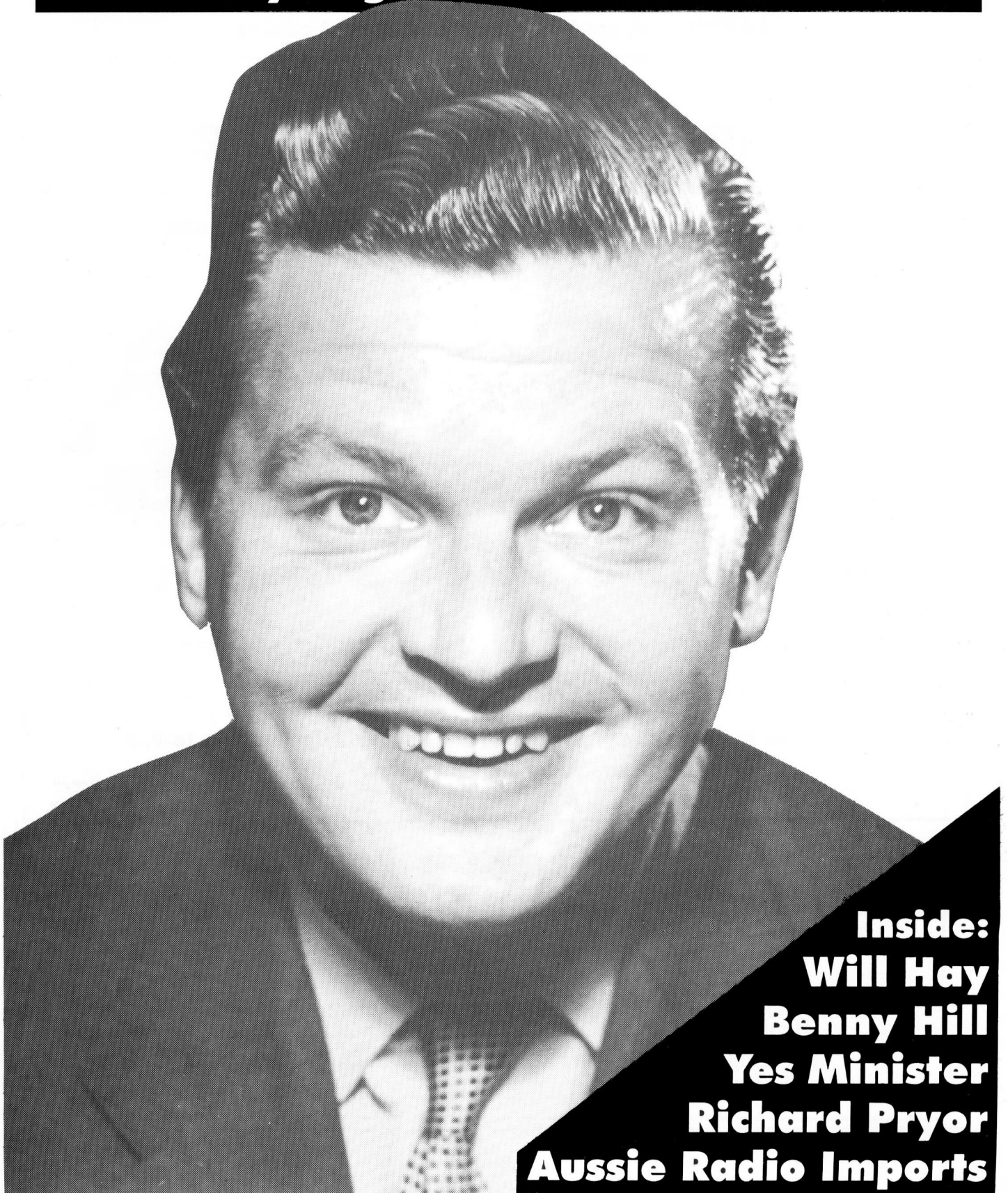


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# LAUGH

**The Comedy Magazine**

**Issue 22 2001**



**Inside:  
Will Hay  
Benny Hill  
Yes Minister  
Richard Pryor  
Aussie Radio Imports**

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

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plus

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## Contents

Will Hay .....	3
Richard Pryor on disc .....	6
Benny Hill .....	8
Visiting stars on Australian radio .....	16
Yes Minister .....	18

# WILL HAY

by Mark McKay

**T**IME can often be unkind to the comedy greats of yesteryear, especially top music hall draws of the 1920s and 1930s. However, one major performer from this period seems to have defied the odds and his comic exploits have endured. This is in part due to the entertaining fully-rounded character he created — a cocktail of contradictory emotions: in turn hare-brained, suspicious, crafty, gullible, audacious, timid, arrogant, fawning, charming and argumentative — and the new medium of film which captured his talent so successfully.

Will Hay was born in Stockton-on-Tees in 1888 to an engineer father also called William. A bright schooling was interrupted when the family moved to Manchester, where Bill senior set up his own company. His son took a job as an interpreter with a printing firm and married his childhood sweetheart, Gladys, in 1907. A few dinner-speaking engagements encouraged him to try his hand as a professional entertainer in the music halls, much to his parents' disapproval.

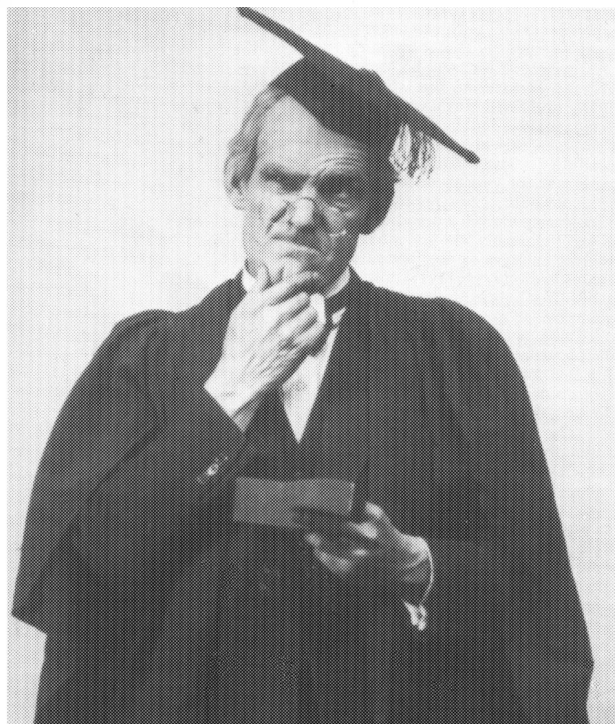
But what form should his act take? His sister Eppie was to provide the answer. Being a schoolteacher she would amuse her siblings with tales of mischievous pupils and their wag-gish classroom capers. Will decided to adopt the character of a schoolmaster on the stage, and in so doing, trod his first steps on the road to success.

Will already possessed a skill which was to prove useful — an exceptional talent for calligraphy. His ability to write random words on a blackboard upside-down and back-to-front in beautiful handwriting never failed to impress theatre audiences. Evidence of this expert penmanship can be seen in the film *The Goose Steps Out*.

Naturally Will didn't become a star overnight. Many years were spent on the halls and as a player in Fred Karno's comedy troupe honing the act. A cheeky boy was introduced into the sketches, later joined by an elderly man playing 'Harbottle', a senile student clearly destined to see out his twilight years in short trousers. Over the next fifteen years a number of different performers took on the student roles, including Hay's nephews Bert and Cyril Platt and son Will Hay Jr. Even his wife occasionally appeared as the old man — with the audience none the wiser!

The skits, now billed as 'The Fourth Form At St. Michael's', featured amusing schoolboy howlers ('Who was Noah's wife?' — 'Joan of Arc!'/ 'Name four members of the cat family' — 'Father cat, mother cat and two kittens') and wearisome misunderstandings over names, later exploited to greater effect by Abbott and Costello. However it was primarily Hay's inept but believable characterisation which created the greatest impression.

By the mid 1920s, Will and his 'scholars' were making waves in theatres all over Britain, and accepting offers to tour Australasia, America and South Africa. Back home, they were invited to appear before the King and Queen in the 1925 Royal Variety Performance. The act went down so well they were again booked for London's most prestigious show in 1928 and 1930. Meanwhile special studio reworkings of the stage routines were recorded and released as double-sided discs.



While he was playing New York, Will went to see one of the new talking pictures. His verdict was that talkies were merely a passing fad and would hold no lasting attraction for the public. Little did he suspect that in less than ten years, sound movies would have completely superseded silents and one of their major British drawcards would be Will Hay.

His first feature film roles were a deliberate departure from the schoolmaster character. He played a straight-laced magistrate in *Those Were The Days* alongside a young John Mills, and a country vicar in *Dandy Dick*, both screen adaptations of Pinero farces.

*Boys Will Be Boys* saw Will's debut in an academic role, that of Dr. Alec Smart, who becomes headmaster of Narkover school with the help of a forged reference. The students are quick to recognise him as a mug ('You get his cheque book and I'll get his autograph!'), but a cunning mind lurks behind the pince-nez and sniffy hooter. Not to mention a unique sense of fair play. In one nice scene he foolishly turns his back on the class just long enough to cop a slingshot pellet on the back of the neck. Determined to exact revenge, he asks the prime suspect to stand up. The lad in question is over six feet tall. Hay considers this for a while, then asks his innocent neighbour to rise. Satisfied that this boy is shorter, he gives him a swift cuff round the ears. Justice is done.

For the rest of his screen career, Will alternated between playing teachers and other figures of authority (notably policeman, prison governor, station master and fireman). In his third picture for Gainsborough, *Windbag The Sailor*, he was teamed with Graham Moffatt (as the impudent fat boy Albert) and Moore Marriott (as the silly old codger Harbottle). The pair partnered Hay in five more flicks, becoming the cinematic equivalents of his traditional young boy and old man stooges.

Born in 1919, Graham Moffatt was working as a call boy at the film studios before the tubby lad with the charismatic personality was offered small parts in current productions. Moore Marriott, on the other hand, had years of acting experience, having been a leading man in silent films. By the late 1930s he was associated with ancient curmudgeons, which he impersonated so convincingly few suspected his real age. Marriott possessed five sets of false teeth, his favourite a plate with only one centre tooth which he called his 'onion chaser'.

One of the trio's best loved pictures saw the three idiots muddling along as railway station staff in the sleepy Irish border halt of Buggleskelly. Many critics regard *Oh, Mr. Porter!* as Hay's finest work, but what sets it apart from his other films is admittedly lost on me. Personally I prefer *Convict 99*, with new jail boss Will initially mistaken for one of the inmates, or *Good Morning Boys*, in which the pupils of St. Michael's cheat their way to winning a trip to Paris, first prize in an inter-school exam competition.

While portraying a bumbling buffoon on stage and screen, in private Hay enjoyed an extraordinary range of interests and became proficient in them all. Studying textbooks, learning foreign languages and building model traction engines all helped to keep his mind active, but his principal hobbies were aviation and astronomy.

Will built and flew his own glider as far back as 1910, and was one of the first private plane owners in Britain. Later he performed dare-devil acrobatic stunts in bi-planes and impressed friend Amy Johnson with his piloting skills.

The interest in star-gazing went back to adolescence and the purchase of his first telescope. As he became more affluent, a lot of time and money went into the construction of a small observatory in his back yard in Norbury. His work in tracking comets (for which he designed his own micrometer measuring device) earned him a Fellowship of the Royal Astronomical Society. In 1933, Will hit the headlines with his discovery of a transient white spot on the surface of Saturn. Two years later he wrote a book on astronomy called *Through My Telescope*, described by Patrick Moore as 'a very good general description'.

Will's scientific studies brought him into the confidence of leading Oxbridge academics. Tommy Trinder recalled one occasion when an eminent professor phoned the Hay household in the early hours of the morning with news of an important breakthrough in particle physics. An excited Will rushed in to wake his sleeping wife. "Darling, what do you think? They've split the atom!". "That's wonderful," Gladys yawned sleepily, "now they can both have a piece."

The war saw a break-up in the partnership with Moffatt and Marriott (who both continued as a Gainsborough double act in the *Hi Gang!* movie and various Arthur Askey vehicles). In need of change, Will signed up with Ealing Studios and went on to make four more feature films. The Ealing productions were generally less believable than his earlier classics, often featuring corny cartoon-like finales. Interestingly, his final film, *My Learned Friend*, was a black comedy about a serial murderer, anticipating the great Ealing chef d'oeuvre, *Kind Hearts And Coronets*. For the memorable climactic scene, Will and Claude Hulbert are seen dangling from the clock hands of Big Ben in an effort to prevent the detonation of a bomb rigged to explode when the hour chimes. Curiously, the same ending later found its way into a serious thriller — the 1978 remake of *The 39 Steps*.

Although deemed unfit for active service, Will was able to contribute to the cause as a navigational instructor for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and troop entertainer with ENSA. Although he was still officially married to Gladys, their marriage had in fact broken down many years earlier. Fame had brought Will into contact with many attractive young women and he gained a reputation as a ladies man. His last serious relationship was with a beautiful Norwegian girl with the unlikely name of Randi Kopstadt.

Illness brought an abrupt end to Will's film career. Ironically he had been notorious as an impossible hypochondriac. While shooting on location, studio staff would run a daily sweepstake conjecturing his alleged ailment that morning. However when cancer was diagnosed in 1943, he directed his energies to the less strenuous demands of a weekly radio series.

In *The Will Hay Programme* (*The Diary Of A Schoolmaster*), Will was back in the familiar setting of St. Michael's School for Boys as headmaster Dr. Muffin. Each episode began at his oppressive lodgings, where the insults flew back and forth between Muffin, landlady Mrs. Potts and her surly son Alfie. For the second half of the show, the action transferred to the classroom where the head was battling wits with his troublesome charges: young know-all D'Arcy, thick old boy Beckett and insolent mischief-maker Smart (played by *Carry On* stalwart Charles Hawtrey but minus the campness which became his trademark). Despite ragged performances from some of the supporting players, the show was immensely popular — a welcome escape from more serious matters for a wartime British audience.

In spite of its success, the radio show ended on a controversial note when, unhappy with inferior scripts, Will pulled the plug on the programme half way through the final series. The following year he suffered a stroke which left him partially paralysed.

On Good Friday 1949 he addressed an audience of his peers at a dinner organised by the Grand Order of Water Rats. He seemed in fine form and his health appeared to be improving, but sadly another stroke a couple of days later proved fatal. At 60 years of age, Will Hay had passed away at the official retirement age for schoolmasters.

## Recordings

**The Fourth Form At St. Michael's (Parts 1 & 2)**  
Columbia 9689 (12" )/Columbia FB-1540 (10" ) (1929)

**The Fourth Form At St. Michael's (Parts 3 & 4)**  
Columbia 5695 (1929)

featuring Will Hay and his scholars (Will Hay Jr. and Gordon Saunders\*)

\* not Moore Marriott & Graham Moffatt as quoted in some sources

**The Fourth Form At St. Michael's (Parts 5 & 6)**

Columbia DX-558 (1933)  
featuring Will Hay and his scholars (with the boy played by a girlfriend)

**Convict 99 (Parts 1 & 2)**  
Columbia FB-2040 (1938)  
extracts from the film soundtrack

• all the above recordings are featured on *Comical Cuts 2* (EMI Comedy Classics double cassette ECC 14 (1991)). Note however that *The Fourth Form At St. Michael's Part 1* is taken from the shorter 10" disc. The longer 12" version can be heard on *Music Hall To Variety Volume 2* (World Records LP SH 149)

**Vintage Variety**  
BBC LP REC 134M (1973)  
contains an extract from *The Will Hay Programme* (20.12.44)



## Radio

### The Will Hay Programme

Starring Will Hay (*Dr. Muffin*), Clarence Wright (*Alfie*), Beryl Riggs (*Mrs. Potts*), Charles Hawtrey (*Smart*), Billy Nicholls (*Beckett*), John Clark (*D'Arcy*).

Special: **The Diary Of A Dominic**

General Forces Programme, 21 July 1944 (30mins)

Series 1: General Forces Programme, 18 August to 6 October 1944 (8×30mins)

Series 2: Home Service, 20 December 1944, 26 December 1944, 3 to 24 January 1945 (6×30mins)

Special: **Will Hay Celebrates "Victory At St. Michael's"**

Home Service, 11 May 1945 (30mins)

Series 3: Home Service, 31 July to 14 August 1945 (3×30mins)

These editions are known to survive:

?	1944	Income tax assessment
1/5	15.9.44	Cheque from an old student
2/1	20.12.44	The school laundry

## Books

**Good Morning Boys: Will Hay Master of Comedy**  
by Ray Seaton & Roy Martin (Barrie & Jenkins hbk 1978)

**Frank Muir Presents The Book Of Comedy Sketches**  
edited by Frank Muir & Simon Brett  
(Elm Tree hbk 1982, revised Penguin pbk 1992)  
contains a Fourth Form At St. Michael's script (from disc)

**Funny Way To Be A Hero**  
by John Fisher (Frederick Muller hbk 1973)  
contains a chapter on Will Hay

**Make 'Em Laugh**  
by Eric Midwinter (George Allen & Unwin hbk 1979)  
contains a chapter on Will Hay

**Laugh Magazine**

## Films

- 1933: Know Your Apples (short)
- 1934: Those Were The Days  
Radio Parade Of 1935
- 1935: Dandy Dick  
Boys Will Be Boys
- 1936: Where There's A Will  
Windbag The Sailor
- 1937: Good Morning, Boys  
Oh, Mr. Porter!
- 1938: Convict 99  
Hey! Hey! U.S.A!  
Old Bones Of The River
- 1939: Ask A Policeman  
Where's That Fire?
- 1941: The Ghost Of St. Michael's  
The Black Sheep Of Whitehall
- 1942: The Big Blockade  
Go To Blazes! (short)  
The Goose Steps Out
- 1943: My Learned Friend

## Tributes

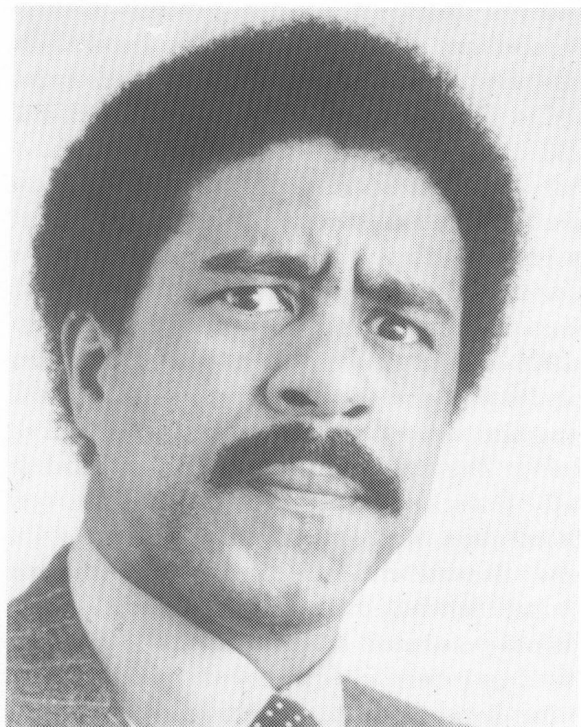
- Hay There* (ITV (London) 13 May 1958)
- Will Hay, Master Of Comedy* (R4 2 June 1976, presented by Ronnie Barker)
- Fletcher's Friends* (R2 7 June 1989)
- How Tickled Am I?* (R4 29 August 2000)

For further information, the following Will Hay web sites are well worth a visit:

- [homepage.nflworld.com/trevor.buckingham/willhay.htm](http://homepage.nflworld.com/trevor.buckingham/willhay.htm)
- [www.willhay.co.uk](http://www.willhay.co.uk)

# RICHARD PRYOR ON DISC

by Domenic Tavan



**A**RGUABLY the most influential standup comedian of the past three decades, it would be hard to find a comic who hasn't been touched by the genius of Richard Pryor.

Born in 1940, in Peoria Illinois, Pryor was raised by his grandmother who ran a string of whore houses and pool halls. Returning from military service in Germany in the early 1960s, he began performing in New York's Greenwich Village clubs.

Richard's early routines were very mainstream and suitable for television. Eventually though, he gave up trying to appease white audiences, becoming more honest and profane.

Pryor made his film debut in Sid Caesar's *The Busy Body* in 1968 and four years later was nominated for an Oscar for his role in *Lady Sings The Blues*. 1976 saw the first of four teamings with Gene Wilder in the comedy hit *Silver Streak*.

In 1978 he released the concert film (and LP) *Wanted, Live In Concert*, which was Richard at his best, getting comic mileage out of personal tragedies such as cocaine abuse and having a heart attack. Many comedians and critics regard the film as possibly the greatest standup ever recorded.

One evening in 1980, after a week of freebasing cocaine, and during a fit of depression, Pryor attempted suicide by pouring a bottle of cognac over his body and setting himself on fire. He survived, but received burns to 70% of his body. True to his style, Richard incorporated the incident into material for his 1983 concert movie *Live On The Sunset Strip*.

Further tragedy came in 1986 when he contracted multiple sclerosis, but he kept the illness secret for three years. In 1992 he appeared on *Donahue* and though physically frail showed he'd lost none of his passion or comic brilliance.

In 1995 Richard wrote his autobiography, *Pryor Convictions And Other Life Sentences*, which proved to be as provocative and controversial as the man himself. Over four decades of performing, Pryor certainly did it all ... his way!

## Craps (reissued as Blackjack)

(Laff LP A 146, Loose Cannon CD 3145262142)

*Gettin' High / F\*\*k From Memory / Big Tits / Gettin' Some / The President / Ass-Hole / The Line-up / Masturbating / Religion / Black Preachers / Being Born / Blow Our Image / Blackjack / I Spy Cops / Sugar Ray / White Folks / Indians / Ass Wupin' / Got A Dollar / Pres' Black Baby / Dope / Wino Panthers / After Hours / 280 Pound Ass / Crap Game / Insurance Man / Black And Proud / Gettin' The Nut / F\*\*k The Faggot / Jackin' Off / Snappin' Pussy / Fartin'*

## Pryor Goes Foxx Hunting

(Laff LP A 170) 1973 (disc also includes 14 Redd Foxx tracks)

*After Hours / Crap Game / Black And Proud / Gettin' The Nut / Faggot / Passin' Gas / Compact Spooks / Nigeria / Poverty / Canvas Spats / Grandma / Dogs / Eat Em*

## Down 'n' Dirty

(Laff LP A 184) 1971 (disc also includes 10 Redd Foxx tracks)

*Paper Boy / Fuck Or Fight / Oh - My Nuts / Ethel / General Custer / Cool Run / Sex Pills / Confucious Say / Fukowie*

## Richard Pryor Meets Richard And Willie And The SLA

(Laff LP A 188) 1976

*L.A. Niggers / Sex Organs / 30 years For Missing / Gettin' Some / Nixon / Douche Powder / Toilet Tissue - Brand x Brand b / Cops / Line Up / Patricia In The S.L.A. / Religion / Black Preachers / Ugly Suckers / White Chicks / White Dudes / Crap Game / Head / Ugly Chick / The Raid / The Nut / Passing Gas*

## Are You Serious???

(Laff LP A 196, Loose Cannon CD 3145280642) 1976

*Nigger Babies / Processed Hair / Virgins / 9 Pound Pill / Jesse / Movies / Mafia / Hillbillies / G-D / Grandmother / Leroy / Bad Breath / Deodorant / Being Born / Mankind*

## Who Me? I'm Not Him

(Laff LP A 198, Loose Cannon CD 3145262152) 1977

*You're A Trick / Slippin' In Poo Poo / I'm A Negro / Negro Judge / Chain Gang / Hippy Dippys / Weasel / Directions / Blue Eyed Devil / Religion / Super Nigger / Passin' Gas / Colored Folks / Army / War / Git A Little / Tarzan / Birth Control Pill / Dracula / Frankenstein*

## Black Ben The Blacksmith (reissued as Show Biz)

(Laff LP A 200, Loose Cannon CD 3145262132) 1978

*Black Ben The Blacksmith / I Feel / Fighting / Show Biz / Dark Person / Nigroes / Black Nationalist / Unemployment Line / Cops And Fathers / Folsom Prison*

## The Wizard Of Comedy

(Laff LP A 202, Loose Cannon CD 3145280632) 1978

*Hank's Place / Churches / Heart And Brain / Rumpelstiltskin / Worms / Country And Western Show / Swagger Stick / Japanese Movies*

## Outragious

(Laff LP A 206) 1979

*The Operation / Throw Up / Improvisation / Looters / Bathroom / White Chicks / True Story Of J.C. / I Feel / Fighting / Jail / Hi Way 16 / Moses*

### **Insane**

(Laff LP A 209) 1976

*Physical Fitness / Kill Type Teenager / Weight Lifter / Churches / Masturbating / New York City / Nudie Movies / Chicago / Did Ya Hear The One About / In The Army / He-She / Oh My Darling, Clementine / Hunting Bear / Ku Klux Klan / Bible Belt*

### **Holy Smoke**

(Laff LP A 212) 1976

*Lover's Quarrel / Nigger Baby / World Situation / Rhythm / Chick A Chick A Boom Boom / Sick / Chairs / Talk Show / Man On The Sun / Negro Slave / Gettin' Any?*

### **Rev. Du Rite**

(Laff LP A 216) 1981

*Dance / Hillybilly / My Old Man / Rev. Du Rite / Pay Toilet / Boobs / Acapella / Bed Springs / Ophedius / Newscasters / Jealous Husband*

### **The Very Best Of Richard Pryor**

(Laff LP A 221) 1982

*Intro / Super Nigger / After Hours / Navy And Army / Being Born / Jesse / Black Preachers / What Is The True Story Of Jesus Christ / Line Up / Black Ben*

### **Supernigger**

(Laff LP A 224, Loose Cannon CD 3145280622) 1982

*I Feel / Supernigger / Girls / The Bully / Fighting / Fathers / Churches / God Was A Junkie / Boxing / Black Bag / Break My Face / Saturday Night / Cold Blood And Smoove / Torsy*

### **Live!**

(Laff LP A 229) 1983

*Black Ben The Blacksmith / Meetin' The Lord / Faith Healer / Line Up / Fantasy Films / In The Can / Vegas / Rumpelstiltskin / Worms / Country And Western Show / Back To School / Negro / In The Can Again / Yankee Go Home*

### **L.A. Jail**

(Tiger Lily LP IL 14023) 1976

*Arrested / Brick Eight / State Park / Big Daddy / Hair / Bathrooms / Black Jack / Groovy Feelings / Funky People / Chow Line / Judgement Day / Chain Gang / 2001 / Farting Smells / Pimples / Country Singer*

### **Live!**

(World Sound LP LR 600321, Phoenix LP 10 PHX 349) 1977

*Meetin' The Lord / Faith Healer / Line Up / Fantasy Films / In The Can / Vegas / Back To School / Negro / In The Can / Yankee Go Home*

### **Richard Pryor - Flip Wilson: Pissed Off**

(Phoenix LP 10 PHX 360) 1983

*(disc also includes 7 Flip Wilson tracks)*

*Meetin' The Lord / Faith Healer / The Line Up / Fantasy Films / In The Can / Vegas / Back To School*

### **Richard Pryor**

(Dove/Reprise LP RS 6325) 1969

*Super Nigger / Girls / Farting / Prison Play / TV Panel Show / Smells / Army Life / Frankenstein*

### **That Nigger's Crazy**

(Partee/Reprise LP PBS 2404) 1974

*I Hope I'm Funny / Nigger With A Seizure / Have Your Ass Home By 11-00 / Black And White Lifestyles / Exorcist / Wino Dealing With Dracula / Flying Saucers / Back Down / Black Man - White Women / Niggers vs. Police / Wino And Junkie*

### **Is It Something I Said?**

(Warner/Reprise LP 0698/CD 22852) 1975

*Eulogy / Shortage Of White People / New Niggers / Cocaine / Just Us / Mudbone - Intro / Mudbone - Little Feets / When Your Woman Leaves You / The Goodnight Kiss / Women Are Beautiful / Our Text For Today*

### **Bicentennial Nigger**

(Warner Bros. LP BS 2960) 1976

*Hillbilly / Black And White Women / Our Gang / Bicentennial Prayer / Black Hollywood / Mudbone Goes To Hollywood / Chinese Restaurant / Acid / Bicentennial Nigger*

### **Richard Pryor's Greatest Hits**

(Warner Bros. LP BSK 3057/CD ) 1977

*Ali / Exorcist / My Father / Nigger With A Seizure / My Neighborhood / Have Your Ass Home By 11.00 / Wino / Craps / Cocaine / When Your Woman Leaves You / Mudbone - Intro / Mudbone - Little Feets*

### **Wanted: Richard Pryor, Live In Concert**

(Warner Bros. 2LP 2BSK 3364) 1978

*Heart Attacks / Ali / Keeping In Shape / Leon Spinks / Nature / Things In The Woods / Deer Hunter / Chinese Food / Being Sensitive / Dogs And Horses / Jim Brown / Monkeys / Kids / New Years Eve / White And Black People / Black Funerals / Discipline*

### **Live On The Sunset Strip**

(Warner Bros. LP BSK 3660) 1982

*Women / Prison / Africa / Mafia Club / Mudbone / Freebase / Hospital*

### **Here And Now**

(Warner Bros. LP 1 23981) 1983

*Here And Now / Southern Hospitality / Slavery / Motherland / I Met The president / Fire Exit / Mudbone - Part 1 / Mudbone - Part 2 / Inebriated / One Night Stands / One Day At A Time / I Like Women / Being Famous / I Remember*

### **Live**

(West Coast Productions CD KLM CD 010) 1993

*Black Ben The Blacksmith / I Feel / Fighting / Show Biz / Dark Person / Nigroes / Black Nationalist / Unemployment / Cops And Fathers / Folsom Prison / Churches / Heart And Brain*

### **Richard Pryor And It's Deep Too**

**(Complete Warner Bros Recordings 1968 to 1992)**

Warner Archives /Rhino 9CD R2 76655 (2000)

includes **Richard Pryor/That Nigger's Crazy/Is It Something I Said/Bicentennial Nigger/Wanted - Richard Pryor Live In Concert/Live On The Sunset Strip/Here And Now** plus bonus disc - **That African American Is Still Crazy - Good S\*\*t From The Vaults**

*introduction by Tom Dreesen,*

*1970s: Mudbone Goes To Hollywood (alternate version) / Fame - part 1 / Black Messiah / Life / Death / My Funeral / Acid (alternate version) / Patty Hearst / Fighting / The Law / History Lesson / 1980s: I Don't Give A F\*\*k / Fame - part 2 / Therapy / W.A.S.P.'s / Getting Older / God / Dog / 1990s: M.S.*

*Richard Pryor may also be heard on the following releases ...*

**The Living Word** (Stax 2LP STS 2 3018)

**Car Wash** (M.C.A. 2LP MCA2 6000)

**Saturday Night Live** (Arista LP AL 4107)

**Jo Jo Dancer** (Warner Bros. LP 25444-1)

# BENNY HILL

by Peter Tatchell

IT'S been said that Benny Hill was the most famous comedy artist in the world. His shows were seen in over a hundred countries around the globe. Comedian, pop singer, mime, clown ... he was a star who also scripted the sketches and composed the musical numbers he performed.

Born Alfred Hill in Southampton in 1924, a childhood fascination with the theatre led to a stage career in his mid-teens. World War II intervened and, while in the army, he adopted the name Benny (feeling it had a more American show biz ring to it). By the end of the war he was appearing in Stars In Battledress productions, before being demobbed in late 1947.

For Benny Hill, civvy street meant appearances in revues and summer seasons with occasional work on B.B.C. radio shows like **Beginners Please** and **Variety Bandbox** and as a regular in such long-forgotten series as **Listen, My Children** and **The Third Division**, but didn't seem to be much at ease delivering one-liners direct to the audience.

Benny felt more at home in character, hiding behind a funny voice and wearing an outlandish costume. He thought the infant world of British television might offer more scope for his ideas and spent several months off work creating dozens of scripts before approaching B.B.C. producer Ronnie Waldman. Waldman was so impressed by the originality of the newcomer he signed Hill for a 45-minute sketch show.

The special (billed as **Hi There!**) led to a radio series called **Anything Goes** and eventually a monthly TV-variety programme **The Centre Show** in 1953 and **Showcase** a year later. British television had created its first star and, by the mid-1950s (when the arrival of I.T.V. effectively jump-started the medium), the B.B.C. had elevated Benny to star in his own occasional series of specials. Soon after, he was voted the TV Personality of the Year (for 1954/5) and appeared in the first of several Royal Variety Performances.

Hill didn't confine his efforts to B.B.C. television. In 1956 he starred in a feature film called **Who Done It?** (and later appeared in lesser roles in **Light Up The Sky**, **Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines**, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** and **The Italian Job**). He also hosted specials for commercial television's A.T.V., and could be seen in West End stage productions **Paris By Night** and **Fine Fettle**.

By 1962 (following the success of the Galton & Simpson **Comedy Playhouse** format, which spawned **Steptoe And Son**), the B.B.C. convinced Benny to venture down the sitcom trail for a series of unrelated 30-minute playlets. He created three seasons titled **Benny Hill** before returning to variety specials.

In the mid-1960s Benny recycled some of his better material to form **Benny Hill Time** on the **Light Programme**. Hoping to crack the U.S. market, Hill signed with A.T.V. in 1967 to star in two colour specials as part of a series of summer replacements for Red Skelton on the C.B.S. network but the venture wasn't a success.

Two years later, in a momentous decision, he abandoned the B.B.C. and signed with Thames, who had just been awarded London's weekday commercial licence. He enjoyed twenty years of enormous success with them, and his enduring fame rests on the 59 one-hour specials they produced.

Hill now settled into a format supported by a stock company of players, such as Henry McGee, Bob Todd and bald-headed Jackie Wright, who started out as little more than an extra before a wave of popularity resulted in Benny writing him speaking parts in sketches. Old favourites such as Fred Scuttle and newcomers like the word-mangling Chinaman Mr. Chow Mein became perennial favourites on the shows, and before long Benny even had a hit-single on the pop charts called *Ernie (The Fastest Milkman In The West)* which started out as a vocal in one of his routines.

The Thames shows led Benny back to the big screen too ... he filmed a theatrical short called **The Waiters**, and transferred 90-minutes of television highlights to a moneymaking feature release called **The Best Of Benny Hill**.

Unlike the B.B.C. specials, Benny's Thames work was now being seen on commercial television screens in far off Australia, to very healthy ratings ... but America was still to be conquered. It wasn't until 1979 when Thames distributor Don Taffner, decided to offer half-hour versions of the shows to independent stations across the country. The footage was tightly edited to leave out any dialogue or material the Americans wouldn't understand. And stations coast to coast began screening the programmes to amazing response from viewers.

In Britain, Thames continued on with their usual three Benny Hill specials each year and by the early 80s a raunchy dance group dubbed *Hill's Angels* (inspired by the success of Kenny Everett's *Hot Gossip*) had become an integral part of the programme. Several years later, a noticeably older and more avuncular Hill added a handful of cute youngsters to his team as *Hill's Little Angels*. These later programmes relied more on one-joke quickies and visual material, which were more appropriate for editing into the half-hour format required for the American syndicated editions.

With a career that prospered well into the 1980s, Benny eventually fell foul of the self-appointed guardians of political correctness who decided humour about buxom blondes, jealous wives, mothers-in-law and all other remnants of burlesque and the saucy seaside postcard should be replaced by cynical observational analysis of the mundanities of everyday life. The speech police decreed that punchlines were out ... four-letter words were in.

It wasn't so much the style of his humour, though, that led Thames Television to suddenly end Hill's contract in 1989, rather that ratings had dropped due to the constant repetition of gags (or even entire routines). The decision was a colossal jolt to his ego, and was also a surprise to Don Taffner, whose company found itself without new product to syndicate.

To solve the problem, Taffner decided to independently produce a new batch of specials set in major cities around the globe and the first was taped with outside footage shot in New York. Soon after, ITV company Central Television indicated it was also eager to secure his services.

Benny seemed on the road to a major revival, but things were not to be. Heart troubles put him in hospital twice in early 1992 and having been unable to reach him over the Easter weekend, his director friend Dennis Kirkland broke into his flat to discover the star had died whilst watching television. Television had been his life, and was with him to the end.



# Television

**Hi There!** (B.B.C., Aug 20 1951. 45 min)

**The Centre Show** (B.B.C., Tuesdays. 45 min)

(retitled **The Forces Show** from Oct)

Benny hosted this monthly variety programme on Jan 20, Jun 9, Aug 25, Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 24 and Dec 21 1953

**Showcase** (B.B.C., Mondays. 45 min)

Benny hosted this monthly variety programme on Mar 15, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 24, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16 and Sep 13 1954

**The Benny Hill Show** (B.B.C., Saturdays. 45 min)

January 15, February 12 and March 12 1955

January 5, February 2, March 2, March 30, April 27 and June 1 1957

February 1, March 1, **March 29** and **April 26 1958**

**The Benny Hill Show** (A.T.V., Saturdays. 45 min)

November 9 and December 14 1957

November 29 and December 27 1958 and January 24 1959

April 2, April 30 and May 28 1960

\* Benny was seen in a 30 min excerpt of the Weymouth stage production **Let's Make A Night Of It** (BBC August 1 1960)

\* Benny starred in four editions of Sydney ATN7's variety series **Curtain Call** from October 22 to November 12 1960

**The Benny Hill Show** (B.B.C., Saturdays. 45 min)

**February 4 1961, March 4 1961** and **April 1 1961**

November 4 1961, November 25 1961 and December 16 1961

**Benny Hill** (sitcom playhouse)

scripted by Benny Hill and Dave Freeman

Series 1: B.B.C., Fridays Feb 23 to Mar 30 1962 (6 x 30 min)

*Portrait Of A Bridegroom* (with June Whitfield, Patricia Hayes)

A study of a bridegroom, seen through the eyes of several relatives and friends

*A Pair Of Socks*

The story of a year in the life of a pair of socks

*The Constant Viewer*

Bert Noggs with is a television addict who identifies himself with the programmes he watches

*The Changeling*

An old tramp tells how he was one of two babies accidentally swapped 60 years before

*The Before Man*

Mervyn Cruddy, a man who works as the loser in tv commercials, tries to find a lady friend

*Aunt Mirabelle*

A woman plots to become a rich widow

Series 2: B.B.C., Fridays Nov 30 1962 to Jan 11 1963

(7 x 25 min)

*The Mystery Of Black Bog Manor*

A reporter visits the owner of a priceless diamond collection

*Cry Of Innocence*

A humble newspaper buyer comes to the attention of the police because he resembles the man they are investigating

*The Time Bicycle* (with Graham Stark)

A time traveller from 1902 has trouble adapting in the present

*Mervyn's Christmas Pudding*

details unknown

*The Secret Of Planet Seven* (with Graham Stark)

An astronaut is tempted by a group of minute space women

*The Shooting Of Willie The Kid* (with John Bluthal, Maggie Fitzgibbon, Bill Kerr, Graham Stark)

A visitor arrives in the wild west when his uncle is thought to have been killed by Willie the Kid

*The Vanishing Man*

A gas-fitter makes off with the Slate Club money whilst besotted by a balalaika player

Series 3: B.B.C., Tuesdays Sep 3 to Oct 8 1963 (6 x 25 min)

*Mr. Apollo* (with Yootha Joyce, Graham Stark)

An unfit health king finds himself in court because of a typographical error

*The Visitor*

A farm lad offers to help a couple who lose a cuff link on a visit to the country

*Mr. Jolly* (with Patricia Hayes, Dermot Kelly)

A series of visitors cause problems for the head of Laughter Unlimited

*The Trouble Maker*

An electrician's mate causes havoc at a cocktail party

*The Dresser*

The inexperienced nephew of a stage manager is given a job in the theatre

*The Taxidermist* (with Dermot Kelly)

Two strangers decide to become taxidermists

**The Benny Hill Show** (BBC1, Saturdays. 45 min)

**November 6 1964** (Friday)

(\* segment in Christmas Night With The Stars: **Dec 25 1964**)

**April 10, April 24, May 8** and **May 22 1965**

**November 6, November 27** and **December 18 1965** and **January 8 1966**

**April 20 1968**

November 20, December 11 and **December 26 1968**

**Spotlight** (A.T.V. October 8 1967)

with Noel Harrison, Abbe Lane, Patricia Hayes, Julian Orchard

**The Benny Hill Show** (A.T.V. December 26 1967)

with *The Seekers*, Vince Hill, Nicholas Parsons, Arthur Mullard, Rita Webb

• Bold text denotes surviving episodes



### **The Benny Hill Show** (Thames, 60 min colour)

November 19 1969

with Henry McGee, Eira Heath, The Ladybirds, Michael Sharvell-Martin, David Battley, Kenny Parry, John Wright  
Ye Olde Wishing Well/Anna Marie/Awful TV Moments/  
Eurovision Link To Monte Carlo/Honeymoon On The Border/  
Lower Tidmarsh Voluntary Hospital/Marathon Viewer Of  
Crimea Cuttings/European Song Contest/Ting-A-Ling-A-Loo

December 25 1969

with Nicholas Parsons, Robertson Hare, Eira Heath, Rita Webb, The Ladybirds, Michael Sharvell-Martin, David Hamilton

Fishing By Hat/Juanita Bonita Dolores/Holiday Sport  
Spectacular/Come Back Thelma/The Short Happy Life Of  
Maurice Dribble/Awful TV Moments/Is This Your Life? (incl.  
Fred Scuttle)

February 4 1970

with Henry McGee, Eira Heath, Los Paraguayas, Rita Webb,  
Nicole Shelby, Michael Sharvell-Martin, Davids Hamilton,  
John Wright

Whicker In Swamp/Colleen/The Audition/Hotel Sordide en  
Paris/Tour Guide/Ballet/Making A Commercial/The Old  
Fiddler/Awful TV Moments/Tommy Tupper In Tupper-Time/  
The Suzy Bar

March 11 1970

with Nicholas Parsons, Eira Heath, The Ladybirds, Patricia  
Hayes, Jimmy Thompson, Nicole Shelby, Michael Sharvell-  
Martin, David Hamilton

Benovite Advert/Garden Of Love/The Hitch-Hiker/Fred  
Scuttle, Audience Researcher (incl. Rogue Nudist)/Awful TV  
Moments/After Dinner With Charlotte Fudge/Ventriloquist  
And Tortoise/Dickie Dido (incl. Golden Days)/Musical Monk/  
Clumsy Dancer/Pub Poetry - The Birds And Bees/The Sound  
Of Frankenstein

April 20 1970

Montreux edition (30 min)

with Nicholas Parsons, Eira Heath, Rita Webb, The Ladybirds,  
Michael Sharvell-Martin

How To Get Rid Of Your Wife/Musical Monk/Short & Happy  
Life of Maurice Dribble

June 3 1970

Eddie In August (30 min)

with Nicole Shelby, Douglas Hill, Jill Easter, Tommy Godfrey,  
George Roderick

October 28 1970

with Nicholas Parsons, Patricia Hayes, Two's Company, Bob  
Todd, Jack Wright

The Newly-Painted Park Bench/The Hippy On The Train/Look  
No. 7/Viewing At The Equator/The Masks Of Love/Poster  
Hangers/Don't Tread On Bulla/Awful TV Moments/Mr. Show  
Business, Fred Scuttle (incl. The Underworld Water Of Jacques  
Custard)/Wind Of Change/East Meets West Interviews Mr.  
Chow Mein/Pub Poetry - Ted/Jose's Cantina

December 23 1970 (recorded in b/w)

with Nicholas Parsons, Trisha Noble, The Ladybirds, Jack  
Wright, Liz Fraser

Rubber Balloons/Broken-Hearted Lover's Stew/Look No. 7/  
Holiday King, Fred Scuttle/Dickie Dido (incl. Rachel)/The  
Hole-In-The-Wall Gang/Awful TV Moments/Lower Tidmarsh  
Volunteer Fire Brigade/Opportunity's Knocking (incl. Ernie)

January 27 1971 (recorded in b/w)

with Nicholas Parsons, Kiki Dee, Petticoat & Vine, Patricia  
Hayes, Rita Webb, Jenny Lee-Wright, Jack Wright

Take Off My Dress/I'm Flying South/Shameful Moments In  
Sport/Henry And Alice And Bob And Mary/Awful TV  
Moments/Detective Inspector Scuttle/Love Will Find A Way/  
Top Of The Tops (incl. In The Papers, Dustbins Of Your  
Mind, Only The Lonely, I'll Never Know)

February 24 1971 (recorded in b/w)

with Nicholas Parsons, Nanette, Bob Todd, Jenny Lee-Wright,  
Lesley Goldie

Employee With Boss's Tastes/Greek Girl/Undercover Sanitary  
Inspector/Reverend Gray/Awful TV Moments/Learning All  
The Time/Goodnight George/Uplift (incl. Art Gallery Curator  
Scuttle, Quick-Change Artist, Interview, Pepys' Diary)

March 24 1971

with Nicholas Parsons, Andree Melly, Johnny Greenlands,  
The Ladybirds, Bob Todd, Jenny Lee-Wright, Jack Wright,  
Lesley Goldie

Multi-cheating Wife/The Egg Marketing Board Tango/French  
For Starters/The Messenger/The Grass Is Greener/Supermarket  
Ballet/Mike and Bernie Winters' Script/Cinema: The Vintage  
Years - Passengers Of Love/Awful TV Moments/Opportunities  
Knokkes/Political Punch and Judy/Mr. Chow Mein, the Waiter

November 24 1971

with Henry McGee, Andree Melly, Bob Todd, The Ladybirds,  
Jenny Lee-Wright, Jerrold Wells, Jack Wright, Bella Emberg

Transformation By Elevator/The Beach At San Tropez/Awful  
TV Moments/Filthy-Minded Puritan In Stocks/At Home With  
Henry McGee: Mr. Chow Mein/St. John Bossom, Poet/A  
Cruise On The S.S. Rumpo/Fun In The Kitchen With Fanny  
And Johnny/The Movie Shakers - Mervyn Cruddy At The  
N.F.T. (incl. The Lovers, Home Is The Hero)

December 22 1971

with *Nicholas Parsons, Rita Webb, Bob Todd, The Ladybirds, Clovissa Newcombe, Ronnie Brody*

A Bald Head Is Like A Wife's Bottom/*Gypsy Song*/Fred Scuttle, Talent Scout/Pub Poetry - The Dimpleton Drinking Club Outing/N.I.T. (incl. African President, Language Professor, Alphabetical Dialogue)/The Great Pretender/Awful TV Moments (in German)

February 23 1972

with *Henry McGee, Paula Wilcox, Bob Todd, Percy Thrower, Sylvia McNeil, Jenny Lee-Wright, Jack Wright*

Great News Chocolate Advert/*Zanduna*/Fred Scuttle's Keep Fit Brigade/The 17th Century Poetry Of Solomon St. John - Fam And Fufan/Director Pierre de Terre (incl. Cyril's Interrupted Spanish Lesson)/The Head Gardener At Landleigh Hall/Awful TV Moments/Mr. Chow Mein At Customs/Medley Of Celebrity Goodnights

March 22 1972

with *Nicholas Parsons, Bob Todd, Zienia Merton, The Ladybirds, Jenny Lee-Wright, Lesley Goldie, Jack Wright*

Nazi Infiltrators In Pub/*Wild Women*/School Children At St. Solomon's/Pub Poetry - Fishing/Nursing Home Ballet/Dickie Dido On Flying (incl. *How I Love You So*)/Awful TV Moments/Scuttlevision Prepares For Channel 4 (incl. Poetry And Jazz)/*Little Things Mean A Lot*/Mr. Chow Mein And Wife/*Harvest Of Love*

October 25 1972

with *Hugh Paddick, Bob Todd, The Ladybirds, Jack Wright, Bettine Le Beau*

Romancing A Poker Machine/*Dustbins Of Your Mind*/Colonel Eatwell, Army Catering/I.T.V.'s Most Loyal Viewer/Butch Cafferty, Hollywood Superstar/*Fad Eyed Fal*/Woodstick/Awful TV Moments/Berlin Youth Choir

December 27 1972

with *Nicholas Parsons, Bob Todd, Jimmy Thompson, Jenny Lee-Wright, Jack Wright*

Vicar's KNICKERS Sign/*The Gamekeeper's Daughter*/Awful TV Moments/Scuttle's Funboy Club/Pub Poetry: Village Christmas/Awful Adverts/Yackanory/*Portable Television*/Dickie Dido - Europe (incl. *Common Market Square Dance*)

February 22 1973

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Pat Ashton, Jack Wright*

Loud Leather/*Backwoods Medley*/Scuttle's Security/Will Shakespeare, TV Scriptwriter/Awful TV Moments/Mr. Chow Mein Interprets/Jack Wright's £49 Holiday/*Lover Come Back*

March 29 1973

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Lee Gibson, Jon Jon Keefe, The Ladybirds, Jack Wright*

Beans Meanz Beans/*I'm Mad About You* (vocal: *Lee Gibson*)/Confrontation: Mervyn Cruddy Exposes Thames TV/Mirror Ballet/Poetry Corner (incl. Drink, That Which Could Not Be Done)/The Deputy/Jewish New Yorker/Awful TV Moments/Dalton Abbott Railway Choir (incl. *Gather In The Mushrooms*)

December 5 1973

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Lesley Goldie, Kay Frazer, Jack Wright*

Benny's Clingwrap Advert/*Valencia*/Spot Black/Tische Und Sonn/Cinema Audience Watch Big Eddie/State Of The Nation Aftermath/Phone In: Humphrey Bumphrey/A Musical Afternoon In The Park

December 27 1973

with *Henry McGee, Andree Melly, Bob Todd, Lesley Goldie, The Ladybirds, Jack Wright, Jon Jon Keefe*

Ring For The Batman/*Older Women*/Scuttle's Channel Tunnel/The Great British Dancing Competition/Departure Lounge: Mervyn Cruddy, Call Boy/Little Bo Peep

February 7 1974

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Lesley Goldie, Diana Darvey, Design, David Hamilton, Jack Wright*

Gondor Tobacco Advert/Pub Poetry: Faith by E.M. Barrister/Sydney, The Bongo Drummer/Meryn Cruddy - Spy Catcher/Film Time - Director Sam Speilor (incl. Lulubelle, Baby Boy)/Talent Discovered At The Halfway Inn/Mr. T.V. Times Contest

March 13 1974

with *Nicholas Parsons, Bob Todd, Jerrold Wells, Diana Darvey, Jack Wright, Bella Emburg*

It's A Little Boy!/Evangelical Advice/Awful TV Moments/Scuttle Escorts/Match Of The Week: Golden Goalies/Coalpits/The Short And Happy Romance Of Ted Tingle/Spanish Guitar Scene

January 8 1975

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Stella Moray, Diana Darvey, Jack Wright, Lee Gibson*

Irish Escapees/The Island Of Luana (incl. *Striptease Song*)/Gavin Blod - The Man And His Music/Long Dry Summer/Newer Faces - The Versatile Brentwoods

March 12 1975

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Diana Darvey, Anna Dawson, Patrick Newell, Lee Gibson, Jack Wright*

Mighty Deodorant Advert/*Rose Of El Paso*/Fred Scuttle, Thames TV Producer (incl. *Affair At Marcel's Barber Shop*)/Great Mysteries With Orson Buggy - The Catch/Film Talk - J. Arthur Mein (incl. *Behind The Bamboo Curtain*)

Sept 24 1975 (originally scheduled May 26)

with *Henry McGee, Stella Moray, Don Estelle, Eddie Buchanan*

The Dream Makers - Clyde Jarrow (incl. *The Family*)/Fred Scuttle's Backing Group/Feuding Umbrellas/The Stamp Collector/Tex Cymbal - Golden Boy (incl. *Lonely Boy*)

December 17 1975

with *Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Dilys Watling, Eddie Buchanan*

*Lulubelle*/Shopping Centre Cinema Adverts/Is There Anything In It? - Mahatma Scuttle/Waltz Talk/Jack And Jill/Bongo And Maraccas Backing Duo/Pub Poet: Vicar Of St. Paul's/El Paso

February 18 1976

with *Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Eddie Buchanan, Moira Foot, Love Machine*

You Can't Eat Your Own Food Here/*Jake*/Word Of Sport (incl. Mrs. Biscuit, Show Jumper)/Luke And Tinker's Nursery Rhymes/Last Work Of Paul Finch, Short-Sighted Poet/Disco Talk/Strangers In The Night/Music While They Work

March 24 1976

with *Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Eddie Buchanan, Brenda Arnau, Jenny Lee Wright*

The Natives Of Luana (incl. *Native Song Translated*)/The Handyman/Captain Scuttle, Space Ace/Chinese Cookery With Fannee And Jonnee Claddock/Murder On The Oregon Express/Lower Tidmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade (incl. *Robin Hood*)

April 21 1976

with Paul Eddington, Jack Wright, Eddie Buchanan, Susie Baker, Bella Emberg

Busker Song: *So Many Girls/Movin' On/Who's Afraid Of Virgin Wool/This Is Your Life: Ted Proudfoot/Sale Of The Half Century/Getting To Know You (From Germany)/Is There Anything In It?: Emily Grimley/Biology With Bellamy/Supersonic (incl. Rose, I'll Never Know)*

January 26 1977

with Henry McGee, Rita Webb, Jack Wright, Jenny Lee-Wright, Eddie Buchanan, Diana Darvey, Reflections, Sue Upton

*Bianca/Sum Awards (incl. New Avengers, Mastermind, I Claudius)/Return Of The Bongo & Maraccas Backing Duo/Pam Ayres - Pets/Nor Iron Bars A Cage/Short-Sighted Political Correspondent/Bionic Baby/Thanks To The Wonderful Cast/Beach Bully*

February 23 1977

with Henry McGee, Rita Webb, Jack Wright, Jenny Lee-Wright, Eddie Buchanan, Love Machine

*Eskimo Nell Poem/Girls Are Made To Love And Kiss/Villain Of The Year Award (incl. Sgt. Scuttle)/Zipper Martin, Quick Change Artist/Reluctant Bridegroom/Victorian Scandals/The Flash Dancers/Double-Date/Scouts And Guides Annual Fete*

March 23 1977

with Henry McGee, Rita Webb, Dilys Watling, Jack Wright, Eddie Buchanan

*Tipsy Announcer/Starsky And Hutch/Casanova/Manuel The Acoustic Drummer/Show Jumping Grannies (incl. Colonel Llewellyn Todd)/Beach Romance With Figure Watcher/Widescreen Movie - Deep In My Ear/Girls, Girls, Girls (incl. Cheating Husband, Shop Assistant, Pregnant Bride, New Teacher)/Westminster Follies Puppets/Chow Mein Package Tours/Milk Marketing Board Band (incl. *Streakers' Ball*)*

April 12 1978 **Benny Hill In Australia**

with Ron Shand, Victoria Quilter, Max Phipps, Barry Otto, Lorna Lesley, Jimmy Clifford

*Les Girls Dancers/Archie's Angels/Mr. Chow Mein, Chinese Minister Of Culture/Daydream Of A Homeless Man/Lady Godiva/Benny Kelly, Outlaw/Big Daddy/A Day At The Beach*

May 30 1978

with Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Charles Stapley

*Married Life/First Impressions: Carpenter Brothers From Ireland/Digger Blue/Infidelity At The Hotel Sordide/Thames TV Floor Manager, Fred Scuttle/The Widow/South Bank Show (incl. *Spinning Wheel*, Dave Allen, The Deputy, Mr. Mayor, Marvin Lubtich, *Graffiti*)*

December 26 1978

with Henry McGee, Jenny Lee Wright, Felicity Buirski, Roger Finch, Johnny Vyvyan, John Quayle

*Coconut Milk/Man vs Machine: Scuttle's Super Brain (incl. Grand Wheelchair Rally)/Diben Telephone Exchange/Holiday Time: Dimton-On-Sea, Costa Patatas/Star Turns (incl. *Go Round Again*)/Friday Night Fever*

March 14 1979

with Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Jenny Lee Wright, Geraldine, Sue Upton, Roger Finch, Johnny Vyvyan and Patricia Hayes  
*Daddy And Me Slept Together/At Benny's Place/Educated Feet/National Health vs. Private/Leprechaun TV/Coliseum Poetry/Golddigger Romance/Hot Gossamer Dancers/Wonder Gran Meets Dracula*

April 25 1979

with Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Helen Horton, Roger Finch, John Quayle

*Marial/Awful TV Moments/Fred Scuttle At Cote D'Azure TV Festival/Carmen With Subtitles/O'Jack/In London Tonight: Cyclist With Cold, Irishman/Yield To The Dawn/Lean On My Crutch - New Yorker/Cheapo Film: The Police Raid In Waterloo Station/Saloon Poetry*

February 6 1980

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Helen Horton, Pat Ashton, Sue Upton, Roger Finch

*Any Other Men In Your Life?/The Scarlet Pimple/Hollywood Grates: Chubby Dodds/Chez Ben Gala By The Beach/Women's Lib TV (incl. Sale Of The Century, Sport, Charlene's Angels)*

March 5 1980

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Helen Horton, Jenny Lee Wright, Rita Webb, Sue Upton, Roger Finch

*Johnny Boy/Painting Party/Mr. Chow Mein At The Industrial Tribunal/Madame Louise Summer Collection/Chirpy Chuckles, The Jester/The Fudpuckers/Butch Cafferty And The Fundance Kid*

April 16 1980

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Helen Horton, Pat Ashton, Sue Upton, Roger Finch

*Viennese Operetta/Dimpton-On-Sea Amenities Office, Fred Scuttle (incl. TV Romania - Clown Pantomine, Station 007, New York - 1994, Women's Lib Television - Male Dancers)/Name That Tune/Hill's Angels: *New York, New York/Les 3 Mousquateres**

January 7 1981

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Sue Upton, Roger Finch, Bella Emberg, Ken Sedd

*Wedding Night Phone Call/Gypsy Maria/The Loser/Not A Lot Of People Know That/Clown In Ring/Wishing Well/Meeting People - Gaston Le Clerc, Young French Poet/Hill's Angels - Exercising/Wonder Gran vs. Dr. Jackal & Mr. Hide*

February 11 1981

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Sue Upton, Roger Finch, Bella Emberg, Ken Sedd

*Unsilently Crow's Feet/Down On The Farm/Lower Tidmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade/Fred Marceau in The Statue/Interactive News At Ten/Castaway Poet/The Poster Girl/Hill's Angels: *Keep Young And Beautiful/Undercover Sanitary Inspector/Hulkess At Bus Stop**

March 25 1981

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Sue Upton, Roger Finch, Helen Horton, Louise English

*Subdued Soccer Fan/Greek Song/Friends To Tea: Gaston and Louise Le Clerc/Big Poppa and Family (The Hillbillies, The Sheriff, The Doctor)/News At Ten (incl. Report From Amanda, Fanny And Johnny, David Bellamy, Hill's Angels)/Man Wanted At The Grange*

January 6 1982

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jack Wright, Bella Emberg, Alison Bell, Jon Jon Keefe

*Kitty Loves Whiskers/Paradise Island/Schoolmaster's Role Call/Hotel Splendide (incl. Chinese Waiter, Hill's Angels)/Street War In Dimpton - Traffic Wardens Versus Street Cleaners/The Monte Carboic Show (incl. *Just Wanna Be In Your Band*)*

February 10 1982

with Henry McGee, Bobb Todd, Jack Wright, Bella Emberg, Alison Bell, Jon Jon Keefe

The Birds/*Unlucky Luke*/Learning All The Time/Talking Point: Youth In Asia/A Rainy Day In The High Street/Schoolgirl: The Tale Of Miss Brodie/The Video Recorder

January 5 1983

with Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Kathy Staff, Bob Todd, Jenny Lee Wright, Louise English, Alison Bell, Jon Jon Keefe

Sheepshearer's Dream/*Lifeguards*/Shadowplay/Friends To Tea: Mr. Chow Mein's Chinese Opera/Television Censor Emily Grimley/Jackie's Honeymoon Cruise/Superteech

March 16 1983

with Henry McGee, Jack Wright, Kathy Staff, Bob Todd, Louise English, Jenny Lee Wright, Jon Jon Keefe

This Needle May Hurt/*Gay Caballero*/Holiday: South Of France/Rev. John McFudpucker/Western Hero/Clown Goes Shopping/Punks In The Nick/The Toughest Bloke In The Pub/Schoolboy With Slingshot

January 16 1984

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Louise English, Jenny Lee-Wright, Jon Jon Keefe, Sue Upton, Jade Westbrook\*

The Pains Are All In Your Head/*Home For The Summer*/Scuttlevision Cable TV/A Drunk Heads Home/Stupid Cupid/Club Bizarre/Fingers McNeen, Bank Robber/Goodnight From Thames TV/Beach Babe (\* Jack Wright in old footage)

April 25 1984

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Louise English, Jon Jon Keefe, Sue Upton, Erica Lynley, Len Keyes\*

Invention Of The Wheel/The League Of Helping Hands/A Vagabond/Hill's Angels At Health Spa/Lecture On The Human Body/Boys vs. Girls Street Fight/The Hot Shoe Show/Show Under-Running By Two Minutes/St. John Thomas Hospital

January 2 1985

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Louise English, Jon Jon Keefe, Carl Wayne, Derek Royle, Len Keyes\*

Two Sacks Of Phones/Schoolmaster - Questionnaire (incl. How Far Man Has Progressed)/Olive, The Chemist Shop Manageress/Benito's Victorian Music Hall (incl. *Please Don't Pull The Privy Down*)/The B Team

April 8 1985

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jon Jon Keefe, Louise English, Jenny Lee-Wright, Sue Upton, Len Keyes

That's The One!/What A World/Life On The Street/For Ever Love LP/Schoolmistress - Feminine Dictionary/Benito's By The Beach/Cinema Manager, Fred Scuttle (incl. Hullo Sailor)

May 27 1985

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Jon Jon Keefe, Louise English, Erica Lynley, Sue Upton, Len Keyes, Jade Westbrook\*

Honeymoon Room Service/*Costa Coco*/Weather House Couple/Punk Directions To The Post Office/The Lover/Verdict On Corruption And Depravity/Carmen/Dibbles Health Farm

March 12 1986

with Henry McGee, Anna Dawson, Bob Todd, Jon Jon Keefe, Louise English, Len Keyes

Errant Tattooist/Captain Benny's Twenties Cruise (incl. *A Girl In Every Port, You Made Me \*\*\*\* You*)/The Bucket/T.V. Executives Plan Biblical Soao Opera/Chez When/I'm Not A Sexist/Short-Sighted Handyman At Girl's School

March 31 1986

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Louise English, Jenny Lee-Wright, Sue Upton, Jerold Wells, Jade Westbrook

See-Through Top And Bra/I'll Never Know, *In The Papers*/The Dreams Of A Philandering Husband/The Herd/Cabaret At The Cafe De L'Opera/Sexual Harrassment In The Workplace/My Life As An International Sex Symbol/Subtitled Television/Cross Strasse/The Painter At Rembrandt's Cottage

April 16 1986

with Henry McGee, Anna Dawson, Bob Todd, Helen Horton, Jon Jon Keefe, Lorraine Doyle, Kathy Staff, Len Keyes

I've Forgotten My Cheque Book/Bijou Burlesque/*Funny Old World*/Russian Propoganda/Pub Poetry: Anecdotes/Barney And Miriam: Swinging Neighbours/Editing The Signwriter Film/Cagney And Lacey

January 13 1988

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Jerrold Wells, Derek Deadman, Johnny Hutch, Sue Upton

If You'd Kissed Me That Way/Brooklyn Benny (incl. *It's A Hard Life*)/The Halitosis Kid/Celebrity Menu/Playgirl Club/Kid's Day Out/National Smile Week

April 27 1988

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Derek Deadman, Johnny Hutch, Sue Upton

Argument With Dustman/Bronco Benny/Joggers/Love Birds/Norfolk Turkey/Chicago-Go Gala Night (incl. Kosher Comic, Tanya & Her Performing Men)/San Embargos Welcome

February 8 1989

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Johnny Hutch, Duggie Small, Sue Upton

The Milkman's Ceiling/Yokel Benny (incl. *Cockney Girls, Benny's Square Dance*)/Little Angels' Birthday Party/The Daily Scuttle/Sport/Late Arrival At Guild Dinner/Crook Report

April 5 1989

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Johnny Hutch, Duggie Small, Sue Upton

Eating From Dog's Bowl/*Anna Maria*/Historical Heroes/Mr. Chow Mein, Waiter/Hill's Angels Photo Call/Kabaret Mit Otto (incl. Laurel & Hardy)/Musical Blackmail/Jungle Explorer

May 1 1989

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Johnny Hutch, Derek Deadman, Jerrold Wells, Lorraine Doyle

Granny Loves The Spinning Wheel/*Pepys Diary*/The Good Guys/The Cheddars At The Marriage Counsellor/TV Show Titles (incl. Tales Of The Unexpected, The Bill, Boon)/Schoolmaster: The Language/Little Angels Fishing Picnic

### **Benny Hill: Clown Imperial**

(BBC1, December 20 1991. 60 minute documentary profile)

**Benny Hill's World Tour** (Carlton, Apr 12 and May 16 1994 as **Benny Hill Unseen**. 2 x 30 min)

with Henry McGee, Bob Todd, Anna Dawson, Jon Jon Keefe, Johnny Hutch, Sue Upton, Joey Faye

A Bank Raid Not An Office Party/I'm Glad To Be Here/Ask Dr. Ruth/How To Meet Beautiful Women/A Streetcar Named Desiree/Mr. Chow Mein, Ventriloquist/Hood's Rendezvous

### **Heroes Of Comedy**

(CH4, January 12 1998. 60 minute documentary profile)

## Radio

**Listen My Children** (B.B.C. Home Service, June 1 to July 20 1948. 8 x 30min)

with *Robert Beatty, Benny Lee, Jon Pertwee, Harry Secombe, Patricia Hayes*

**Third Division** (B.B.C. Third Programme, January 26 to March 2 1949. 6 x 30 min)

with *Harry Secombe, Peter Sellers, Michael Bentine, Patricia Hayes, Robert Beatty, Benny Lee, Robert Moreton*

**Anything Goes** (B.B.C. Light Programme, February 21 to April 3 1952 (not March 13). 6 x 30 min)

with *Cherry Lind, Jack Watson, Johnny Morris and the Ivor Raymonde Seven*

**Archie's The Boy** (B.B.C. Light Programme, November 11 1954 to March 24 1955. 20 x 30 min)

with *Peter Brough, Beryl Reid, Graham Stark, Shirley Eaton, Peter Madden*

### Star Parade

featured three editions titled **The Benny Hill Show** (Light Programme: March 28, May 30 and August 25 1963)

### Benny Hill Time

Series 1: B.B.C. Light Programme, February 23 to May 17 1964 (13 x 30 min)

\* **Benny's Bandbox**: Light Programme, January 1 1965

Series 2: B.B.C. Light Programme, February 21 to March 28 1965 (6 x 30 min)

Series 3: B.B.C. Light Programme, February 27 to April 10 1966 (7 x 30 min)

with *Peter Vernon, Jan Waters (series 1 and 2), Patricia Hayes* scripts by *Benny Hill*

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### The Benny Hill Story

by John Smith (W.H. Allen, 1988)

### The Illustrated Benny Hill

by Gary Morecambe (Elm Tree Books, 1989)

### Saucy Boy - The Life Story Of Benny Hill

by Leonard Hill (Grafton Books, 1990)

### Star Turns - The Life And Times Of Benny Hill And Frankie Howerd

by Barry Took (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1992)

### Benny - The True Story By His Best Friend

by Dennis Kirkland, with Hilary Bonner (Smith Gryphon, 1992)

### The Real Benny Hill

by Margaret Forwood (Robson, 1992)

### Benny Hill - Merry Master Of Mirth

by Robert Ross (Batsford paperback, 1999)

### Benny Hill - King Leer

by Jeremy Novick (Carlton Books, 2000)

## Discography

*Memories Are Made Of This / Who Done It?*

Columbia 78rpm DB 3731, 7" single SCM 5238

*I Can't Tell A Waltz From A Tango / Teach Me Tonight*

Decca 7" single 45F 10442

*Gather In The Mushrooms / Pepys Diary*

Pye 7" single 7N 15327

*Gypsy Rock / Transistor Radio*

Pye 7" single 7N 15359

### Benny Hill Parade #1

Pye EP nep 24144

*Gather In The Mushrooms / Pepys Diary / Gypsy Rock / Transistor Radio*

*Lonely Boy / The Piccolo Song*

Pye 7" single 7N 15405

*BAM-ba 3688 / The Harvest Of Love*

Pye 7" single 7N 15520

### Harvest Of Love

Pye EP nep 24174

*The Piccolo Song / Lonely Boy / BAM-ba 3688 / The Harvest Of Love*

*What A World / I'll Never Know*

Pye 7" single 7N 15974 (1965)

*My Garden Of Love / The Andalucian Gypsies*

Pye 7" single 7N 17026 (1966)

### Benny Hill Sings (?)

Pye LP NPL 18133 (1966),

*Moving On Again / The Andalucian Gypsies / In The Papers / Golden Days / Flying South / My Garden Of Love / I'll Never Know / Wild Women / Jose's Cantina / Rose / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / Those Days / The Old Fiddler / What A World*

### Benny Hill Sings Old Favourites

Pye/Golden Guinea LP GGL 0363 (1966)

*The Harvest Of Love / I'll Never Know / Gypsy Rock / The Piccolo Song / Jose's Cantina / Transistor Radio / Lonely Boy / BAM-ba 3688 / What A World / Those Days / Gather In The Mushrooms*

### Benny At The B.B.C.

Decca LP LK 4723 (1965)

(reissued as **The World Of Benny Hill** Decca PA 116)

*Interviews / Layabouts Picnic / Film Director-Producer J. Arthur Scuttle - From Moscow With Love / The Sunday Ben / Down Your Way Visits Dalton Abbot / Warlords Of East Grinstead / Holiday King Mr. Fred Scuttle / The Jolly Robbers*

*Ernie (The Fastest Milkman In The West)/Ting-A-Ling-A-Loo* Columbia 7" single DB 8833 (1971)

### Words And Music

Columbia LP SCX 6479 (1971)

(reissued in 1972 as **Benny Hill Sings Ernie Music For Pleasure** MFP 50040)

*Ernie / Anna Marie / Broken-Hearted Lovers' Stew / Colleen / Rachel / The Beach At San Tropez / Suzy / Ting-A-Ling-A-Loo / Ted / Tour Guide / Interview / Making A Commercial / The Birds And The Bees*

*Fad Eyed Fal / The Dustbins Of Your Mind*  
Columbia 7" single DB 8940 (1972)

### **This Is Benny Hill**

E.M.I. LP THIS 27

(reissued in 1977 as **Words And Music** E.M.I./Note LP NTS 135, and as **Ernie** E.M.I. CD 7 99733 2)

*Ernie / Anna Marie / Broken-Hearted Lovers' Stew / Colleen / Rachel / Beach At San Tropez / Suzy / Ting-A-Ling-A-Loo / The Dustbins Of Your Mind / Fad Eyed Fal / Ted / Tour Guide / Interview / Making A Commercial / The Birds And The Bees*

### **The Golden Hour Of Benny Hill**

Pye/Golden Hour LP GH 524 (1972)

*The Harvest Of Love / Gypsy Rock / Piccolo Song / Pepys Diary / Transistor Radio / Lonely Boy / BAM-ba 3688 / Gather In The Mushrooms / Moving On Again / The Andalucian Gypsies / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / In The Papers / Golden Days / Flying South / My Garden Of Love / I'll Never Know / Wild Women / Jose's Cantina / Rose / Those Days / The Old Fiddler / What A World*

### **The Best Of ...**

Continuum CD (1993)

*Ernie / Bianca / Gypsy Dance / New York Rap / Star Names / Just Wanna Be In Your Band / Down On The Farm / Unlucky Luke / Pepys Diary / Older Woman / Cafe Ole / Graffiti / Lifeguards / Go Round Again*

### **Benny Hill Sings (?)**

Castle CD PACD 008 (1990)

*Ernie / Pepys Diary / Transistor Radio / Gypsy Rock / The Piccolo Song / Lonely Boy / Gather In The Mushrooms / Harvest Of Love / BAMba 3688 / Moving On Again / The Andalucian Gypsies / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / In The Papers / Golden Days / Flying South / My Garden Of Love / I'll Never Know / Wild Women / Jose's Cantina / Rose / Those Days / The Old Fiddler / What A World / Broken-Hearted Lovers Stew / The Beach At San Tropez*

### **Ernie (The Fastest Milkman In The West)**

E.M.I. CD single 8 80068 2

*Ernie / Ting-A-Ling-A-Loo / The Dustbins Of Your Mind / Fad Eyed Fal*

### **On Top With Benny Hill**

Spectrum CD 550 765 2 (1995)

*Gather In The Mushrooms / Harvest Of Love / My Garden Of Love / Pepys' Diary / In The Papers / Jose's Cantina / Flying South / What A World / The Andalucian Gypsies / Transistor Radio / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / Lonely Boy / Gypsy Rock / Wild Women / I'll Never Know / The Old Fiddler / Bamba 3688 / The Piccolo Song*

### **The Ultimate Collection**

Pulse CD PLS CD 273 (1998)

*Gather In The Mushrooms / Transistor Radio / Harvest Of Love / Pepys' Diary / Gypsy Rock / The Piccolo Song / Lonely Boy / Moving On Again / The Andalucian Gypsies / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / Bamba 3688 / What A World / I'll Never Know / My Garden Of Love / In The Papers / Golden Days / Flying South / Wild Women / Jose's Cantina / Rose / Those Days / The Old Fiddler / Ernie*

### **Benny Hill Time**

B.B.C. double-cassette ZBBC 1722 (1995)

features broadcasts of February 23\*, March 8\*, March 15\* and April 5 1964 (\* *misdated on sleeve*)

## **Videography**

### **Benny And The Jests** (B.B.C. U.S. and Australia only)

B.B.C. extracts from 1958, 1961, 1965, 1967 and 1968  
*Beat The Clock / 24 Hours - Anglo French Friends League / Director Fred Scuttle's The Knock / Sportsview - Show Jumping / Soap Box Jury / Scuttle's Fun Boy Club / Orchestrated Breakfast / The Stamp Collector / Hollywood And The Stars / The Y.M.C.A. / Strangers In The Cinema*

### **Bennies From Heaven** (B.B.C. U.S. and Australia only)

B.B.C. extracts from 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967  
*Trooping The Colour / Eurovision English Lesson / German Commercials / Viewer Researcher Fred Scuttle and Shows That Didn't Make It (incl. The Old Fiddler) / Making A Commercial / Adverts (Indigestion, Gravy, Run-down Wife, Cleanser) / Expose Of A Male Model / The Egg Marketing Board Tango / J. Arthur Clinker's Quickie Movie / Medieval Royal Conspiracy*

### **The Good, The Bawd And The Benny** (B.B.C. US and Australia only)

B.B.C. extracts from 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968  
*Wife Swapping In A Lift / Opportunity Calls (incl. In The Papers) / Scuttle-Air / Knicker's World: Continental Divorce / The Strolling Ones (incl. Rose) / On The Orient Express / Sexual Harrassment / Armand And Michaela Menace / Police - Friend Or Foe? / Laddyboys: Tex Cymbal (incl. My Garden Of Love)*

### **The Best Of Benny Hill - Volume 1**

Thames Video and Laser Disc (120 min)

### **The Best Of Benny Hill - Volume 2**

Thames Video (104 min)

### **The Best Of Benny Hill - Volume 3**

Thames Video (110 min)

### **Benny And Friends**

Thames Video (55 min) 1984

### **It's Benny Hill**

Thames Video (52 min) 1986

### **The Crazy World Of Benny Hill**

Thames Video (55 min) 1988

### **Benny Hill's Greatest Hits**

Thames Video (90 min) 1990

### **The Very Best Of Benny Hill**

### **The World's Favourite Clown** (Clown Imperial)

Thames Video (52 min) 1992

### **Benny Hill's World - New York**

? (58 min)

\* *in the U.S.A., the following NTSC tapes all featured 60 minutes of highlights from the Thames shows ...*

### **Benny Hill's Video Revue**

### **Benny Hill's One-Night Video Stand**

### **Benny Hill's Video Sideshow**

### **Benny Hill's Home Video Drive-In**

### **Benny Hill's Video Follies**

### **Benny Hill's Video Spotlight**

### **Benny Hill's Crazy World**

# VISITING STARS ON AUSTRALIAN RADIO

by Peter Tatchell

**S**INCE 1971, the B.B.C. has been merchandising a wealth of recordings from its golden era of radio comedy. Unfortunately its Australian cousin, the A.B.C., can't benefit from an equivalent source of income because not only were its attempts at humorous programming few and far between, but it has been singularly inept at preserving what few shows it did commission.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the A.B.C. was content to air such British successes as *I.T.M.A.*, *Much-Binding-In-The-Marsh*, *Take It From Here*, *The Goon Show*, *Hancock's Half Hour* and others, and it's an interesting sidelight to note that, as a consequence, several dozen episodes of these shows only survive thanks to the efforts of Australian collectors who have located rare transcription and off-air acetate discs.

Of the A.B.C.'s own productions, all featured stars of the above-named British series lured downunder to record an antipodean equivalent of their B.B.C. original, or who happened to be touring Australasia with a theatrical production at the time. The A.B.C. was not alone in this cultural cringe and commercial radio was not averse to engaging British and American show business names then appearing before the footlights of J.C. Williamson or Tivoli theatres.

Herewith a look at the programmes and the personalities.

## THE TOMMY TRINDER SHOW

(Macquarie Network)

November 5 - 26, 1946 (4 x 30-minute shows)

Tommy Trinder, Terry Dear, The Parker Sisters, Dan Draper, Joan Ashton and Bob Gibson's Orchestra

*Tommy was hugely popular on the Tivoli stages in Melbourne and Sydney and took part in four broadcasts for commercial radio, networked from 3AW Melbourne.*

*at least three editions survive*

*Tommy made several subsequent stage tours downunder (also appearing in the 1950 Ealing Studios film *Bitter Springs*) and around 1952 he also hosted a series of reminiscence half-hours titled *My Friends The Stars* for commercial radio 2UE in Sydney.*

*editions #15 and #16 survive*

## George Formby on THE SHELL SHOW

(Macquarie Network)

January 7 to 28, 1948 (4 x 45-minute shows)

George Formby, George Foster, Alan Rowe, Reg Gray, Bob Gibson's Orchestra

*With his movie career over and out of recording contract, Formby toured Australia's Tivoli circuit in the late-1940s and was signed to guest-host four editions of commercial radio's *The Shell Show* during his stay.*

*the last three of the shows are known to survive*



Dick Bentley and company from *Gently Bentley*

## THE CICELY COURTNEIDGE SHOW (A.B.C.)

January 23 to February 13 1948 (4 x 30-minute shows)

Cicely Courtneidge, Thorley Walters, Wilfrid Thomas, Jim Gussey and the A.B.C. Dance Band

*Courtneidge was touring Australia in the musical *Under The Counter* when the A.B.C. signed her (and co-star Walters) for a radio series. Unfortunately the venture ended in acrimony after only four broadcasts with Miss Courtneidge refusing to continue.*

*no known recordings*

## THE ARTHUR ASKEY SHOW (A.B.C.)

Series 1: January 1 and February 12 to March 19 1950

(7 x 30-minute shows)

Series 2: July 16 to September 17 1950 (10 x 30-minute shows)

Arthur Askey, Anthea Askey, Macduff Williams (series 1), Bobby Mack (series 2), the A.B.C. Dance Orchestra

*Two years after the Courtneidge fiasco, the A.B.C. had better luck with Arthur Askey, who was touring with the play *The Love Racket* when he agreed to star in a regular series of programmes.*

*no known recordings*

## THE JOE E. BROWN SHOW (Macquarie Network)

Mondays and Wednesdays May 8 to October 25 1950

(50 x 15-minute shows)

Joe E. Brown, Terry Dear

*1930s movie star Joe E. Brown was touring in the stage comedy *Harvey* (previously a vehicle for Frank Fay on Broadway and *Sid Field* in London's West End) when he supplemented his income with a series of twice-weekly broadcasts.*

*shows #23 and #24 are known to survive.*



## **GENTLY BENTLEY** (A.B.C.)

Series 1: August 31 1951 to January 11 1952

(20 x 30-minute shows)

Dick Bentley, Neva Carr Glynn, Reg Goldsworthy, Lyndall Barbour, John Ewart, Jim Gussey and the ABC Dance Band  
\* *The ABC 2LP The Big Broadcast (2ABCL 8206)* features a short excerpt from the episode of September 14 1951

Series 2: July 1 to October 21 1955 (15 x 30-minute shows)

Dick Bentley, Reg Goldsworthy, Lyndall Barbour, John Ewart, Michael Eisdell, Jim Gussey and the ABC Dance Band

Series 3: May 16 to August 8 1966 (13 x 30-minute shows)

Dick Bentley, John Meillon, Ruth Cracknell, Diana Davidson, Richard Meikle, Michael Eisdell, Jim Gussey and the ABC Dance Band

*The first series saw the return of favourite son Bentley, fresh from success with **Take It From Here**, transcriptions of which were enormously popular when aired on A.B.C. radio. Newsreel footage captured his arrival (in company with scriptwriters Frank Muir and Denis Norden, who also made the long voyage downunder).*

*By the second season, in 1955, **T.I.F.H.** had created the legendary Ron and Eth, and Bentley was on the crest of a huge wave of popularity when he returned during a break in his B.B.C. schedule.*

*With **Take It From Here** ending in early 1960, Bentley's career had peaked. He tried a number of subsequent series (**Once Over Lightly** in 1961, **Clancy Of The Outback** in 1963, **Variety Playhouse** 1963/4 and **I Was Kitchener's Treble** in 1966) but like radio itself, he had slipped from the top rung of show business. When the A.B.C. commissioned a third season of **Gently Bentley**, Dick wrote the scripts himself.*

*several series 1 shows apparently survive in the A.B.C. archives, but nothing seems to exist from the later series.*

## **MUCH MURDOCH** (A.B.C.)

May 14 to September 24 1954 (17 x 30-minute shows)

Richard Murdoch, Neva Carr Glynn, Georgie Sterling, Harvey Adams, Ray Barrett

(\* Kenneth Horne guest-starred on six editions, from June 18 to July 23)

***Much-Binding-In-The-Marsh** had been an enormous favourite with Australian listeners, so the A.B.C. signed Murdoch for a locally made series. Kenneth Horne joined him mid-season for six programmes before returning to Britain.*

*no known recordings*

## **THREE'S A CROWD** (3DB Melbourne)

September 9 1956 to March 3 1957 (26 x 30-minute shows)

Michael Bentine, David Nettheim, John Bluthal  
*Bentine and Milligan had created **The Goon Show** in 1951, but after two seasons Bentine departed for pastures new. By 1956 he was in Australia on the Tivoli circuit when 3DB signed him for a series of zany half-hours, no doubt inspired by the success of **The Goon Show** which had just begun airing on A.B.C. radio.*

*A fairly complete collection of recordings apparently resides at the National Film And Sound Archive in Canberra.*



Spike Milligan at the microphone for *The Idiot Weekly*

## **THE IDIOT WEEKLY** (A.B.C.)

Series 1: June 3 to August 19 1958 (12 x 30-minute shows)

Spike Milligan, Ray Barrett, Bobby Limb, John Bluthal, Reg Goldsworthy, Michael Eisdell

Series 2: June 30 to September 22 1959 (13 x 30-minute shows)

Spike Milligan, Bobby Limb, John Bluthal, Michael Eisdell  
\* *The A.B.C. 2LP The Big Broadcast (2ABCL 8206)* features a short excerpt from the episode of June 30 1959

Series 3: August 28 to November 20 1962

(13 x 30-minute shows)

Spike Milligan, John Ewart, Ric Hutton, Paul Westerman, Al Thomas, Michael Eisdell

\* *The Parlophone LP The Idiot's Weekly (PMEO 9376)* features two episodes: *The Ashes/The Flying Dustman Of The Outback*

*Transcriptions of **The Goon Show** began on Australian radio in late 1955 (with season 5 editions onwards) so when Milligan decided to visit his parents in Woy Woy in 1958 the A.B.C. signed him for a series of radio broadcasts. As with Bentley, they hoped for a local equivalent of his B.B.C. prototype, but without Sellers and Secombe the venture had only limited success. During his stay Milligan also created a 30-minute television special called **The Gladys Half Hour** (ABCTV October 17 1958).*

*A followup radio season was produced a year later, and a third (with significantly new support cast) appeared in 1962, a couple of years after the B.B.C. original had ended. In a novel twist, scripts from this season were later adapted for the B.B.C. series **The Omar Khayyam Show** (Home Service Dec 27 1963-Jan 24 1964 and May 5 1964).*

*A number of episodes survive (but only as amateur off-air acetate recordings):*

*from season 1: **The Australian Flag** (June 3 1958), **The Prime Minister's Trousers** (date unknown) and the final eight minutes of the programme of July 8 1958*

*from season 2: **Son Of Andrea** (June 30 1959, possibly complete), **The First Australian Into Outer Woy Woy** (date unknown) and a rehearsal for **The French Connection** (aired on September 7 1959)*

*from season 3: **The Ashes**, **The King's Bridge Saga**, **The American Cup - The Gretel**, **The World's Greatest Adventure - The Everest Ladder**, **Spon**, **King's Cross - The East Berlin Of Australia**, **The Great Christmas Pudding** and **The Flying Dustman Of The Outback** (all dates unknown)*

# YES MINISTER



by Paul Balsillie

IN 1972 writer Antony Jay attended a Civil Service College lecture given by Barbara Castle. During the proceedings he was introduced to the idea that there is a 'ministry policy' as opposed to a 'minister's policy'. Thus sprang the idea for a sitcom about a minister and a civil servant. Several years earlier Jay had recognized the comic potential of verbose ministerial speeches while contributing to **The Frost Report** (in fact some of this material actually resurfaced as dialogue for Sir Humphrey).

Many years later Jonathan Lynn, Cambridge Footlights alumnus and by now a sitcom writer, was introduced to Jay by John Cleese. The two agreed to collaborate on a script — Jay bringing his knowledge of politics and civil servants and Lynn his comic brain and experience in sitcoms. The pair wrote a pilot called *Open Government*, which concerned the election of a new Minister For Administrative Affairs, who soon begins to wonder who is really in charge — the elected representative or the civil servant. As Lynn put it, it was a Jeeves and Wooster concept in which 'the servant is cleverer than his master'.

The script broke new sitcom ground, especially for the late 1970's, in that the plot was not centred around domestic relationships and the audience was invited to think, not just watch. From the beginning, Jay and Lynn had Paul Eddington, then famous as Jerry Leadbetter in **The Good Life**, in mind for the role of Jim Hacker MP and he was sent the script by producer John Howard Davies. Eddington liked what he read, but feared the political setting lacked the potential for success of his earlier series, and could be detrimental to his career.

His concern led to two more scripts being written, after which Eddington expressed interest in playing Sir Humphrey Appleby, the Jeeves-like civil servant who really runs the ministry and who always has the last line, "Yes, Minister." Jay and Lynn objected since they had written the ministerial part especially for him and pointed out that the Hacker character had a chance to grow, while Sir Humphrey would always remain the same.

Eddington eventually conceded and it turned out to be one of the best decisions of his career. In his autobiography *So Far, So Good*, he says, 'When I think now how nearly I came to rejecting **Yes Minister**, my blood runs cold. I had not yet learnt the golden rule that no considerations, especially financial ones, should be placed above the quality of the work.'

Character actors Nigel Hawthorne and Derek Fowlds were signed as Sir Humphrey Appleby, the Permanent Secretary and Bernard Woolley, the Principal Private Secretary. Also cast was Diana Hoddinott in the role of Annie Hacker, Jim's wife.

The pilot was recorded on 4 February 1979 and went very well, but Eddington and Hawthorne were not impressed with the director Stuart Allen's broad visual approach, acquired during four years of **On The Buses**. They felt close-ups of Diana Hoddinott's behind while she scrambled around on the floor looking for a cigarette, out of place in this sort of show.

The BBC decided that they would commission a series, with the pilot as the first episode, but when the Labour government collapsed and Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher was elected as Britain's Prime Minister on 3 May, the project was put on hold lest it be accused of party bias.

On 6 January 1980 filming resumed for a further six episodes, this time with director Sidney Lotterby. During rehearsals Eddington and Hawthorne fought to rid the script of gags. According to Eddington, "We both felt that it was a genuine situation comedy — the comedy lying in the situation rather than the jokes, verbal or visual, which could tend, we thought, to be a distraction." A compromise was reached.

The first viewing figures for **Yes Minister** were not encouraging. Expecting at least six million viewers, it only managed a third of that figure, but by the second episode word of mouth had pushed it to the top of the ratings.

In 1981, the programme won the British Academy Award (BAFTA) for Best Comedy Series and Nigel Hawthorne won the award for best actor. In fact, **Yes Minister** won BAFTAs in 1982 and 1983 as well, making it the first ever show to win three years in a row, with Nigel Hawthorne winning four times out of five seasons, only missing out in 1983.

In 1983 BBC Radio recorded the first of two eight-episode audio adaptations, featuring the original cast reprising their roles. Lynn and Jay's scripts were reworked for radio by the producer Pete Atkin, though he was not ideally suited to the job. In the episode *The Quality of Life* Hacker is being interviewed by Selina Scott and is asked if the children can get autographs. He happily agrees, but is surprised when they all run to get her autograph. In order to describe this visual joke Atkin gave Bernard the line, "Couldn't you get at least one of them to ask Jim for his autograph?" At no time throughout the series has Bernard referred to him as 'Jim'. It was always as 'Minister' or 'Prime Minister'.

After three seasons **Yes Minister** ended in 1982, with real life P.M. Margaret Thatcher being a devoted fan of the series. In fact, when Mary Whitehouse's National Viewers And Listener's Association presented an award to Eddington, Hawthorne, Jay and Lynn on January 20 1984, Mrs. Thatcher was not only present, but decided to contribute and perform a specially-written script for the occasion. The five minute offering saw the P.M. apparently summoning Hacker and Sir Humphrey to Downing Street for discussion on the merits of economics and economists.

Later that year the real scriptwriters had a surprise for Mrs. Thatcher in return, when the B.B.C. screened a 60-minute Christmas special called *Party Games*, in which Hacker himself is miraculously elevated to the position of Prime Minister.

It wasn't until January 1986 when the series proper returned, this time with a new title, **Yes, Prime Minister**. Sir Humphrey and Bernard have also moved to Number 10 and a new character, Dorothy Wainwright, threatens Sir Humphrey's position of power. Though just as successful as the first series, only two seasons of eight episodes apiece were made before the characters retreated into television folklore.

Since the series ended Jonathan Lynn has moved to Hollywood and in 1992 directed Eddie Murphy in **The Distinguished Gentleman**, which looked at the American government and its bureaucracy, in much the same way as **Yes Minister** looked at the English government.

In 1997 Antony Jay wrote the book *How to Beat Sir Humphrey: Every Citizen's Guide to Fighting Officialdom* and Derek Fowlds returned to his Bernard Woolley persona to narrate the book on BBC Radio 4.

Interestingly, after years of being known as Sir Humphrey Appleby, Nigel Hawthorne became Sir Nigel Hawthorne when he was knighted in the 1999 New Year's Honours List.

## Television

### Yes Minister

Starring Paul Eddington (Jim Hacker), Nigel Hawthorne (Sir Humphrey Appleby), Derek Fowlds (Bernard Woolley), Diana Hoddinott (Annie Hacker), John Nettleton (Sir Arnold Robinson), Neil Fitzwilliam (Frank Weisel) (*series 1*), John Savident (Sir Frederick 'Jumbo') (*series 1*)

#### Series 1

BBC2 25 February to 7 April 1980 (7 x 30mins)

##### 1. *Open Government*

Jim Hacker's party wins the General Election and he is appointed Minister for Administrative Affairs. He meets his Permanent Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby and soon begins to wonder who is really in charge of the ministry.

##### 2. *The Official Visit*

Jim tries to negotiate a tricky oil-rig deal with a corrupt African President.

##### 3. *The Economy Drive*

In order to satisfy the press who have discovered shocking government waste, Jim implements an economy drive.

##### 4. *Big Brother*

Sir Humphrey tries to block Jim at every turn when he attempts to introduce privacy safeguards in the government's national computer database.

##### 5. *The Writing On the Wall*

Jim and Sir Humphrey are forced to cooperate in order to save the Ministry of Administrative Affairs from abolition.

##### 6. *The Right to Know*

Jim tries to stop Sir Humphrey keeping things from him, while daughter Lucy prepares for a protest against the government.

##### 7. *Jobs For the Boys*

Jim publicly supports a building project which later appears to be in financial difficulties.

#### Series 2

BBC2 23 February to 6 April 1981 (7 x 30mins)

##### 1. *The Compassionate Society*

Jim learns that a hospital has 500 administrators and no doctors or nurses. His solution of sacking 300 administrators and hiring some medical staff causes a London-wide hospital strike.

##### 2. *Doing the Honours*

Bernard suggests holding back civil servants' honours until they achieve budget cuts.

##### 3. *The Death List*

Jim's name has been found on a terrorist group's death list.

##### 4. *The Greasy Pole*

Sir Humphrey tries to manipulate Jim into supporting the building of a chemical plant which would be unpopular with voters.

##### 5. *The Devil You Know*

Learning that a cabinet reshuffle is imminent, Sir Humphrey tries to help Jim keep his position.

##### 6. *The Quality of Life*

Sir Humphrey gets Jim to sign an Administrative Order to convert a city farm he has publicly promised to save into a tax inspectors' car park.

##### 7. *A Question of Loyalty*

Jim and Sir Humphrey appear before a committee investigating charges of waste in the ministry.



## Yes, Prime Minister

Starring Paul Eddington (Jim Hacker), Nigel Hawthorne (Sir Humphrey Appleby), Derek Fowlds (Bernard Woolley), Diana Hoddinott (Annie Hacker), Deborah Norton (Dorothy Wainwright), John Nettleton (Sir Arnold Robinson), Peter Cellier (Sir Frank Gordon)

### Series 1

BBC2 9 January to 27 February 1986 (8 x 30mins)

#### 1. *The Grand Design*

When Jim learns how weak Britain's defences are, he plans to reintroduce conscription.

#### 2. *The Ministerial Broadcast*

Jim prepares for his first television broadcast as P. M.

#### 3. *The Smokescreen*

While Jim and Sir Humphrey are battling over tax cuts, the Minister of Health submits a report condemning smoking.

#### 4. *The Key*

Jim tries to restrict Sir Humphrey's access to Number 10.

#### 5. *A Real Partnership*

The Civil Service pushes for a payrise.

#### 6. *A Victory For Democracy*

Jim battles with the Foreign Office to avert a communist takeover on St. George's Island.

#### 7. *The Bishop's Gambit*

Jim has to appoint the Bishop of Bury St. Edmonds, but doesn't like the candidates he is being given.

#### 8. *One of Us*

Sir Humphrey's reputation is on the line when it is learned that he cleared a confessed Soviet spy many years earlier.

### Comic Relief

BBC1 25 April 1986

Paul Eddington appears as Jim Hacker in a short specially-recorded sketch explaining that the government enthusiastically supports Comic Relief but can't actually give it any money.

### Series 2

BBC2 3 December 1987 to 28 January 1988 (not 31 Dec) (8 x 30mins)

#### 1. *Man Overboard*

Jim plans to move troops to the north of England in order to reduce unemployment there.

#### 2. *Official Secrets*

Jim tries to suppress an embarrassing chapter of his predecessor's memoirs.

#### 3. *A Diplomatic Incident*

Jim negotiates with the French over channel tunnel concerns.

#### 4. *A Conflict of Interest*

There is another banking scandal in the city and Jim has to appoint a new governor of the Bank of England.

#### 5. *Power to the People*

Jim plans to make local government more democratic.

#### 6. *The Patron of the Arts*

The government cuts funding for the arts just before Jim is due to give a speech at an arts event.

#### 7. *The National Education Service*

Jim plans to improve educational standards by abolishing the Department of Education and Science.

#### 8. *The Tangled Web*

Jim denies knowledge of a wiretap authorized by his office.

### Series 3

BBC2 11 November to 23 December 1982 (7 x 30mins)

#### 1. *Equal Opportunities*

Jim decides to promote more women in the civil service despite Sir Humphrey's opposition.

#### 2. *The Challenge*

Jim looks into local civil defence and runs foul of a BBC interviewer.

#### 3. *The Skeleton in the Cupboard*

When Sir Humphrey insists on disciplining an efficient local council, Jim resorts to blackmail to ensure his co-operation.

#### 4. *The Moral Dimension*

When Jim learns that bribery was used to win a foreign contract, he wants to expose the scandal.

#### 5. *The Bed of Nails*

Jim accepts the responsibility for a transportation bill desired by Number 10 but opposed by everyone else.

#### 6. *The Whisky Priest*

Jim learns of British arms being sold to terrorists and tries to start an enquiry only to be stalled by Sir Humphrey.

#### 7. *The Middle-Class Rip-Off*

Sir Humphrey is horrified to learn that Jim wants to sell an art museum in his district to support a local soccer club.

### The Funny Side of Christmas

BBC1 27 December 1982 (60mins)

Contains a short specially scripted scene.

### Christmas Special

BBC2 17 December 1984 (60mins)

#### *Party Games*

When the Prime Minister announces that he intends to step down Jim finds himself in the running for the job.

## Radio

### Yes Minister

Adapted by Pete Atkin

#### Series 1

BBC Radio 4 18 October to 6 December 1983 (8 x 30mins)

1. *Open Government*
2. *Big Brother*
3. *The Economy Drive*
4. *The Writing on the Wall*
5. *Jobs For the Boys*
6. *The Right to Know*
7. *Doing the Honours*
8. *The Devil You Know*

#### Series 2

BBC Radio 4 9 October to 27 November 1984 (8 x 30mins)

1. *The Compassionate Society*
2. *The Greasy Pole*
3. *The Skeleton in the Cupboard*
4. *A Question of Loyalty*
5. *The Quality of Life*
6. *The Whisky Priest*
7. *The Death List*
8. *The Moral Dimension*

#### How to Beat Sir Humphrey: Every Citizen's Guide to Fighting Officialdom

BBC Radio 4 29 September to 1 October 1997 (3 x 15mins)

Derek Fowlds reads an abridgement of Antony Jay's book

## Video

### Yes Minister

#### Open Government

BBC Video BBCV 5364 (1994)

*Open Government/The Official Visit/The Economy Drive/Big Brother*

#### The Writing on the Wall

BBC Video BBCV 5365 (1994)

*The Writing on the Wall/The Right to Know/Jobs For the Boys*

#### The Compassionate Society

BBC Video BBCV 5863 (1996)

*The Compassionate Society/Doing the Honours/The Death List*

#### The Greasy Pole

BBC Video BBCV 5864 (1996)

*The Greasy Pole/The Devil You Know/The Quality of Life/A Question of Loyalty*

#### Equal Opportunities

BBC Video BBCV 6445 (1998)

*Equal Opportunities/The Challenge/The Skeleton in the Cupboard*

#### The Moral Dimension

BBC Video BBCV 6589 (1998)

*The Moral Dimension/The Bed of Nails/The Whisky Priest/The Middle-Class Rip-Off*

#### The Complete Yes Minister Series 1

BBC Video BBCV 6505 two video set (1998)

*Open Government/The Official Visit/The Economy Drive/Big Brother/The Writing on the Wall/The Right to Know/Jobs For the Boys*

#### Party Games

BBC Video BBCV 7198 (2001)

*Party Games*

### Yes, Prime Minister

#### The Grand Design

BBC Video BBCV 4410 (1990)

*The Grand Design/The Ministerial Broadcast/The Smokescreen*

#### The Key

BBC Video BBCV 4411 (1990)

*The Key/A Real Partnership/A Victory For Democracy*

#### The Bishop's Gambit

BBC Video BBCV 4472 (1991)

*The Bishop's Gambit/One of Us/Man Overboard*

#### Official Secrets

BBC Video BBCV 4473 (1991)

*Official Secrets/A Diplomatic Incident/A Conflict of Interest*

#### Power to the People

BBC Video BBCV 4647 (1991)

*Power to the People/The Patron of the Arts/The National Education Service/The Tangled Web*

#### The Complete Yes, Prime Minister 1

BBC Video double video BBCV 4790 (1996)

*The Grand Design/The Ministerial Broadcast/The Smokescreen/The Key/A Real Partnership/A Victory For Democracy/The Bishop's Gambit/One of Us*

#### The Complete Yes, Prime Minister 2

BBC Video double video BBCV 4791 (1996)

*Man Overboard/Official Secrets/A Diplomatic Incident/A Conflict of Interest/Power to the People/The Patron of the Arts/The National Education Service/The Tangled Web*

## DVD

#### The Complete Yes Minister — Series 1

BBC Video BBCDVD 1047 (2001)

*Open Government/The Official Visit/The Economy Drive/Big Brother/The Writing on the Wall/The Right to Know/Jobs For the Boys*

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## Recordings

### Yes Minister

BBC LP REB 432 (1981)

features the television soundtracks:

*The Devil You Know/Doing The Honours*

### Yes Minister — Volume One

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1147 (1990)

features the radio adaptations:

*Open Government/Big Brother/The Economy Drive/The Writing on the Wall*

### Yes Minister — Volume Two

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1177 (1990)

features the radio adaptations:

*Jobs For the Boys/The Right to Know/Doing the Honours/The Devil You Know*

### Yes Minister — Volume Three

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1269 (1991)

features the radio adaptations:

*The Compassionate Society/The Greasy Pole/The Skeleton in the Cupboard/A Question of Loyalty*

### Yes Minister — Volume Four

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1277 (1991)

features the radio adaptations:

*The Quality of Life/The Whisky Priest/The Death List/The Moral Dimension*

### Yes, Prime Minister

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1670 (1995)

features the television soundtracks:

*The Ministerial Broadcast/The Smokescreen/Official Secrets/A Conflict of Interest*

### Yes, Prime Minister 2

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 1894 (1996)

features the television soundtracks:

*The Grand Design/The Bishop's Gambit/One of Us/Power to the People*

### Yes, Prime Minister 3

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 2182 (1998)

features the television soundtracks:

*A Real Partnership/A Victory For Democracy/The Patron of the Arts/The National Education Service*

### How to Beat Sir Humphrey: Every Citizen's Guide to Fighting Officialdom

BBC Radio Collection double cassette ZBBC 2120 (1997)

2 hour reading of Antony Jay's book narrated by Derek Fowlds

### The Complete Yes Minister

BBC Radio Collection (2000)

features the four volumes of Yes Minister

### The Complete Yes, Prime Minister

BBC Radio Collection (2000)

features the three volumes of Yes, Prime Minister

### The Best of BBC Comedy: The Eighties

BBC Radio Collection (1999)

features the Yes Minister radio episode *Big Brother*

### The Best of BBC Comedy: The Eighties: Volume 2

BBC Radio Collection (2000)

features one Yes Minister radio episode and one Yes, Prime Minister television soundtrack

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## Books

### Yes Minister Vol. I: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister by the Right Hon. James Hacker MP

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1981)

### Yes Minister Vol. II: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister by the Right Hon. James Hacker MP

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1982)

### Yes Minister Vol. III: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister by the Right Hon. James Hacker MP

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1983)

### The Complete Yes Minister: The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister by the Right Hon. James Hacker MP

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1984, revised 1989)

### Son Of Curried Eggs

(compiled by Roger Wilmut)

Methuen (1984)

contains the script of *The Moral Dimension*

### Yes, Prime Minister I: The Diaries of the Right Hon. James Hacker

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1986)

### Yes, Prime Minister II: The Diaries of the Right Hon. James Hacker

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1987)

### The Complete Yes Prime Minister: The Diaries of the Right Hon. James Hacker

(edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

BBC Books (1989)

### Yes, Prime Minister Diary 1988

(text by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

Doubleday (1987)

### Yes, Prime Minister Diary 1989

(text by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay)

Doubleday (1988)

### How to Beat Sir Humphrey: Every Citizen's Guide to Fighting Officialdom

(by Antony Jay)

Long Barn Books (1997)

# BACK ISSUES

## LAUGH #1

Barry Humphries/Jack Benny/Monty Python/The Young Ones/Band Waggon

## LAUGH #2

Stephoe & Son/Not Only But Also/Marx Bros./Police Squad/George Wallace etc

## LAUGH #3

The Goodies/Roy Rene, 'Mo'/Tom Lehrer/The 'Doctor' Movies/Eddie Cantor

*Issues 1 to 3 are now out of print, but photocopies are available at the same price.*

## LAUGH #4

Norman Gunston/Doctor on TV/Bob Newhart/Not The Nine O'Clock News

## 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

Amnesty Concerts/Danny Kaye/Aussie Britcoms/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/Goon Show

## LAUGH #13

Marty Feldman/Round The Horne/At Last The 1948 Show/Allen & Rossi/etc.

## 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

Hope & Crosby/Please Sir!/Max Miller/Willie Rushton/Kevin Bloody Wilson

## LAUGH #17

WC Fields/St. Trinian's/Joyce Grenfell/Mother & Son/Family Ties/Woody Allen

## LAUGH #18

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

## LAUGH #19

Rowan And Martin's Laugh-In/ITMA/Man About The House, George And Mildred, Robin's Nest/George Carlin/Hey Dad!

## LAUGH #20

Frankie Howerd/Up Pompeii!/George Formby/All Together Now/Jonathan Winters

## LAUGH #21

Eric Sykes/Flip Wilson/Ward Leopold/Victoria Wood/To The Manor Born

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