

LAUGH

THE SEQUEL

THE COMEDY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 2 1991



INSIDE: STEPTOE AND SON, THE MARX BROTHERS, NOT ONLY... BUT ALSO

Welcome to the second issue of *Laugh!*

Readers of our premiere edition will note a vast improvement in the graphics and layout, thanks to the expertise of Chris Smith who has now joined the team. Hopefully our new presentation will attract many more readers and lead to its regular appearance in the months and years to come.

We're also pleased to announce that Paul Pinch in Wales has agreed to act as our British agent (shades of 007!) and all enquiries in that part of the globe can now be directed to Paul at 75 Priory Avenue, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. SA61 1SG.

A U.S. representative will be announced in our next issue, but until then enquiries from our American readership should continue to be directed to the address below.

In 1992 *LAUGH* will (hopefully) appear quarterly and subscriptions for four issues are:

Australia: \$15 (postpaid)

Britain: £10 (postpaid by air)

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All cheques should be made out to P. Tatchell, and sent to either the Dyfed address or

Laugh Magazine

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Back issues of *Laugh* #1 are still available at \$4 or £2 per copy

Features include: JACK BENNY ON TELEVISION (a complete episode guide) MONTY PYTHON ON RECORD BARRY HUMPHRIES (a career guide + discography, filmography, etc) BAND WAGGON (the B.B.C.'s first comedy series) THE YOUNG ONES (episode guide)

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UPDATES . . . UPDATES . . . UPDATES . . . UPDATES . . .

BARRY HUMPHRIES:

* In the early 1950s Barry Humphries took part in a silent black and white one reel film titled "The Hungry Bath" ("Le Bain Voraces"). A copy survives.

* The following singles should be added to the discography:

Every Mother Wants A Boy Like Elton/S & M Lady (Charisma number unknown)

Give Her One For Christmas/(B-side unknown) (Towerbell TOW(T) 82)

Neighbours/Spooky Christmas (Epic EDNA (B)1 ... available as a boxed set including 7" single, two badges, beer mat with Patterson hangover cure, and postcard which can be cut out to form Edna's glasses)

* Double cassettes have also been issued of Dame Edna reading "My Glorious Life", and "The Life And Death Of Sandy Stone" (1990 recordings)

* A compact disc has been issued of "The Dame Edna Party Experience" (Epic MDOD 7)

* A video has been released of the 1987/8 West-End stage show "Back With A Vengeance" and another has highlights from "The Dame Edna Experience"

THE YOUNG ONES:

* The cassette version of "Neil's Heavy Concept Album" features four additional tracks: Cassette Jam/Brown Sugar/Go away/Hurdy Gurdy Mushroom Man

* There was also a promo sampler featuring: Golf Girl/My White Bicycle/The Gnome (WEA SAM ?)

* "The Utterly Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book" (1986 Fontana paperback) includes a Young Ones' Nativity Play and Rik's 'feminist critique' of "Living Doll"

* Early copies of the video "Comic Relief - Live And Uncensored" featured the Cliff Richard version of "Living Doll" (before being withdrawn)

* The final three editions of "The Young Ones" have now been released on video: BBCV 4646 Cash/Interesting/Summer Holiday

* The BBC also issued a special mail-order-only video: "Exclusive

Relief" which featured Summer Holiday (plus Red Nose Day segments: The New Statesmen At Number 10, Black Adder - The Cavalier Years, and The Night Of The Comic Dead, and the final episode of The Black Adder Goes Forth)

MONTY PYTHON ON RECORD:

* The B-side of the Eric The Half-A-Bee single is believed to be Yangtse Song (not Zambesi)

* The Teach Yourself Heath flexi-disc was included with early copies of "Previous Record"

* Some copies of the "Life Of Brian" LP have the following track itemisation listed: Introduction/Brian Song/The Wise Men At The Manger/Brian Song (continued)/ Sermon On The Mount (Big Nose)/Stone Salesman/Stoning/Ex-Leper/ You Mean You Were Raped? (Nortius Maximus)/Revolutionaries In The Ampitheatre (Loretta)/Roman's Go Home/What Have The Romans Ever Done For Us?/Ben/ Brian Before Pilate (Thwow Him To The Floor)/Prophets/Beard Salesman/Brian's Prophecy The Hermit/He's Not A Messiah, He's A Very Naughty Boy/Pilate Sentences Brian/ Nisus Wettus/Pilate With The Crowd (Welease Wodger)/Nisus Wettus With The Gaolers/ Release Brian/Not So Bad Once You're Up/Revs Salute Brian/Cheeky Is Released/ Mandy To Her Son/Look On The Bright Side Of Life (All Things Dull And Ugly)

* A U.S. promo single was issued of "I Bet You They Won't Play This Song On The Radio", with a mono version on the A-side and a stereo version on the B-side (Arista AS 0578)

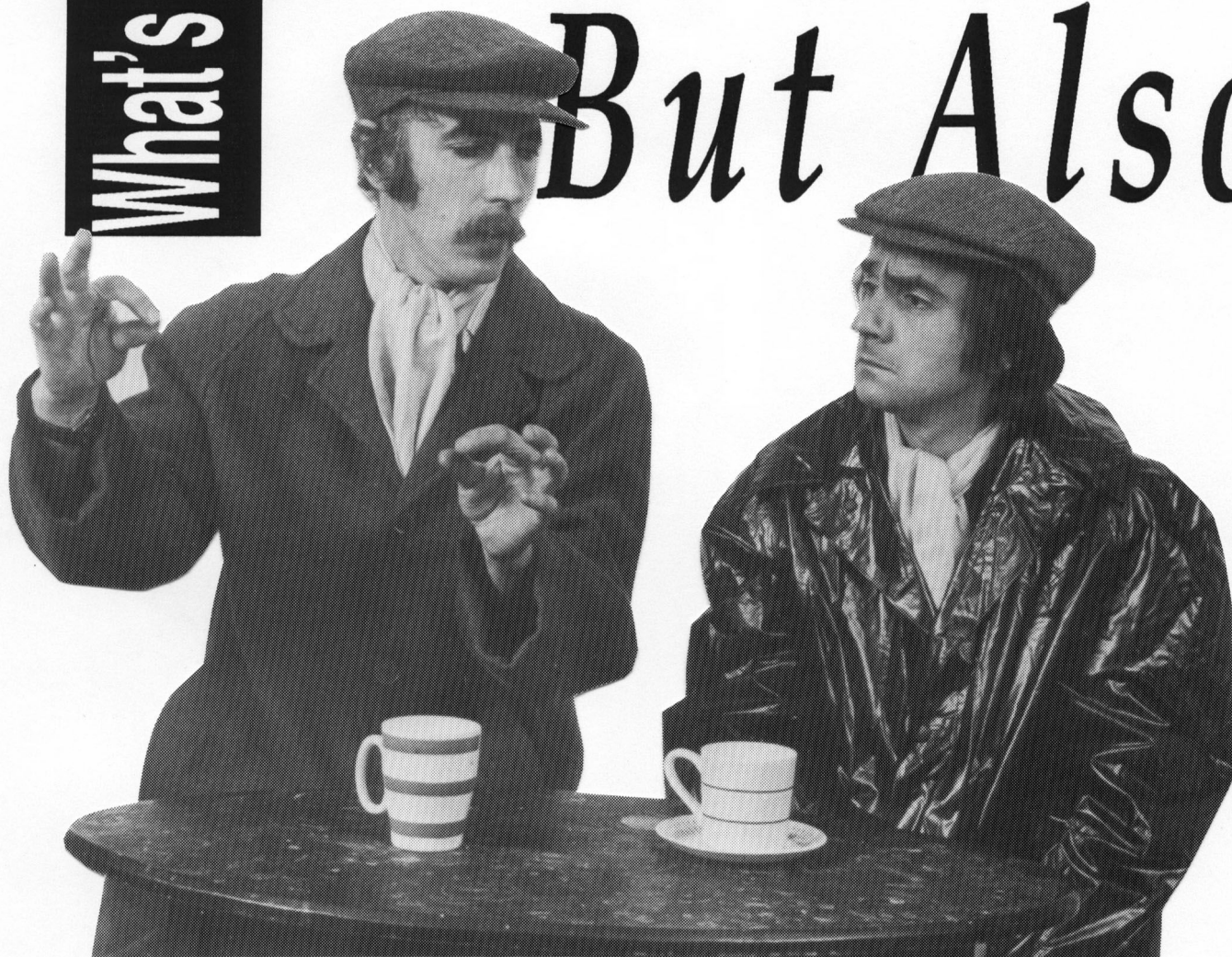
* The U.K. version of "The Meaning Of Life" should be numbered 70239

* Compact Disc reissues of the Python LPs are numbered as follows:

"Monty Python's Flying Circus" (BBCCD 73), "Another Monty Python Record" (CASCD 1049) "Monty Python's Previous Record" (CASCD 1063), "Matching Tie And Handkerchief" (CASCD 1074), "Live At Drury Lane" "Monty Python And The Holy Grail" (CASCD 1103), "Instant Record Collection" (CASCD113 "Contractual Obligation Album" (CASCD 1152), "The Final Ripoff" (Virgin CDMP 1), "Monty Python Sings" (Virgin MONTD 1)

What's Left Of...

Not Only... But Also



In late 1990 BBC video released *The Best Of... What's Left Of... Not only... But Also*, containing 100 minutes of highlights of the acclaimed Peter Cook and Dudley Moore television series of the 1960s. The title drew attention to the fact that many episodes of the program were now no longer in existence, victims of an era when films were junked and tapes were wiped simply to save space.

Peter Cook and Dudley Moore first worked together in the stage show *Beyond the Fringe* along with Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller. From its West End opening in May 1961 and its subsequent transfer to Broadway the following year, the production was a

resounding success. In 1964 Moore was offered a BBC special, and invited Cook to appear and help with the writing of the sketches. Their rapport so impressed the powers that be that the special was expanded to a series of seven 45-minute shows called *Not Only... But Also* which was screened by BBC 2 on a fortnightly basis in early 1965. A follow-up series of seven half-hour editions was shown the following year (along with a Christmas special) before the team branched out into films. In 1968 they appeared in four *Goodbye Again* specials for ATV, then returned to the BBC in 1970 for a third season of *Not Only... But Also* (now in colour). There were also two half-hour shows filmed in

Australia a year later, and a Christmas 1974 encore presentation back in Britain.

In the mid-1960s the BBC distributed programs overseas on 16mm film (copies which were returned to them when the contract had expired). By the end of the decade, colour video tape became the standard (although countries still transmitting in black-and-white continued to receive shows on film). Material on tape was likely to be erased and recorded over when its saleability was at an end and many items from the late 1960s and early 1970s were simply wiped without any thought of preservation for later generations, in the case of *Not only... But Also*, only six

editions from the first two series remain, and a mere handful of the pre-filmed items from the third (colour) season. None of the segments recorded in front of the studio audience survive as a result (thus all seven colour Pete and Dud sketches are now lost). At least one of the two Australian episodes is known to exist as well.

Dialogue played an important part in the success of *Not Only... But Also*, and over the years a number of LP records have been issued featuring soundtrack extracts (in some cases, taken from shows which no longer survive in vision). Several amateur sound recordings were also taken off the air as the programs were being transmitted (in varying degrees of fidelity). In addition Cook and Moore can be heard in the studio sessions of the show's *Goodbye-ee* song and other vocal offerings inspired by the series, and the duo's appearance at the 1965 Royal Variety performance has been released on EP.

In the early 1970s various publishing houses saw commercial potential in compiling collections of classic radio and television scripts and Methuen and co. assembled twelve Pete and Dud sketches in a volume called *The Dagenham Dialogues*. Two others were featured in the anthology *No More Curried Eggs for Me* and *Son Of Curried Eggs*.

Finally, Cook and Moore have reused *Not only... But Also* material in later ventures. In 1971 they put together a stage show *Behind the Fridge* which premiered in Australia before transferring to the West End and Broadway (where it was retitled *Good Evening*). The sketches *Six Of the Best* and the *Frog and Peach* were featured during the run, and may be heard on the American original cast album of the production. The latter sketch was also performed at the 1989 Amnesty International fundraising concert *The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball*, and indeed the character of Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling turned up in a series of twelve segments *A Life in Pieces* screened on BBC 2 at the end of 1990.

The following relates to Peter Cook and Dudley Moore in the television series *Not Only... But Also*. It does not attempt to itemise their collaboration in *Beyond The Fringe*, *Bedazzled*, *Behind The Fridge* or the *Derek And Clive* series of LPs.

Series 1

45 minute editions shown fortnightly on BBC 2

January 9, 1965

Guests: Diahann Carroll, John Lennon, Professor Bruce Lacey.

Includes **The Ravens/The Fairy Bootmaker/John Lennon's Poetry** (Exists on 16m film. **The Ravens** soundtrack released on LP).

January 23, 1965

Guests: Goldie And The Gingerbreads, Roddy Maude Roxby, Barry Humphries.

Includes **A Painter At Work/The North Circular Road/Pete & Dud: Sex Fanasies** (exists on 16mm film).

February 6, 1965

Guests: June Christy, Joe Melia, John Wells, Barry Humphries.

Includes **Menswear Shop/Pete & Dud: Worst Things/Alan A'Dale** (exists on 16mm film).

February 20, 1965

Guests: Anna Quayle, Marian Montgomery, Barry Humphries.

Includes **Tramponuns/My Aged Uncle Arly/Pete & Dud: Art Gallery** (exists on 16mm film. **Tramponuns and Art Gallery** released on LP)

March 6, 1965

Guest: Mel Torme.

includes **Pete & Dud: On The Bus** (amateur soundtrack recording exists of this sketch)

March 20, 1965

Guests: Peter Sellers, T-Bone Walker

Includes **The Gourmet/Pete & Dud: Superstition** (amateur soundtrack recording exists for most of this show. **Superstition** released on LP)

April 3, 1965

Guests: Eric Sykes, Blossom Dearie.

Includes **Film Studio/Pete & Dud: Religions** (amateur soundtrack recording exists for most of this show. **Religions** released on LP)

* the sketch **Initials** (screening date unknown) was also released on LP.

Series 2

30 minute editions shown weekly on BBC 2

January 15, 1966

Guests: Cilla Black, Henry Cooper, Joe Melia, Terry Downs

Includes **Pete & Dud: At The Zoo/Fights Of The Century/A Bit Of A Chat** (exists on 16mm film. **At The Zoo** and **A Bit Of A Chat** released on LP).

January 22, 1966

Guests: Alan Freeman, Catherine Boyle, Percy Thrower, Jacqui Chan.

Includes **Six Of The Best/Pete & Dud: Disease** (**Six Of The Best** released on LP. amateur recording exists of **Disease**)

January 29, 1966

Guest: Emily Yancy.

Sketch details unknown. No known recordings.

February 5, 1966

Guest: Blossom Dearie.

Includes **The Frog And Peach** (this sketch released on LP)

February 12, 1966

Guest: Dionne Warwick.

Sketch details unknown. No known recordings.

February 19, 1966

Guest: Dusty Springfield

.Includes **Pete & Dud: Sex** (this sketch Released on LP)

February 26, 1966

Guest: Marian Montgomery.

Includes **Bo Dudley/Superthunderstingcar/Pete & Dud: The Afterlife** (exists on 16mm film. A studio remake of **Bo Dudley** released on disc)

* the sketches **Father And Son**, **The Music Teacher** and **The Psychiatrist** (dates unknown) have also been released on LP.

Christmas Edition

50 minute special shown on BBC 2

December 26, 1966

Guest: John Lennon.

Sketch details unknown. No known recordings

Series 3

45 minute editions shown fortnightly on BBC 1

February 18, 1970

Guest: Spike Milligan.

Includes **Bargo/Pete & Dud: Dud Dreams** (aka **The Wardrobe**)/**The Piano Tuner** (**Bargo** exists on 16mm film, **Dud Dreams** released on LP, amateur soundtrack exists for most of the show)

March 4, 1970

Guest: Will Rushton.

Includes **Tits And Bums/The Glidd Of Glood/Pete & Dud: 00Dud** (**The Glidd Of Glood** exists on 16mm film, **00 Dud** released on LP, amateur soundtrack exists for **Tits And Bums**)

March 18, 1970

Guest: Barry Humphries.

Includes **Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling: Worms/Train Conductor/Pete & Dud:**

Racial Prejudice (amateur soundtrack exists for **Worms** and **Racial Prejudice**)
 April 1, 1970
 Guest: Frank Muir.
 Includes **In The Club/Pete & Dud: The Futility Of Life/Psycho (In The Club)** released on LP, amateur soundtrack exists for **The Futility Of Life**
 April 15, 1970
 Guest: Ronnie Barker.
 Includes **Permission To Wed/Sir Arthur Greeb-Streebling: Flowers/Undercover Doctor/Pete & Dud: Writing A Bestseller** (amateur soundtrack exists for the above four sketches)
 April 29, 1970
 Guest: Denis Norden.
 Includes **The Ex-Con/Lengths/Pete & Dud: As Nature Intended (Lengths)** released on LP, amateur soundtrack exists for **The Ex-Con** and **As Nature Intended**
 May 13, 1970
 Guest: Alan Bennett.
 Includes **Cyclist On Ark Royal/Jumbo And Teddy/Pete & Dud: Sex Manual/The Making Of A Movie (The Making Of A Movie)** exists on 16mm film and LP, **Cyclist On Ark Royal** exists on 16mm film, amateur soundtrack exists for **Jumbo And Teddy** and **Sex Manual**
 * 16mm film also exists for **This Is Ludwig Van Beethoven** and **Ol' Man River** (screening dates unknown)

Australian Editions:

Two 30-minute programs originally shown on the A.B.C. on February 8 and 15, 1971.
 June 18, 1971
 Guest: Barry Humphries.
 Includes **Pete & Dud: Going Through Customs, On The Beach, At The Cricket/Sir Arthur Greeb-Streebling: Teaching Funnel Web Spiders To Swim/The Shirt Shop** (exists on 16mm film)
 June 25, 1971
 Guest: Barry Humphries
 Includes **Colonel Bogey/One Leg Too Few/Bollard/Job Interview/ Pete & Dud: Howeward Bound** (Amateur soundtrack exists and possibly 16mm film).
The Best Of Not Only . . . But Also
 40 minute special shown on BBC 2
 December 24, 1974
 Details unknown

RECORDS:

Not Only Peter Cook But Also Dudley Moore
 Decca LK 4703 (series 1 soundtracks)
 The Ravens/Superstitions/Tramponuns/ Art Gallery/Initials/Religions
Once Moore With Cook
 Decca LK 4785 (series 2 soundtracks)
 Dud And Pete On Sex/Father And Son/The Frog And Peach/Six Of The Best/ The Music Teacher/A Bit Of A Chat/Dud And Pete At The Zoo/The Psychiatrist
Not Only... But Also
 Decca LK 5080 (series 3 soundtracks)
 Dud Dreams /In The Club/Lengths/This Is Ludwig Van Beethoven/ The Making Of A Movie/00 Dud
By Appointment
 Decca DFE 8644
 Soundtrack of the 1965 Royal Variety Performance
 **Goodbye* (duet)/*Not Only... But Also* (instrumental) Decca F 12158
 **The Ballad Of Spotty Muldoon/Lovely Lady Of The Roses* (both Peter Cook only) Decca F 12182
 **Isn't She A Sweetie/Bo Dudley*
 Decca F 12380
 **The L.S. Bumble Bee/The Bee Side*
 Decca F 12551
The World Of Peter Cook And Dudley Moore
 Decca PA 311
 Soundtrack reissues Art Gallery/A Bit Of A Chat/Lengths/Dud Dreams/The Ravens/Father And Son/ Six Of The Best
The Clean Tapes
 Pye/Cube HIFLY 26
 Soundtrack and studio recording reissues
 The Newsreel Overture (instrumental)/ The Music Teacher/Tramponuns/ Lovely Lady Of The Roses/Dud And Pete On Sex/Isn't She A Sweetie/ The Real Stuff (Dudley Moore piano vocal)/Aversion Therapy (from *Goodbye Again*) Father And Son/Lengths/Goodbye
Goodbye/The Music Teacher
 Pye/Cube BUG 79
 *signifies studio recordings

BOOKS:

Dud & Pete: The Dagenham Dialogues
 Methuen & Co., 1971
 Contains twelve Pete & Dud scripts: Superstitions/On Music/On Sex/ The Futility Of Life/At The Zoo/At The Art Gallery/On The Bus/By Appointment, As Nature Intended/Worst Things/The Wardrobe (aka Dud Dreams)/Religions

No More Curried Eggs For Me
 Methuen, 1982, compiled by Roger Wilmut. Contains the Pete & Dud script: Sex Fantasies
Son Of Curried Eggs
 Methuen, 1984, compiled by Roger Wilmut. Contains the Pete & Dud script: Disease
The Book Of Comedy Sketches
 Elm Tree Books, 1984, compiled by Frank Muir and Simon Brett. Contains the scripts for: The Ravens/Pete & Dud: At The Art Gallery/ Six Of The Best

VIDEO

The Best Of... What's Left Of... Not Only... But Also
 BBC Video BBCV 4430
 Contains: Cyclist On Ark Royal/Pete & Dud: Sex Fantasies/Bo Dudley/ The Making Of A Movie/A Bit Of A Chat/Cavemen (opening)/Pete & Dud: At The Zoo/Superthunderstingcar/Alan A'Dale/The Glidd Of Glood/Bargo/ Tower Bridge (opening)/Tramponuns/ The North Circular Road/ This Is Ludwig Van Beethoven/Pete & Dud: At The Art Gallery/Goodbye

GOODBYE AGAIN

In 1968, one of Britain's commercial television companies A.T.V. signed Peter Cook and Dudley Moore for a series of four one hour specials of similar style to *Not Only ... But Also*. Each show featured a Pete and Dud sketch, and included top musical names to help the program's saleability to the American market.

Goodbye Again was screened in Britain in August/September 1968.

- #1: Guests Georgie Fame, Selena Jones, Warren Mitchell, Una Stubbs
- #2: Guests Ike and Tina Turner, Donovan
- #3: Guests Traffic, John Cleese, John Wells, Rodney Bewes
- #4: Guests Anne Bancroft, Mel Torme

Record: *Goodbye Again*
 Decca LK 4981

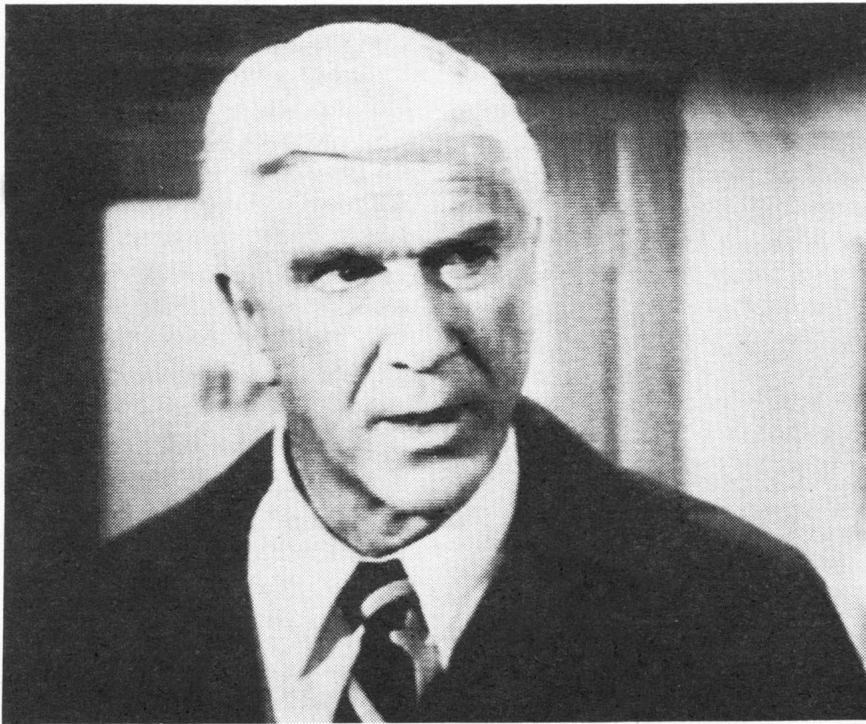
The Trial (Pete & Dud)/Long Distance/Mrs. Woolley's Curse (Pete & Dud)/Aversion Therapy/Workout (Pete & Dud)/War Correspondent

* The unissued Pete & Dud sketch was a remake of **Sex Fantasies** originally performed on *Not Only... But Also*.

Police Squad!

By Warwick Holt

In the mid - 1970's, the trio of Jim Abrahams and brothers Jerry and David Zucker were writing, directing and acting in a revue touring the United States. The revue, "The Kentucky Fried Theatre", was characterised by numerous television parodies, sight gags, and truckloads of visual and verbal puns. The show was such a big hit that it spawned a movie, "The Kentucky Fried Movie" (1977), produced by Robert K. Weiss, directed by John Landis, and written by the Zucker/Abrahams/Zucker team (which would later become corporately known as ZAZ).



The film was an extension of the stage show - basically a series of mainly unconnected sketches, ranging in length from a few seconds to a 20 minute Bruce Lee/Kung Fu parody. Their next project was "Airplane!" (Known in some parts of the world as "Flying High"), a parody of the string of aeroplane disaster movies, released in 1980, which they wrote and directed. The plot was simply a skeleton from which to hang as many jokes as possible (The ZAZ team had nothing to do with the sequel "Airplane/Flying High 2", although it did re-use many of the jokes of the first film!).

By 1982, however, ZAZ had turned to television. Their idea was for a series sending up cop shows; in particular, a 1950's series "M Squad". The show became "Police Squad!" (with the sub-title "In Color" emphasising the program's roots). The title music was the same as that used in "M Squad", and the credit sequence shots were a direct spoof. The credits also showed the ZAZ team's use of the form of the show as a source of humour - each

week would feature a "Special Guest Star" who would die a couple of seconds after being introduced, totally removed from the rest of the plot. Each show would also have two titles - the voiceover never matching the caption.

"Police Squad!" starred the completely deadpan Leslie Nielsen as Lieutenant Frank Drebin of Police Squad, a special detail of the Police Department. His superior, Captain Ed Hocken was played by Alan North. A procession of other regulars populated the series: Ted Olsen (Ed Williams), the lab assistant with an unusual fascination with children; Nordberg (Peter Lupus), Drebin's somewhat naive officer; Al, the officer of such enormous stature that his head is permanently out of shot; and Shoe-Shine Johnny (William Duell) who knows all the word from the street in fact he knows everything about everything!

While the major source of humour in the programs were obtuse and silly visual gags, there are plenty of clever puns and verbal banter. The first episode features a "Who's On First" - style routine, where Ralph Twice was shot once after Jim Fell (Actually Jim Johnson, since Jim Fell was away ill). The subsequent visit to Twice's widow opens with Frank's remark, "We would have come earlier, but your husband wasn't dead then."

In the final episode, Ed delivers one of the series' best lines, when discussing the history of a suspect: "Married, one child; didn't work out, so he married a full-grown woman." And in the third episode, Nielsen displays his deadpan and callous character brilliantly in the following scene where he, Ed and Nordberg are "comforting" a couple after a phone-call from their daughter's kidnapper:

FRANK: Just relax, everything's going to be alright.

ED: Mrs. Burton what did he say?

Mrs BURTON: Just relax, everything's going to be alright.

ED: No, the kidnapper.

Mrs BURTON: He said he'll call us soon with instructions for the money drop, and if we don't do what he says he'll kill Terri!

Mr BURTON: Lieutenant Drebin, what do I do?

FRANK: Well, as I understand it, you're in the textile business.

Mr BURTON: I mean, I don't want the police involved.

ED: Now we've all got to work together to capture this kidnapper.

Mr BURTON: I'll pay whatever ransom is necessary to get Terri back.

FRANK: No, that would be giving in to them. These people are emotionally unstable. Had a case like this similar. Kidnappers cut the victim's ear off and sent it to the family.

Mrs BURTON: oooooohh!

ED: So you see, you've got to let us help you.

FRANK: Not the whole ear of course, just a piece of it.

Mrs BURTON: Oooh Hoo Hoo-Ooo!

ED: And when this whole thing blows over, we'll return Terri's ear, if she's still alive.

Mrs BURTON: Aah Hoo Hoo! etc.

FRANK: She's taking it hard.

ED: Yeah, We'd better go Frank (To the parents). We'll leave Officer Nordberg here - if you need anything, just ask him.

FRANK: We'll keep in touch. (Ed and Frank turn to leave and address Nordberg quietly.)

ED: After we go, I want you to nose around.

FRANK: And keep an eye out for the ear.

NORDBERG: Yes sir. Don't you worry, Mrs Burton, if Terri's ear comes, I'll handle it.

"Police Squad!" lasted just one series of six episodes, which had always been the intention of Abrahams and the Zuckers. (While they only wrote and directed the first episode as executive producers they maintained control over the whole show). They were ready to move back to the movies.

In 1984, they wrote and directed "Top Secret", principally a spoof of spy films and rock'n'roll beach party flicks - although everything as far removed as "The Wizard of Oz" received "tributes" of one form or another. In 1986, they directed "Ruthless People", written by Dale Launer, which was the last time they directed a movie as a trio.

Abrahams and the Zuckers returned to "the files of 'Police Squad!' for their film "The Naked Gun" in 1988.

Leslie Nielsen revived Frank Drebin, while the role of Ed Hocking was now played by George Kennedy. Priscilla Presley provided the suitably overplayed romantic interest as Jane Spencer. David Zucker directed the film alone. Since "The Naked Gun", the Zuckers and Abrahams have gone their separate ways - Jerry Zucker directed the enormously successful, but scarcely comparable "Ghost".

In 1991, though, David Zucker has returned again to Frank Drebin, directing "The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear!". While many jokes were taken directly from the "Police Squad" shows, there was sufficient originality to prove that there was still life left in Frank Drebin's character.



POLICE SQUAD! - EPISODE GUIDE

1. ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED: March 4 1982
 CAPTION TITLE: A Substantial Gift
 VOICEOVER TITLE: The Broken Promise
 SPECIAL GUEST STAR: Lorne Greene
 WRITTEN BY: Jim Abrahams, David Zucker, Jerry Zucker
 DIRECTED BY: Jim Abrahams, David Zucker, Jerry Zucker

A bank cashier, Miss Sally Decker, shoots a customer, Ralph Twice, and the manager, Jim Johnson, and sets it up as a robbery gone wrong. Miss Decker needed the money to pay off an oral debt - to the orthodontist. Lt. Drebin obtains the information from the orthodontist, and by playing a phoney phone call, catches Decker after a shoot out (and a gun throwing contest).

2. ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED: March 11 1982
 CAPTION TITLE: Ring Of Fear
 VOICEOVER TITLE: A Dangerous Assignment
 SPECIAL GUEST STAR: Georg Stanford Brown
 TELEPLAY BY: Tino Insana & Robert Wuhl
 STORY BY: David Misch
 DIRECTED BY: Joe Dante

After a boxing match, the vic-torious fighter is murdered by a slightly suspicious-looking press officer. Going undercover, Drebin uncovers an enor-mous corruption scam, and wins the contract to manage a boxer, Buddy Briggs. Although the bad guys kidnap his girl, Buddy defeats the champ and Drebin hauls the corrupt man-agers in.

3. ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED: March 18 1982
 CAPTION TITLE: The Butler Did It
 VOICEOVER TITLE: A Bird in the Hand
 SPECIAL GUEST STAR: Robert Goulet
 TELEPLAY BY: Pat Proft
 STORY BY: Deborah Hwang & Robert K. Weiss
 DIRECTED BY: Georg Stanford Brown

A tycoon's daughter, Terri Burton, is abducted at her birthday party. The kidnapper contacts the family with a tape, which, when Ted Olsen analyses it, produced the sound of what appeared to be a foghorn and a bell. They eventually realise that it must have been recorded near a gas station and a tuba store. A shoot out eventuates at the "El Tubadero Club" - and by the way, the butler did do it.

4. ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED: March 25 1982
 CAPTION TITLE: Revenge And Remorse
 VOICEOVER TITLE: The Guilty Alibi
 SPECIAL GUEST STAR: William Shatner
 WRITTEN BY: Nancy Steen & Neil Thompson
 DIRECTED BY: Paul Krasny

Rt. Hon. J. Oliver Maxwell's gavel is substituted with an exploding one, which explodes, not surprisingly. Frank and Ed suspect a revenge killing, and Eddie Cassalla's name rings a bell - several times. After consulting Eddie's ex-wife Lana, they discover that he is now seeing Mimi Du Jour (real name: Mimi Coffee). Mimi blows Eddie's alibi, and the police offer protection to both Mimi and Lana - only Mimi accepts. Probably since Lana is the bomber.

5. **ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED:** April 1 1982
CAPTION TITLE: Rendezvous At Big Gulch
VOICEOVER TITLE: Terror In the Neighbourhood
SPECIAL GUEST STAR: Florence Henderson
TELEPLAY BY: Nancy Steen & Neil Thompson
DIRECTED BY: Reza S. Badiyi
STORY BY: Pat Proft

A ballet teacher is just one of many people in her local neighbourhood being harassed by a protection racket. Frank and Nordberg establish a locksmith (or is that ocksmith) shop to lure the thugs. Frank beats them both up, but is seduced by Stella, who is working for the racket's leader, Dutch. Frank confronts Dutch, and eventually defeats the gang from within.

6. **ORIGINALLY TRANSMITTED:** April 8 1982
CAPTION TITLE: Testimony Of Evil
VOICEOVER TITLE: Dead Men Don't Laugh
SPECIAL GUEST STAR: William Conrad
WRITTEN BY: Tina Insana & Robert Wuhl
DIRECTED BY: Joe Dante

Joey, a stand-up comic at Mr. V's nightclub, is murdered by the club's owner Veronica Rivers, for ripping off some money from their drug running scam. Frank takes over Joey's job under the pseudonym Tony De Wonderful. He is a smash hit, even despite his tendency to sing endlessly. Veronica arranges for Frank to drop off her car; and after the lab dismantles the car, they discover the drugs in the glove box.

THE NAKED GUN FILMS

1. **THE NAKED GUN - FROM THE FILES OF "POLICE SQUAD!" (1988)**

- EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** Jim Abrahams, David Zucker, Jerry Zucker
PRODUCED BY: Robert K. Weiss
DIRECTED BY: David Zucker
WRITTEN BY: Jim Abrahams, David Zucker, Jerry Zucker, Pat Proft
STARRING : Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley, George Kennedy,
Ricardo Montalban and O.J. Simpson.

The film opens with Nordberg failing quite remarkably well to bust a heroin operation. The little information Nordberg can stutter out leads Frank to the tycoon Vincent Ludwig. Ludwig, keen to keep Drebin off the scent, sends his assistant Jane Spencer out to keep an eye on him. Naturally, Frank and Jane fell in love, and through her, Frank eventually discovers Ludwig's plot to kill the Queen at a baseball game. Through the cunning guises of an opera singer and a baseball umpire, Frank manages to save the Queen.

2. **THE NAKED GUN 2 1/2 - THE SMELL OF FEAR (1991)**

- EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:** Jerry Zucker, Jim Abrahams, Gil Netter
PRODUCED BY: Robert K. Weiss
DIRECTED BY: David Zucker
WRITTEN BY: David Zucker, Pat Proft
STARRING: Leslie Nielsen, Priscilla Presley, George Kennedy,
Robert Goulet and O.J. Simpson. (Cameo appearances from Zsa Zsa Gabor, Mel Torme and "Weird" Al Jankovic.)

The President announces that his new energy policy will be based completely on the recommendations of world energy expert Dr. Albert Meinheimer. However, the heads of the producers of environmentally - ugly fuel sources have other ideas, led by the evil oil magnate Quentin Hapsburg. By a strange coincidence, Meinheimer's public relations director is Jane Spencer, who left Drebin at the altar some time ago. While their romantic flames are re-stoked, Hapsburg replaces Meinheimer with his exact double, who will announce a far less sound, and far more profitable energy policy. How does it end? I guess you'll have to see the film to discover that!

STEPTOE AND SON

by Peter Tatchell

In 1961, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson were Britain's top comedy scriptwriters. For ten years they had supplied Tony Hancock with nearly all his material and the resultant *Hancock's Half Hour* on radio and television provided the BBC with one of its greatest successes.

Hancock, though, craved international acceptance, and the disappointing response to the Galton and Simpson scripted *The Rebel* (re-titled *Call Me Genius* in America) led him to believe his talents would be better served by new writers more attuned to a different screen persona. As a result, there was a parting of the ways, with Hancock suffering a frustrating and ultimately tragic career decline, and Galton and Simpson achieving continued success with a television series where the writers were as famous as the lead actors.

The catalyst was a series of ten unrelated half-hours commissioned by the BBC under the title *Comedy Playhouse* and featuring such performers as Eric Sykes, Stanley Baxter, Peter Jones, Alfred Marks and Bernard Cribbins. When screened, however, the episode everyone talked about featured two virtual unknowns, Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett. Titled *The Offer*, it dealt with the antagonistic love-hate relationship between two rag-and-bone men, the Steptoes of Shepherd's Bush. Albert, the father, is old but cunning and totally dependent on his son Harold to provide a livelihood by going out on the horse and cart and collecting the neighbourhood junk. Harold, on the other hand, is the eternal optimist striving to improve his station and sample the good things in life (travel, the arts, financial success) but trapped in the squalid confines of Oil Drum Lane to look after the old man.

After a decade of concentrating their efforts on the Hancock abode of Railway Cuttings, East Cheam, Galton and Simpson were delighted to be able to expand their outlook in ten different directions with the Playhouse series, and were somewhat annoyed when Tom Sloan (then head of BBC Light Entertainment) suggested the Steptoes were ideal for a series. After several months resisting the idea, the writers eventually relented and scripted a further five instalments which were

shown in mid-1962. (They did pen a further six *Comedy Playhouse* episodes the following year, but by then, the whole country was *Steptoe-mad*).

Coming from a radio background, Galton and Simpson relied heavily on dialogue in their television ventures, and *Steptoe And Son* is notable for the colourful repartee sprinkled throughout. Albert, in particular, was notorious for his earthy similes... describing an antique collector 'bent as a boomerang', sandwiches cut so small that 'one burp and you're empty', or pointing out the futility of Harold's desire to keep a close watch on the nation's financial situation with 'you won't find the economic pulse of the country where you keep your finger'.

Harold is living through 'the swinging sixties' and wants to be part of the action before reaching the dreaded middle-age, but to Albert things are much as they were when he came back from the trenches of World War 1. Holidays have always meant Bognor Regis, and not Spanish beaches or Alpine chalets full of foreigners. Bulk buying may be all right for supermarkets, but he fails to see the sales potential of a cartload of coffins or false teeth. And as for all those arty-crafty feature films replete with subtitles, he'd much rather *The Monster From The Black Bog* or *Nudes Of 1964*.

Surprisingly, it is Albert who is the dab hand at sporting pursuits whether billiards, shuttle cock or even Karate. And as for games of chance like poker, just give him a smoke-filled room, a pack full of 'Satan's Army' and a pair of his special reading glasses and the other players can look forward to a long walk home.

Harold's attempts to attract the female of the species are invariably thwarted by the actions of the old man, ever-vigilant at preserving the status quo of having Harold on hand to provide for him. In one celebrated instance, the sight of Albert eating pickled onions in the living room hip-bath sends an erstwhile ladyfriend scurrying homeward. Harold did actually make it to the altar on one occasion ('Into the Valley of Death' said Albert. 'Would you like a blindfold?') but the lady in question declined to take him for her wedded husband. Still, as the honeymoon was all booked, Albert went along in lieu.

By the end of the second series *Steptoe And Son* was attracting an



▲ Harold Steptoe debates a point with his father Albert

audience of some 22 million people in Britain alone, and viewers around the world were soon clamoring for each new chapter of the Steptoe saga. The duo was also proving popular on the television sets at Buckingham Palace and on November 4th 1963 Brambell and Corbett performed a specially written sketch at that year's Royal Variety Performance at the Prince Of Wales Theatre. They also took part in the *Night Of 100 Stars* fundraiser at the London Palladium (both these routines can be heard on a Pye LP).

Between series, the actors were sought for movie roles as a result of their phenomenal popularity. Brambell had the key part of Paul McCartney's grandfather in the first Beatle's film *A Hard Day's Night*, while Corbett gained starring roles in *Ladies Who Do*, *The Bargee* and *Rattle Of A Simple Man*.

After only four brief series, *Steptoe And Son* had become an acknowledged classic and it was decided to end it while still a success. So, on November 15 1965, after twenty-seven stories, Albert and Harold (and their horse Hercules) were to be led out to pasture. They weren't to be totally retired, however, as BBC Radio adapted twenty-one of the scripts for broadcast.

By the end of the sixties British television had undergone quite a dramatic change. The reorganization of the commercial franchises had resulted in a new wave of comedy programs on both London Weekend and Thames, and the programs were now being made in

colour. To meet the challenge, the BBC hierarchy made a number of decisions. One of them was to bring back the Steptoes.

A fifth season of *Steptoe And Son* (now in colour) began in early 1970 with the show's leading character (the character that led the cart, that is) being "killed off" before a word is uttered. Whether this was a new direction on the part of the writers, or due to the horse who acted the role getting a better offer from a glue factory remains unclear, but despite the cast change the Steptoes were back, as popular as ever.

Inspired by the cinema success of adaptations of such television favourites as *On The Buses*, *Up Pompeii* and *Please Sir*, Galton and Simpson scripted a movie version of their rag-and-bone men which was released in 1972. And like most film favourites, it spawned a sequel *Steptoe And Son Ride Again* in 1974.

A further thirty colour *Steptoe* programs had aired by Christmas 1974 when the BBC again decided to end production, this time for good. Apart from the subsequent radio adaptations, and a newly scripted sketch *Scotch On The Rocks*, an era had ended.

There was one final encore for the characters when Brambell and Corbett toured Australia in 1977 with a cabaret act written by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson. Five years later, in an ironical twist of fate, Harry H. Corbett succumbed to a heart attack (the malady continually being faked by the elder

Harold is living through 'the swinging sixties' and wants to be part of the action, but to Albert things are much as they were when he came back from the trenches in World War One...

Steptoe). His partner Wilfrid Brambell died in 1985.

Ray Galton and Alan Simpson have yet to be bettered in a half-hour format, and the subtle mixture of comedy and pathos they created in *Steptoe And Son* easily survives the test of time. At the time of writing, eighteen of the shows have been released to video and (despite the incredible junking of so much classic material by the BBC over the years) copies survive of all the black and white *Steptoe* programs (though one exists only on a time-encoded tape). About half the colour versions are available for issue (and indeed most of these are now on release). As a result, the artistry of Ray Galton, Alan Simpson, Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett will not fade from our memories.

Wilfrid Brambell as Albert Steptoe
Harry H. Corbett as Harold Steptoe
Scripts by Ray Galton & Alan Simpson

TELEVISION

January 5, 1962

Comedy Playhouse: The Offer

Harold Steptoe has been made an offer that will put him on the road to a successful career... if only he can break free from the old man.

SEASON 1

June 14, 1962

The Bird

Albert feels insecure when he learns Harold has arranged an evening with a ladyfriend.

June 21, 1962

The Piano

A toff offers Harold £5 to move his grand piano from an upper storey apartment.

June 28, 1962

The Economist

Harold has been reading a book on Economic Planning and decides to purchase in bulk, but a job lot of false teeth does not prove popular.

July 5, 1962

The Diploma

With quality junk hard to find and the Common Market looming, Harold feels his talents lie elsewhere and contemplates engineering.

July 12, 1962

The Holiday

Harold's plans of a Continental holiday on his own don't find favour with the old man who prefers the usual Bognor.

SEASON 2

January 3, 1963

Wallah - Wallah Catsmeat

Harold never has a good word for the Steptoe steed, Hercules, but when the animal falls ill he realises its importance to business.

January 10, 1963

The Bath

When Harold's latest ladyfriend arrives as Albert is taking a bath in the living room, it is evident a proper bathroom is needed.

January 17, 1963

The Stepmother

Albert feels he has been a widower long enough but his plans to remarry don't find favour with Harold who doesn't want a new mother.

January 24, 1963

Sixty-five Today

It is Albert's birthday and Harold plans to surprise him with an evening out.

January 31, 1963

A Musical Evening

Harold's thoughts of a peaceful evening listening to classical music don't take into



account the lesser tastes of his old man.

February 7, 1963

Full House

Harold has arranged an evening of poker with three rather disreputable acquaintances despite Albert's warnings.

February 14, 1963

Is That Your Horse Outside?

When Harold starts wearing his best clothes as he goes out on his rounds, Albert suspects he's been picking up more than junk.

SEASON THREE

January 7, 1964

Homes Fit For Heroes

In order to take part in a round the world sailing expedition Harold must first place his father in an old people's home.

January 14, 1964

The Wooden Overcoats

When Harold buys a supply of surplus coffins Albert regards it as a sinister omen and refuses to have them in the house.

January 21, 1964

The Lead Man Cometh

Albert's suspicions are roused when Harold buys a quantity of lead cheaply, and insists they dump it in the river.

January 28, 1964

Steptoe a la Cart

Harold has fallen in love with Monique, a French au Pair, but the events of world war one throw a spanner in the works.

February 4, 1964

Sunday For Seven Days

The Steptoe's visit to the cinema ends disastrously when Harold's choice of a Continental film proves most unsuitable for the old man.

February 11, 1964

The Bonds That Bind Us

Albert wins £1000 in a lottery and decides to enjoy the good things in life including, it seems, a lady named Madge.

February 18, 1964

The Lodger

With finances at an all time low, Harold suggests taking in a lodger but when Albert refuses they split up.

SEASON FOUR

October 4, 1965

And Afterwards At...

Harold's wedding day looms, and despite his better judgement he has chosen his father to be the Best Man.

October 11, 1965

Crossed Swords

Harold believes he has picked up a valuable figurine but Albert disagrees as to its value.

October 18, 1965

Those Magnificent Men and Their Heating Machines

Harold decides to install a central heating system throughout the Steptoe household using some old radiator parts he has picked up.

October 25, 1965

The Siege Of Steptoe Street

Albert has neglected to pay the household accounts and when the local shopkeepers demand payment the Steptoes lock themselves in.

November 1, 1965

A Box In Town

After yet another argument with his father Harold decides to move to a bachelor apartment of his own.

November 8, 1965

My Old Man's a Tory

Despite the greatly different political leanings of himself and his father, Harold arranges a Labour Party meeting in their home.

November 15, 1965

Pilgrim's Progress

Albert decides to revisit the battlefields of Flanders but the flight to Paris rekindles some old animosities.

SEASON FIVE

March 6, 1970

A Death in the Family

The Steptoe horse, Hercules, dies whilst out on the rounds and Albert feels it is a sign of his own impending doom.

March 13, 1970

A Winter's Tale

Harold yearns to be part of the trendy skiing community at Obergurgle but breaking free of the old man is his main problem.

March 20, 1970

Any Old Iron?

A wealthy art connoisseur offers to set Harold up in his own antique shop, but Albert questions his motives.

March 27, 1970

Steptoe and Son and Son

It appears Harold has committed an indiscretion at a party eight months earlier when a girl named Daphne arrives at the Steptoe door.

April 3, 1970

The Colour Problem

The Steptoes are at loggerheads about whether they should buy a second-hand sports car for Harold or a colour telly for Albert.

April 10, 1970

T.B. Or Not T.B.

Harold insists they should both be X-rayed when a mobile unit visits the district but the results of the tests cause some alarm.

April 17, 1970

Men Of Property

When the 99-year lease on the Steptoe property is about to expire, Harold and Albert must decide if they wish to purchase the freehold.

SEASON SIX

November 2, 1970

Robbery With Violence

Albert accidentally breaks Harold's prize porcelain collection and blames the destruction on a band of robbers.

November 9, 1970

Come Dancing

When Harold agrees to go ballroom dancing with his latest flame he goes to the old man for some lessons.

November 16, 1970

Two's Company

Albert has met a 42-year-old widow at the local Darby and Joan club and considers proposing marriage.

November 23, 1970

Tea For Two

Harold is furious when he learns that his father has been chosen to take tea with Conservative Leader Edward Heath.

November 30, 1970

Without Prejudice

The Steptoe house has seen better days so Harold has decided that they should move to

more fashionable parts.

December 7, 1970

Pot Black

When Harold acquires a billiard table for the Steptoe household he is challenged to a game by the old man.

December 14, 1970

The Three Feathers

Harold is delighted with his latest bargain which he believes to be a genuine regency commode which may have been used by Royalty.

December 21, 1970

Cuckoo In The Nest

An Australian arrives on the Steptoe doorstep claiming to be Harold's illegitimate elder brother.

SEASON SEVEN

February 21, 1972

Men Of Letters

When Harold is chosen to write an article for the parish magazine, Albert volunteers to compile its crossword puzzle.

February 28, 1972

A Star Is Born

Harold wins a role with the local repertory company but his enthusiasm is not shared by his father.

March 6, 1972

Oh, What A Beautiful Mourning

A Steptoe relative has "snuffed it" and while Harold is dreading the prospect of the funeral, Albert manages to come out ahead.

March 13, 1972

Live Now, P.A.Y.E. Later

Albert is still claiming a tax concession for his wife, thirty-three years after her death, and Harold is forced to help out with the charade.

March 20, 1972

Loathe Story

Years of putting up with the old man have finally put Harold 'over the edge' but will a psychiatrist's couch offer a solution?

March 27, 1972

Divided We Stand

The Steptoes decide they can no longer live together but as neither is prepared to move out they lead separate lives under the one roof.

April 3, 1972

The Desperate Hours

The Steptoes are confronted by two escaped convicts, whose plight highlights similarities in their own situation.

* * *

Christmas Special (45 minutes)

Harold plans to spend Christmas in sunny Majorca but his problems begin when he tries to tell Albert he's not coming.

SEASON EIGHT

September 4, 1974

Back In Fashion

When the Steptoe yard is chosen as the background for a fashion spread, Harold prepares to join the trendy set.

September 11, 1974

And So To Bed

An evening of passion is destroyed by a nasty outbreak of bedbugs so Harold decides to invest in a water bed.

September 18, 1974

Porn Yesterday

Harold proposes donating his latest find, a "What the Butler Saw" machine to the Vicar's fete until he views its seamy contents.

September 25, 1974

The Seven Steptoes

The Steptoes have been threatened with a local protection racket but Albert's addiction to Kung Fu movies provides a solution.

October 3, 1974

Upstairs, Downstairs, Upstairs, Downstairs

Albert is confined to bed with a slipped disc but luckily Harold has the answer to every beck and call.

October 10, 1974

Seance In A Wet Rag And Bone Yard

Albert's growing interest in spiritualism leads to a seance taking place in Oil Drum Lane.

* * *

December 26, 1974

Christmas Special (40 minutes)

Harold finally agrees to let the old man accompany him on a Continental Christmas but first he must locate his passport.

RADIO ADAPTATIONS

SEASON ONE

July 3, 1966 - *The Offer*

July 10, 1966 - *The Bird*

July 17, 1966 - *Sixty-five Today*

July 24, 1966 - *The Stepmother*

July 31, 1966 - *The Economist*

August 7, 1966 - *Wallah Wallah Catsmeat*

August 14, 1966 - *The Diploma*

August 21, 1966 - *Steptoe A La Cart*

August 28, 1966 - *The Holiday*

September 4, 1966 - *The Bath*

September 11, 1966 - *The Lead Man Cometh*

September 18, 1966 - *The Musical Evening*

September 25, 1966 - *The Bonds That Bind Us*

SEASON TWO

June 11, 1967 - *The Siege Of Steptoe Street*

June 18, 1967 - *Pilgrim's Progress*

June 25, 1967 - *The Wooden Overcoats*

July 2, 1967 - *Sunday For Seven Days*

July 9, 1967 - *The Piano*

July 16, 1967 - *My Old Man's A Tory*

July 23, 1967 - *Homes Fit For Heroes*

July 30, 1967 - *Crossed Swords*

SEASON THREE

March 21, 1971 - *A Death In The Family*
March 28, 1971 - *Two's Company*
April 4, 1971 - *Tea For Two*
April 11, 1971 - *T.B. Or Not T.B.*
April 18, 1971 - *Without Prejudice*
April 25, 1971 - *Cuckoo In The Nest*
May 2, 1971 - *Steptoe And Son And Son*
May 9, 1971 - *Robbery With Violence*

SEASON FOUR

January 30, 1972 - *Full House*
February 6, 1972 - *Is That Your Horse Outside?*
February 13, 1972 - *The Lodger*
February 20, 1972 - *A Box In Town*
February 27, 1972 - *The Three Feathers*
March 5, 1972 - *The Colour Problem*
March 12, 1972 - *And Afterwards At...*
March 19, 1972 - *Any Old Iron*

SEASON FIVE

May 26, 1974 - *The Desperate Hours*
June 2, 1974 - *Come Dancing*
June 9, 1974 - *A Star Is Born*
June 16, 1974 - *A Winter's Tale*
June 23, 1974 - *Men Of Property*
June 30, 1974 - *Men Of Letters*

SEASON SIX

February 8, 1976 - *Loathe Story*
February 15, 1976 - *Oh, What A Beautiful Mourning*
February 22, 1976 - *Live Now, P.A.Y.E Later*
February 29, 1976 - *Upstairs Downstairs, Upstairs Downstairs*
March 7, 1976 - *And So To Bed*
March 14, 1976 - *Porn Yesterday*
March 21, 1976 - *The Seven Steptoerai*
March 28, 1976 - *Seance In A Wet Rag And Bone Yard*
* December 25, 1976 - *Christmas Special* (1974 TV)
* May 29, 1978 - *Scotch On The Rocks*

Those Magnificent Men And Their Heating Machines, Pot Black, Divided We Stand, The 1973 Christmas Special and *Back In Fashion* were not adapted for radio.

FILM

1972
Steptoe And Son
(MGM/EMI) 98 minutes
Harold's marriage to a stripper is not made easier by the old man who insists on joining them on the honeymoon.
1974
Steptoe And Son Ride Again
(Associated London/MGM/EMI) 98 minutes
The Steptoe's lack of success with a short-

sighted greyhound causes them to stage an insurance swindle by pretending Albert has passed on.

RECORDS

Steptoe And Son
(Pye NPL 18081, Golden Guinea GGL 0217, Marble Arch MAL 1160)
The Bird/The Gentle Art Of Totting (from *The Diploma*)/*Choppers For Sale* (from *The Economist*)/*The Holiday*
More Junk From Steptoe And Son
(Pye NPL 18090, Golden Guinea GGL 0278, Marble Arch MAL 1214)
The Stepmother/A Musical Evening
Steptoe - A La Cart
(Pye NPL 18101, Golden Guinea GGL 0373)
The Bonds That Bind/Up The Workers! (from *The Lodger*)/*Let's Go To The Pictures* (from *Sunday For Seven Days*)/ *The Au Pair* (from *Steptoe A La Cart*)
Love And Harold Steptoe
(Pye NPL 18135)
Cobblers (from *The Siege Of Steptoe Street*)/*Marriage Steptoe Style* (from *And Afterwards At...*)/*Room At The Top* (from *A Box In Town*)
Gems From The Steptoe Scrap Heap
Pye NPL 18153

The Wages Of Sin (from *Full House*)/*Night Of 100 Stars* (from the London Palladium)/*Steptoe And Son At Buckingham Palace* (from the 1963 Royal Command Performance)/*The Facts Of Life* (from *Is That Your Horse Outside?*)

Steptoe And Son Ride Again
Pye/Golden Guinea GGL 0465
The Joys Of Smoking (from *T.B. Or Not T.B.*)/*A Pregnant Situation* (from *Steptoe And Son And Son*)

Golden Hour Of Steptoe And Son
Pye/Golden Hour GH 527
*Reissue of above material
Marriage Steptoe Style/The Wages Of Sin/The Facts Of Life/Up The Workers!/Cobblers
Steptoe And Son Down Under
Astor/Image ILP 780
Live cabaret performance recorded in Australia in 1977.

The Facts Of Life Pye nep 24169
The Wages Of Sin Pye nep 24180
Steptoe And Son At Buckingham Palace Pye 7N 15588

AUDIO CASSETTES

Steptoe And Son
BBC Radio Collection
The Offer/The Lead Man Cometh/Pilgrim's Progress/Homes Fit For Heroes

BOOKS

Steptoe And Son
Hodder paperback, adapted by Gale Pederick from the television scripts
The Offer/Sixty-five Today/The Stepmother/Holidays/The Economist/The Bath
Steptoe And Son At The Palace
Adapted by Gale Pederick from scripts. Hodder paperback.
Steptoe And Son At The Palace (from the 1963 Royal Variety performance)/ *The Lead Man Cometh/The Keys* (from *A Musical Evening*)/ *Steptoe A La Carte/Crossed Swords*
Steptoe And Son
By Ray Galton & Alan Simpson, collection of television scripts. Longman paperback.
The Bonds That Bind Us/The Lead Man Cometh/The Lodger/Homes Fit For Heroes
No More Curried Eggs For Me
By Roger Wilmut. Methuen.
Includes one *Steptoe* script, *The Offer*.
The Best Of Steptoe And Son
Robson Books/Pan paperback, collection of television scripts
Cuckoo In The Nest/Men Of Letters/A Star Is Born/Oh, What A Beautiful Mourning/Live Now, P.A.Y.E. Later/Loathe Story/Divided We Stand/ The Desperate Hours/Christmas Special 1973/And So To Bed/Porn Yesterday/Upstairs Downstairs, Upstairs Downstairs

VIDEO CASSETTES

BBC Video 4041
Divided We Stand/The Desperate Hours/Porn Yesterday

BBC Video 4042
Men Of Letters/Live Now, P.A.Y.E. Later/1973 Christmas Special

BBC Video 4059
A Star Is Born/Upstairs Downstairs, Upstairs Downstairs/Cuckoo In The Nest

BBC Video 4060
Oh, What A Beautiful Mourning/Loathe Story/ And So To Bed

BBC Video
The Seven Steptoerai/Seance In A Wet Rag And Bone Yard/Back In Fashion

BBC Video
The Piano/The Bath/The Holiday

Warner Home Video PES 38149
Steptoe And Son

Warner Home Video PES 38179
Steptoe And Son Ride Again



Photo COURTESY Performing Arts Museum, Victorian Arts Centre

George Wallace

by Peter Tatchell



He was short, tubby and down to earth. He was the average everyday bloke who could act the “natural lair” one minute and the next break into an eccentric dance step that combined daintiness and artistry with uproarious humour. And he was the only Australian comedian to conquer the stage, movies and the radio. For over forty years the appearance of his battered hat, checked shirt and well-worn baggy trousers meant a night

of fun and boisterous laughter with one of the true clowns of show business.

George Wallace was born in Aberdeen, New South Wales in the mid-1890s (either 1894 or 1895 depending on your source). He arrived that June 4th in the midst of a violent thunderstorm, like that other great knockabout comedian Buster Keaton. George’s father and uncle formed a double act soon after and set off for a career in minstrel shows and turn of the century vaudeville houses, leaving young George and his mother to fend for themselves. By the age of three he’d made his first stage appearance in a pantomime and in the years to follow he would sing and dance for pennies on the waterfront at Pymont. Eventually Mrs. Wallace remarried and George looked set for a career in his stepfather’s ink factory. As a teenager he spent three or four years learning the trade before chucking it in and going “bush”.

George travelled round north Queensland working as a farm hand, a cane cutter and even did a little professional boxing, before giving it all away when he realised he was always ending up hurt, even when he won. At age sixteen he auditioned for a touring road show, offering a mixture of backflips, cuts and breaks, and a running half twist. He got the job at a pound a week and spent the next five years playing the mouth organ, painting the scenery, doing the odd chores and taking part in the performance as it moved from town to town. In January 1917 he headed for Brisbane where he married the former Margarita Nicholas. A couple of years later George Jr, arrived and by the early 1920s the Wallaces had settled in Sydney where George and Jack “Dinks” Paterson formed a double act “Dinks And Onkus” hoping to capture some of the success of “Stiffy And Mo” (Nat Phillips and Roy Rene).

Playing a couple of drunks, Wallace and Paterson toured with the Harry Clay circuit until 1924 by which time Dinks was finding himself overshadowed by his dumpy little partner who was singing, dancing and getting the laughs with some exuberant gymnastics. He was also writing songs for the shows as well. George not only split with his stage partner that year, but his marriage was on the rocks too. Switching to the Fuller company, he soon after crossed the Tasman to take part in a record-breaking 28 weeks with a revue sending up *The Barber Of Seville*.

By the end of the twenties, George Wallace was being viewed as one of Australia’s top comedians. His eccentric tap-dance routine was a guaranteed laugh-getter. The sight of this tubby little man with big bulbous eyes losing himself mid-step, a quick catch-up, and a finale of tripping himself up and landing on his left ear invariable brought the house down.

In 1931, while appearing in Melbourne, he was approached by Frank Thring Sr. of Efttee Pictures to make his movie debut and made a one-reel test film to see how he looked on the screen. Thring was so delighted with Wallace’s song and patter routine finishing with the famous dance step he released it to theatres as *George Wallace, Australia’s Premier Comedian*. A two-reeler was also made of one of George’s popular stage sketches under the title *Oh, What A Night!*, and by the time it hit the screens the following year he’d filmed his first full-length feature *His Royal Highness*. Thring spared no expense with the musical comedy in which his star dreams he is king of the mythical Betonia (though not forsaking his regular pursuits of roller skating and a friendly game of cards). The picture played to capacity houses in Australia and New Zealand and

was released in Britain as *His Loyal Highness* (in a slightly shortened version) where it received favourable notices.

The success of the film led to two more productions for Efftee ... *Harmony Row* in 1933 (in which George played a not-too-bright policeman) and *A Ticket In Tatts* in 1934 which climaxed in a horse race. Thring also used him for comic relief in the Gladys Moncrieff stage musical *Collits' Inn* and he appeared some months later in *The Beloved Vagabond*, again on stage.

Following Thring's death in the mid-1930s, George starred in two Cinesound movies *Let George Do It* (possibly his most successful effort both financially and artistically, in 1938) and *Gone To The Dogs* (in 1939).

With the outbreak of World War 2, the Tivoli Theatre circuit, unable to engage the major overseas names, staged a series of revues starring Wallace, Roy Rene, Jenny Howard, Jim Gerald and the other great Australian performers. Such productions as *The Spice Of Life*, *Laughter Express*, *Beauty On Parade*, *Target For Delight*, *Black Vanities* and *Laughter Invasion* toured the main capital cities and provided a popular mixture of sketches and colourful musical numbers. George could also be seen most Christmases playing 'Buttons' in the pantomime *Cinderella* which was staged at the matinee sessions in either Melbourne or Sydney. His songwriting talents were brought to the fore with his 1942 composition *A Brown Slouch Hat* which he dedicated to Australian servicemen stationed in all theatres of war. That same year also saw him broadcasting a series of radio programs for the first time.

During this period George was building up his gallery of classic characters with the constant change of production and venue. 'Eric The Dill', 'Fanny Shovelbottom's Friend' and 'The Drongo From The Congo' were favourites all round the country, but perhaps his most endearing creation was the bus conductress 'Sophie The Sort', who epitomised his clever use of the Australian idiom. Wearing a beret atop long wavy tresses, she was perennially threatening to 'dong you in the skull with the day's takings' if things got 'a bit over the odds'. One time a couple of 'dirty lairs' breathed at her and 'all the numbers fell off the tickets'. The routine was basically a monologue with Sophie recounting the problems she was having at 'hooking a fella'.

"I always try to act like a lady, to behave like a lady, to do the things a lady would do ... I was having a stink with a girl in a fish shop, see, and she's frying a piece of mullet. A ninepenny bit, with the fins on. And one word led to another, and all of a sudden she let go. I don't know if you've ever been smacked in the face with a bit of fried mullet, with the fins on, but it's very annoying because the fat runs down the fins and goes all over your hair, see. But I still retained my dignity ... breeding will out, there's no doubt about it. I just looked at her. In a sneering voice I said 'piffle' and I went to sweep out of the shop but some mug had left half a frankfurt on the floor and I skidded on the frankfurt and battered the base of my skull on the counter, see. The next thing I knew I'm lying in a stumour on the floor. When I came out of it, Bluey's holding me up. He's got his arm round me, looking me

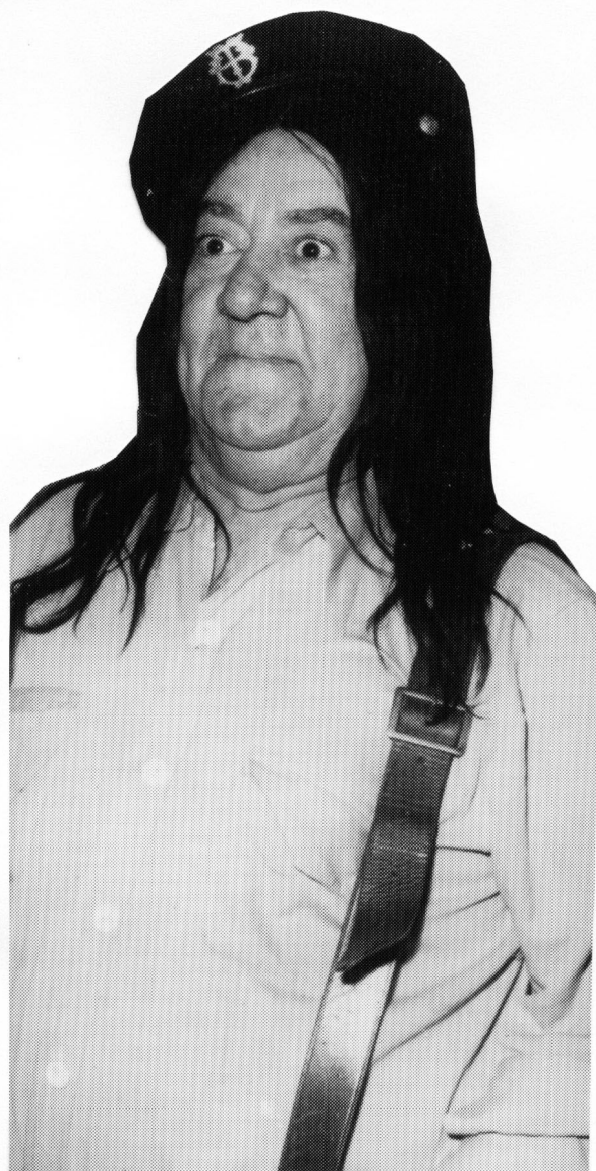


Photo Courtesy Performing Arts Museum, Victorian Arts Centre

straight in the face with his one good eye, and they got a cab and took me home."

At the end of the 1940s, George decided to concentrate on radio and appeared in a weekly series "George Wallace's Barn Dance" which aired across the country on the Macquarie Network (and associated stations). After six months the title changed to "The George Wallace Road Show" and featured such regulars as George Foster and Clark McKay. He stayed with it for four years before taking up an offer to tour Britain in late 1952. Unfortunately a bitterly cold northern winter coupled with the nation's austerity at the time prevented his being the success he'd have liked.

Returning home, he went back to stagework in *Thanks For The Memory*, "Let George Do It" and "Au Revoir George". In July 1957 he was touring New Zealand when he suffered a heart attack and was forced into semi-retirement. He did make some television appearances for his old Cinesound director, Ken G. Hall (then at Channel 9 Sydney) but his ill-health had taken its toll and a lot of the old magic had gone.

George died on October 16th 1960 after a final bout with bronchitis and emphysema and the television era was cheated of presenting one of Australian comedy's greatest sons to a new generation.

FILM

1931 *George Wallace, Australia's Premier Comedian* (8 mins. Efftee short)

1932 *Oh, What A Night* (15 mins. Efftee short)

1932 *His Royal Highness* (84 mins. Efftee feature)

1933 *Harmony Row* (78 mins. Efftee feature)

1934 *A Ticket In Tatts* (88 mins. Efftee feature)

1938 *Let George Do It* (79 mins. Cinesound feature)

1939 *Gone To The Dogs* (83 mins. Cinesound feature)

1944 *The Rats Of Tobruk* (95 mins. Chanum feature)

*Wallace in support role.

1951 *Wherever She Goes* (81 mins. Faun Flim feature)

*Wallace makes cameo



RADIO:

The George Wallace Programme (3DB April 6-September 28, 1942. 51 X 15 minute shows)

George Wallace's Barn Dance (3AW March 15 - September 13, 1949. 27 X 30 minute editions)

With Alan Herbert, Fred MacIntosh, Bettie Dickson, Keith Eadie, Joy Burns and June Hamilton.

Recordings of over a dozen broadcasts survive in the National Sound Archive, Canberra. Scripts of all episodes, bar 1 and 9, exist as well.

George Wallace's Road Show

(3AW July 11, 1950-March 16, 1951. 36 X 30 minute shows)

(3AW May 17-November 15, 1951. 27 X 30 minute shows)

(3AW February 14, 1952-January 29, 1953. 51 X 30 minute shows)

With George Foster, Clark McKay, June Hamilton, Fred McIntosh.

Recordings of a handful of these broadcasts survive in Canberra, as do nearly all of the scripts.

In addition to the above, a 30-minute audition program (ca.1947/8) exists in which George performs 'Sophie the Sort' and 'Eric the Dill'. He also performed 'Sophie the Sort' for the ABC in the early 1950s.

VIDEO:

His Loyal Highness (National Film And Sound Archive Release) Edited British print.

Efftee Entertainers (National Film And Sound Archive Release) Contains the shorts *George Wallace, Australia's Premier Comedian* and *Oh, What A Night*, plus a trailer to *Harmony Row*.

RECORD:

The Wonderful Wireless (2LP) Telmak TMAK 046

Features a short extract from an undated **George Wallace's Road Show** broadcast.

REFERENCE:

People February 28, 1951 (magazine)

Contains a three-page article on George.

Memoirs Of An Abominable Snowman by Billy Moloney. Rigby Limited, Adelaide 1968

Chapter 5: **The Boy From The Valley** deals with George.

Peter Luck's This Fabulous Century

Circus Books, 1979

Chapter 2: **Humour** features a profile of George.



The Marx Brothers

ON RECORD

Marx

In the 1920s and 1930s, the brothers Marx were regarded as the wackiest team on Broadway and in Hollywood. In the 1990s, thanks to the miracle of the motion picture, we can still appreciate their genius and enjoy their incredible (and happily timeless) antics.

To be sure, the best place to encounter them is in a crowded movie theatre where the laughter is contagious, but their appearance on disc or video is also a treasured experience.

During their careers the brothers made many notable forays into radio and television and, on occasion, the recording studio. In his final years Groucho also performed one-man concerts, telling anecdotes and singing his favourite songs. Along the way, commercial recordings on 78s, LPs and more recently compact discs have showcased many of these memorable moments.

from **FILM**

The Cocoanuts (Sountrak STK 108, reissued as Sandy Hook SH 2059)

Contains highlights from the 1929 Paramount film

The Original Voice Tracks From Their Greatest Movies (Decca DL 79168)

contains highlights from the Paramount films *The Cocoanuts*, *Animal Crackers*, *Monkey Business*, *Horse Feathers* and *Duck Soup* linked with narration by Gary Owens

A Night At The Opera (Re-Sound RST 7051)

contains comedy highlights from the 1935 M.G.M. film

Hollywood Sings (Living Era AJA 5011)

includes *Hello, I Must Be Going* (Groucho, Zeppo and Margaret Dumont) from the 1930 Paramount film *Animal Crackers*.

Hollywood Party (Pelican LP 130)

Includes "Everyone Says I Love You" (Groucho) from the 1932 Paramount film *Horse Feathers*

Marx Movie Madness (Radiola MR 1097, reissued as compact disc CDMR 1097)

Contains radio promotions "Paramount Movie Parade" and "Leo Is On The Air" (which feature soundtrack excerpts) for *Duck Soup*, *A Day At The Races*, *At The Circus* and *Go West Stage Door Canteen/Hollywood Canteen* (Curtain Calls 100/11-12)

includes Harpo's harp solo from *Stage Door Canteen*



from **RADIO**

Three Hours, Fifty-nine Minutes, Fifty-one Seconds With The Marx Bros. (4LPs) Murray Hill 931680, reissued as: **The Very Best Of The Marx Brothers** (two double-LPs) AAT 201/2 and 202/2

Radio guest appearances by Groucho, Chico and Harpo

Groucho: Greetings From Groucho (KFI 50th Anniversary Show - April 16 1972)/G. Marx, Attorney At Law (February 12 1947 Philco Radio Time) includes vocal Go West Young Man (duet with Bing Crosby)/Plebo - You Bet Your Life (November 12 1950 The Big Show) includes vocal Some Enchanted Evening/Groucho's Mother (wartime AFRS Mail Call)/Dr. G. Marx Hackenbush (March 12 1944 Philco Radio Hall Of Fame)/Groucho The Patient (1945 Birds Eye Open House) includes vocal Dr. Hackenbush/Groucho In The Marines (June 10 1945 Chase & Sanborn Program)/Livingstone Marx African Explorer (wartime AFRS G.I. Journal)/Groucho The Hypochondriac (1945 Birds Eye Open House)/Groucho In Chicago (April 30 1947 Philco Radio Time) includes vocal Feudin', Fightin' And Fussin' (with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Shay)/The All Star Cowboy Hour (1940s AFRS Mail Call)/The Spiwit Of Spwing (1945 Birds Eye

Open House)/Doctor People Are Double And Take It Truth Or Ignorance It Pays To Be Information (wartime AFRS Command Performance) includes vocal Lydia, The Tattooed Lady/A Mink For Jolson (January 13 1949 Kraft Music Hall)/A Quiz For Jolson (November 18 1948 Kraft Music Hall)/A Baseball Team For Jolson (April 7 1949 Kraft Music Hall) includes vocal That Little German Band (duet with Al Jolson)/A Laundry For Jolson (May 26 1949 Kraft Music Hall)

Chico: Abraham! (December 1943 Fitch Bandwagon)/2nd Movement From The Beer Barrel Polka (December 1943 Fitch Bandwagon)/Pagliacci (December 1943 Fitch Bandwagon)/Noodlin' Around (wartime AFRS Command Performance)/The Start Of The Marx Brothers (December 1943 Fitch Bandwagon)

Harpo: A Conversation With Harpo (1944 AFRS Command Performance) includes vocal My Blue Heaven (sung by Bing Crosby, harp played by Harpo)

Plus Hollywood Agents (Groucho and Chico in a 1937 test broadcast)/Time Marxes On! (1937 "Leo Is On The Air" promo for *A Day At The Races*)

Groucho Marx On Radio

Radiola MR 1072, reissued on compact disc contains Greetings From Groucho (1972)/Hollywood Agents (1937)/Doctor People Are ... (wartime)/Plebo - You Bet Your Life (1950)

Groucho Marx

Memorabilia MLP 733

contains Hollywood Agents (1937)/You Bet Your Life (October 25 1950)

Three Giants: Bing Crosby, Maurice Chevalier & Groucho Marx (de Baron GROUCH 47)

contains Groucho's guestshot on Bing Crosby's Philco Radio Time (April 30 1947) which includes the vocals Lydia The Tattooed Lady (duet with Bing) and Feudin', Fightin' and Fussin' (with Bing and Dorothy Shay)

Groucho

Nostalgia Lane NLR 1021

contains two episodes of You Bet Your Life (March 31 1958 and May 12 1958)

Three Funniest Hours In The History Of Radio (3LPs)

Nostalgia Lane 3NLR 130

includes one episode of You Bet Your Life (March 31 1958)

Groucho

Mark 56 758

contains two episodes of You Bet Your Life (February 23 1949 and March 31 1958)

You Bet Your Life

Golden Age GA 5021

contains two episodes of You Bet Your Life (December 16 1957 and February 10 1958)

*** the Hollywood Agents sketch (featuring Groucho and Chico) is invariably dated 1938 but jokes about Jean Harlow (who died the previous year) and the show's musical content indicate it was performed in 1937, possibly as a tryout for a series that did not eventuate.

from **TELEVISION**

The Mikado (Columbia OL 5480/OS 2022)

soundtrack of the April 29 1960 NBC Bell Telephone Hour presentation starring Groucho, wherein he performed the following vocals:As Some Day It May Happen/With Aspect

Stern (duet with Stanley Holloway)/Here's A How-De-Do! (with Barbara Meister and Robert Rounseville)/The Criminal Cried (with Sharon Randall and Stanley Holloway)/Willow, Tit-Willow/There Is Beauty (duet with Helen Traubel)

Here's Johnny: Magic Moments From The Tonight Show (2LPs) Casablanca SPNB 1296

includes Groucho chatting to Johnny Carson and singing Father's Day

from **LIVE APPEARANCES**

An Evening With Groucho Marx (2LPs)

A & M SP 3515, reissued on compact disc CD 6010

Highlights from Groucho's 1972 concert at Carnegie Hall (introduced by Dick Cavett) including the vocals Hello I Must Be Going/Timbuctoo/Oh How That Woman Could Cook/Toronto Song/Always/Stay Down Where You Belong/Everybody Works But Father + Father's Day/Show Me A Rose/Lydia, The Tattooed Lady

from **STUDIO RECORDINGS**

Chico's orchestra released a 78 Here You Are/Sweet Eloise (Hit Records 7004) some time in the 1940s

Harpo recorded six tracks for R.C.A. Victor on April 23 and 24 1951:

Stardust/Tea For Two (47-4186)

Guardian Angels/Swanee River (47-4187)

Bourree/Chanson Dans La Nuit (47-4188)

all six were reissued on the 10" LP **Harp By Harpo**

R.C.A. Victor LPM 27

Harpo also recorded two 12" LPs in the 1950s:

Harpo In Hi-Fi (Mercury MG 20232)

Thinking Of You/Guardian Angel/Yesterdays/My Funny Valentine/The Ash Grove/Tenderly/Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man/Lullaby Doll/They Say That Falling In Love Is Wonderful/Autumn Leaves/Honeysuckle Rose/That's All

Harpo At Work (Mercury MG 20363/SR 60016)

Laura/My Blue Heaven/The Man I Love/Taking A Chance On Love/Imagination/Aye, Aye, Aye/Harpo Woogie/All The Things You Are/Sweet Sue/Solitude/In A Sentimental Mood/I Got Rhythm

Groucho joined Danny Kaye, Jimmy Durante and Jane Wyman on a Decca 78 recorded on August 12 1951:

How D'Ye Do And Shake Hands/Black Strap Molasses (27748)

Groucho recorded a further six solo vocals for Decca on November 26 and 27 1951:

Hooray For Captain Spaulding/Omaha, Nebraska (28158)

Dr. Hackenbush/Father's Day (28159)

Go West, Young Man/Show Me A Rose (28160)

all six tracks were reissued on the 10"LP **Hooray For Captain Spaulding** (Decca DL 5405), and as one side of the British 12"LP **Groucho Marx/Jerry Colonna**

Decca/Ace Of Hearts AH 103

Groucho can also be heard on several other LPs released in the 1950s and 1960s:

Face To Face (2LP)(Decca DXD 166) interview

My Favorite Story

20th Century Fox tfm 3106 (relating an anecdote)

The Funniest Song In The World

Young People's Records 10010

T.S. Eliot: Memorial Record Of Homage

British H.M.V./U.S. Odeon CLP 1924

CRAIG FERGUSON

Is Bing Hitler Dead?

A discography compiled by
M.J. Simpson

A Complete (But Short) Discography

Hopefully the name Craig Ferguson will be known to most of you, even if only from his recent job of presenting the live music show *Friday At The Dome* on Channel 4. Prior to this, Craig has built up a solid reputation as a live act (including a support slot on Harry Enfield's national tour) and he was given a one-off TV special which, sadly, didn't work. He has also issued three albums, all of which are very funny and capture Ferguson in his natural habitat (ie. live).

Bing Hitler: Live At The Tron

Jammy - JRLP 861 (LP), JRCP 861 (cassette) (10/86)

No track listing

Craig's first album only mentioned his real name briefly on the back; the actual artist credit was his fictitious persona of 'Bing Hilter'. The *Hill Street Blues* fans amongst you may remember the episode from which this name was derived: one of the officers became the manager for an aspiring nightclub comedian who was very funny but had two disadvantages. Firstly, he was narcoleptic (look it up), and secondly his family name (of which he was very proud) was Hitler.

Fortunately, Craig has never suffered from narcolepsy, but he decided that a name like Bing Hitler would grab people's attention. It must be said that, on record, Hitler's act does not really differ from Craig's own. Visually, however, he looked a total state, sporting a gross shirt and wide tie plus a pair of National Health spectacles. And his fly was partially undone.

On side one of this album, Craig/Bing rants about things that he 'really hates', mostly '-isms'. There include spookyism, traditionalism and George Chisolm. On side two he progresses to things that he 'really really hates', which include baldie guys, hairy guys and Jacques Cousteau. At the end of each side, he takes up his guitar and sings. On side one he gives us 'The Sheep Song' which is a parody of Scottish folk group *The Corries*. The album finishes with *Scotland Hooch Och Aye*, of which more later.

Tighter editing (or just editing!) would have improved *Live At The Tron* (which was recorded at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow in September 1986). There are several occasions when the audience laughs at something visual and the listener is left going 'What?'. That said, it is a howlingly funny record and



worth searching around for. Look for a black sleeve with a black and white photo of Craig/Bing, a blue stripe, and the words 'Warning! Millions of rude words'.

Mental: Is Bing Hitler Dead?

Polydor - 837 643-1 (LP), 837 643-4 (cassette) (11/88)

Thor / Scandinavians / Turkey In The Eurovision Song Contest / Explorers / Philosophers And Sex / Advertising And Sex / Wrestling Round 1 / Scotland Hooch Och Aye (studio version) / Wrestling Round 2 / Meaningless Songs / The Compendium Of Games / Scary Television / Bite / Scotland Hooch Och Aye (live version)

Recorded two years after his first album, *Mental* was committed to tape in September 1988 at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (the major venue for Edinburgh Festival Fringe acts). By now Ferguson was signed to Polydor and had thrown off his Bing Hitler persona (hence the title). The sleeve is garishly coloured, with a black and white photograph of Craig. A few notes on the tracks: 'Thor' is about Thor Heyerdal, not the Norse god, and 'Meaningless Songs' has no connection with the HeeBeeGeeBees tracks of that title, but is a complaint about the nonsense lyrics of songs such as *I've Never Been To Me*.

Once again, the album ends with a version of *Scotland Hooch Och Aye*, but it also contains a studio version repeat with full band and backing singers. The only significant lyrical difference is that the Duke of Edinburgh is referred to in the studio version as 'a Greek!', rather than 'a fucking Greek!'

Mental is as good as, if not better than, its predecessor. In particular, Craig's rendition of the Turkish Eurovision entry (any year) is spot on!

A Big Stoatir

Polydor - 843 432-1 (LP), 834 432-2 (CD), 843 431-4 (cassette) (11/90)

Journey Into The Unknown / The Devil's Number / The Dawning Of Civilisation / Great Inventions / Animals Are Stupid / Family Fortunes / Astrology, Drugs And Television / How The Atom Bomb Works / Sadism And Sandwiches / Sexy Jobs And Juggling / Donald Sinden And Excuses / Look After The Pennies / 500 Beers

Craig's third and most recent album features a colour photograph on the sleeve (albeit blurred) and is even available

on CD. It was recorded at the Glasgow Pavilion in November 1989. The title means nothing to me (anybody?) but I would hazard a guess that it's probably a lot ruder than the Polydor executives think.

A Big Stoatir differs from the previous two albums in two important ways. Firstly, there is no version of *Scotland Hooch Och Aye*; instead he rounds off his act with a parody of The Proclaimers *500 miles*. Secondly, Ferguson shares the writing credits with Paul Whitehouse, Charlie Hisdon (Harry Enfield's chief writers) and Helen Atkinson-Wood (of *Radio Active* fame). This does not noticeably affect Craig's style.

This is not quite as good an album as *Mental*, but it is still streets ahead of a lot of comedy records. The highlight is undoubtedly at the end of side one, when Craig recounts the tale of two Scottish families playing *Family Fortunes*, which is probably the funniest single routine he has ever recorded.

Throughout the three albums, one can hear Ferguson's style developing from a manic rant about fairly obvious subjects to a series of acute (albeit still manic) social and historical observations. He has also become noticeably more professional. All of these albums are highly recommended, although I would put *Mental* slightly ahead of the other two. If he can keep this standard up, Craig Ferguson could become a major comic force in the 90's.

BUT... that is not the whole discography. There is one more wee record to add:

Scotland Hooch Och Aye/Bite/Scotland Hooch Och Aye (live)
Polydor - PO 26 (7") (10/88)

Craig's only single and, *quelle surprise*, it's *Scotland Hooch Och Aye*. The A-side is the studio version, and the B-side has the final two tracks from the *Mental* album. A sloppy printing mistake means that on the record label the track 'Bite' (which is about vampires) is listed as 'Ite'.

It is rather fortunate that all three tracks are available on an album, because this record is phenomenally hard to find. Look out for its blue and white picture sleeve with a photograph of Craig in a green tartan jacket.

AUSSIE VIDEO COLLECTORS

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What's **NEW?**

Compact Disc:

Barry Humphries: Moonee Ponds Muse (Volume 1)
Raven RVCD 17

Edna's Hymn/Lament For Maid Melbourne/War Savings Street Song/True British Spunk/The Highett Waltz (1971 version)/Sandy Agonistes/Dear Beryl/The Old Pacific Sea/Snow Complications/Debbie Thwaite (1960 version)/Colin Cartwright

Raven has reissued a selection of Humphries recordings originally issued by Score, Parlophone and Philips, including nearly all the rare "Sandy Agonistes" LP (omitting only 'Buster Thompson', the Barry McKenzie prototype, which hopefully may be included on a second volume.

(see issue #1 of *Laugh* for a complete Barry Humphries discography)

Jackie Mason: Brand New

Columbia CK 48586

Opening Observations/Newscasters And Personalities/Israelis, Terrorists And Arabs/Jews' Discussion In The Lobby - Intermission/Health And Sickness - Food Fads And Status/Gentiles And Jews - The Difference

Billy Connolly Live at The Odeon Hammersmith London

Virgin CDV 2678

Doomsday/Parliament/Pit Bulls/Sheep Dogs/Doggy Sex/Multiple Orgasms/Longevity Of Sex/Algebra/Chatting Up Women/Crimpolene Suits/Underpants/Tweed Trousers/Scottish Holidays/Don't Drink The Water/Sunny Spain/Fresh Air Fortnight/Army Beds/Swimming In The North Sea/Sumo Wrestlers/We Don't Belong In There/I Laughed/It Goes Away

Rodney Rude - A Legend

EMI CDGET 797987

Tracks not itemised

Monty Python - Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life

Virgin PYTHD 1 664740 (CD single)

Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life/I'm So Worried/I Bet You They Won't Play This Song On The Radio/Holzfaller Song (Lumberjack Song - German version)

Video:

Till Death Us Do Part (BBC Video)

Colour episodes: January 23 1974/January 8 1975/January 15 1975

Only two or three black and white editions escaped being junked, but happily nearly all the colour ones are available for issue (four series in the 1970s). Dandy Nichols left midway through this revival run and the next door neighbours Min and Bert (played by Patricia Hayes and Alfie Bass) were phased in. The episodes included on the tape (hopefully the first of several volumes) feature Alf and Else arguing over the strikes and blackouts, Alf phoning Else in Australia (Nichols last appearance on the show), and Min and Bert at loggerheads. BBC Video has also released edited highlights from several of their recent sketch comedy series ...

A Bit Of Fry And Laurie

Smith And Jones

A Farties Guide To The Man From Auntie

other releases include ...

The Unrepeatable Who Dares Wins

Polygram Video

Highlights from the mid-1980s Channel 4 sketch comedy series starring Julia Hills, Jimmy Mulville, Rory McGrath, Philip Pope and Tony Robinson.

The Best Of Ernie Kovacs

White Star Video (NTSC)

Five 60-minute volumes featuring highlights from the classic television appearances of Ernie Kovacs from the early 1950s until his death in 1962

Car 54 Where Are You?

Republic Pictures Home Video (NTSC)

Four volumes of episodes from the 1960s sitcom which starred Fred Gwynn and Joe E. Ross.

Books:

The Liar by Stephen Fry (Heinemann)

Still Talking by Joan Rivers

Neglected Poetry And Other Creatures by Barry Humphries (Angus & Robertson)

Mae West: Empress Of Sex by Maurice Leonard (Harper/Collins)

And Now For Something Completely Trivial by Kim "Howard" Johnson (St. Martin's Press)

Lucy & Desi by Warren G. Harris (Simon and Schuster)

Wisdom Of The 90's by George Burns

Clubs & Societies

When corresponding with these societies please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope or a couple of International Reply Coupons (if overseas). Personal cheques should not be sent to overseas groups (your bank should arrange an International Bank draft in the currency of the country to which the funds are being sent).

THE MARX BROTHERHOOD

C/o. Darien 28, New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938, United States Of America

Not so much a fan club as a producer of the magazine *The Freedonia Gazette* (US\$5 per copy, with over 20 back issues also available at that price). Cheques should be made payable to Paul Wesolowski, who also offers a large range of Marx memorabilia including statues, posters, pins, oven mitts, napkins, rubber stamps and a Groucho watch.

THE SPIKE JONES INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB

129 East Colorado Boulevard, California 91016, United States Of America)

Annual Subscription is US\$10 (U.S. residents) or US\$13 (elsewhere). A quarterly magazine keeps "music lovers" in the know about collectibles and events as well as featuring interviews and articles about Spike and The City Slickers. They also offer "The Illustrated Guide To The Recordings Of Spike Jones" for US\$16.50 postpaid (or US\$20 postpaid overseas).

OCTARINE

The Science Fiction And Fantasy Humour Appreciation Society

C/o. 46 Arnside Road, Bestwood Estate, Nottingham NG5 2AE, Great Britain)

Membership is £4 in Britain, £5 in Europe, and £7 elsewhere. The society produces a quarterly fanzine of news, reviews, interviews, articles and original fiction (and offers lots of merchandise).

ZZ9 PLURAL Z ALPHA

The Hitch-Hikers Guide To The Galaxy Appreciation Society
c/o. 17 Guildford Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 3LA, Great Britain

Offers a quarterly magazine plus merchandise. Write for further information.

THE OFFICIAL RED DWARF FAN CLUB

c/o P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG United Kingdom
Quarterly newsletter and merchandise. Write for further information.

S*T*A*R*S*

Savers of Television and Radio Shows

c/o 8 Beechwood lodge, 5 East Bank, Stamford Hill, London N16 5RX, United Kingdom

The Group exists to provide a listing of collectors and their wants, which is circulated with in their membership. Most trade comedy material.

THE ABBOTT & COSTELLO FAN CLUB

c/o P.O. Box 2084, Toluca Lake, California 91610 0084, USA
Having nearly a thousand members worldwide, the club helps keep alive the memory of Bud and Lou, and their children are active participants. They produce a quarterly magazine and offer a wealth of memorabilia for the budding A & C enthusiast (a video, baseball caps, note pads with letterhead, and even a reproduction of the famous "Who's On First" burlesque routine).

Membership is US\$8 within the United States, US\$9 in Canada, US\$10 everywhere else.

THE GOON SHOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

c/o 27 Kew Drive, Davyhulme, Urmston, Manchester M31 2WW, United Kingdom

Formed in 1972 (at the time of the show's final broadcast), it celebrates the famous BBC radio series of the 1950s, and endeavours to promote idiocy in all quarters (and halves). The society produces a newsletter four times a year with information about records, tapes, books and anything pertaining to their heroes.

Membership is £5 in Britain (£3 Students), £6 everywhere else.

US enthusiasts may deal with Dick Baker, 7004 Westmoreland Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042, USA.

There are also two Australian Goon groups at:

34 Denham Way, Thornlie, Western Australia 6108
and

P.O. Box 114, Boronia, Victoria 3155

THE TONY HANCOCK APPRECIATION SOCIETY

c/o 261 Brownfield Road, Sharp End, Birmingham B34 7EA, United Kingdom

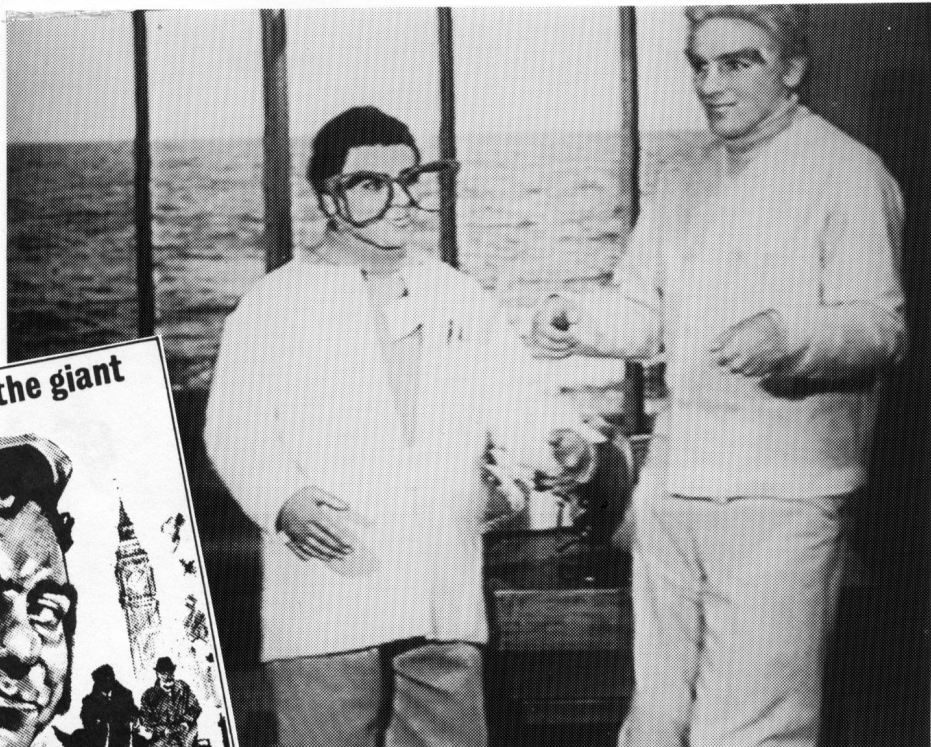
A thousand or so members pay homage to "the lad himself" with regular get-togethers, a quarterly newsletter and lots of memorabilia to collect. Their annual reunion in Bournemouth has regular celebrity guests joining in the fun.

Membership is £5 in Britain.

THE INTERNATIONAL JACK BENNY FAN CLUB

c/o 15430 Lost Valley Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46845, USA
Launched in 1980, the club produces a bi-monthly newsletter with information about Jack and his colleagues. A "Jack Benny Log" has also been compiled with an itemisation of the Benny radio and television show and his films. There is also a tape library.

No membership fee, but the newsletter is US\$6.39 per year.



Now they're a **BIGGER LAUGH** on the giant color screen!

Nat Cohen presents an Anglo-EMI film
Associated London Films production of
RAY GALTON and ALAN SIMPSON'S

STEPTOE & SON

starring **HARRY H. CORBETT**
as **SON**
also starring **WILFRID BRAMBELL**
as **STEPSTOE**
also starring **CAROLYN SEYMOUR**

Screenplay by **RAY GALTON and ALAN SIMPSON** · Executive Producer **BERYL VERTUE**
Produced by **AIDA YOUNG** · Directed by **CLIFF OWEN** · **TECHNICOLOR**
Distributed by Anglo-EMI Film Distributors Ltd.

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Back In The Saddle
In A Riotous
New Comedy Hit!

NAT COHEN presents an ANGLo-EMI film
ASSOCIATED LONDON FILMS production of
Roy Galton and Alan Simpson's

STEPTOE & SON RIDE AGAIN

starring **HARRY H. CORBETT**
as **Son**
also starring **WILFRID BRAMBELL**
as **Stepstoe**
also starring **DIANA DORS** · **MILDRED SHEA**
Executive producer: **BERYL VERTUE** · Screenplay by **RAY GALTON and ALAN SIMPSON** · Produced by **AIDA YOUNG**
Directed by **PETER SYKES** · **Technicolor**

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