are being stolen by the boss.
- 153 **Truckers** (November 13 1988)
When Andrew becomes friendly with Nick’s nephew, he decides to be a trucker rather than a banker.
- 154 **Beyond Therapy** (November 27 1988)
Worried that their relationship is beginning to break up, Alex and Lauren attend a seminar.
- 155 **Heartstrings, Part 1** (December 4 1988)
The Keaton household is thrown into turmoil when Steven has a heart attack.
- 156 **Heartstrings, Part 2** (December 11 1988)
During the long wait whilst Steven has a bypass operation, the Keatons try to console one another.
- 157 **Heartstrings, Part 3** (December 18 1988)
Steven has trouble adjusting to his new life when he returns home after his operation.
- 158 **Basic Training** (January 1 1989)
Skippy decides to join the army after attending a careers day, but the recruitment officer sees more potential in Alex.

- 159 **Deja-Vu** (January 8 1989)
Jennifer starts dating the brother of a boy who broke Mallory’s heart, and Mallory is worried that Jennifer will end up getting hurt like she did.
- 160 **Nick’s Best Friend** (January 15 1989)
Andrew’s seventh birthday celebrations are spoilt by the news that Nick’s dog has been hit by a car.
- 161 **Get Me To The Living Room On Time** (January 29 1989)
The Keatons host the wedding of two elderly people Andrew has befriended in a retirement home.
- 162 **The Job Not Taken** (February 5 1989)
Alex is overjoyed at getting a new job, but his happiness is tempered by the knowledge that the position was vacant only because a friend of his was fired.
- 163 **The Wrecker’s Ball** (February 12 1989)
When the demolition of first building Elyse designed is announced, the Keatons start a protest to save it.
- 164 **My Best Friend’s Girl** (February 19 1989)
Skippy, never very lucky in matters romantic, is changed into a new man when Lauren helps him with counselling - the trouble is that he has fallen for his counsellor.
- 165 **’Til Her Daddy Took Her T-Bird Away** (February 26 1989)
Steven reluctantly helps Mallory and Nick buy a car by agreeing to co-sign the loan.
- 166 **Simon Says** (March 5 1989)
As part of a school project, Jennifer gets a job at a fast food restaurant, where her boss is the nerdy Simon.
- 167 **All In The Neighborhood, Part 1** (March 12 1989)
Racism rears its ugly head in Leland Heights when Steven’s black co-worker Gus Thompson and his family move in.
- 168 **All In The Neighborhood, Part 2** (March 19 1989)
After their house is vandalized, Gus and his family decide to move away from Leland Heights.
- 169 **They Can’t Take That Away From Me, Part 1** (April 2 1989)
Alex begins tutoring a young woman, but soon finds himself falling for her whilst Lauren is away.
- 170 **They Can’t Take That Away From Me, Part 2** (April 9 1989)
Alex has a dilemma when he cannot choose between the two women in his life, and risks losing both.
- 171 **Rainforests Keep Falling On My Head** (April 16 1989)
Jennifer develops an interest in saving the environment, but soon learns there is only so much one person can do.
- 172 **Wrap Around The Clock, Part 1** (April 23 1989)
When Andrew has a school project to build a time capsule, the Keaton family reminisce about past events.
- 173 **Wrap Around The Clock, Part 2** (April 30 1989)
The Keatons continue to recall some of the more memorable event in their lives.
- 174 **Mr Keaton Takes A Holiday** (May 7 1989)
Nick stays with the Keatons for a week whilst his apartment is being painted, which puts a strain on Steven.
- 175/6 **Alex Doesn’t Live Here Anymore** (May 14 1989; 80 mins)
Alex gets the job opportunity of a lifetime with a large Wall Street investment company, which means moving to New York. Before he leaves, Elyse tries to cure him of his arrogance once and for all.

WOODY ALLEN ON DISC

by Peter Tatchell

FOR the past thirty years Woody Allen has been regarded as one of the world's leading film makers. But this is actually the third stage of a show business career which began in the 1950s, when he worked as a scriptwriter for tv shows like **Your Show Of Shows** and **The Garry Moore Show**.

By the 60s, he'd graduated to performing his material in standup venues across America (and in Britain). Appearing before a live audience was apparently a traumatic experience for Woody and he was eager to move on to the less nerve-racking medium of the cinema.

However, during this brief period as a stand-up comic, a number of his engagements were captured on disc, and these performances show an inventive and off-beat comedian in a series of routines which are as funny today as they were three decades ago.

In all there were two LPs for Colpix and a third for Capitol. In the early 1970s, United Artists acquired the rights to all three discs and repackaged most of the material into a double-LP set, **The Night Club Years**. In the process, only a quarter of an hour of jokes were lost.

Several years later, Woody himself decided to re-edit the compilation and the result was released as **Stand Up Comic** (with a further 20 minutes of performance removed).

Happily though, it is the earlier selection of material which is now available as a double compact disc.

Woody Allen

Colpix LP (S)CP 518, PXL 518 (1964),

Pye/Golden Guinea LP GGL 0388, reissued as:

The Wonderful Wacky World Of Woody Allen

Bell LP (S) 6008

recorded at Mr. Kelly's, Chicago in March 1964

(no official track itemisation) Private Life/Brooklyn (incl. Floyd)/The Army/Pets (incl. Spot)/My Grandfather/My Marriage/The Bullet/N.Y.U./A Love Story/The Police (incl. Library Book, Neanderthal)/Flying Down To Rio/Summing Up

* In Britain, Colpix also released an EP PX 775 containing: Floyd/Spot/The Bullet

Woody Allen - Volume 2

Colpix LP CP 488, PXL 488 (1965)

recorded at "The Shadows", Washington D.C. in April 1965
The Moose/TheKidnapping/Superman/ Science Fiction Movie/Eggs Benedict/Footnote/What's New Pussycat?/Reminiscences/Swedish Movie/Taking A Shower (A Pantomime)/Lost Generation

The Third Woody Allen Album

Capitol LP ST 2986 (1968)

recorded at Eugene's, San Francisco in August 1968
(no official track itemisation) The Vodka Ad/Vegas/Second Marriage/The Great Renaldo/Mechanical Objects/Down South/Question And Answer (incl. surreal dream about being chased by a giant NO)



highlights from these three discs are featured on ...

The Night Club Years 1964-1968

United Artists 2LP UAS 9968 (1972),

E.M.I. 2CD CDECC 31 (7 93969 2)

features everything from the three LPs, except Reminiscences, Swedish Movie and Taking A Shower (from the 1965 disc) and the Question And Answer segment (from the 1968 release)

Stand Up Comic 1964-1968

United Artists UA LA 849J2, Festival LP L 45801/2,

Casablanca 2LP NBLP 2-7145, MIM 2-8314

1964: Private Life/Brooklyn/The Army/Pets/ My Grandfather/ My Marriage/Bullet In My Breast Pocket/N.Y.U./A Love Story/The Police/Down South (from 1968)/Summing Up.

1965: The Moose/Kidnapped/Unhappy Childhood/The Science Fiction Film/Eggs Benedict/Oral Contraception/European Trip/The Lost Generation.

1968: The Vodka Ad/Vegas/Second Marriage/The Great Renaldo/Mechanical Objects.

The Golden Hour Of Woody Allen

Pye/Golden Hour LP GH 654

1964: all but Flying Down To Rio.

1965: all but Footnote/What's New Pussycat?/Taking A Shower.

other Woody Allen material may be found on:

That Was That Was The Week That Was

Radiola LP MR 1123, CD CDMR 1123

Woody is heard in a 3 minute monologue about civil defence from the 1964 NBC television series

What's Up, Tiger Lily?

Kama Sutra LP KLP(S) 8053

Woody is heard in the introduction only

Play It Again, Sam

Paramount LP PAS 1004

includes dialogue (and music) from the soundtrack

BACK ISSUES

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

The above three issues are now out of print, but photocopies are available at the same price.

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/Beyond Our Ken

LAUGH #10

Sid James on TV/Shelley Berman/The Burkiss Way/Flanders & Swann/1980s Aussie TV Comedy

LAUGH #11

Mae West/Spike Milligan On TV/On The Buses/The Mavis Bramston Show/"Weird Al" Yankovic/Much-Binding-In-The-Marsh

LAUGH #12

Peter Cook/Burns & Allen/Rising Damp/My Name's McGooley, What's Yours?/The Goon Show On Record

LAUGH #13

Marty Feldman/Round The Horne/At Last! The 1948 Show/Burns & Allen 2/Dick Bentley/Allen & Rossi

LAUGH #14

George Burns/Rutland Weekend Television/Steven Wright/The Naked Vicar Show/Life With The Lyons

LAUGH #15

Rik Mayall & Adrian Edmondson/Kingswood Country/Don Adams/Whack-O!

LAUGH #16

Bob Hope & Bing Crosby/Please Sir!/Max Miller/Willie Rushton/Sledge Hammer/Kevin Bloody Wilson

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