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# LAUGH

**The Comedy Magazine**

**Issue 19 1999**



**Inside:**  
**ITMA**  
**Hey Dad**  
**Laugh-In**  
**George Carlin**  
**Man About The House**  
**George And Mildred**  
**Robin's Nest**

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# ROWAN AND MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN

by Peter Tatchell

**I**N the late-1960s it was the hottest show on television. A crazy mix of colourful pop art, with-it music, biting satire and old-time blackouts that turned the clock all the way back to the days of burlesque. It should have been hosted by Olsen & Johnson (who had indeed presided over similar tv ventures twenty years earlier, based on their stage hit **Hellzapoppin**) but, owing to their unavoidable deaths, the spots were filled by a modestly known double act called Rowan and Martin.

Dan Rowan and Dick Martin had worked together since the early 1950s (and even starred in a not-very-successful movie called **Once Upon A Horse** in 1958) but by the mid-1960s were best known for their numerous television appearances on **The Dean Martin Show**. In 1966 they hosted the show's summer replacement series and this led to a one-hour special a year later. Titled **Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In**, Dan and Dick linked the off-beat quickies and ensemble pieces with their perfectly-timed repartee, honed from years of performing in nightclubs. The main thing about it was speed ... nothing seemed to last more than ninety seconds. The show rated well and executives at N.B.C. could see a series in the offing.

One-time network crowd-puller, **The Man From UNCLE**, was by then in its death throes and four months later when the plug was finally pulled, **Laugh-In** was chosen to fill the time-slot. Up against **The Lucy Show** and **Gunsmoke** (then 2nd and 4th in the ratings) it was a daunting task, but the public liked the format and gallery of colourful new characters.

There was petite cockney Judy Carne, whose cries of "sock-it-to-me" led to an inevitable cartoon-like retaliation of thumping/drenching/plummeting, word-mangling Goldie Hawn whose real-life problems with cue-card reading were seized upon by the writers, frumpy cardigan-clad Ruth Buzzi, poetic flowerchild Henry Gibson, chicken-neurotic Jo Anne Worley and character-chameleon Arte Johnson, as Tyrone, the dirty old man on the park bench or the ve-rry interesting Nazi hiding in the shrubbery.

Regular segments on the programme included the frenzied cocktail party (after the opening monologue), the news of the past, present and future, a mod, mod world feature on a topic of interest and a Fickle Finger of Fate award, directed at an individual or governmental agency whose attitude or actions prompted some form of public exposure. Along the way, the eyes were assaulted by walls of graffiti and cross-picture crawls, cliches like "you bet your sweet bippy" filled the air and the boring delights of "beautiful" downtown Burbank (home of the N.B.C. studios) became a running gag.

The opening show's new talent segment also unearthed another eccentric ... a ukulele-strumming singer with a falsetto voice, the legendary Tiny Tim. A two-minute song medley catapulted him to worldwide stardom and led to a record contract, a nationally-televised wedding and frequent return visits to the show that launched him.

Not that everyone who appeared on the programme was an unknown ... N.B.C. made sure each edition featured a famous guest-star, with Flip Wilson, Joey Bishop, Terry-Thomas, Sammy Davis Jr, Tim Conway, not to mention network stablemates like Don Adams, Barbara Feldon and Robert Culp joining in the festivities. And a host of other big names made it a cameo-laden presentation with John Wayne, Jerry Lewis, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Peter Lawford, Dinah Shore, Johnny Carson, James Garner and Harry Belafonte stopping by to record one-liners which were sprinkled throughout. **Laugh-In** was the "in" show with everyone clamouring to be part of the silliness.

The fourteen episodes in early 1968 paved the way for an eagerly-awaited return season that September with new additions including Alan Sues as Big Al, the bell-tinkling sports announcer, Dave Madden as a confetti-tossing party hound and a moustache for Dan Rowan's upper lip. Guests included Victor Borge, Tony Curtis, Marcel Marceau and Rev. Billy Graham with walk-ons by Rock Hudson, Jack Benny, Kirk Douglas, Perry Como and even recently-elected President Richard M. Nixon ("sock-it-to-me?"). **Laugh-In** was now America's top-rated show, an achievement it repeated the following season as well, and the hosts were signed to star in another movie, **The Maltese Bippy**. But, like all enormous success stories, once the pinnacle has been reached, there is only one way to go.

With an ensemble cast of popular personalities, desertion from the ranks became the major problem. Judy Carne left at the end of the second season (in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid being typecast as the sock-it-to-me girl) along with Dave Madden (en route to **The Partridge Family**), followed by Goldie Hawn and Jo Anne Worley a year later.

What had started as new and novel, was beginning to look stale and repetitive. By the fourth season (in late 1970), only Johnson, Buzzi, Gibson, and Owen remained from the original supporting cast, and of the newcomers, Lily Tomlin (with her telephone lady Ernestine) seemed the sole bright light in the field of replacements. Gibson departed six months later and Sues and Johnson at the conclusion of the fifth series.

By season six, graffiti wasn't the only writing on the wall. **Laugh-In** had lost its sparkle and a sizeable chunk of the viewing audience went with it. In May 1973, the show was cancelled and Rowan and Martin began to pursue separate career paths, last appearing together in 1981. Martin retreated to the other side of the camera, writing and directing sitcoms, while his partner devoted much of his time to travelling and taking things easy (he died, aged 65, from lymphatic cancer in 1987).

**Laugh-In**, meanwhile, had a brief (but ill-advised) revival in the late 1970s when producer George Schlatter assembled a totally new cast for six one-hour specials. About the only thing of interest in the new programmes was the participation of Robin Williams (a year before his involvement with **Mork And Mandy**).

## Episode Guide

### The Rowan And Martin Show

NBC June 16 to September 8 1966 (13 x 60 minutes)

#### Special

NBC September 9 1967 (60 minutes)

with Pamela Austin, Ken Berry, Ruth Buzzi, Judy Carne, Barbara Feldon, Henry Gibson, Larry Hovis, Arte Johnson, Monty Landis, Jo Anne Worley

#### Season 1

January 22 1968 to April 29 1968 (not Mar 18) (14 x 60 min)

with Judy Carne, Arte Johnson, Ruth Buzzi, Goldie Hawn, Henry Gibson, Larry Hovis, Roddy Maude-Roxby, Jo Anne Worley, Gary Owens

Jan 22	Barbara Feldon, Flip Wilson, Pamela Austin, Strawberry Alarm Clock
Jan 29	Robert Culp, Flip Wilson, Eileen Brennan, First Edition
Feb 5	Tim Conway, Cher, Tiny Tim, Paul Gilbert, Eileen Brennan
Feb 12	Don Adams, Pamela Austin, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
Feb 19	Kaye Ballard, Pamela Austin
Feb 26	Connie Stevens, Larry Storch, The Temptations
Mar 4	Terry-Thomas, Sally Field, The Bee Gees
Mar 11	Barbara Eden, Sonny Bono
Mar 25	Joey Bishop, Sammy Davis Jr, Pamela Austin
Apr 1	Barbara Feldon, Flip Wilson, The Bee Gees
Apr 8	John Byner, Flip Wilson, Pamela Austin
Apr 15	Kaye Ballard, John Byner
Apr 22	Barbara Feldon, Tim Conway
Apr 29	Tiny Tim

#### Season 2

September 16 1968 to March 31 1969 (not Nov 4, Dec 9 or Dec 23) (26 x 60 min)

with Judy Carne, Arte Johnson, Ruth Buzzi, Henry Gibson, Goldie Hawn, Dave Madden, Alan Sues, Jo Anne Worley, Chelsea Brown, J.J. Barry, Gary Owens, Pigmeat Markham, Charlie Brill & Mitzi McCall, Dick Whittington

Sep 16	Barbara Feldon, Hugh Hefner
Sep 23	Eve Arden
Sep 30	Abbe Lane
Oct 7	Robert Culp, Franco Nuyen
Oct 14	Bobby Darin
Oct 21	Flip Wilson
Oct 28	Marcel Marceau
Nov 11	Dick Gregory
Nov 18	Victor Borge, The Banana Splits
Nov 25	Tiny Tim, Phyllis Diller
Dec 2	Liberace
Dec 16	Douglas Fairbanks Jr
Dec 30	Kate Smith, Vincent Price
Jan 6	Peter Falk
Jan 13	Peter Lawford, Paul Winchell
Jan 20	President Richard Nixon, Nancy Sinatra
Jan 27	Cliff Robertson
Feb 3	Don Rickles
Feb 10	Davy Jones
Feb 17	Tiny Tim
Feb 24	Connie Stevens
Mar 3	James Garner, The Weire Brothers
Mar 10	Flip Wilson
Mar 17	Sammy Davis Jr
Mar 24	Tony Curtis
Mar 31	Billy Graham

#### Season 3

September 15 1969 to March 16 1970 (not Dec 22 or Feb 16) (25 x 60 min)

with Arte Johnson, Ruth Buzzi, Henry Gibson, Goldie Hawn, Alan Sues, Jo Anne Worley, Teresa Graves, Pamela Rogers, Jeremy Lloyd

Sep 15	Debbie Reynolds
Sep 22	Diana Ross
Sep 29	Sonny and Cher
Oct 6	The Monkees
Oct 13	Jack E. Leonard
Oct 20	Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson
Oct 27	Flip Wilson
Nov 3	Buddy Hackett
Nov 10	Carol Channing
Nov 17	Sid Caesar
Nov 24	Sammy Davis Jr
Dec 1	?
Dec 8	Phyllis Diller
Dec 15	Greer Garson
Dec 29	Nancy Sinatra
Jan 5	James Garner
Jan 12	Jonathan Winters

(\* On January 14 1970 NBC aired a 60-minute special **Rowan And Martin Bites The Hand That Feeds Them** with guests Carol Burnett, Sammy Davis Jr and The Smothers Brothers)

Jan 19	Peter Lawford
Jan 26	Tony Curtis
Feb 2	Jack Benny
Feb 9	Carl Reiner
Feb 23	Ringo Starr, Sheldon Leonard
Mar 2	Danny Kaye
Mar 9	Milton Berle
Mar 16	Carol Channing, Tiny Tim

#### Season 4

NBC September 14 1970 to March 15 1971 (27 x 60min)

with Arte Johnson, Ruth Buzzi, Henry Gibson, Alan Sues, Lily Tomlin, Gary Owens, Dennis Allen, Johnny Brown, Ann Elder, Nancy Phillips, Barbara Sharma, Harvey Jason

Sep 14	Art Carney
Sep 21	Don Rickles
Sep 28	Goldie Hawn
Oct 5	Ken Berry
Oct 12	Tim Conway
Oct 19	Zero Mostel
Oct 26	Orson Welles
Nov 2	Carol Channing
Nov 9	Carl Reiner
Nov 16	Bob Newhart
Nov 23	Desi Arnaz
Nov 30	Peter Lawford, Gore Vidal
Dec 7	Phil Silvers
Dec 14	Debbie Reynolds
Dec 21	Greer Garson
Dec 28	William F. Buckley Jr
Jan 4	Sammy Davis Jr, Wilt Chamberlain
Jan 11	Johnny Carson
Jan 18	Joey Bishop
Jan 25	Andy Griffith
Feb 1	?
Feb 8	Dinah Shore
Feb 15	?
Feb 22	Peter Lawford
Mar 1	Richard Crenna
Mar 8	?
Mar 15	George Raft, Fernando Lamas



## Season 5

NBC September 13 1971 to March 20 1972 (not Nov 15, Dec 6, Jan 17 or Feb 7) (24 x 60min)

with *Arte Johnson, Ruth Buzzi, Alan Sues, Lily Tomlin, Gary Owens, Dennis Allen, Johnny Brown, Ann Elder, Barbara Sharma, Richard Dawson, Larry Hovis*

Sep 13	Raquel Welch, Martha Mitchell
Sep 20	Roman Gabriel
Sep 27	Rita Hayworth
Oct 4	Karen Valentine
Oct 11	?
Oct 18	Richard Crenna
Oct 25	Lee Grant
Nov 1	(anniversary show)
Nov 8	Liza Minelli
Nov 22	James Coco
Nov 29	Three Dog Night
Dec 13	Carroll O'Connor
Dec 20	Joe Namath
Dec 27	Buddy Hackett
Jan 3	Robert Goulet
Jan 10	?
Jan 24	Carl Reiner
Jan 31	?
Feb 14	Carol Channing
Feb 21	Sandy Duncan
Feb 28	Gene Hackman
Mar 6	Debbie Reynolds
Mar 13	Jo Ann Pflug
Mar 20	?

## Season 6

NBC September 11 1972 to March 12 1973 (not Dec 25, Jan 1) (25 x 60min)

with *Ruth Buzzi, Lily Tomlin, Gary Owens, Richard Dawson, Dennis Allen, Moosie Drier, Patti Deutsch, Sarah Kennedy, Jud Strunk, Willie Tyler, Donna Jean Young, Brian Bressler, Todd Bass, Lisa Farringer*

Sep 11	John Wayne
Sep 18	Dyan Cannon
Sep 25	William Conrad
Oct 2	Lucy Arnaz
Oct 9	Michael Landon
Oct 16	Jack Benny
Oct 23	Jean Stapleton
Oct 30	Mike Connors
Nov 6	Don Rickles

Nov 13	Sally Struthers
Nov 20	James Caan
Nov 27	?
Dec 4	Jack Klugman
Dec 11	Steve Lawrence
Dec 18	?
Jan 8	Don Rickles
Jan 15	Robert Goulet
Jan 22	Sammy Davis Jr
Jan 29	?
Feb 5	Phyllis Diller
Feb 12	?
Feb 19	Meredith Baxter, David Birney
Feb 26	?
Mar 5	Dom DeLuise
Mar 12	?

### Rowan And Martin Special

NBC September 13 1973 (60 min)

with guests *Harry Belafonte, Bob Newhart, Ruby Keeler, Porter Wagoner, Dolly Parton, Cathy Rigby, Ed Asner, Jimmie Walker, Redd Foxx, Ernest Borgnine, Jack Carter, Glenn Ford, Martin Milner, Kent McCord*

### The Rowan And Martin Report

ABC November 5 1975 (30 minute pilot edition)

### LAUGH-IN specials

NBC six 60-minute programmes aired between September 5 1977 and February 8 1978

with *Nancy Bleiweiss, Ed Bluestone, Kim Braden, Claire Faulkonbridge, Wayland Flowers and Madam, June Gable, Jim Giovanni, Ben Powers, Bill Rafferty, Michael Sklar, Lenny Schultz, Antoinette Atell, Robin Williams, Sergio Aragones*

## Records

### Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In

Epic LP FXS 15118, Harmony LP KH 30976, Sony CD A-28852  
Cuckoo Laugh-In World/Monologue And Cocktail Party/New Talent/Personality Of The Week/News - Past, Present And Future/Etcetera/Half Time/Here Come The Judge/The Other Cocktail Party/Sock It To Me - Potpourri/Mod Mod World/The Cuckoos/Good-night Dick!

### Laugh-In '69

Warner/Reprise RS 6335

The Big Cocktail Party/Laugh-In Strikes Again/By Henry Gibson/An American Institution/Children Of Laugh-In/The News/Well, Ring My Chimes/Beautiful Downtown Burbank (Vacation In + Chamber Of Commerce + Trading Centre + Swingers + Mecca + Bus Stop + Up Town + Broncos + Down Town + Dum Dums)

## Books

### Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In (script for stage show)

Samuel French paperback, 1968

### Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In - The Burbank Edition

World Publishing 1969

### Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In

Signet paperback, 1969

### Mod, Mod World by Roy Doty

Signet Paperback, 1969

### Inside Laugh-In by James E. Brodhead

Signet paperback, 1969

### Jo Anne Worley's Chicken Joke Book or Poultry's Complaint

Signet paperback, 1969

# ITMA



by Tony Lang

**I**N 1938 the top brass of the BBC decided that they should have a regular weekly comedy show, along the lines of the **George Burns and Gracie Allen Show** which was very popular in the United States. It was to star Tommy Handley, a well-known Liverpool comedian whose first broadcast was a relay from the London Coliseum of the Royal Command Performance of December 1923.

Several scripts were prepared but, not being very keen on any of them, Handley asked a friend to see if he could come up with something. The friend was Ted Kavanagh, and the something was **ITMA**, soon to become the most popular radio series of the 1940s.

Tommy and Ted, together with producer Francis Worsley, retired to the Langham Hotel in Portland Place, opposite Broadcasting House. Here they devised the format over pints of beer, amid a packed conference of clergymen.

They decided to name the show after a topical catchphrase associated with a short moustached Nazi who seemed to be causing quite a stir internationally. Whenever Hitler made some new territorial claim, the newspaper headlines would proclaim 'It's That Man Again'. That looked fine in print, but was a bit of a mouthful to repeat over the microphone. Something snappier was called for, and once again inspiration was to be found in contemporary issues. At the beginning of the war, everyone seemed initial-crazy. People spoke of the R.A.F., the A.R.P., E.N.S.A. and many others, so the programme title was shortened to **ITMA**.

A trial series of four shows began fortnightly from 12th July 1939. The setting was a pirate commercial radio ship, from which Tommy sent out his choice of programmes. He was assisted by Cecilia Eddy as his secretary Cilly and Eric

Egan as a mad Russian inventor. These early editions broadcast from London were modelled on the ground-breaking **Band Waggon**, starring Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch. However they weren't considered a success, and **ITMA** seemed destined to end there.

Ironically, the aforementioned Mr. Hitler deemed otherwise. The outbreak of war shook up the BBC schedules and Handley and Co. returned on 19th September for a weekly series of 21 episodes. These were transmitted from Bristol, where the BBC Variety Department had taken up residence, hoping to avoid the heavy bombing raids directed at London.

A pirate radio ship was not considered to be a suitable subject during wartime, so a new scenario was sought. In the early days of the war, new Government Ministries sprang up like mushrooms, almost overnight. It was decided that for the second series Tommy Handley should be Minister of Aggravation and Mysteries at the Office of Twerps. A brand new supporting cast was enlisted, amongst them Vera Lennox as secretary Dotty and Maurice Denham as Mrs. Tickle the office char and Vodkin the Russian inventor. In the second episode, Jack Train created Funf, the elusive German spy, whose catchphrase 'This is Funf speaking' was to work its way into many private telephone conversations. It all helped to make the German propaganda machine seem little more than a wireless joke.

One of the regular features was Radio Fakenburg, a send up of Radio Luxembourg which had ceased broadcasting for the duration.

Increased popularity led to a couple of stage shows which briefly toured the country. Unfortunately they lacked the impact of the radio shows and folded when the blitz destroyed many of the theatres.

Meanwhile Bristol had also suffered from German bombing, so the BBC Variety Department was once again on the move, this time to Bangor in North Wales. With escalating bad news for the Allies abroad, take-offs of Government Departments would no longer be acceptable. Instead, it was felt that **ITMA** should provide an escape for a war-weary public.

The series was renamed *It's That Sand Again* and set in a seedy seaside resort called Foaming at the Mouth, with Tommy as the town's Mayor. Vera Lennox and Maurice Denham had departed, and in their place came Sydney Keith, Horace Percival, Dorothy Summers and Fred Yule. Several soon-to-become-famous characters were launched: Lefty and Sam, the gangsters (Train and Keith), Deepend Dan, the diver (Percival) (based on a man Handley once saw on the New Brighton pier collecting money from the ferry passengers), Claude and Cecil, the over polite handymen (Train and Percival) and Ali Oop (Percival), a Middle Eastern vendor of saucy postcards and other dubious merchandise.

The popular seaside setting was continued in the fourth season, which reverted to the original name. The team were joined by Dino Galvani, as Handley's Italian secretary Signor So-So, and Clarence Wright as the commercial traveller who never made a sale but didn't seem to care. In October, Dorothy Summers introduced the famous office char, Mrs. Mopp, sent by the 'Labour' to dust the Mayor's dado with much clattering of bucket and brush. She later progressed to her own series, *The Private Life Of Mrs Mopp* in 1946.

In April the cast were honoured to be invited to perform a special show at Windsor Castle to celebrate the then Princess Elizabeth's 16th birthday. This was the first such event for a

BBC programme. A recording was made, which has never been broadcast, but still exists in BBC Sound Archives.

Another high point was the release of a film version of **ITMA**, starring Tommy Handley as Mayor of Foaming at the Mouth. This was to prove quite successful, but again, like the stage show the visual characters lacked the appeal of their radio counterparts. Ted Kavanagh's creations worked best in the mind of the listener.

By the time they had returned to the airwaves in September 1942, *Foaming at the Mouth* was graced with a war factory. It was never made clear what, if anything, it was producing — even the workers didn't seem to know. The famous Colonel Humphrey Chinstrap made his first appearance, and rapidly became one of the most popular characters. The Colonel was a dipsomaniac army officer who turned almost any innocent remark into the offer of a drink with his catchphrase 'I don't mind if I do'. The following season saw the war factory transformed into a spa, a holiday camp and a hotel.

By October 1943, the worst of the air raids were thought to be over, so the BBC Variety Department packed up and made its way back to London. The seventh series, with Tommy now squire of *Much Fiddling*, was recorded without Jack Train who was seriously ill, but with the addition of young Jean Capra, discovered when auditions were held for the first time. A special edition was broadcast early the following year from the Navy base at Scapa Flow. Not to be outdone, this was followed by episodes allocated to the Royal Air Force (held at the Criterion Theatre in London) and the Army (from a garrison theatre 'somewhere in England').

Jack Train returned in September, and with a new voice named Mark Time, an elderly, depraved gentleman who answered all questions with 'I'll 'ave to ask me Dad'. Newcomer Diana Morrison played Miss Hotchkiss, Tommy's domineering secretary, named after a make of machine gun. The end of the war was celebrated by the VE edition on 10th May 1945.

A decision was made that the first post-war series should have a completely new look, and most of the familiar characters were dropped. Dorothy Summers, Sydney Keith and Dino Galvani departed, while Carleton Hobbs (later to become radio's Sherlock Holmes), Hugh Morton, Mary O'Farrell, Michele de Lys and singer Lind Joyce joined the company.

As a reward for his war work, Tommy was appointed Governor of a newly discovered South Sea island called Tomtopia. During the month-long sea cruise to the island, Tommy encountered Curly Kale (Carleton Hobbs), the chef who hated food but loved terrible puns, George Gorge (Fred Yule), a glutton who could eat any quantity of 'lovely grub' and Sam Fairfechan (Hugh Morton), the contradictory Welshman. Accompanying them on the journey was Colonel Chinstrap, who made straight for the Jungle Arms on arrival at their destination.

The local population included Bigga Banga (Fred Yule), the native chief who spoke only Utopi language, his daughter and translator Banjeleo (Lind Joyce), Wamba M'Boojah (Hugh Morton), another Tomtopian native whose Oxbridge accent was the result of a spell as announcer with the BBC's Overseas Service, and Major Munday (Carleton Hobbs), an ex-British army officer who had lived in isolation since the Boer war and now believed England was exactly as it had been in the nineteenth century.

On 19th September 1946, back from a few months off the air, Mrs. Handley's boy was rather closer to home, resting at

Castle Weehouse in Scotland. Here he met Tattie Mackintosh (Molly Weir), Dan Dungeon the castle guide and fellow Liverpoolian Frisby Dyke (both Deryck Guyler). Following a misdirected attempt to visit the moon in a rocket, he found himself back in Tomtopia for the rest of the series.

A year later Tommy was appointed the Government's adviser on industrial and scientific affairs. The position led to an investigation into the radio industry and organisation of a fuel saving campaign. Hattie Jacques debuted as Sophie Tuckshop, the greedy schoolgirl whose prandial excesses were invariably followed by a giggle and 'but I'm all right now'.

The twelfth, and final, series began on 23rd September 1948. Down on his luck, Tommy was now a permanent resident at Henry Hall (the tramps' guesthouse), run by Miss Hotchkiss. For the milestone 300th episode of 28th October, the setting was Madame Tussaud's Waxworks in London. Here, passing through a door marked 'The Hall of **ITMA**'s Past', Tommy was reunited with many favourite characters from *Foaming at the Mouth* and *Tomtopia*, with Dino Galvani, Horace Percival, Clarence Wright, Lind Joyce and Dorothy Summers all making guest appearances.

The last **ITMA** went out on 6th January 1949. Tommy Handley died suddenly of a cerebral haemorrhage three days later. The news was conveyed to a stunned public immediately after the usual repeat broadcast. Handley had been suffering from high blood pressure for some time, and his death seems a direct consequence of his dedication to work.

Thousands of mourners and sightseers lined the six mile route from a private chapel in Westbourne Grove to the Golders Green Crematorium, where the scene looked more like the Palladium on the night of a Royal Variety Performance than a funeral. Two memorial services were held — one at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the other at Liverpool Cathedral.

The *Radio Times* shows that there was an edition of **ITMA** scheduled for 13th January, but this was to be replaced by a special tribute programme. Later, in the Light Programme magazine show *Mirror of the Month*, sound effects boys Brian Begg and Johnny Ammonds reminisced and demonstrated some of the **ITMA** effects. The item ended with the suggestion 'Shall we close the door for the last time?'. They did, and this was followed by a five second pause. One radio critic thought this the most poignant tribute of them all.

Many editions of **ITMA** were recorded, but only a small percentage have survived. Listening to them now, they seem very dated, and it is often difficult to see why the show was so immensely popular, sometimes with forty percent of the British population tuning in. But it took people's minds off the horrors of war and produced a sort of nationwide family spirit. This was helped by the liberal use of catchphrases, many of which passed into the language. Characters would knock at the famous imaginary door, enter, exchange funny lines with Tommy at machine gun speed, deliver their unvarying closing remark and exit to enormous applause — almost like a factory production line.

After Handley's death, the BBC wisely decided to let the show die with him. The only surviving character was Jack Train's Colonel Chinstrap. In 1950 The Colonel appeared in a long forgotten series called **The Great Gilhooly**. A documentary about his life was broadcast on 1st January 1954 and he appeared in two episodes of a series which was to achieve the same popularity in the 1950s (and beyond) that **ITMA** had enjoyed a decade before... **The Goon Show**.

## Episode Guide

All shows produced by Francis Worsley (except 8/15 - 8/33, produced by Ronnie Walden)  
Scripts by Ted Kavanagh.

### Series 1

12 July, 26 July, 9 August and 30 August 1939 (4x45mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Cecilia Eddy Eric Egan, Sam Heppner, Lionel Gamlin (2-4)  
Tommy Handley is running his own broadcasting ship sending out any programmes to his liking.

### Series 2

19 September 1939 to 6 February 1940 (21x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Vera Lennox, Maurice Denham, Sam Costa (1-5, 7-21), Jack Train (3-21), Vernon Harris (4-11), Pat Taylor (2)  
Tommy is the Minister of Aggravation and Mysteries c/o The Office of Twerps.

### Series 3 (ITSA)

20 June to 25 July 1941 (6x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Sydney Keith, Paula Green, Kay Cavendish, Fred Yule, Dorothy Summers, Horace Percival (2-6), Clarence Wright (6)  
This series was called *It's That Sand Again*. Tommy is elected Mayor of Foaming At The Mouth, a seedy seaside resort.

### Series 4

26 September 1941 to 1 May 1942 (32x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Horace Percival, Sydney Keith, Clarence Wright, Fred Yule, Dorothy Summers, Dino Galvani (1, 4-10, 12-32), Kay Cavendish, Paula Green, Sam Costa (5), Maurice Denham (8), Paula Green (1-6, 8-32).  
Tommy is still Mayor of Foaming At The Mouth.  
The following episodes are known to exist:  
4/1 Tom shows a travelogue film and is reinstated as mayor  
4/5 (extract only) *Show cut short due to enemy action*  
4/16 Repertory company performs at the Handleydrome

### Series 5

18 September 1942 to 29 January 1943 (20x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Dino Galvani, Sydney Keith, Horace Percival, Clarence Wright, Fred Yule, Dorothy Summers, Kay Cavendish, Paula Green, Pat Rignold (1-8), Vera Lennox (12, 14-20)  
Foaming At The Mouth has been graced with a war factory managed by Tommy.

### Series 6

15 April to 5 August 1943 (17x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Sydney Keith, Fred Yule, Dino Galvani, Horace Percival, Dorothy Summers, Bill Stephens (4-17), Vera Lennox, Paula Green  
The factory at Foaming At The Mouth is turned into a spa, a hotel and a holiday camp.  
The following episodes are known to exist:  
6/8 Running a hotel  
6/10? Things For ITMA week  
6/11 Arranging a circus

### Series 7

7 October 1943 to 8 June 1944 (36x30mins).  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Horace Percival, Fred Yule, Dorothy Summers, Sydney Keith, Dino Galvani, Bill Stephens, Bryan Herbert (1-19), Jean Capra, Diana Morrison (28-36), Jack Cooper, Paula Green (14-21), Maria Perilli (31-36)  
Tommy becomes the Squire of Much Fiddling.  
The following episodes are known to exist:  
7/1 Hiring fun-fair and interviewing staff  
7/2 Sporting events at funfair  
7/4 Fire-watchers' nightclub  
7/5 Taking over public school  
7/8 School break-up prize-giving  
7/9 To the farm  
7/10 Visit from man from Min of Ag. & Fish.  
7/11 Tom appointed squire  
7/14 Hunt breakfast  
7/15 *Navy Edition*  
7/19 Aerodrome canteen  
7/20 *RAF Edition*  
7/26 Much Fiddling Festival pageant  
7/28 *Army Edition*  
7/29 Seaside boarding house  
7/31? Garden fête  
7/? Fairies sighted

### Series 8

21 September 1944 to 14 June 1945 (39x30mins) (The broadcasts of 8/19 (replaced by rpt of 7/15) & 8/20 were cancelled due to Tommy Handley's throat trouble)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Dorothy Summers, Horace Percival, Dino Galvani, Sydney Keith, Fred Yule (3-39), Jean Capra, Diana Morrison (1-14, 16-39), Paula Green (1-14, 16-25), Ann Rich (26-39)  
Tommy is still the Squire of Much Fiddling.  
The following episodes are known to exist:  
8/1 (extracts filmed by British Movietone News) *from Wolseley Motors Factory, Birmingham*  
8/9 Gallup poll for Tommy's election campaign  
8/25 Publishing a paper  
8/28 Unveiling a model home  
8/34 *V-ITMA*: Victory Day celebrations

### Series 9

20 September 1945 to 13 June 1946 (39x30mins)  
Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Clarence Wright, Fred Yule, Jean Capra, Carleton Hobbs, Hugh Morton, Mary O'Farrell, Diana Morrison (7-39), Lind Joyce, Michele de Lys (1-6)  
Tommy is elected Governor of the island of Tomtopia.  
The following episodes are known to exist:  
9/3 Preparations for travel  
9/5 Ship's concert  
9/7 Showing propaganda film  
9/10 Planning a tour of the villages  
9/12 Setting out on safari  
9/17 Gold mine  
9/18 Mining village  
9/19 Police force  
9/29 Taking charge of a circus  
9/30 Grand National  
Also 3 third-only and 2 half-only episodes survive.



## Series 10

19 September 1946 to 12 June 1947 (39x30mins)

Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Hugh Morton (1-5, 7-39), Fred Yule, Lind Joyce, Deryck Guyler, Diana Morrison (1-6, 19-39), Tony Francis (1-9), Molly Weir, Joan Harben (7-39)

Tommy starts off at Castle Weehouse in Scotland, tries to visit the moon in a rocket but ends up back in Tomtopia where he stays for the rest of the series.

The following episodes are known to exist:

- 10/9 New Governor and radio programme
- 10/15 Boxing Day broadcast, pantomime and circus
- 10/19 Miss Hotchkiss arrives in Tomtopia

## Series 11

25 September 1947 to 10 June 1948 (38x30mins)

Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Hugh Morton, Fred Yule (1-23, 25-28), Lind Joyce, Diana Morrison, Deryck Guyler, Joan Harben, Hattie Jacques

Tommy is made the Government's adviser on industrial and scientific affairs.

The following episodes are known to exist:

- 11/6 Patriotic pageant
- 11/8 *BBC Silver Jubilee* programme
- 11/9 Entertaining foreign delegates for royal wedding
- 11/11 *Royal Command*: Visiting Broadcasting House
- 11/20 Entertaining American film star Dorothy La Molar
- 11/21 Hollywood film offer
- 11/29 At the zoo
- 11/32 Psychoanalysis
- 11/33 Little-Tiddley-On-The-Way
- 11/37 Investigating seaside hotels

Also 2 third-only episodes (11/36 & 11/38) survive.

## Series 12

23 September 1948 to 6 January 1949 (16x30mins)

Cast: Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Hugh Morton, Fred Yule, Diana Morrison, Deryck Guyler, Joan Harben, Hattie Jacques, Glee Party directed by George Mitchell (1), Handley's Kerbside Choristers directed by George Mitchell (2-16), Dino Galvani (6), Horace Percival (6), Clarence Wright (6), Sidney Keith (6), Lind Joyce (6), Dorothy Summers (6)

Tommy is down on his luck and a permanent resident at Henry Hall, the tramps' guest house run by Miss Hotchkiss.

The following episodes are known to exist:

- 12/1 Signing on at Henry Hall, the tramps' guest house
- 12/6 *300th Edition*: Nightwatchman at the waxworks
- 12/16 Running tea and coffee stall

## ITMA Special Shows

**Star Variety** 18/5/40 (45min)

Extract from the Palace Theatre, Manchester stage version  
Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Maurice Denham, June Malo, Johnny Lockwood, Syd Crossley, Fela Sowanda

**Tommy Handley In Wales - A children's show** 27/9/41

Tommy Handley, Vera Lennox, Jack Train, Dick Francis, Charles Penrose, Billy Ternent and the BBC Dance Orchestra  
Script by Dorothy Worsley

**Children's Hour: Tom And The Beanstalk** 10/1/42 (40min)

Dorothy Summers, Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Vera Lennox, Sydney Keith, Horace Percival, Charles Penrose  
Written by Dorothy Worsley

**Radio Command Performance** 21/4/42

Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Sidney Keith, Horace Percival, Clarence Wright, Fred Yule, Dorothy Summers, Deryck Guyler, Kay Cavendish, Paula Green  
This show was never broadcast, but exists in BBC archives

**A Grand ITMA Concert** 1942

Tommy Handley, Kay Cavendish, Paula Green

**A Grand ITMA Concert** 7/2/43 (30min)

Tommy Handley, Clarence Wright

**Well For Santa Claus** 25/12/43 (40min)

Tommy Handley, Dorothy Summers, Fred Yule, Sydney Keith, Bryan Herbert, Ronald Chesney, Barret and Max Field, Derek McCulloch

**Tom Marches Back** 12/6/44 (30min)

From a war factory somewhere in England, Tommy Handley brings ITMA characters past and present

**Whither Tomtopia?** A radio debate, 12/9/46 (30min)

**Melodies And Memories Of ITMA** 13/1/49 (30min)

A memorial programme to Tommy Handley presented by Sir William Haley, the Director General of the BBC

**National Radio Award Presentations** A cavalcade of radio entertainment including the ITMA team, 12/1/50 (40min)

With Jack Train, Deryck Guyler, Horace Percival, Joan Harben, Maurice Denham, Carleton Hobbs, Diana Morrison, Dorothy Summers, Clarence Wright, Lind Joyce, Hattie Jacques, Dino Galvani, Fred Yule

**The True Story Of Humphrey Chinstrap (Col. Retd.)**

1/1/54 (60min)

The authentic history of a warrior who penetrated the darkest jungles of Whitehall and Woolloomooloo armed only with a sword and a corkscrew

Jack Train, Deryck Guyler, Horace Percival, Clarence Wright, Dino Galvani, Betty Hardy, Dianna Maddox, Eric Whitley, Ted Kavanagh. Script by Ted Kavanagh

## Related Series

**The Private Life Of Mrs Mopp**

25 November to 30 December 1946 (6x15mins)

A series of interludes in the life of radio's most famous charwoman

Script by Ted Kavanagh, produced by Jacques Brown

**The Great Gilhooly**

2 October to 25 December 1950 (13x30mins)

This series included Colonel Chinstrap as a regular character.

Cast: Noel Purcell, Jack Train, Joe Linnane, Hugh Morton, Jean Capra, John Bushelle (1-6), Tony Arpino (1 and 2), John Glyn-Jones (6 to 13), Barbera Mullen (8 to 13), The Four Ramblers, Produced by Gordon Crier (1 to 9), Produced by John Watt (10 to 13)

Script by Ted Kavanagh



## Discography

**Tomsky The Great Counter Spy/It's That Man Again**  
Columbia 78rpm disc FB-2303  
1939 recordings by Tommy Handley

**Can I Do Yer Now, Sir?/London Will Be The Same**  
HMV 78rpm disc BD-1065  
1943 recordings by Dorothy Summers

### Memories of ITMA

Oriole 5x78rpm disc set and later LP MG 20032 (1951)  
The records had introductions by John Snagge.

1) Two extracts from *Foaming At The Mouth*. 2) *Much Fiddling/The Navy*. 3) *The Army/The RAF*. 4) *Tomtopia/Home Again*. 5) *A Royal Occasion/The 300th Show*.

### Vintage Variety

BBC LP 134M (1973)

Includes an extract from V-ITMA

### ITMA

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1011 (1988)  
Includes the Army, Navy, RAF and Royal Command broadcasts, with most of the music removed.

### ITMA 2

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1697 (1995)  
Includes the episodes 7/4, 8/9, 8/25, 8/34 (V-ITMA)

## Bibliography

### ITMA Rhymes

by Dorothy Worsley, Clive Richardson & Tony Lowry  
(Ascherberg, Hopwood & Crew Ltd).

### Pilot Papers, including Anatomy Of ITMA

by Francis Worsley (Pilot Press, 1946)

### Tommy Handley In Holidayland

(paperback, 1946)

### ITMA 1939-1948

by Francis Worsley (Vox Mundi Ltd, 1948)

### The Last ITMA Script

by Ted Kavanagh (Riddle Books, 1949)

### Tommy Handley

by Ted Kavanagh (Hodder And Stoughton, 1949)

### Colonel Chinstrap

'biography' by Ted Kavanagh (Evans Brothers Ltd, 1952)

### Up And Down The Line

autobiography of Jack Train (Odhams, 1956)

### The ITMA Years

(Woburn Press, 1974)

A compilation of scripts: 2/13, 4/28, 5/8, 8/34, 9/17, 12/6

### Stepping Into The Spotlight

by Molly Weir (Hutchinson, 1975)

contains 57 pages devoted to ITMA

### That Man - A Memory Of Tommy Handley

by Bill Grundy (Elm Tree Books, 1976)

## Films

### It's That Man Again

1942 GFD/Gainsborough (84min, B/W)

Script by Howard Irving Young and Ted Kavanagh.

Tommy Handley, Jack Train, Greta Gynt, Deryck Guyler, Dorothy Summers, Horace Percival, Sidney Keith, Clarence Wright

The Mayor of *Foaming At The Mouth* has unwittingly invested the municipal funds in a bombed-out theatre. To provide employment for the resident acting school students, he stages a musical comedy.

### Tom Tom Topia

1946 short featuring the voice of Tommy Handley

no further details known

# MAN ABOUT THE HOUSE

## GEORGE AND MILDRED and ROBIN'S NEST

by Peter Tatchell

IN 1973, writers Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke (the men responsible for **Father Dear Father**, and contributors to the latter days of **Round The Horne**) had an idea for a sitcom about three young people sharing a flat. The twist was that two were girls and one was a guy, and though there would be lots of sexual repartee, nothing would actually happen.

Thames Television liked the idea and commissioned a series of seven half hours. The pivotal role of Robin Tripp (the thorn among the roses) was taken by one-time child actor Richard O'Sullivan, recently seen as sycophantic medico Lawrence Bingham in **Doctor At Large** and **Doctor In Charge**. His flatmates Chrissy and Jo were played by Paula Wilcox (who had partnered Richard Beckinsale in **The Lovers**) and Sally Thomsett (one of the participants in **The Railway Children**). Rounding out the cast, and to represent the older generation, were the landlords George and Mildred Roper (Brian Murphy and sitcom perennial Yootha Joyce).

The Ropers were an odd couple to be sure ... she, an over-age refugee from the swinging sixties (in thought and fashion), and he, a self-centred layabout (or, to use Mildred's description, a "nasty little toe-rag") with the mind of an adolescent and the manners of a five-year-old.

As the series begins, Jo and Chrissy are recovering from a wild sendoff party for the third girl in their flat (who is getting married). Amongst the flotsam littering the apartment they find cookery student Robin who has spent the night sleeping it off in the bathtub. In need of someone new to help share the rent, and enticed by his culinary skills, they suggest he move in ... but on the proviso he's only getting lodgings.

Thus began six seasons of comic byplay highlighting the romantic pursuits of the tenants upstairs and the marital bickerings of the landlords below. Along the way, we meet Robin's mate Larry (Doug Fisher), who arrives as an unwanted house guest before moving into the attic, and George's handyman friend Jerry (a classic Roy Kinnear's portrayal).

In 1974 the series spawned a spinoff movie (which premiered at Christmas) with all the original cast taking part, along with comedy greats Spike Milligan and Arthur Lowe, plus a gallery of sitcom faces.

In 1976, it was decided to allow **Man About The House** to evolve into two new series featuring the show's most popular characters. Would Robin finally get Chrissy to fall for him (after thirty-nine episodes of lustful pursuit) and ride off into a sequel? The writers thought not, and a mere three stories before the finale, introduced Robin's older brother, Norman, who falls head over heels for Chrissy and the pair tie the knot in the show's last edition (never to be heard of again).

Five months later, we see the Ropers moving up in the world to a more genteel neighbourhood. In **George And Mildred**, they find themselves keeping up with the Joneses (or, in this case, the Fourmileses) the economically-correct family next door. Wife Anne (Sheila Fearn) hits it off with Mildred from day one, but husband Jeffrey (played by Norman Eshley,

an actor who looks remarkably like the fellow who made off with Chrissy a mere sitcom ago) feels George is a waste of space, who's now residing far too near his space. To further populate matters, the Fourmiles have a precocious youngster, Tristram (Nicholas Bond-Owen).

With one set of antagonists not enough, the writers introduced a second pair, in the form of Mildred's snobbish sister Ethel and her well-off husband Humphrey (played by Avril Elgar and Reginald Marsh) who make several appearances throughout the show's run. Other plot advancements included a baby for the Fourmile family and George getting a job that suited his personality ... that of traffic warden.

In 1979, like its predecessor, **George And Mildred** made it to the big screen as well. The duo also appeared in a stage production (which eventually toured far-off Australia), though trivialists will note the pair first trod the boards as ugly sisters in the 1976 pantomime **Cinderella** at the London Palladium (which also starred Richard O'Sullivan as Buttons).

Unfortunately the series ended on a sad note, when Yootha Joyce died suddenly just before the movie was released, leaving her co-star (and millions of fans) stunned.

Meanwhile (back in 1977), Robin Tripp had survived the heartbreaking loss of his lady love by shacking up with an air hostess, Vicky (played by Tessa Wyatt) and launching his own restaurant **Robin's Nest**. (Apparently special permission from the I.B.A. had to be given before characters in a sitcom could be seen co-habiting before wedlock had been performed!)

Needing finance, Robin agrees to let her father, James Nicholls (Tony Britton), invest in the enterprise. The businessman feels a day-to-day involvement, keeping an eye on his daughter as well as his money, should be part of the deal.

Entering the fray, in search of employment, comes a one-armed Irishman Albert Riddle (played by two-armed actor David Kelly). Despite his handicap (in the hand department, there's a deficiency of one), he is engaged as dishwasher. Kelly had some wonderful black humour with the role ... on one occasion he's seen helping a customer on with his jacket and (by force of habit) puts the left sleeve in the leftside coat pocket.

Other participants included Nicholls's ex-wife, Marion (originally played by Honor Blackman, but later by Barbara Murray) and, after Robin and Vicky have duly married and in the best sitcom tradition had twins, restaurant help Gertrude (Peggy Aitchison), a love-interest for Albert.

Writers Mortimer and Cooke only provided storylines for about a quarter of the episodes as by 1978 they had moved on to oversee the U.S. version, **Three's Company** and its spinoffs **The Ropers** and **Three's A Crowd\***. For the British series, **Doctor In The House** alumnus George Layton and a plethora of other sitcom scripters contributed the majority of the plots.

**Robin's Nest** was the least popular of the three ventures but, strangely, yielded more episodes. When it concluded (in March 1981) the characters of Robin Tripp and the Ropers faded into video history.

\* For full details see *Come And Knock On Our Door* by Chris Mann (St. Martins Press paperback, 1998).

# Man About The House

all scripts by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke

## Season 1

ITV August 15 to September 26 1973 (7 x 25 min)

*Three's A Crowd*

Chrissy and Jo want Robin to move in but feel the only way the Ropers will agree is if they think he's gay

*And Mother Makes Four*

The girls want Robin to disappear when Chrissy's mother wants to stay for the night

*Some Enchanted Evening*

Chrissy wants Robin to prepare a meal to impress her date

*And Then There Were Two*

Chrissy is nervous when she's left alone in the flat with Robin

*It's Only Money*

When the rent money disappears, the flatmates have to come up with ideas to raise some cash

*Match Of The Day*

Robin's big chance of playing with the college football team is threatened by a dose of the flu

*No Children, No Dogs*

Robin is given a puppy which has to be hidden from the Ropers

\* **All Star Christmas Spectacular** (ITV December 25 1973) featured a short **Man About The House** segment

## Season 2

ITV January 9 to February 13 1974 (6 x 25 min)

*While The Cat's Away*

Robin and the girls throw a party while the Ropers are away

*Colour Me Yellow*

Robin appears a coward when threatened by a bully in the pub

*In Praise Of Older Men*

Chrissy feels frustrated with dating youths so decides to turn her attention to someone a bit more mature

*Did You Ever Meet Rommel?*

The flatmates aren't sure Mr. Roper will get on with their German dinner guest

*Two Foot Two, Eyes Of Blue*

While babysitting with Chrissy, Robin considers the romantic possibilities of the evening

*Carry Me Back To Old Southampton*

After failing his exams, Robin contemplates returning home to live with his family

## Season 3

ITV October 9 to November 20 1974 (7 x 25 min)

*Cuckoo In The Nest*

Robin's friend Larry causes trouble by moving in

*Come Into My Parlour*

Chrissy tries to wreck Robin's romantic evening

*I Won't Dance, Don't Ask Me*

Chrissy talks Robin into partnering her at the firm's dance

*Of Mice And Women*

The appearance of a mouse in the flats creates opportunities for both Robin and Mr. Roper

*Somebody Out There Likes Me*

Chrissy finds she has an unknown admirer, but who can it be?

*We Shall Not Be Moved*

Mr. Roper wants to turn the building into self-contained units

*Three Of A Kind*

Chrissy wants to join in Robin's all-male poker school

## Season 4

ITV March 6 to April 10 1975 (6 x 25 min)

*Home And Away*

Robin and Chrissy use Mr. Roper's decrepit car to drive to a football match out of town

*One For The Road*

There's trouble brewing when Mr. Roper makes his own beer

*All In The Game*

Mr. Roper hires Jerry to get rid of woodworm in the flats

*Never Give Your Real Name*

Larry has used Robin's name during a romantic encounter with a girl who is now pregnant

*The Tender Trap*

Chrissy's mum is eager for her daughter to get married

*My Son, My Son*

Robin has to pretend to be Mr. Roper's nonexistent son to thwart a tax investigation

## Season 5

ITV September 4 to October 9 1975 (6 x 25 min)

*The Last Picture Show*

Chrissy's home movie gets mixed up with Mr. Roper's adult one

*Right, Said George*

Chrissy agrees to teach Robin how to play the piano but moving the Roper's upright upstairs is not easy

*A Little Knowledge*

Robin takes a job as a door-to-door encyclopaedia salesman

*Love And Let Love*

When Robin interrupts Chrissy's romantic evening with her boyfriend, he wonders if she'll try to get even

*How Does Your Garden Grow?*

While clearing the garden, a strange looking weed is noticed

*Come Fly With Me*

George buys Mildred a female budgie as an anniversary present

## Season 6

ITV February 25 to April 7 1976 (7 x 25 min)

*The Party's Over*

Following an argument, Mildred walks out on George

*One More For The Pot*

When Mr. Roper announces he's putting up the rent, Robin and the girls consider taking in a fourth flatmate

*The Generation Game*

Robin's romantic dinner with Chrissy is interrupted with the arrival of two extra mouths to feed

*The Sunshine Boys*

The flatmates want to use Mr. Roper's sunlamp to prepare them for their holidays

*Mum Always Liked You Best*

The girls are fascinated to meet Robin's brother Norman

*Fire Down Below*

Robin and Norman fight it out over Chrissy's affections

*Another Bride, Another Groom*

Chrissy's wedding is thrown into turmoil when Robin drops the cake he has created

# George And Mildred

all scripts by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke

## Season 1

ITV September 6 to November 8 1976 (10 x 25 min)

*Moving On*

The Ropers move to a new house in middle-class suburbia but the neighbours aren't pleased

*The Bad Penny*

George's bath night is interrupted by the Fourmiles' invisible dog

*And Women Must Weep*

The Ropers need employment ... but Mildred ends up with the job

*Baby Talk*

George and Mildred consider adoption

*Your Money Or Your Life*

George is worried when he finds out he's more valuable to Mildred if he's dead

*Where My Caravan Has Rested*

George buys a ramshackle caravan

*The Little Dog Laughed*

George becomes jealous of Mildred's devotion to her dog and then accidentally loses it

*Best Foot Forward*

George blames Jeffrey Fourmile for his broken leg and intends to sue him

*My Husband Next Door*

When the Roper's television breaks down it's bad news for the neighbours

*Family Planning*

Mildred wants her elderly mother to move in, but George threatens to move out

## Season 2

ITV November 14 to December 26 1977 (7 x 25 min)

*Jumble Pie*

George is heartbroken at the loss of his budgie

*All Around The Clock*

George surprises Mildred with an unexpected anniversary present

*The Travelling Man*

A commercial traveller boards with the Ropers

*The Unkindest Cut Of All*

Mildred's well-off sister and her husband come to dinner

*The Right Way To Travel*

The Ropers consider joining the Conservative Party to get a cheap holiday

*The Dorothy Letters*

Mildred finds some secret letters George has written

*No Business Like Show Business*

The Ropers are to appear in a local stage production but Mildred loses her voice

## Season 3

ITV September 7 to October 12 1978 (6 x 25 min)

*Opportunity Knocks*

George tries to sell the house without Mildred's knowledge to finance a hare-brained scheme

*And So To Bed*

Mildred wants a new bed but George has been banned from the hire-purchase scheme

*I Believe In Yesterday*

Mildred renews acquaintance with an old wartime flame

*The Four-Letter Word*

George gets a job with his brother-in-law Humphrey, the wholesale offal merchant

*The Delivery Man*

George has to use his motorbike to take Anne to hospital

*Life With Father*

George's father doesn't like being a resident at the old folks' home

## Season 4

ITV November 16 to December 27 1978 (7 x 25 min)

*Just The Job*

George gets a job as a traffic warden

*Days Of Beer And Rosie*

Owing to a past indiscretion by George, it looks like Mildred has become a step-grandmother

*You Must Have Showers*

Jerry is hired to install Mildred's new shower

*All Work And No Pay*

George is sacked from his traffic warden job

*Nappy Days*

George manages to misplace the Fourmile's new baby

*The Mating Game*

George sees Truffles as a moneymaking proposition in providing pedigreed pups

*The Second Day Of Christmas*

The Ropers have had a most uninteresting Christmas

## Season 5

ITV October 24 and October 30 to December 25 1979 (repeats on Nov 20 and Dec 11) (8 x 25 min)

*In Sickness And In Health*

When Mildred unexpectedly arrives home from hospital, she finds George has a house guest

*Finders Keepers*

George somehow manages to remember it's their 25th wedding anniversary

*The Last Straw*

Still not feeling accepted in the local social set, Mildred decides to revisit the old neighbourhood

*A Driving Ambition*

Mildred pretends she is doing a fitness course but in reality is learning to drive

*A Military Pickle*

His brother Charlie insists George was an army deserter

*Fishy Business*

George takes up homing pigeons to replace his goldfish which has disappeared down a drain

*I Gotta Horse*

The Ropers think Mildred's china horse could be worth a lot of money

*Twenty-Six-Year Itch*

George has arranged some entertainment to keep him busy while Mildred is off to a Young Conservatives dinner dance

# Robin's Nest

scripts by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke (unless noted)

## Season 1

ITV January 11 to February 22 1977 (7 x 25 min)

*Sleeping Partners*

Robin has moved in with his air-hostess girlfriend Vicky

*The Bistro Kids*

The bistro's opening day is beset with problems, including a visit from the local health inspector

*A Little Competition*

The rivalry with the restaurant next door takes an unexpected turn

*The Material Triangle*

Vicky wants to introduce Robin to her mother

*Piggy In The Middle*

Vicky's father wants to redecorate the restaurant's interior

*A Matter Of Note*

A forged £10 note turns up at the bistro

*Oh, Happy Day*

Robin and Vicky decide to have a quiet relatives-free wedding at a registry office

## Season 2

ITV February 23 to March 30 1978 (6 x 25 min)

*As Long As He Needs Me*

Vicky has to tend to her father who has strained his back

*The Seven Pound Fiddle*

Mr. Nicholls sacks Albert when he thinks money has been stolen from the day's takings

*Ups And Downs*

Robin and Mr. Nicholls find themselves locked in the bistro's cellar

*Three Times Table*

The bistro adopts a continental flavour by putting tables on the footpath

*Great Expectations*

Marriage is again on the cards when Vicky believes she's pregnant

*Love And Marriage*

Robin and Vicky finally make it to the altar and think about cashing in Mr. Nicholls's present

## Season 3

ITV September 25 to December 1978 (13 x 25 min)

*You Need Hands* (by Bernard McKenna)

Mr. Nicholls hires an ageing pianist to perform at the bistro

*The Candidate* (by David Norton and Roger Taylor)

When Vicky's father runs in the council election he uses the restaurant as his headquarters

*Just Desserts* (by Bernard McKenna)

An old flame of Mr. Nicholls turns up at the bistro

*Away From All What?* (by Terence Brady and Charlotte Bingham)

Robin needs a replacement chef so he can have a holiday with Vicky

*England Expects* (by David Norton and Roger Taylor)

Mr. Nicholls arranges for Robin's Nest to be the venue for his regimental reunion

*Once Two Is Three* (by Jon Watkins)

Robin is considering opening a restaurant in far-away Brighton

*Dinner Date* (by Terence Feely)

Vicky's father rekindles romance with a ladyfriend who's been living overseas

*Everything You Wish Yourself* (by Willis Hall)

A mix-up in birthday dates causes confusion at the bistro

*Be It Ever So Humble* (by Ken Hoare)

Albert hands in his notice

*Day Trippers* (by Bernard McKenna)

Robin and Vicky's picnic is anything but peaceful

*The Long Distance Runner* (by Jon Watkins)

Suspicious are aroused when Robin suddenly takes up early-morning jogging

*At Harm's Length* (by Terence Brady and Charlotte Bingham)

Vicky believes her uncle is being unfaithful

*The Happy Hen* (by Dave Freeman)

Vicky's father buys the premises next door and sets up an omelette restaurant

## Season 4

ITV February 22 to April 5 1979 (7 x 25 min)

*Should Auld Acquaintance* (by Dave Freeman)

One of Robin's ex-girlfriends arrives to review the restaurant

*Person Friday Required* (by Adele Rose)

Vicky thinks she is being taken for granted so gets another job

*Lost Weekend* (by Adele Rose)

A holiday to Portugal is interrupted by a visit from Vicky's mother

*Too Many Waiters Spoil The Bistro* (by Bernard McKenna)

When a new waiter is required, everyone hires an applicant

*September Song* (by George Layton)

Vicky's father is feeling old and needs cheering up

*Sorry Partner* (by David Norton and Roger Taylor)

Nicholls and his sporting partner are chasing the same ladyfriend

*Albert's Ball* (by Richard Waring and Gail Renard)

After twelve months' employment at the bistro, Albert is hoping for an anniversary party

## Christmas Special

ITV December 27 1979 (25 min)

*Christmas At Robin's Nest* (by George Layton)

## Season 5

ITV January 8 to February 12 1980 (6 x 25 min)

*Pastures New* (by George Layton)

With Albert no longer washing the dishes, Vicky's father is forced to lend a hand

*A Man Of Property* (by George Layton)

Robin begins looking for a bigger house for when the baby arrives

*If You Pass "Go" Collect 200* (by George Layton)

Robin decides to buy out his father-in-law's stake in the bistro

*Never Look A Gift Horse* (by Adele Rose)

Nicholls ex-wife wants to shower the baby with presents

*Just An Old-Fashioned Girl* (by Adele Rose)

The bistro becomes a hotbed of romance

*Great Expectations* (by George Layton)

Vicky seems to be the only one remaining calm about the upcoming birth



## Christmas Special

ITV December 24 1980 (25 min)

*No Room At The Inn*

Vicky's mother is forced to stay with her ex-husband when she comes to visit the twins

## Season 6

ITV February 17 to March 31 1981 (7 x 25 min)

*Move Over Darling* (by George Layton)

Robin employs someone to take over Vicky's bistro duties

*The Homecoming* (by George Layton)

Rivalry erupts over whose car should be used to bring home Vicky and the twins

*No Smoke Without Fire* (by George Layton)

Albert is under the impression Vicky's father is having an affair with Gertrude

*When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* (by George Layton)

In need of a break, Robin and Vicky decide to move in with Mr. Nicholls

*Anniversary Waltz* (by George Layton)

A coach party has booked the bistro on the night of Robin and Vicky's anniversary

*Wish You Weren't Here* (by George Layton)

Vicky's father employs a temporary chef with unfortunate consequences

*The Head Hunters Of S.W.6* (by George Layton)

Robin has been offered a job with a big multinational firm

## Record

**Cinderella And Dick Whittington**

Polydor LP 2478093 (1975)

Features Brian Murphy & Yootha Joyce as George & Mildred

**Laugh Magazine**

## Movies

**Man About The House** (E.M.I./Hammer, 1974. 90 minutes) starring the television cast, plus Peter Cellier, Patrick Newell, Spike Milligan, Arthur Lowe, Aimi McDonald, Jack Smethurst, Bill Pertwee, Melvyn Hayes, Michael Robbins, Bill Maynard and Julian Orchard

**George And Mildred** (Chips/I.T.C., 1980. 93 minutes) starring the television cast, plus Stratford Johns and Kenneth Cope

## Books

**Man About The House** by Johnnie Mortimer, Brian Cooke and Chris Barlas (Severn House hardback, 1977)

**George And Mildred** by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke (Severn House hardback, Arrow paperback, 1977) novelisation (by Roger Bowdler) of the first ten episodes

**Robin's Nest** by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke (Severn House hardback, Arrow paperback, 1977) novelisation (by Roger Bowdler) of the first seven episodes

## Videos

**Man About The House**

Three's A Crowd/And Mother Makes Four/Match Of The Day/No Children, No Dogs

**George And Mildred**

Moving On/The Bad Penny

Jumble Pie/All Around The Clock/The Unkindest Cut Of All

Where My Caravan Has Rested/etc.

# GEORGE CARLIN

by Peter Tatchell



**F**OR over forty years George Carlin has been delighting comedy fans with his clever wordplays and incisive wit. Along the way, he's pushed the boundaries of subject matter and language, as he progressed from a standard fifties double act to the controversial thinking man's comic of the nineties.

Born in New York in 1937, George started out as a radio disc jockey in the late 1950s but when he met comedian Jack Burns, the pair teamed up and played the nightclub circuit for several years (even producing an LP). Going solo in 1962, Carlin appeared on many television shows of the period (including a minor role on the sitcom **That Girl**) and his performing style began to change.

By 1970, his use of unacceptable language and penchant for including political comments made him unwelcome at the more traditional venues like Las Vegas casinos and Playboy clubs and he began appearing at rock concerts and other outdoor events. A 1972 performance led to a charge of disorderly conduct (later dropped) and the broadcasting of a Carlin commercial recording caused a radio station to be fined.

George's peripatetic lifestyle and use of drugs contributed to a heart attack in the mid-1980s but (unlike fellow comedian Richard Pryor) he preferred not to incorporate his private problems into his act. At the time he ventured into print with a book containing much of his wit and attitude to twentieth century existence.

Carlin's lifelong ambition has been to appear in movies (Danny Kaye was an early role model) but apart from a few supporting roles in such films as the **Bill And Ted** adventures, success there has so far eluded him. In the early 1990s he starred in his own television sitcom which gained only a limited audience, surviving for just two half-seasons.

As he approaches his sixth decade of performing, George is back doing what he does best ... performing to live audiences who delight at a man whose fascination with the English language and perplexities of life can consistently tickle their brain cells.

## Recordings

**At The Playboy Club Tonight** Era LP EL-103

= **The Original George Carlin** Era LP E-600

= **Killer Carlin** Laff LP A 219, Uproar CD 3664-2

*Disc also features Jack Burns: Mothers Club/Killer Carlin/Captain Jack & Jolly George/War Pictures/Herb Coolhouse (aka The Cool World)/Edward R. Murrow (aka Person To Person)/Lenny Bruce - Mort Sahl (aka The Sickest)*

**Take Offs And Put Ons** (1967)

R.C.A. LP LPM/LSP 3772, ANL1-1086, Camden CAS 2566, One Way CD OW 34498

Wonderful WINO (Top-40 Disc Jockey)/Commercials/Daytime Television/The Newscast/The Indian Sergeant

Wonderful Wino/Al Sleet, Your Hippy-Dippy Weatherman R.C.A. single 47-9110

**The Sullivan Years -Comedy Classics** (1991)

TVT Records CD TVT 9432-2

*features the Carlin appearance of February 28 1971*

**FM & AM** (1971)

Little David LP LD 7214

Shoot/The Hair Piece/Sex In Commercials/Drugs/Birth Control/Son Of Wino/Divorce Game/Ed Sullivan Self Taught/Let's Make A Deal/The 11 O'Clock News

**Class Clown** (1972)

Little David LP LD 1004

Class Clown: Bi-Labial Fricative + Attracting Attention + Squeamish/Wasted Time - Sharing A Swallow/Values (How Much Is That Dog Crap In The Window?)/I Used To Be Irish Catholic/The Confessional/Special Dispensation - Heaven, Hell, Purgatory And Limbo/Heavy Mysteries/Muhammad Ali - America The Beautiful/Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television

**Occupation: Foole** (1973)

Little David LP LD 1005

Welcome To My Job/Occupation: Foole/White Harlem/The Hallway Groups/Black Consciousness/New York Voices/Grass Swept The Neighborhood/Childhood Cliches/Cute Little Farts/Raisin Rhetoric/Filthy Words

**Toledo Window Box** (1974)

Little David LP LD 3003, 90129

Goofy Shit/Toledo Window Box/Nursery Rhymes/Some Werds/Water Sez/The Metric System/God/Gay Lib/Shot, The Original Rubber Cement/Urinals Are 50 Percent Universal/A Few More Farts

**Here's Johnny - Magic Moments From The Tonight Show** Casablanca 2LP SPNB 1296 (1974)

*features the Carlin track Morningside Heights*

**An Evening With Wally Londo Featuring Bill Slaszo** (1975)

Little David LP LD 1008

New News/Teenage Masturbation/Mental Hot Fots/High On The Plane/Bodily Functions/ Wurds/For Names' Sake/Baseball - Football/ Good Sports/Flesh Colored Band-Aids/ Religious Lift/Radio Dial/Y'Ever/Unrelated Things



### **On The Road (1977)**

Little David LP LD 1075

On The Road/Death And Dying (Laugh? I Thought I'd Die + Suicide And Reincarnation + The Funeral + Random Thoughts On The Perfect Murder, The Last Meal, And Flashbacks + Two Minute Warning)/Head Lines/Kids Are Too Small/Rules, Rules, Rules!/Parents' Cliches And Children's Secret Answers/Words We Leave Behind/How's Your Dog/Supermarkets

### **A Place For My Stuff (1981)**

Atlantic LP SD 19326

Acknowledgements/Opening - A Place For My Stuff/First Announcements/Have A Nice Day/Rice Krispies/Second Announcements/ Interview With Jesus/Join The Book Club/ Abortion/Third Announcements/Ice Box Man/Fourth Announcements/Asshole, Jackoff, Scumbag/Fifth Announcements/Fussy Eater - part 1/Sixth Announcements/Fussy Eater-part 2

### **Carlin On Campus (1984)**

Atlantic/Eardrum Records LP ED 1001

Opening Sequence/The Prayer/First Leftfielders/Moment Of Silence/Second Leftfielders/Breakfast Wine And Who's Boss/ Third Leftfielders/Baseball And Football/Fourth Leftfielders/ Cars And Driving/An Incomplete List Of Impolite Words

### **Playin' With Your Head (1986)**

Atlantic/Eardrum LP 90523, CD 90972-2

Hello - Goodbye/Love And Regards/Groups And Charities/ Sports/Five Twos/Losing Things/You're Lost/Missing/ Earrings/Battered Plants/Things To Watch Out For

### **The Best Of Comic Relief (1986)**

Rhino LP RNIN 70704 (includes new performance of Stuff)

### **What Am I Doing In New Jersey (1988)**

Atlantic/Eardrum CD 90972-2

Reagan's Gang, Church People and American Values/Keeping People Alert/People I Can Do Without/More Stuff On Cars & Driving: Intro. & Toll Booths, New Jersey & License Plates, Bumper Stickers, Baby On Board, Red Lights & Tickets, Joggers & Bicycles, The Other Cars

### **Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics (1990)**

Atlantic/Eardrum CD 91593-2

Offensive Language/I Ain't Afraid Of Cancer/Some People Are Stupid/Rape Can Be Funny/Feminist Blowjob/Good Ideas/ Things You Never See/Things You Never Hear/Things You Don't Wanna Hear/Life's Little Moments/I Love My Dog/ Organ Donor Programs/Don't Pull The Plug On Me/They're Only Words/Euphemisms

### **The Best Of Comic Relief '90 (1990)**

Rhino CD R2 71010 (includes one Carlin track)

### **Jammin' In New York (1992)**

Atlantic/Eardrum CD 92221-2

Rockets And Penises In The Persian Gulf/Little Things We Share/Airline Announcements/Golf Courses For The Homeless/The Planet Is Fine

### **Back In Town (1996)**

Atlantic/Eardrum CD 92728-2

Abortion/Santity Of Life/Capitol Punishment/State Prison Farms/Farting In Public/Familiar Expressions/Free-Floating Hostility

*the following discs repackage material previously released ...*

### **Indecent Exposure (1978)**

Little David LP LD 1076

*from FM & AM, Class Clown, Occupation: Foole, Toledo Window Box and An Evening With Wally Londo:*

Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television/Sex In Commercials/Bodily Functions/Cute Little Farts/The Confessional/Teenage Masturbation/Urinals Are 50 Percent Universal/Filthy Words

### **The George Carlin Collection (1984)**

Little David LP 90241

*from Class Clown, Occupation Foole, On The Road, Toledo Window Box and An Evening With Wally Londo:*

Occupation Foole/I Used To Be Irish Catholic/New York Voices/High On The Plane/Headlines/Goofy Shit/Class Clown/ Nursery Rhymes/For Names Sake/News Hostility Scoreboard (extract from New News)

### **Classic Gold (1992)**

Atlantic/Eardrum 2CDs 92219-2

*reissue of Occupation: Foole, FM & AM and Class Clown*

## **Book**

### **Sometimes A Little Brain Damage Can Help**

by George Carlin (1984)

## **Television**

### **THE GEORGE CARLIN SHOW**

#### **Season One (14 episodes)**

- 16 Jan 1994 When Unexpected Things Happen To George
- 23 Jan 1994 George Sees An Airplane
- 6 Feb 1994 George Goes On A Date, Part 1
- 13 Feb 1994 George Goes On A Date, Part 2
- 20 Feb 1994 George Helps Sydney
- 27 Feb 1994 George Expresses Himself
- 6 Mar 1994 George Gets Some Money
- 20 Mar 1994 George Destroys A Way Of Life
- 27 Mar 1994 George Loses His Thermos
- 10 Apr 1994 George Digs Rock & Roll Music
- 24 Apr 1994 George Uses Some Words
- 1 May 1995 George Becomes A Hostage
- 8 May 1995 George Plays Pinball
- 15 May 1995 George Steals A Statue

#### **Season Two (13 episodes)**

- 16 Oct 1994 George Meets His Son
- 23 Oct 1994 George Gets A Parcel
- 30 Oct 1994 George Gets Caught In The Act
- 6 Nov 1994 George Tags Along
- 13 Nov 1994 George Needs Passengers
- 27 Nov 1994 George And The New Look
- 4 Dec 1994 George Is Contagious
- 11 Dec 1994 George's Two Wives
- 18 Dec 1994 George Gets Evicted  
(aka George Does A Bad Thing)
- 25 Dec 1994 George Is Nice To Customers
- 1 Jan 1995 George Gets Struck By Lightning  
(aka George Helps A Friend)
- 9 Jul 1995 George Tells The Truth
- 16 Jul 1995 George Learns A Secret

# HEY DAD..!

by Matthew K. Sharp

It is, by now, a generally accepted fact that Australians cannot “do” sitcoms. So how was it that a locally produced program managed not only to thrive, but also to become the fourth longest running sitcom in the world?

The **Hey Dad..!** story started in 1985. Gary Reilly, with writing partner Tony Sadler, had had several successes with **The Naked Vicar Show** and **Kingswood Country**. By 1985 both of these shows had ceased production, and follow-up attempts had proved less than successful. The longstanding partnership split, and the pair went their separate ways.

The sitcom successes of the mid 1980s were imported family sitcoms from the USA: **Family Ties**, **Who's The Boss**, **Growing Pains**, and a plethora of also-rans. Gary Reilly had the wisdom to see that an Australian version of this genre could have potential, and, with John Flanagan, created **Hey Dad..!**

A pilot episode was taped in September 1985, and the Seven Network, displaying all the enthusiasm for new projects that Australian television is noted for, waited only a year before deciding to commission a series, and the finished product hit the screens at the start of the 1987 season.

The initial line-up of **Hey Dad..!** (note the punctuation) featured Robert Hughes as Martin Kelly, a widower struggling to bring up three children and renew his love life whilst running an architectural business from home. The entire show usually took place all on the one set (albeit divided, left to right, into office, lounge room and kitchen), contributing a somewhat claustrophobic element to proceedings. Only rarely was another location seen, and there was no outside footage. (Even the exterior shots of the house were done using a model.)

Martin had the unfortunate luck to hire a family member as his secretary. As played by Julie MacGregor, Cousin Betty Wilson (from the country town of Walgett) was an extension of the dumb secretary roles she had previously essayed in **The Naked Vicar Show**; in fact, she took dumb-secretary-ness to new heights. One of the high points of any episode would be the inevitable conflict between Martin and Betty, often revolving around her reasons for being late each morning, her inability to pronounce big words (such as “setch-etary” and “archy-ect”), or her need to hear the phrase “Pencils ready, commence” before taking dictation. Martin also failed to appreciate Betty’s interminable tales of country life. These parts of the show were popular enough to be put on CD; and a book, *Betty Wilson’s Secretarial Companion* was released.

The three children were Simon (played by Paul Smith) and Debbie (Simone Buchanan), both teenagers; and the much younger Jenny (Sarah Monahan), included because small cute kids are an inevitable part of the genre. This line-up did not last long - at the end of the first year, Simon went on a trip to America, and came back looking completely different (as he was now played by Christopher Mayer). Not even Simon’s best friend, Nudge (Christopher Truswell) noticed the difference - but then he was not exactly the most perceptive person in the world. Nudge proved to be an extremely popular element in the show (in those days stupidity in a character seemed to guarantee popularity).

At the end of 1990, Simone Buchanan expressed a wish to



leave, but was lured back to tape a few final farewell episodes. To fill the role of “teenage girl” and thus preserve the balance, the writers introduced Samantha (Rachael Beck), a niece of Martin’s who stayed with the Kellys whilst her father worked in Hong Kong. Cast changes continued throughout 1991 — Chris Truswell asked to be written out, and was replaced by Ben Oxenbould as Ben, a university football star with slipping grades whom Simon was tutoring. Initially, Ben was shy and had a stutter, but these traits were dropped as the character became more integral to the show.

Also introduced around this time was six-year old Arthur McArthur, played by Matthew Krok; or, as most of Australia will remember him, “the little fat kid from Hey Dad”. Arthur took on the role of Martin’s junior nemesis after Nudge’s departure.

The final cast change of 1991 came at the end of the year, with Christopher Mayer also electing to leave (the Ben character would eventually move in to the Kelly house and fill that role), so that by the time the next season started, the show had an almost completely new cast. Of the children, only Sarah Monahan stayed on as Jenny, and even she left at the start of 1993. After a short spell at boarding school, she returned four weeks later played by Angela Keep (the moral of the story being: don’t go away, or you’ll come back different).

The show, by this stage, was beginning to slip in popularity, partially due to the repetition that comes from sheer longevity (for example, the plots of episodes 55 and 204 are almost identical), but mainly because family sitcoms were passé. The new style of sitcom, exemplified by **Seinfeld**, **The Simpsons**, or **Mad About You**, had arrived, leaving the gently zany goings-on in the Kelly household looking a little old-hat.

The final straw came with the departure at the end of the 1993 season of both Martin Hughes and Rachael Beck. By this stage, only Julie MacGregor remained from the cast of episode 1, and the Seven Network were unsure whether the public would take to the new faces, architect Greg Russell (Mark Owen-Taylor) and his daughter Tracey (Belinda Emmett). The writing was on the wall, and when the 291st episode was announced as the last, no-one was surprised.

It had been a long run, and although **Hey Dad..!** is often referred to with contempt, it does in fact stand up rather well as an example of the genre. Mid-afternoon repeats have assured that the show has not slipped completely out of the public eye five years after it was cancelled, and it is sure to be a re-run perennial for many years to come.

# Episode Guide

Series 1: 39 x 30 mins. (Dates for ATN-7 Sydney)

- 1 **Just A Formality** (Feb 11 1987)  
Debbie's formal threatens to be a disaster, despite help from Betty & Nudge.
- 2 **Post Early For Charisma** (Feb 18 1987)  
Nudge goes on a diet to improve his charisma.
- 3 **Home From The Hills** (Feb 25 1987)  
Martin's mother returns from trekking in Tibet.
- 4 **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink** (Mar 4 1987)  
Betty goes for a role in *The Sound Of Music*, and Nudge sleeps over.
- 5 **The Firing Line** (Mar 11 1987)  
Martin asks Betty to leave, and Nudge has a Sesame Street fixation.
- 6 **Meet Hector The Piano** (Mar 18 1987)  
Betty finds a flat and is reunited with one of her prize possessions.
- 7 **Battle Stations** (Mar 25 1987)  
A rainy day increases the tensions in the Kelly house.
- 8 **Sic In Transit** (Apr 1 1987)  
Martin's Day of the Year becomes more memorable with family aid.
- 9 **Licence To Kill** (Apr 8 1987)  
Nudge tries for a driver's licence and Debbie tries to leave school.
- 10 **Fair Cop** (Apr 15 1987)  
Martin joins Neighbourhood Watch after meeting Sergeant Anne Burke.
- 11 **Country Cousin** (Apr 22 1987)  
The Kellys recall their first meeting with Betty.
- 12 **One For The Road** (Apr 29 1987)  
Simon is in trouble when he smashes the Volvo after being in a pub.
- 13 **Justice I Suspected** (May 6 1987)  
Nudge is arrested by the police and put on trial.
- 14 **In The Mode** (May 13 1987)  
Plans for Simon's birthday party come adrift when Debbie wants new clothes.
- 15 **The Dating Game** (May 20 1987)  
Nudge acts as a matchmaker between Martin and Sergeant Anne.
- 16 **Sulky Jenny, Flipper And Hamlet** (May 27 1987)  
Betty takes up a new hobby which creates chaos in the house.
- 17 **Stan The Man** (Jun 3 1987)  
Betty's boyfriend Stan Hickey (Bill Young) arrives to claim her as his bride.

*Note: From episode 18 onwards, the show was networked. HSV-7 Melbourne had shown episodes 1-10 on Apr 1 to Jun 3 1987. Episode 11 shown in Melbourne on Aug 26 1987; episode 12 on Feb 1 1989; and episodes 13-17 on Dec 2-6 1991.*

- 18 **Leader Of The Pack** (Jun 10 1987)  
Simon's best friend becomes more interested in motorbikes than their friendship.
- 19 **Do The Right Thing** (Jun 17 1987)  
Simon has to decide if he should do in a drug dealer at school.
- 20 **Matinee Idle** (Jun 24 1987)  
Concerned about violence on TV, Martin books a holiday without television.
- 21 **Mum's The Word** (Jul 1 1987)  
Martin plans to sell the house, but hasn't told the children.
- 22 **Cop This Lot** (Jul 8 1987)  
Martin continues his relationship with Sergeant Anne Burke.
- 23 **Nudge The Love God** (Jul 15 1987)  
Nudge fall in love with a new girl at school.
- 24 **Jono And Dano Meet Nudgo The Magnificent** (Jul 22 1987)  
Simon, Debbie and Nudge appear on a TV game show.
- 25 **Democracy At Work** (Jul 29 1987)  
Nudge and Simon are worried about how to vote in the election.
- 26 **Panda Monium** (Aug 5 1987)  
With exams looming, Simon is studying hard, but Nudge doesn't care.
- 27 **Nun Today Thank You** (Aug 12 1987)  
The Kellys find themselves face to face with a nine year old nun.
- 28 **As Time Goes By** (Sep 2 1987)  
Martin thinks he's having a mid-life crisis.
- 29 **Mumps The Word** (Sep 9 1987)  
Martin tries to contact his mother, but she's deep in the Amazon.
- 30 **Horror Scope** (Sep 16 1987)  
Journalist Nudge thinks he's found a scoop.
- 31 **Cyberphobia** (Sep 23 1987)  
Martin is resisting Debbie's attempts to modernise the office.
- 32 **Tycoon Nudge** (Sep 30 1987)  
Nudge makes his entrance into the world of high finance.
- 33 **Tall Tales But True** (Oct 7 1987)  
The return of Stan Hickey brings bad news for Betty.
- 34 **Not The Volvo** (Oct 14 1987)  
The Volvo is stolen, and no-one but Martin cares.

- 35 **A Laws Unto Himself** (Oct 21 1987)  
Nudge enters the art world. (Guest: John Laws)
- 36 **Debbie's Debut** (Oct 28 1987)  
Nudge incorrectly thinks he's taking Debbie to her debutante ball.
- 37 **A Friend Indeed** (Nov 4 1987)  
Martin feels he needs a change of image.
- 38 **Everything Must Go** (Nov 11 1987)  
Martin's garage sale is a bit light-on for customers.
- 39 **Affair Of The Heart** (Nov 18 1987)  
Nudge finally has some success in the romance stakes.

Series 2: 39 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)

- 40 **Home At Last** (Feb 10 1988)  
Simon arrives back from his trip to America.
- 41 **Plumbers Do It Better!** (Feb 17 1988)  
Nudge isn't worried about his HSC results, because he has a job lined up.
- 42 **Cat-Astrophe** (Feb 24 1988)  
Martin is locked in endless struggle with a local cat.
- 43 **Working Bee** (Mar 2 1988)  
Martin is offered a job away from home, and Nudge becomes a banker.
- 44 **Phone Home If You Can** (Mar 9 1988)  
Martin has trouble getting Telecom to fix the phone service.
- 45 **Sorry! Wrong Answer** (Mar 16 1988)  
Martin gets an answering machine for the office.
- 46 **Follow That Wave** (Mar 23 1988)  
Simon and Nudge teach Martin and Debbie how to surf.
- 47 **The Love Triangle** (Mar 30 1988)  
Martin finds himself the object of a beautiful client's affections.
- 48 **Suspicious Stan** (Apr 6 1988)  
Stan thinks Betty is having an affair, and tries to catch her in the act.
- 49 **Turning Japanese** (Apr 13 1988)  
Betty takes up Japanese to improve her chances at an audition.
- 50 **Tycoon Debbie** (Apr 20 1988)  
Debbie starts a business designing T-shirts.
- 51 **With Love - Nudge** (Apr 27 1988)  
Simon tutors Nudge in the art of writing love letters.
- 52 **The Party** (May 4 1988)  
Simon and Debbie throw a party while Martin is away on business.
- 53 **Get Crook Soon** (May 11 1988)  
Nudge and Debbie think of a way to amass a quick fortune.
- 54 **Paris Or Bust** (May 18 1988)  
Debbie wants to study in Paris, but Martin forbids it.
- 55 **Feast Or Famine** (May 25 1988)  
Simon, Nudge and Debbie take part in the Forty Hour Famine.
- 56 **Safety Last** (Jun 1 1988)  
A spate of burglaries gives the Kellys reason to worry about Betty.
- 57 **For The Love Of Art** (Jun 8 1988)  
Martin is worried when Jenny takes to reading romance novels.
- 58 **Make My Day** (Jun 15 1988)  
The family is stunned when Simon announces his engagement.
- 59 **Designer Love** (Jun 22 1988)  
Betty and Jenny turn their hands to redecorating Martin's office.
- 60 **Bash And Trash** (Jun 29 1988)  
Nudge teaches Jenny how to be a lady, and Betty writes a romance novel.
- 61 **Simon Says** (Jul 6 1988)  
Simon and Nudge express their disapproval of Debbie's new boyfriend.
- 62 **Strike Me Lucky** (Jul 13 1988)  
Betty goes on strike, and Simon and Nudge buy a Volkswagen.
- 63 **How Green Is My Volksy?** (Jul 20 1988)  
Nudge finds himself homeless.
- 64 **The Black And White Blues** (Jul 27 1988)  
Debbie plots to get mentioned in a newspaper's social column.
- 65 **Chain Of Iron** (Aug 3 1988)  
Betty in concerned after she receives a chain letter in the mail.
- 66 **Home Sweet Home** (Aug 10 1988)  
Nudge moves into his own flat, and asks Debbie how to impress girls.
- 67 **Just Being Neighborly** (Aug 31 1988)  
Martin falls in love when a new neighbour moves in.
- 68 **Shopping For Love** (Sep 7 1988)  
Martin has a date with a woman he met in the supermarket.
- 69 *title unknown* (Sep 14 1988)  
Debbie finds out the identity of Jenny's secret friend.
- 70 **Up, Up And Away** (Sep 21 1988)  
Martin has a dream come true, and Betty goes into business with Nudge.
- 71 **Share And Share Alike** (Sep 28 1988)  
Simon and Nudge have difficulty sharing the Volkswagen.
- 72 **VW For Sale** (Oct 5 1988)  
Martin finds a solution to the arguments over the Volkswagen.

73 **Up The Well Known Creek** (Oct 12 1988)  
Simon, Nudge and Debbie plan a river trip.

74 **My Affair Lady** (Oct 19 1988)  
Betty is convinced she's having an affair with the local greengrocer.

75 **Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind** (Oct 26 1988)  
Debbie refuses to admit she's having trouble with her vision.

76 **Keep Taking The Meditation** (Nov 2 1988)  
Debbie, Simon and Nudge find the way to enlightenment.

77 **Timely Fashion** (Nov 9 1988)  
With firings on the horizon, Simon and Nudge try to impress their boss.

78 **Once A Knight Is Enough** (Nov 16 1988)  
The stakes are high when Martin takes part in a game of chess.

**Series 3: 40 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)**

79 **Tree's Company** (Feb 8 1989)  
Martin is commissioned to build a Bicentennial monument.

80 **A Losing Battle** (Feb 15 1989)  
Jenny wants Martin and Betty to attend her parent-teacher night.

81 **The Girl On The Cutting Room Floor** (Feb 22 1989)  
Debbie gets a role in a soft drink commercial.

82 **The Late Miss Kelly** (Mar 1 1989)  
Debbie gets home late and incurs Martin's wrath.

83 **A Question Of Royalty** (Mar 8 1989)  
Nudge thinks he's adopted and may be of royal descent.

84 **Generation Scrap** (Mar 15 1989)  
Betty becomes fixated by a new electric pencil sharpener.

85 **May The Farce Be With You** (Mar 22 1989)  
Betty uses a crystal to try to bring peace and harmony to the household.

86 **Three's A Crowd** (Mar 29 1989)  
Debbie and Jenny are unwilling to share a room.

87 **For The Love Of Martin** (Apr 5 1989)  
Martin meets his soulmate, and Betty thinks Stan has been unfaithful.

88 **Kissing Cousins** (Apr 12 1989)  
The household gets a shock when another relative from the country arrives.

89 **Betty's Better Letterhead** (Apr 19 1989)  
Betty takes it upon herself to redesign the office stationery.

90 **Job For The Boy** (Apr 26 1989)  
Martin is talked into giving Simon a job in the office.

91 **That's Shoe Biz** (May 3 1989)  
Debbie wants a clothing allowance, and Stan proposes marriage to Betty.

92 **Betty's Wedding, Part 1** (May 10 1989)  
The whole household prepares for Betty's marriage to Stan.

93 **Betty's Wedding, Part 2** (May 17 1989)  
Stan isn't sure he can go through with the wedding.

94 **The Double Date** (May 24 1989)  
Nudge receives lessons in etiquette from Debbie.

95 **The Beat Goes Wrong** (May 31 1989)  
Simon and Nudge develop an interest in drumming.

96 **Banana Republic Blues** (Jun 7 1989)  
Martin is confused when he gets a cheque written on a banana.

97 **Family Law** (Jun 14 1989)  
Jenny is fed up with the family and tries to divorce them.

98 **Visiting Rights** (Jun 21 1989)  
The rest of the family is upset when Martin allows cousin Elaine to stay.

99 **Guess Who's Not Coming To Dinner** (Jun 28 1989)  
*(details unknown)*

100 **Kiss And Make-Up** (Jul 5 1989)  
Martin hires his neighbour Jeanette to do some decorating for a client.

101 **Phantom On The Roof** (Jul 12 1989)  
Nudge enters a TV quiz show, with The Phantom comic as his special subject.

102 **Democracy Rules K.O.** (Jul 19 1989)  
Jenny nominates for school captain, and Simon has trouble enrolling at Uni.

103 **Never An Idol Moment** (Jul 26 1989)  
Betty searches for a new role model.

104 **Ol' Black Thumb Is Back** (Aug 9 1989)  
Martin has the kiss of death where his indoor plants are concerned.

105 **Time Healeys All Wounds** (Aug 16 1989)  
Martin is tempted to purchase an Austin Healey sports car.

106 **The Name Rings A Bell** (Aug 23 1989)  
Nudge and Betty install a new, more powerful electronic doorbell.

107 **Crime And Punishment** (Aug 30 1989)  
Betty is evacuated when a flash flood hits her flat.

108 **Stop Thief** (Sep 6 1989)  
Betty wants a company car, but ends up on the wrong side of the law.

109 **Say A Little Prayer For Me!** (Sep 13 1989)  
Simon turns to religion, and Jenny cleans up on the stock market.

110 **Here's Mud In Your Eye** (Sep 20 1989)  
Unable to get a company car, Betty finds a new way to get to work.

111 **In The Name Of Art** (Sep 27 1989)  
Martin takes up painting as a hobby, but his efforts aren't appreciated.

112 **Finders Speakers** (Oct 4 1989)  
Nudge earns some extra money by selling stolen hifi equipment.

113 **Room To Let** (Oct 11 1989)  
Nudge offers to take over Simon's room when Simon moves out.

114 **A Finite Romance** (Oct 18 1989)  
Betty decides to put a stop to Martin and Jeanette's romance.

115 **The Cluck Of The Draw** (Oct 25 1989)  
Nudge gets into trouble working for a fast food company.

116 **Time Out** (Nov 1 1989)  
Betty decides to create a time capsule and starts filming everyone.

117 **Colour My World** (Nov 8 1989)  
Simon takes steps to stop Debbie and Jenny borrowing his clothes.

118 **Knocked Off** (Nov 15 1989)  
Debbie looks forward to finally becoming mobile.

**Series 4: 39 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)**

119 **You May Quote Me** (Jan 31 1990)  
Martin lets Simon and Nudge have a look at the plumbing.

120 **The Fax Of Life** (Feb 7 1990)  
A series of strange fax messages attracts Betty's interest.

121 **Scratch My Back** (Feb 14 1990)  
The entire household gets struck down with chicken pox.

122 **Debbie Does Taurus** (Feb 21 1990)  
Debbie takes up astrology, and Martin decides to build a shed.

123 **Type Casting** (Feb 28 1990)  
Martin replaces Betty with a new secretary.

124 **Doctor Betty, I Presume** (Mar 7 1990)  
Betty studies first aid, but her enthusiasm is overwhelming.

125 **Welcome To Our Lovely Home** (Mar 14 1990)  
Nudge plans a party for the Kellys - at their own house.

126 **Viva La Difference** (Mar 21 1990)  
Debbie is sick of being conservative and tries something new.

127 **Love Stinks** (Mar 28 1990)  
Nudge has problems when he falls for his University lecturer.

128 **Credit Where Credit's Due** (Apr 4 1990)  
Betty gets a credit card, but sinks further and further into debt.

129 **Power Crazy** (Apr 11 1990)  
Betty takes an assertiveness course, and Martin is stunned by the results.

130 **Ask Me No Questions** (Apr 18 1990)  
Martin is tricked into appearing on a quiz programme.

131 **A Mind For Business** (Apr 25 1990)  
Betty announces her intention to improve her mind.

132 **Nostradamus Nudge** (May 2 1990)  
Nudge thinks he has the power to see into the future.

133 **The Bald Facts** (May 9 1990)  
Simon is concerned that he may be thinning up top.

134 **Left At The Post** (May 16 1990)  
Betty suspects that she is really left-handed.

135 **Seducer In The Kitchen** (May 23 1990)  
Simon attempts to make a meal from the Seducer's Cookbook.

136 **The Donkey Vote** (May 30 1990)  
Elections for school council cause a division between Simon and Nudge.

137 **Lovesick** (Jun 6 1990)  
Jenny finds herself the recipient of unwanted attention from the local paperboy.

138 **Jobs For The Boys** (Jun 13 1990)  
Martin takes on a job at an architectural firm and fires Betty.

139 **Writing Wrongs** (Jun 20 1990)  
Martin hires one of Debbie's ex-boyfriends to do some plumbing work.

140 **If The Cap Fits** (Jun 27 1990)  
Debbie wants a hard-hat so she can accompany Martin on building sites.

141 **Time's Up** (Jul 4 1990)  
Betty has problems coping with a new clock.

142 **High Flying** (Jul 11 1990)  
With help from Debbie, Martin tries to overcome his fear of heights.

143 **Age Old Tradition** (Jul 18 1990)  
Betty's birthday is approaching, and Martin decides to have a party.

144 **All Washed Up** (Jul 25 1990)  
The installation of a dishwasher doesn't stop the family from arguing.

145 **Game, Set And Match** (Aug 1 1990)  
Martin finds himself unwillingly coaching Jenny's netball team.

146 **Testing Time** (Aug 8 1990)  
Betty is stressed when it comes time to sit her trial HSC exams.

147 **The Write Stuff** (Aug 29 1990)  
While cleaning Jenny's room, Martin finds her diary and reads it.

148 **Eternal Quadrangle** (Sep 5 1990)  
Nudge and Simon go on a double date, but complications ensue.

149 **The Nudge File** (Sep 12 1990)  
Nudge takes a stance against corruption, and jeopardises Martin's job.

150 **What An Experience** (Sep 19 1990)  
Debbie does her work experience in the office under Betty's guidance.

151 **Betty Had A Little Lamington** (Sep 26 1990)  
Betty asks the family to help her with her charity lamington drive.

152 **Play It Again Sam** (Oct 3 1990)  
Martin takes it upon himself to find the family of a lost six-year old boy.

153 **Bulk Bill Dill** (Oct 10 1990)  
Simon's inexpert reading of a medical book has him convinced he's dying.

154 **Would You Buy A Used Half Car From This Man?** (Oct 17 1990)  
Betty is duped into buying a half-share in the Volkswagen from Simon.

155 **Out For The Count** (Oct 24 1990)  
Martin needs a blood test, but has to face his fear of needles.

156 *title unknown* (Oct 31 1990)  
When the Kellys are asked to fill in a TV ratings diary, Martin insists they only watch quality programmes.

157 *title unknown* (Nov 7 1990)  
(details unknown)

**Series 5: 30 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)**

158 **Lucky Nudge** (Feb 13 1991)  
Nudge thinks that he has won the lottery.

159 **Pedal Power** (Feb 20 1991)  
Martin finds himself challenged to a bicycle race against Betty.

160 **Get Rich Quick** (Feb 27 1991)  
Nudge finds a way to get rich, and Martin takes on a work experience student.

161 **Flickering Flame** (Mar 6 1991)  
Martin catches up with a former love.

162 **Forget Me Not!** (Mar 13 1991)  
Nudge is hit with a cricket ball and gets amnesia.

163 **Funnel Trouble** (Mar 20 1991)  
Martin and Debbie agree that it's time she moved out.

164 **Think Big** (Apr 10 1991)  
Stan Hickey has money troubles and comes to the Kellys for help.

165 **Island Of Work** (Apr 17 1991)  
Debbie finds getting a job is more difficult than she thought.

166 **Breaker Breaker** (Apr 24 1991)  
Betty takes up a new hobby - CB radio.

167 **Mother Love** (May 1 1991)  
Martin's mother comes to stay to help look after Sam.

168 **Cupid Strikes Again** (May 8 1991)  
The installation of a new burglar alarm causes nothing but trouble.

169 **I Shall Return** (May 15 1991)  
Betty joins Neighbourhood Watch, and Nudge falls in love with Sam.

170 **Broadcast Buddy** (May 22 1991)  
Betty gets involved in a romantic entanglement over her CB radio.

171 **Top Dad** (May 29 1991)  
Martin is nominated for Father of the Year.

172 **Watch My Lips** (Jun 5 1991)  
Betty takes up ventriloquism to enter a talent contest.

173 **Having A Fine Time** (Jun 12 1991)  
Simon gets a speeding ticket and has trouble explaining it to Martin.

174 **To Catch A Thief** (Jun 19 1991)  
Nudge sets out to catch the mysterious tracksuit burglar.

175 **A Testing Time** (Aug 21 1991)  
Arthur McArthur falls for an older woman - Sam.

176 **Best Laid Plans** (Aug 28 1991)  
Martin is persuaded by Jenny to accompany her on a school trip.

177 **Teacher, Teacher** (Sep 4 1991)  
Simon unwillingly tutors the university football champion in maths.

178 **Kids' Stuff** (Sep 11 1991)  
Martin is keen to teach everyone a lesson about borrowing things.

179 **Greener Pastures** (Sep 18 1991)  
Martin is surprised when his biggest client tries to poach Betty.

180 **Numbers Game** (Sep 25 1991)  
Jenny tries to change her life to fit in with numerology.

181 **Phone Home** (Oct 2 1991)  
To cut down on excessive phone bills, Martin gets a portable phone.

182 **Hell Driver** (Oct 9 1991)  
Martin is concerned when Sam gets her learner's permit.

183 **Betty Versus Hi Tech** (Oct 16 1991)  
Betty and Arthur try their hands as typewriter technicians.

184 **Council Clean Up** (Oct 23 1991)  
Martin tries to convince the household of the merits of cleaning up.

185 **A Bit Of Grease** (Oct 30 1991)  
Sam uses her feminine charm to improve her chances of getting a licence.

186 **Happy Holiday** (Nov 6 1991)  
Arthur is upset at having to have a holiday at home.

187 **Crowded House** (Nov 6 1991)  
Life in the Kelly house proves too much for Simon and he moves out.

**Series 6: 39 x 30mins. (Seven Network)**

188 **Food For Thought** (Feb 12 1992)  
Stan Hickey comes to town with the aim of getting a job.

199 **Boarding Party** (Feb 19 1992)  
Stan finds a job that will keep him close to Betty.

190 **Let's Do Lunch** (Feb 26 1992)  
Jenny is upset when she finds that Ben has moved in.

191 **Jenny Come Lately** (Mar 4 1992)  
Jenny is in trouble when she gets home late from school.

192 **Hooked On Stage** (Mar 11 1992)  
With no job prospects on the horizon, Sam tries being an actress.

193 **Ben The Toy Boy** (Mar 18 1992)  
Martin's client (Nikki Coghill) finds Ben alluring.

194 **Break A Leg** (Mar 25 1992)  
Arthur is incapacitated after a skateboard accident.

195 **Hooked On A Pan** (Apr 1 1992)  
Sam takes an interest in re-incarnation.

196 **Born To Be Wild** (Apr 8 1992)  
Sam starts dating a motorbike rider, and Ben wants to buy a car.

197 **Of Mice And Men** (Apr 22 1992)  
Betty feels it's time the office had some new equipment.

198 **A Star Is Born** (Apr 29 1992)  
Sam wins a talent contest, and Betty battles with her new computer.

199 **A Most Holy Event** (May 6 1992)  
Sam and Jenny plan a night out on the town, and Betty finds religion.

200 **Tall Stories** (May 13 1992)  
Stan Hickey arrives from Walgett with his brother.

201 **Nun The Wiser** (May 20 1992)  
Betty becomes sick and is visited by Sister Maureen from Walgett.

202 **The Big League** (May 27 1992)  
Ben tries to join a professional football team.

203 **Calling Mr Kelly** (Jun 3 1992)  
Martin agrees to be proxy in a wedding taking place over radio from the Antarctic.

204 **Waste Not, Want Not** (Jun 10 1992)  
The Kelly household participates in the 40 hour famine.

205 **Second-Best Man** (Jun 17 1992)  
Ben acts as best man for a friend, and Martin feels neglected on his birthday.

206 **Governor Phillip Would Be Proud** (Jun 24 1992)  
Martin is sick of modern technology, and reverts to more primitive methods.

207 **Marlin Kelly** (Jul 1 1992)  
Martin takes up sailing and Ben teaches Arthur how to fish.

208 **Volvo Power** (Jul 8 1992)  
Martin decides to take the plunge and sell the trusty Volvo.

209 **Hell's Betty** (Jul 15 1992)  
Betty takes a course to improve her motorcycling skills.

210 **Not Lasagne Again!** (Jul 22 1992)  
Martin has trouble finding variety when cooking for the family.

211 **Read And Weep** (Aug 12 1992)  
Ben tries to hide his new puppy and Jenny hides her report card.

212 **Arthur McArthur PI** (Aug 19 1992)  
The intrepid detective investigates The Case Of The Overdue Parking Ticket.

213 **Be Prepared** (Aug 26 1992)  
Betty joins the Girl Guides as a troupe leader.

214 **Notorious Character** (Sep 2 1992)  
Martin finds some dubious ancestry when researching his family tree.

215 **One Strike...** (Sep 9 1992)  
Arthur gets self-defence lessons from heavyweight champion Joe Bugner.

216 **An Alternative Solution** (Sep 16 1992)  
Betty takes an interest in alternative therapies and Jenny decides to be more mature.

217 **Shall I Compare Thee...** (Sep 23 1992)  
Ben tries to write romantic poetry to woo his girlfriend.

218 **Go For Gold** (Sep 30 1992)  
Betty enters the Secretaries' Olympics and drives Martin mad with her training.

219 **Seize The Day** (Oct 7 1992)  
Martin is the organiser of his old school reunion.

220 **Holy Molar!** (Oct 14 1992)  
Martin is reduced to a nervous wreck when he has to visit the dentist.

221 **Bargain Bonanza** (Oct 21 1992)  
Ben tries to find a gift to impress his girlfriend.

222 **To Catch A Mouse** (Oct 28 1992)  
The house is infested with mice, and everyone has their own solution.

223 **Brace Yourself** (Nov 4 1992)  
Jenny soon tires of wearing her orthodontic braces.  
224 **Wascally White Rabbit** (Nov 11 1992)  
Arthur gets a part in a school play as a white rabbit.  
225 **Break A Leg** (Nov 18 1992)  
Betty comes to grief while running for the bus.  
226 **Strictly Garland** (Nov 25 1992)  
Sam tries to get a part in a play produced by the choreographer of Strictly Ballroom.

**Series 7: 39 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)**

227 **Picture This** (Feb 10 1993)  
Jenny leaves to go to boarding school.  
228 **The Loan Ranger** (Feb 17 1993)  
In order to buy a car, Ben tries to get a bank loan.  
229 **Who's Thor?** (Feb 24 1993)  
To improve her workplace skills, Betty takes a course in Swedish massage.  
230 **The Real Ladies' Man** (Mar 3 1993)  
Arthur is horrified when he finds he's expected to take a girl to a party.  
231 **Easter Blues** (Mar 10 1993)  
Jenny wants to leave boarding school; Ben and Sam give real eggs for Easter.  
232 **Fishy Business** (Mar 17 1993)  
Martin is struck down with a virus and leaves Betty in charge of the office.  
233 **All Systems Down** (Mar 24 1993)  
The hot water service fails just when Martin has a blind date.  
234 **A New Look** (Mar 31 1993)  
Betty breaks Martin's glasses, and he replaces them with contact lenses.  
235 **The Dutiful Parent** (Apr 7 1993)  
Everyone pitches in to try and guess the password on Betty's computer.  
236 **Advance Australia... What?** (Apr 14 1993)  
No-one can help Jenny find the words to the National Anthem.  
237 **TV Or Not TV** (Apr 21 1993)  
Martin gets the girls they can't go without television for a week.  
238 **Caught Bear Handed** (Apr 28 1993)  
Betty joins Neighbourhood Watch and Arthur's teddy bear secret is exposed.  
239 *title unknown* (May 5 1993)  
Martin is planning a surprise party which Betty thinks is for her.  
240 **Gnome Alone** (May 12 1993)  
Sam and Ben find a replacement when Betty's garden gnome Nigel is stolen.  
241 *title unknown* (May 19 1993)  
Martin wants to spend a weekend away with Lyn, but thinks Jenny will object.  
242 *title unknown* (May 26 1993)  
Jenny has a slumber party, and Martin, Ben and Betty want to go fishing.  
243 *title unknown* (Jun 2 1993)  
Ben and Sam audition for a soap opera, and Arthur joins the cricket team.  
244 **A Family Business** (Jun 9 1993)  
Arthur gets a job with Martin, and Sam and Lyn argue over a blouse.  
245 **Super Scam** (Jun 16 1993)  
Jenny cleans up the family when she starts a swear box.  
246 **What Are You Doing Here... Monsieur?** (Jun 23 1993)  
Ben and Sam take jobs at a French restaurant without telling Martin.  
247 **Working For The Man** (Jun 30 1993)  
Martin hires Ben, but soon has cause to regret it.  
248 **Breaking Up Is Hard To Do** (Jul 7 1993)  
Martin and Lyn decide to spend some time apart.  
249 *title unknown* (Jul 14 1993)  
Ben wins a leaky waterbed, and Betty and Sam go into business together.  
250 *title unknown* (Jul 21 1993)  
Betty joins a marching band and gets tuition from James Morrison.  
251 *title unknown* (Jul 28 1993)  
Martin is grumpy after breaking up with Lyn, and Sam feels old at 19.  
252 **Just Call Me Aleka!** (Aug 4 1993)  
Jenny sells copies of her homework, and Ben helps Arthur with scouts.  
253 *title unknown* (Sep 15 1993)  
Martin thinks Lyn is pregnant, and Jenny takes on the feminist cause.  
254 *title unknown* (Sep 22 1993)  
Sam enters a beauty contest, and finds herself competing against Arthur.  
255 *title unknown* (Sep 29 1993)  
*(details unknown)*  
256 **Whale Song Betty** (Oct 6 1993)  
Betty brings a tape of whale songs to work to improve her efficiency.  
257 **Ben's Lucky Fishing Hat** (Oct 13 1993)  
Jenny is caught shoplifting, and Arthur loses Ben's hat.  
258 **Jenny The Journo** (Oct 20 1993)  
Jenny's gossip column for the school newspaper includes an item about Sam.  
259 **Betty's Cryptic Crossword** (Oct 27 1993)  
Betty creates a more than usually cryptic crossword for a girl guide magazine.

260 **Arthur The Good** (Nov 3 1993)  
Arthur tries to do more good deeds, starting with the Kelly household.  
261 **Strictly Business** (Nov 10 1993)  
Betty gets a proposal from the deputy town clerk, Neville Short.  
262 **Where's The Party?** (Nov 17 1993)  
Sam and Ben plan a party while Martin is away in Canberra.  
263 *title unknown* (Nov 24 1993)  
Martin isn't sure whether to accept a job which will take him overseas.  
264 *title unknown* (Feb 2 1994)  
Martin decides to take the job in Saudi Arabia.  
265 *title unknown* (Feb 9 1994)  
Greg Russell and his daughter Tracey move in to replace Martin and Sam.

**Series 8: 26 x 30 mins. (Seven Network)**

266 **No Ordinary Woman** (Feb 16 1994)  
Greg soon discovers what a unique person Betty is.  
267 **This Is Your Wake Up Call** (Feb 23 1994)  
Tracey gets an early morning job training horses.  
268 **Nothing's Changed** (Mar 2 1994)  
When Debbie returns home, she is surprised at all the changes.  
269 **A Promotion For Betty?** (Mar 9 1994)  
Greg thinks promoting Betty to an executive position might be a good idea.  
270 **Walk Against Want Walkers** (Mar 16 1994)  
Betty designs a special tracksuit to help her in the Walk Against Want.  
271 **Who's To Blame?** (Mar 23 1994)  
Both Greg and Jenny crash the Volvo, but neither wants to take responsibility.  
272 **Cousin Coral Comes To Visit** (Mar 30 1994)  
A visit from Betty's cousin only adds to the confusion in the house.  
273 **Betty's Mother Comes To Town** (Apr 6 1994)  
Betty's mother is concerned about Greg, and comes to check him out.  
274 **Acting The Goat!** (Apr 20 1994)  
Tracey accompanies Ben to his university dinner and dance.  
275 **It Was A Dark And Stormy Night** (Apr 27 1994)  
Greg hears a ghost story about a previous inhabitant of the house.  
276 **She Ain't Heavy, She's My Sister** (May 4 1994)  
Arthur is annoyed to find people think his sister is cuter than he is.  
277 **Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Sporty Car Machiney** (May 11 1994)  
When Greg wins a sports car, Ben and Tracey think they'll be able to use it.  
278 **Beam Me Up Bennie** (May 18 1994)  
Ben's secret past is revealed - he's a closet Star Trek fan.  
279 **Born To Be Mild** (May 25 1994)  
Greg wants to buy a motorbike, and Tracey tries to talk him out of it.  
280 **Rebel Without A Clue** (Jun 1 1994)  
The household is surprised when Jenny reveals that she has a boyfriend.  
281 **Your Wish Is My Command** (Jun 8 1994)  
Arthur is fed up acting as Ben and Tracey's slave, and plots revenge.  
282 **The Joy Luck Social Club** (Jun 15 1994)  
Betty invites a special guest to the office social party.  
283 **Romancing The Stunned** (Jun 22 1994)  
Ben tries to avoid an ex-girlfriend (Cathy Godbold).  
284 *title unknown* (Jun 29 1994)  
Betty moves to a new flat, but all her belongings end up in Queensland.  
285 *title unknown* (Jul 6 1994)  
Greg invites Tracey's boyfriend to dinner, not knowing that he's 30.  
286 *title unknown* (Jul 13 1994)  
In an attempt to rid the house of fleas, Ben uses a powerful insecticide bomb.  
287 **Current Events** (Jul 20 1994)  
Tracey takes on the conservation cause, and Greg gets a new credit card.  
288 **Broom And Board** (Jul 27 1994)  
Greg wants the house cleaned up and introduces a work roster.  
289 **Phoning At The Mouth** (Aug 3 1994)  
Greg is unsure whether he should buy Tracey a mobile phone.  
290 **Hoot's Boots** (Aug 10 1994)  
Greg is shocked at the changes in his father (Barry Crocker).  
291 *title unknown* (Aug 17 1994)  
The household is taken hostage by a bank robber and held at gunpoint.

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## Compact Disc

### Martin vs Betty - The Best Of Hey Dad..!

Rich River Records CD HDR 1991

Was It Good For You / Hello Again / For Whom The Bells Toll / Hero Worship / Old Black Thumb / Sprint Delivery / The Company Car / Betty Does Banking / Calling Betty / Just The Fax / Do It Yourself / Electric Touch / The Oxo Layer / Betty Bold Girl / 24 Hour Watch

# 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

## LAUGH #17

W. C. Fields/The St. Trinian's Movies/Joyce Grenfell/Mother & Son/Family Ties/Woody Allen On Disc

## LAUGH #18

Terry-Thomas/Radio Active/KYTV/The Jack Benny Program/Gerard Hoffnung/The 2000 Year Old Man/Acropolis Now

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