

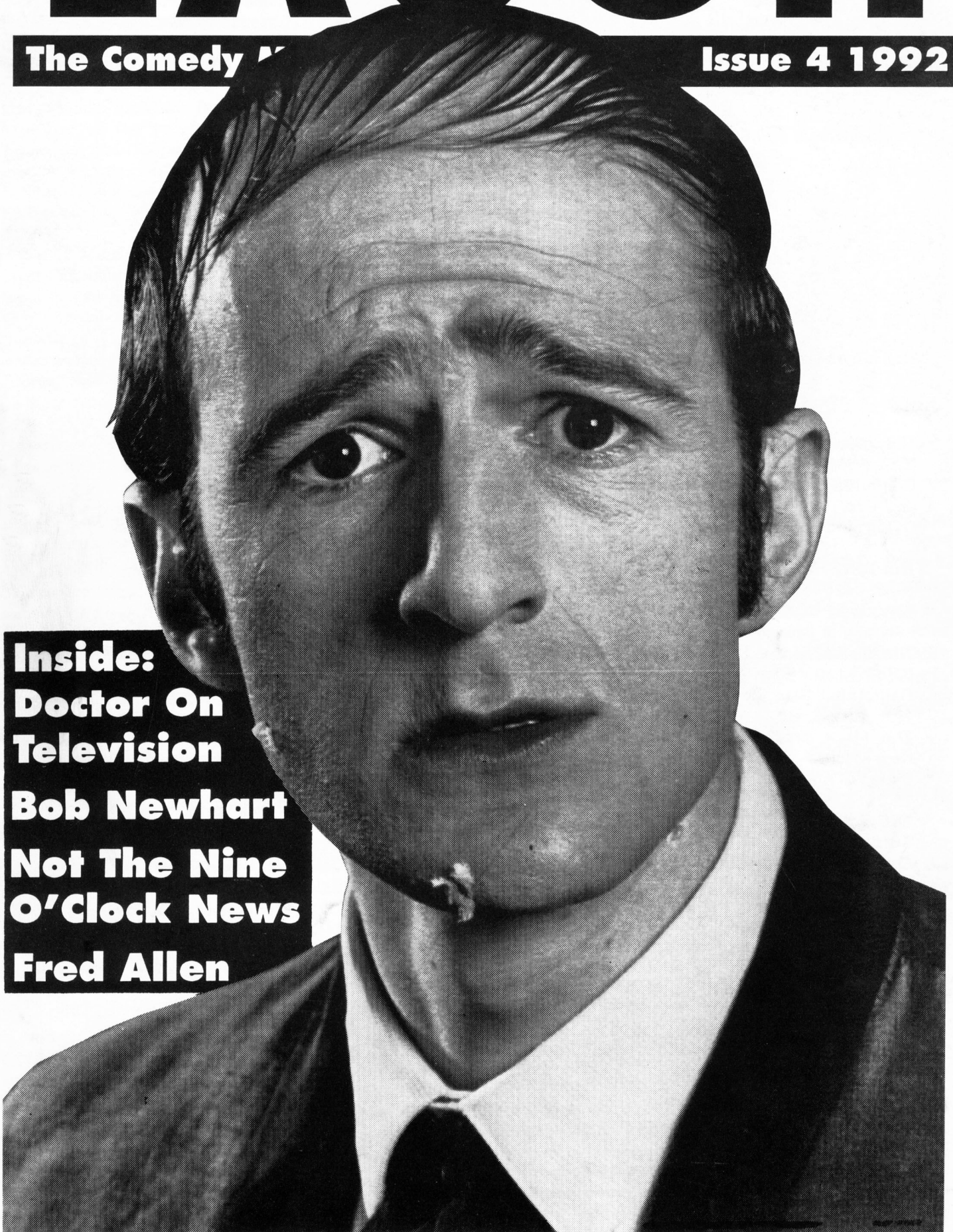
£2 United Kingdom/\$4 Australia & U.S.

# LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

Issue 4 1992

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Doctor On  
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Bob Newhart  
Not The Nine  
O'Clock News  
Fred Allen**



LAUGH is priced at \$4 per issue (plus \$1 postage) in Australia and the U.S. and £2 per issue (plus 50p postage) in Britain. Subscription rates for four issues are \$20 (Aus and U.S.) or £10 (Britain) sent by air.

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# Doctor On Television

by Peter Tatchell

In mid-1968 British commercial television was in a state of upheaval. A review of the franchise holders had resulted in two new players being allocated the right to transmit programming in the London area. Thames Television (combining the expertise of the previous ABC and Associated Rediffusion companies) took over the weekdays, and the recently formed London Weekend broadcast from 7 pm Fridays until the close of transmission on Sundays.

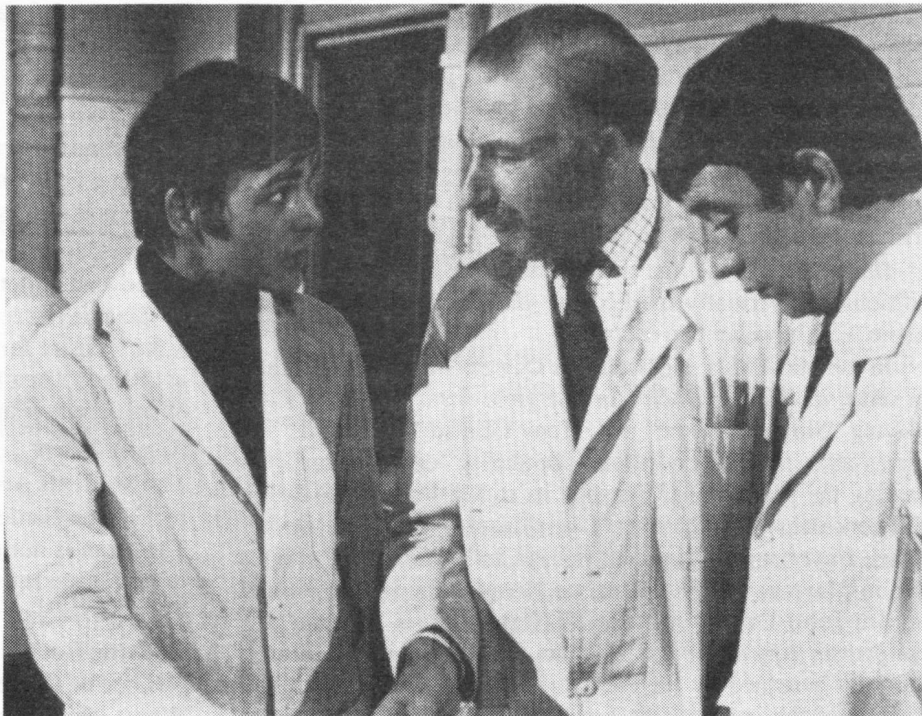
Frank Muir was appointed Head of Light Entertainment at London Weekend and within the first year had launched three very popular sitcoms which relied on ensemble casts ... *Please Sir*, *On The Buses* and an updating of the old Richard Gordon "Doctor" books cum movies.

Since the novels first appeared in the early 1950s, the British way of life had changed a great deal, and the television version capitalised on many aspects of the 'swinging sixties'. Barry Evans, fresh from the success of *Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush* in which he played a naive and virginal teenager, took the lead role of Mike Upton, a naive and virginal medical student. The largely unknown supporting cast of Robin Nedwell, Geoffrey Davies, George Layton, Simon Cuff and Martin Shaw played his fellow students and Ernest Clark (who had appeared in minor roles in some of the *Doctor* movies) appeared as Professor Loftus, a character in the Sir Lancelot Spratt mould. As with the books and films, the action took place at the mythical St. Swithin's Hospital one of the few names not changed from the original.

On the writing side, four graduates from the Cambridge Footlights revues now ensconced in the world of show business were chosen to provide the initial batch of scripts. John Cleese and Graham Chapman who had recently been involved with *At Last! The 1948 Show* supplied the opening installment before heading off to create *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, and Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie wrote the bulk of the remainder. Chapman teamed with Barry Cryer to pen three other shows in the first series.

The success of the thirteen episodes led to a follow-up season a year later, all scripted by Garden and Oddie who by then had created *The Goodies* and would have to share the writing duties with others in future spin-offs of the show. About the only significant change in this second series was the replacement of Martin Shaw's Welsh student with an Irish one played by ex-Footlighter Jonathan Lynn, who would later become a successful television writer himself with the popular *Yes, Minister*. After a further thirteen chapters, Mike Upton succeeds in his quest to become a doctor and *Doctor In The House* spawned no fewer than six spin-off series.

The first of these, *Doctor At Large* saw Upton moving through a number of jobs in the world outside St. Swithin's, with most of the supporting cast phased out. Only Layton,



Barry Evans as Michael Upton, Ernest Clark as Professor Geoffrey Loftus and Robin Nedwell as Duncan Waring

Davies and Clark were retained to come and go depending on the storyline. In the early editions, Upton and Collier get positions at the practice of a country doctor, Major Maxwell, played by Arthur Lowe of *Dad's Army* fame. Unfortunately these episodes were only filmed in black and white owing to a technician's strike and are rarely repeated as a result. After failing to secure a desired position back at St. Swithin's Mike spends some time at a posh Harley Street practice in company with Dick Stuart-Clark before working in general practice in the suburbs with Collier. By the final third of the twenty-nine episode season Upton has returned to St. Swithin's where his main adversary is the sycophantic Dr. Lawrence Bingham, played by Richard O'Sullivan a couple of years before he'd be featured in the popular *Man About The House*.

After fifty-five episodes of *Doctor In The House* and *Doctor At Large*, Barry Evans decided he'd had enough of the role and Robin Nedwell returned as Duncan Waring for the series *Doctor In Charge*. The rest of the cast remained unchanged but the scripts now had the main character more a part of the outlandish goings-on, rather than an innocent bystander caught up in the proceedings. During the show's two seasons, Professor Loftus gains his knighthood and Dr. Bingham makes his way to the altar to wed his ladylove Mary.

By the mid-1970s, the producers decided it was time for a change of direction and Waring and Stuart-Clark leave St. Swithin's to take up jobs on a cruise liner, M.S. Begonia. Their thoughts of a life of ease on the ocean waves are shattered when they meet their captain, the no-nonsense brother of their nemesis, Sir Geoffrey Loftus. They must also contend with the

Bingham-like ways of the purser while tending the medical needs of the passengers and crew as the ship visits a bevy of colourful ports.

After thirteen episodes on the waves, production moved back to St. Swithin's for a new batch of hospital farces, this time called *Doctor On The Go*. Apart from Sir Geoffrey Loftus the rest of the supporting cast had moved on, and a new team of fellow doctors was found for Waring and Stuart-Clark. Waring also had a love interest with Jacquie-Ann Carr playing Dr. Kate Wright, Andrew Knox continued the "Bingham" tradition as James Gascoigne, and John Kane followed earlier Welsh and Irish medical men as the token Scotsman, Andrew MacKenzie.

*Doctor On The Go* ran two seasons for a total of twenty-six editions and virtually marked the end of the road for show. There were however two encores.

In the mid-1970s, Nedwell and Davies had toured Australia in stage versions of *Doctor In The House* and *Doctor In Love* playing "Simon Sparrow" and "Tony Grimsdyke" and the TV series also enjoyed enormous popularity 'down under'. On hearing the program had finished its run in Britain, the Seven Network decided to produce a version of its own and *Doctor Down Under* saw Waring and Stuart-Clark desert St. Swithin's for employment at St. Barnabus Hospital in Sydney. Local actors John Derum and Frank Wilson took the parts of antipodean equivalents of Bingham and Loftus in the thirteen episodes screened by Seven as two series in 1979 and 1980. Twelve of the episodes were subsequently aired in Britain in early 1981. Then after 150 stories the cast went their separate ways.

But the saga wasn't quite over. In 1991, George Layton and Bill Oddie scripted seven new episodes tracing the careers of Waring, Stuart-Clark, Collier and Loftus over a dozen years later. Waring is now a paediatrician working for the National Health Service and has five daughters, Collier who was last seen in *Doctor In Charge* is a successful Harley Street surgeon and Stuart-Clark has somehow become St. Swithin's Professor of Surgery in place of Sir Geoffrey Loftus, who has reluctantly retired. And the new batch of programs was produced by the BBC instead of London Weekend. Initial viewer curiosity saw the show high in the ratings but whether later figures will justify further editions remains to be seen. It's now been over forty years since Richard Gordon's *Doctor In The House* first hit the bookshelves, so who knows when and where the doctors will next turn up.

## *Doctor In The House*

Starring Barry Evans (as Mike Upton), Robin Nedwell (Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), George Layton (Paul Collier), Simon Cuff (Dave Briddock), Martin Shaw (Huw Evans) series 1, Jonathan Lynn (Danny Hooley) series 2, Ralph Michael (The Dean) and Ernest Clark (Professor Geoffrey Loftus)

### *Series One:*

July 12 1969

#### **Why Do You Want To Be A Doctor**

by John Cleese and Graham Chapman

Mike Upton arrives at the teaching hospital of St. Swithin's where he encounters a rugby-mad Dean and an acid-tongued Anatomy Professor.

July 19 1969

#### **Settling In**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike rescues a damsel in distress at the Rugby Club party but his fellow students throw obstacles in the way of any romantic entanglement.

July 25 1969

#### **It's All Go**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Having a liquid lunch after Professor Loftus's dissection class is not a good idea as Mike soon discovers.

August 2 1969

#### **Peace And Quiet**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike's desire for a peaceful environment in which to study is not helped when he's forced to share his new flat with a handful of noisy fellow students.

August 9 1969

#### **The Students Are Revolting**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

The Dean is not pleased when he sees a newspaper photograph of rioting students apparently being led by one Michael Upton.

August 16 1969

#### **Rallying Round**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Whilst taking part in a Motor Club Rally with a wacky blonde, Mike is sidetracked to the home of her very pregnant sister.

August 23 1969

#### **If In Doubt, Cut It Out**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike is struck down with appendicitis and the ensuing operation involves a missing contact lens.

August 30 1969

#### **The War Of The Mascots**

by Graham Chapman and Barry Cryer

The annual rugby match against High Cross Hospital results in St. Swithin's mascot ape being snatched.

September 6 1969

#### **Getting The Bird**

by Graham Chapman and Barry Cryer

Dick decides to help rectify Mike's lack of success with girls by setting up a date for him with Pat Morlake, colloquially known as "Rigor Mortis".

September 13 1969

#### **The Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Casino**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Dave's scheme of turning the flat into an all-night gambling club results in visits by the Dean and a gang of underworld characters.

September 19 1969

#### **Keep It Clean**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie Mike is chosen to produce the annual revue because he has a brother in the Royal Ballet, but the Dean's edict to eliminate the smut isn't helped by his fellow students.

September 26 1969

#### **All For Love**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike's latest romantic infatuation is playing havoc with his studies so Waring and Evans decide to sort out the situation.

October 3 1969

**Pass Or Fail**

by Graham Chapman and Barry Cryer

All too soon it's examination time and things aren't helped by having to face Professor Loftus in the testing procedure.

*Series Two:*

April 10 1970

**It's All In The Little Blue Book**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike and his friends are now second year students and he's advised to get hold of "the little blue book" which will help enormously with anatomy classes.

April 17 1970

**What Seems To Be The Trouble?**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie On his first day of ward duty Mike is having a lot of difficulty understanding an elderly Yugoslavian patient.

April 24 1970

**Take Off Your Clothes And Hide**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike and his fellow students come to the aid of a stripper who faints during her performance in a Soho club.

May 1 1970

**Nice Bodywork - Lovely Finish**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

In order to get to Cambridge for a rugby match, Mike, Duncan and Paul buy a second-hand hearse which soon acquires a coffin with a corpse in it.

May 8 1970

**Look Into My Eyes**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike's first attempt at hypnosis goes disastrously wrong when he is unable to bring Duncan out of a deep trance.

May 15 1970

**Put Your Hand On That**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike becomes so squeamish in his first visit to the operating theatre that he considers chucking it all in.

May 22 1970

**The Royal Visit**

By Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike is involved in the official welcome for a visiting Royal couple but Hooley, a staunch anti-monarchist, is intent on disrupting things.

May 29 1970

**If You Can Help Somebody ... Don't**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike feels sorry for an elderly female patient who dreads leaving the hospital for her lonely existence at home, but all is not as it seems.

June 15 1970

**Hot Off The Presses**

Mike is the new editor of the hospital magazine but his ideas for modernising its appearance don't find favour with the powers-that-be.

June 12 1970

**A Stitch In Time**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike and Duncan's shift in Casualty is thrown into turmoil by the arrival of a criminal on the run from police.

June 19 1970

**May The Best Man**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike and Danny are at loggerheads over the affections of a hospital lab assistant named Jenny.

June 26 1970

**Doctor On The Box**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

A television program about St. Swithin's featuring Mike and Dick is disrupted by Hooley and his friends.

July 3 1970

**Finals**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike misses a vital examination when he stops to treat a heart patient who has collapsed.

*Doctor At Large*

Starring Barry Evans (as Mike Upton), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), George Layton (Paul Collier), Richard O'Sullivan (Lawrence Bingham), Ernest Clark (Professor Loftus) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. Maxwell) episodes 3 to 7

February 28 1971

**Now, Dr. Upton ...**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

**BLACK & WHITE**

Mike misses out on the position of junior house surgeon and must settle for a job in the Ear, Nose And Throat ward.

March 7 1971

**You've Really Landed Me In It This Time**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

**BLACK & WHITE**

When Mike agrees to help Paul as assistant to a crazy Scottish GP he doesn't count on the advances of his amorous receptionist.

March 14 1971

**You Make Me Feel So Young**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

**BLACK & WHITE**

Mike and Paul start work at the practice of Dr. Maxwell, known to all as "The Major" because of his army background but his patients believe they're too young to be any good.

March 21 1971

**Doctor Dish**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

**BLACK & WHITE**

Mike's sex lecture to a local girl's school results in him receiving a stack of passionate fan mail, which Paul takes the liberty of answering.

March 28 1971

**Modernising Major**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

**BLACK & WHITE**

Mike and Paul's attempts to update the Major's practice are met with a considerable amount of opposition.



Robin Nedwell as Duncan Waring, Geoffrey Davies as Dick Stuart-Clark, and George Layton as Paul Collier.

April 4 1971

### **Congratulations - It's A Toad**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

BLACK & WHITE

Paul's collection of toads for use with pregnancy testing causes a lot of confusion within the practice.

April 11 1971

### **Change Your Partners**

by Graeme Chapman and Bill Oddie

BLACK & WHITE

An argument with the Major causes Mike to leave his practice but when he decides to "forgive and forget" he finds he's already been replaced by an attractive female doctor.

April 18 1971

### **Trains And Notes And-Veins**

by Bernard McKenna

While travelling home for the weekend, Mike dispenses some free medical advice to a woman passenger and describes her own doctor as an "old twit".

April 25 1971

### **Lock, Stock And Beryl**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Mike's return to St. Swithin's isn't helped by his confrontations with Dr. Bingham and the advances of a passionate nurse.

May 2 1971

### **Upton Sells Out**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

When Mike accepts a cushy job in a fashionable Harley Street practice, Paul decides he must be made to see the error of his ways.

May 9 1971

### **Saturday Matinee**

by John Cleese

Mike has been left in charge of the practice on a "quiet" Saturday afternoon but all of a sudden he's confronted by a series of chaotic events.

May 16 1971

### **Where There's A Will**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Mike's treatment of a cantankerous elderly patient is the subject of scrutiny by the police when the old man dies and leaves everything to "his doctor".

May 23 1971

### **Students At Heart**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Despite being qualified Doctors, Mike and his friends are caught up in the student hi-jinks of a boisterous rugby victory at St. Swithin's.

May 30 1971

### **No Ill Feeling**

by John Cleese

Mike's new job at a suburban general practice is being made a misery by a practical joker at the hotel where he is staying.

• prototype for *Fawlty Towers*

June 6 1971

### **Let's Start At The Beginning**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Mike's attempts at psychiatry aren't helped when he follows the advice of Dr. Stuart Clark.

June 13 1971

### **It's All In The Mind**

by John Cleese

Mike and Paul are invited to a cocktail party where their hostess claims to be a witch.

June 20 1971

### **Cynthia Darling**

by John Cleese

Mike is being run off his feet by constant visits to the delicate Cynthia whose mother is proving to be a bit of a problem.

June 27 1971

### **A Little Help From My Friends**

by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker

Mike is in charge of the practice while Dr. Griffin is away but Paul and Dick aren't exactly helping things when they decide to upgrade its image.

July 4 1971

### **Devon Is Lovely At This Time Of The Year**

by Geoff Rowley and Andy Baker

While Dr Griffin is away, Mike works with a woman doctor who turns out to be a rival for the job of St Swithin's house surgeon.

July 11 1971

### **Operation Loftus**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Back at St. Swithin's Professor Loftus requires emergency surgery and doesn't relish being at the other end of the knife.

July 18 1971

### **Mother And Father Doing Well**

by John Cleese

Mike's old student friend Huw Evans is about to become a father but his wife Pippa is handling the situation better than he is.

July 25 1971

### **A Joke's A Joke**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Mike and Paul are given the jobs of anatomy demonstrators over Dick and Bingham who plan to get even with them.

August 1 1971

### **Pull The Other One**

by Oliver Fry and Jonathan Lynn

A new intake of student nurses is causing havoc amongst the doctors, particularly Dr. Collier.

August 8 1971

**It's The Rich Wot Gets The Pleasure**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Dick has been left a legacy and decides celebrations are in order.

August 15 1971

**Things That Go Mump In The Night**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna Mike appears to have a case of mumps but Dr. Bingham suspects something more sinister and confines him to bed next to an unbearable patient and at the mercy of a team of students.

August 22 1971

**Mr. Moon**

by John Cleese

Mike convalesces at a health farm where the proprietor insists on vegetarian food and strict behaviour

August 29 1971

**The Viva**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham. Chapman Mike decides on a spot of fishing to help him relax before he takes his Primary Fellowship exam but car troubles on the way back create a problem.

September 5 1971

**Bewigged, Bothered And Bewildered**

by David A. Yallop

Following a stint in casualty, Mike finds himself in court charged with gross negligence.

September 12 1971

**A Situation Full Of Promise**

by Oliver Fry

With Mike and Paul in charge of selecting a new Senior Houseman, Dick believes the job is his for the asking but the arrival of an attractive blonde alters things.

*Doctor In Charge*

Starring Robin Nedwell (as Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), George Layton (Paul Collier), Richard O'Sullivan (Lawrence Bingham) and Ernest Clark (Professor Loftus).

April 9 1972

**The Devil You Know**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Mike Upton has run away to sea after drunkenly proposing and Duncan Waring returns to St. Swithin's as Houseman.

April 16 1972

**The Research Unit**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Professor Loftus creates a research unit to enhance his chances of being awarded a knighthood, but for Paul it's a convenient cover for making wine.

April 23 1972

**The Minister's Health**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

When the Minister of Health is admitted as a patient his "V.I.P." treatment is misdirected to a lowly parson.

April 30 1972

**The Black And White Medical Show**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

St. Swithin's multi-racial approach to research suffers from the bigotry of a Scottish patient and the confusion caused by an Indian doctor.

May 7 1972

**Honeylamb**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

The arrival of an ex-girlfriend from America causes chaos for Duncan who must embark on a romantic merry-go-round.

May 14 1972

**Doctor's Lib**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Paul is skating on thin ice when he conducts a time-and-motion study on Professor Loftus and his results find their way into the newspapers

May 21 1972

**Which Doctor?**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

When Paul borrows Duncan's car which contains a Harley Street surgeon's bag on the back seat, they end up at the police station.

May 28 1972

**Climbing The Ladder**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

When Dick desires to be accepted as a Freemason, Paul and Duncan stage an initiation ceremony in the ghostly remains of Wookham Priory.

June 4 1972

**Face The Music**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Bingham volunteers to replace the organist Duncan has injured on the golf course but the others conspire to get him drunk beforehand.

June 11 1972

**Mum's The Word**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham Chapman

To get Duncan a position on the hospital board, Dick and Paul claim his mother is a countess but when the lady in question is admitted with a broken ankle the plan misfires.

June 18 1972

**The Fox**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham Chapman

The doctors can't abide the authoritarian ways of the new Matron and decide to get even with her stern ways.

June 25 1972

**A Night With The Dead**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham Chapman

To get over his fear of corpses, Duncan accepts a bet from Dick to stay overnight in the mortuary.

July 2 1972

**This Is Your Wife**

Mary Parsons agrees to marry Dr. Bingham if the wedding can be kept secret, but their plans aren't helped when Dick and Paul believe Duncan is the bridegroom-to-be and decide to throw a spanner in the works.

July 9 1972

**Honeymoon Special**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

About to leave on his honeymoon, Bingham gets himself encased in a plaster cast courtesy of Paul and Dick.

July 16 1972

**The Long, Long Night**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Suspecting a case of smallpox, Bingham quarantines the emergency room and Duncan is forced to spend the night in chaotic conditions.

July 23 1972

**The System**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna Professor Loftus wants a new system organised for teaching in the wards but Duncan's scheme turns into a nightmare.

July 30 1972

**On the Brink**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Paul has been acting strangely and Duncan believes he's headed for a nervous breakdown.

August 6 1972

**Amazing Grace**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

Duncan and Paul are forced to hide the actions of a hopelessly inept and clumsy student.

August 13 1972

**Shut Up And Eat What You're Given**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynne

When Professor Loftus takes issue with Duncan's comments about the hospital food he is challenged to join the doctors for a canteen meal.

August 20 1972

**Yellow Fever**

by Graham Chapman and Bernard McKenna

A delegation from Red China causes chaos during a visit to St. Swithin's.

August 27 1972

**The Taming Of The Wolf**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

A pretty new physiotherapist proves more than a match for Duncan's romantic interests.

September 3 1972

**An Officer And A Gentleman**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

In their pursuit of a new flat Dick and Paul meet the eccentric Major Woodnutt.

September 10 1972

**That's My Uncle!**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham Chapman

Professor Loftus is temporarily replaced by Dick's uncle who has a nasty habit of acquiring other people's money, drinks and lady friends.

September 17 1972

**The Big Match**

by Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

Fed up with Bingham's boasting about his table tennis prowess, Duncan and Paul challenge him to a no holds barred match.

September 24 1972

**The Rumour**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

St. Swithin's is abuzz with stories that Professor Loftus is seeing quite a bit of a pretty new junior nurse.

October 1 1972

**Blackmail**

by Bernard McKenna and Graham Chapman

The bar funds are £200 short and Professor Loftus discovers that Dick is the culprit.

October 8 1972

**A Long Day's Journey Into Knighthood**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Professor Loftus is about to receive his knighthood but getting from St. Swithin's to Buckingham Palace proves to be something of a headache.

*Series Two:*

September 15 1973

**The Merger**

by Graham Chapman and David Sherlock

Sir Geoffrey is shocked to learn of plans to merge St. Swithin's with High Cross and build an hotel on the site.

September 22 1973

**Men Without Women**

by Bernard McKenna

Duncan zeros in on a new nurse until her husband makes an appearance.

September 29 1973

**A Deep Depression Stationed Over St. Swithin's**

by Layton and Lynn

Dick's threat to give up medicine is greeted by indifference from his fellow doctors but Sir Geoffrey's reaction is surprising.

October 6 1973

**The Epidemic**

by Phil Redmond

Reggie Grace is thought to be a hypochondriac but Duncan believes he may be suffering from typhoid.

October 13 1973

**The Garden Fete**

by Phil Redmond

The doctors are asked to come up with ideas for the annual garden fete and their suggestions turn out to be chaotic but profitable.

October 20 1973

**Brotherly Hate**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

The arrival of Bingham's twin brother is seen as a help to Paul's quest for a position on the Loftus surgical team.

October 27 1973

**The Loftus Papers**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Sir Geoffrey is to deliver a speech at a conference in Rome but the manuscript has an awkward habit of disappearing.

November 3 1973

**In Place Of Strife**

by Bernard McKenna

The hospital is brought to a standstill when a team of white-overalled painters are mistaken for students, and vice versa.

November 10 1973

**The Pool**

by David Askey

The doctors are up in arms when they learn St. Swithin's swimming pool is to be replaced by a new surgical wing.

November 17 1973

**The Godfather**

by Gail Renard

Bingham wants Mary to have children instead of pursuing her career and asks Duncan to help convince her.



November 24 1973

**A Man's Best Friend is His Cat**

Duncan leaves the Loftus cat in the hospital's animal house and when it disappears he assumes it has been used for surgical research.

December 1 1973

**There's No Fire Without Smoke**

When Duncan and Dick are forced to be fire wardens, Bingham decides to help make fire drills more realistic.

December 8 1973

**Hello Sailor!**

by Graham Chapman and David Sherlock

Following a rejection by Annabel, Duncan joins the Navy but then tries to get out of it by failing his medical.

December 15 1973

**Any Complaints?**

by Phil Redmond

The Patient's Protection League asserts that St. Swithin's is providing poor treatment and has little trouble in locating examples of ineptitude by some of the doctors.

December 22 1973

**Watch Out - There's A Thief About**

by Bernard McKenna

Bingham decides to locate the culprit behind a series of thefts at St. Swithin's.

December 29 1973

**Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Danny Hooley returns as a locum in Casualty but Bingham discovers he's been struck off after having an affair with a patient.

*Doctor At Sea*

Starring Robin Nedwell (as Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), Ernest Clark (Captain Norman Loftus), John Grieve (the Purser) and Bob Todd (the Entertainments Officer)

April 21 1974

**Sir John and Baby Doc**

by Gail Renard and Phil Redmond

When Dick is sacked and Duncan's threat to quit is accepted, the doctors decide to get nice cushy jobs on a cruise liner.

April 28 1974

**I Do Like To Be Beside The Seasick**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

On the first day at sea Captain Loftus is not pleased to find his new medical team under the weather.

May 5 1974

**A Healthy Ship Is A Happy Ship**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

When Dick's scheme of selling sick leave chits raises the ire of the Captain, Duncan protests the crew's right to be ill and nearly causes a mutiny.

May 12 1974

**The Senior Officer's Perks**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Duncan pulls rank when both he and Dick vie for the attentions of a glamorous Austrian passenger.

May 19 1974

**Go Away Stowaway**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Lang

Duncan and Dick help a stowaway avoid the Purser's search.

May 26 1974

**Floating Profits**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Dick is a master at making a quid with any number of shady ventures and the cruise of the Begonia has opened up a whole new batch of schemes.

June 2 1974

**Goodbye, Mr. Ships**

by Gail Renard

Despite a stern warning from the Captain about discipline, Duncan and Dick manage to get stranded in Madeira when the ship sails without them.

June 9 1974

**The VIP**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Duncan's rudeness to a passenger threatens to land him in trouble when he learns there's a special person on board whom the Captain is particularly keen to impress.

June 16 1974

**In A Little Spanish Town**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Barred by the Captain from associating with female passengers, Duncan saves a girl from drowning on a Spanish island and is almost forced to the altar.

June 23 1974

**Physician, Heal Thyself**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Duncan wants the day off in Madeira with the lovely Rosita so he gets Dick to look after the Captain's gout ... much to the displeasure of the Captain.

June 30 1974

**Wolf In Ship's Clothing**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Duncan inadvertently arranges dates with three different girls on the same evening.

July 7 1974

**Murder! He Said**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Following yet another argument with Duncan, the Purser disappears and foul play is suspected.

July 14 1974

**But It's So Much Nicer To Come Home**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Duncan must perform an emergency operation in the middle of the fancy-dress ball and after an argument with Dick decides to head back to St. Swithin's.

*Doctor On The Go*

Starring Robin Nedwell (as Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), Ernest Clark (Sir Geoffrey Loftus), Andrew Knox (James Gascoigne), Jacquie-Ann Carr (Katherine Wright) and John Kane (Andrew MacKenzie).

April 27 1975

**Keep Your Nose Clean**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Duncan and Dick return to St. Swithin's and one of their first patients is a star footballer.

May 4 1975

**When A Body Needs A Body**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

A prisoner is transported to St. Swithin's for an operation but through a mix-up wakes up in the hospital mortuary.

May 11 1975

**It's The Thought That Counts**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

It's Sir Geoffrey's wedding anniversary and everyone decides to chip in, until he makes a few comments about Kate's dress.

May 18 1975

**Radio Activity**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Duncan is put in charge of St. Swithin's own radio station but the opening broadcast proves to be a memorable one.

May 25 1975

**A Run For The Money**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

To make up for the £500 Duncan has misplaced while drunk, Dick decides to win back the money by betting on the inter-hospital cross-country race.

June 1 1975

**Learning By Heart**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

Duncan is having trouble studying for an anatomy exam but Kate offers to give him some assistance.

June 8 1975

**It's Just The Job**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

It's a dog eat dog situation when a luxury hotel advertises for a resident doctor who'll be paid £7,000 a year.

June 15 1975

**What's Op Doc?**

by Gail Renard

Duncan completes an operation and is astounded to find an extra bit in the bin.

June 22 1975

**Room For Change**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing

In exchange for an introduction to the local golf club professional Loftus agrees to try and improve the camped conditions in the doctors' office.

June 29 1975

**A Heart In The Right Place**

by Steve Thorn and Paul Wolfson

Waring and Gascoigne compete against each other in the quest to provide the most unusual medical condition to present before an upcoming conference.

July 6 1975

**What's Your Problem?**

by Bernard McKenna and Richard Laing Waring is feeling a bit depressed and decides to get some professional advice from the Professor of Psychiatry.

July 13 1975

**Clunk Click**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

Waring is suffering a slipped disc and his situation is not helped when its cause is made known to his fellow doctors.

July 20 1975

**The Course Of True Love**

by George Layton and Jonathan Lynn

With Kate after his heart and Gascoigne after his job, Duncan is in a bad way.

*Series Two:*

January 16 1977

**When Did You Last See Your Mother?**

by David A. Yallop

Duncan finds a baby on his doorstep and a confusing note leads to problems in ascertaining its parentage.

January 23 1977

**I Love Paris ... When I Get There**

by Steve Thorn and Paul Wolfson

Duncan and Kate's romantic weekend in Paris is sidetracked when he becomes involved in a mercy dash with a kidney needed for an urgent operation.

January 30 1977

**Money Spasms**

by Selwyn Roberts

While Loftus is away, Dick and Duncan decide to make some desperately needed cash by volunteering as research guinea pigs.

February 6 1977

**What's In A Name?**

by Bernard McKenna

Something fishy has been going on when a vivacious new physiotherapist keeps mixing up doctors Waring and Stuart-Clark.

February 13 1977

**The War Of The Wards**

by Steve Thorn and Paul Wolfson

Waring and MacKenzie fight over whether a patient with gallstones should be treated by a surgeon or a physician.

February 20 1977

**For Your Own Good**

by Graham Chapman and Douglas Adams

Gascoigne's rich and unpleasant father visits the hospital and causes problems for the doctors.

February 27 1977

**Bunny Makes The World Go Round**

by Rob Buckman and Chris Beetles

St. Swithin's is awash with soft toys as Duncan tries to organise five interesting patients for an exam.

March 6 1977

**Loftus The Terrible**

by Bernard McKenna

When Sir Geoffrey is in a particularly bad mood and even his wife won't talk to him, it is up to Duncan to sort things out

March 13 1977

**A Turn For The Nurse**

by Gail Renard and Brenda Crankmen

To replace missing funds the doctors on the Entertainments Committee must organise a competition to select the top nurse.

March 20 1977

**M\*A\*T\*C\*H**

by Rob Buck and Chris Beetles

Duncan has been looking forward to Sunday afternoon watching an international soccer game on the telly but he keeps being called to Casualty.



Robin Nedwell as Duncan Waring, Geoffrey Davies as Dick Stuart-Clark, and George Layton as Paul Collier.

March 27 1977

**California Girl**

by Steve Thorn and Paul Wolfson

The arrival of a beautiful visitor has attracted the attention of the doctors, and Kate for one is not at all pleased.

April 3 1977

**Sunday Bleeping Sunday**

by Rob Buckman and Chris Beetles

After working the night shift, Duncan is looking forward to a peaceful way to spend his birthday.

April 10 1977

**Happy Ever After**

by Bernard McKenna

When it appears Duncan and Kate are headed for the altar, everyone offers help and advice

*Doctor Down Under*

Starring Robin Nedwell (as Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), Frank Wilson (Professor Norman Beaumont) and John Derum (Maurice Griffin).

• the following screening dates are for Australian television. The series appeared on British television from January 11 to March 29 1981.

*Series One:*

February 5 1979

**Thanks For The Memory**

by Bernard McKenna and Jon Watkins

Now working at St. Barnabas hospital in Australia, Duncan is surprised to encounter Dick Stuart-Clark an apparent amnesia patient in one of the wards.

February 12 1979

**If A Job's Worth Doing**

by Bernard McKenna

Duncan has had enough of Dick sponging off his money, his car, his flat and his girls and insists he get a job.

February 19 1979

**A Bird In The Hand**

by Jon Watkins

Duncan and Dick are both eager for a weekend off to pursue the very attractive Pamela Wincaid.

February 26 1979

**I Gotta Horse**

by Bernie-Sharp

Dick's patient offers him a half-ownership of a race horse in lieu of his hospital bills and after Duncan is lured in as well they learn the animal is a dud.

March 5 1979

**The Hawaiian Operation**

by Jon Watkins

When Dick organises a raffle with first prize a trip for two to Hawaii, Professor Beaumont buys a bundle of tickets to be sure of winning.

March 12 1979

**The More We Are Together**

by Jon Watkins

Duncan has had enough of Dick's antics and wants him to move out of the flat.

*Series Two:*

March 29 1980

**It's All In The Mind**

by Bernie Sharp

Waring and Stuart-Clark are dressed for a costume party when they are suddenly called in for an emergency operation.

April 5 1980

**If You Can't Beat 'Em by Jon Watkins**

Dick and Duncan manage to disrupt the visit to the hospital by the Health Minister

April 12 1980

**Alias Clark And Waring**

by Jon Watkins

Dick has run up a lot of gambling debts back in England and wants Duncan to pay them because they're in his name.

April 19 1980

**Impatients**

by Bernard McKenna

Duncan has an altercation with an attendant at the hospital's parking lot.

April 26 1980

**The Sydney Surprise**

by Jon Watkins

Duncan and Dick spend an afternoon on the Harbour

May 3 1980

**The Name Of The Game**

Waring and Stuart-Clark must cover up an illicit rendezvous by Professor Beaumont when his wife turns up.

May 10 1980

**Identity Crisis**

Not only do Dick and Duncan disagree on a patient's diagnosis, but they operate on the wrong person.

*Doctor At The Top*

Starring Robin Nedwell (as Duncan Waring), Geoffrey Davies (Dick Stuart-Clark), George Layton (Paul Collier), Roger Sloman (Dr. Lionel Snell), Georgina Melville (Geraldine Waring), Jill Benedict (Emma Stuart-Clark) and Ernest Clark (Sir Geoffrey Loftus).

February 21 1991

**Sins Of The Father**

by George Layton

Waring, Stuart-Clark and Collier are now all respected doctors but each has a skeleton in the cupboard.

February 28 1991

**Happy Birthday, Sir Geoffrey**

by George Layton

When Dick offers to host a 75th birthday dinner for Sir Geoffrey it's not all that surprising to discover his motives aren't all that altruistic.

March 7 1991

**The VIP**

by George Layton St. Swithin's has fallen victim to stern economy measures by the new hospital manager.

March 14 1991

**The Kindest Cut**

by Bill Oddie When both Waring and Collier agree to have vasectomies, they're each suspicious of whether the other will actually go through with it.

March 21 1991

**Bye Bye Bickerstaff**

by George Layton

The doctors travel out of town to attend the funeral of a fellow student.

March 28 1991

**It's Alright I'm A Doctor**

Paul starts appearing on television and soon begins to receive fan mail.

April 4 1991

**Waring Goes Private**

by Bill Oddie

When Duncan considers Paul a bit of a "yuppie" is it just sour grapes?

# Bob Newhart On Record

by Peter Tatchell



Bob Newhart

Later this year, U.S. television will see Bob Newhart's fifth network series in thirty years *Bob*. So far his strike rate has been two misses (*The Bob Newhart Show* NBC 1961/2 and *The Entertainers* CBS 1964/5) and two hits (*The Bob Newhart Show* CBS 1972/8 and *Newhart* CBS 1982/90). Viewers apparently prefer watching him in sitcoms over variety shows, despite the fact that his initial successes were with a number of brilliant one-man sketches performed specifically for record release.

In the latter half of the 1950s, Chicago accountant Newhart was earning some extra money writing and performing comedy routines for radio. On hearing some examples of his work, Warner Bros. records decided he'd be ideal for the burgeoning market of humorous discs. Preferring the release to be performed in front of a live audience, they arranged a venue in Houston and unleashed the nervous Newhart on an unsuspecting public.

The debut LP *The Button Down Mind Of Bob Newhart* was an enormous success, and Newhart deserted the world of accountancy for a career in show business. In all, he recorded a further six albums in the 1960s before concentrating on his acting skills on television and (occasionally) in movies.

Bob Newhart may have achieved a quarter of a century of success with middle-America through his television roles, but there's no denying the cleverness and longevity of the three or

four dozen monologues he performed in his early years. Most of the routines find him either addressing a group (of office workers, sailors, passengers on a plane) or having a conversation with another individual.

It's usually a meek little man caught up in some outlandish situation trying to solve the problem without causing any fuss or a famous historical figure being assessed by modern day standards. His satires on cut-price airlines and the attitudes of bus drivers remain gems over thirty years later as do his character studies of the submarine commander and driving instructor who find themselves in the midst of awkward and stressful situations.

For those who have only encountered the latter-day Newhart via television, an eavesdropping of his earlier material is highly recommended.

#### **The Button Down Mind of Bob Newhart**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1379, WM 4010/WS 8010  
Abe Lincoln Versus Madison Avenue/The Cruise Of The S.S. Codfish/Merchandising The Wright Brothers/The Krushchev Landing Rehearsal/ Driving Instructor/Nobody Will Ever Play Baseball

#### **The Button Down Mind Strikes Back**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1393, WM 4032  
Automation And A Private In Washington's Army/The Grace L. Ferguson Airline/Bus Driver's School/Retirement Party/An Infinite Number Of Monkeys/Ledge Psychology

#### **Behind The Button Down Mind**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1417, WM 4055  
Rocket Scientist/Tourist Meets Krushchev/The Uncle Freddie Show/ T.V. Commercials/The Seven Lost Cities Of The Incas/Herb Philbrick The Counter Spy/The African Movie

#### **The Button Down Mind On TV**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1467, WM 8110/WS 8110  
Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation/The Siamese Cat/Defusing A Bomb/ A Friend With A Dog/General Chariot Corp./The Hold-Out Huns

#### **Bob Newhart Faces Bob Newhart**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1517, WM 8148  
Reflections On T.V. Commercials/Amateur Show Contestants/ Nudist Camp Exposé/The Expectant Father/On Poodles And Planes/The Man Who Looked Like Hitler

#### **The Windmills Are Weakening**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1588  
Edison's Most Famous Invention/King Kong/The Upset Stomach Commercial/ Returning A Gift/Superman And The Drycleaner/Buying A House/Ben Franklin In Analysis

#### **This Is It**

Warner Bros. W(S) 1717  
Prenatal Twins/Daddy Of All Hangovers/Topless Clubs/On Trains And Planes/Modern Witchdoctor/Pussy Cat

The following releases contain tracks taken from the above seven LPs ...

#### **The Best Of Bob Newhart**

Warner Bros. (W)S 1672  
Abe Lincoln Versus Madison Avenue/Introducing Tobacco To Civilization/Driving Instructor/King Kong/Cruise Of The S.S. Codfish/Retirement Party/Returning A Gift/The Grace L. Ferguson Airline

#### **The Best Of Bob Newhart**

British Warner Bros. W 1134, K 46001  
Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation/Edison's Most Famous Invention/Bus Driver's School/The Krushchev Landing Rehearsal/Driving Instructor/Defusing A Bomb/An Infinite Number Of Monkeys/Nudist Camp Exposé

#### **Bob Newhart Masters**

British Warner Bros. K 36003,  
reissued as **Bob Newhart**  
Pickwick SSP 3079,  
and **The Best Of Bob Newhart**  
Pickwick compact disc PWKS 548  
The Driving Instructor/Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation/The Grace L. Ferguson Airline/The Cruise Of The S.S. Codfish/The Retirement Party/Returning A Gift/Ledge Psychology

**The Button Down Mind and The Button Down Mind Strikes Back** were re-released as **The Button Down Mind Deluxe Edition**.

Warner Bros. 2N(S) 1399,  
and as **The Best Of The Button Down Mind**  
Murray Hill OP 2529/1379/1393  
**Bob Newhart Faces Bob Newhart** was also reissued as **very Funny Bob Newhart** Harmony HS 11344

The following extended play releases also feature reissue material ...

#### **Bob Newhart**

British Warner Bros. WEP 6031  
The Cruise Of the S.S. Codfish/The Driving Instructor

#### **The Button Down Mind Strikes Back**

British Warner Bros. WEP 6042  
Bus Driver's School/Ledge Psychology

#### **The Button Down Mind : Volume 2**

British Warner Bros. WEP/WSE 6101  
Abe Lincoln Versus Madison Avenue/Nobody Will Ever Play Baseball/Merchandising The Wright Brothers

#### **The Button Down Mind Strikes Back**

Brit Warner Bros. WEP/WSE 6116  
Retirement Party/Automation And A Private In Washington's Army/An Infinite Number Of Monkeys

#### **The Button Down Mind On TV**

British Warner Bros. WEP/WSE 6118  
Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation/A Friend With A Dog

#### **The Button Down Mind On TV : Volume 2**

British Warner Bros. WEP/WSE 6130  
General Chariot Corp./The Hold-Out Huns

There were also several U.S. promotional singles ...

#### **Driving Instructor/Nobody Will Ever Play Baseball**

Warner Bros. PRO 111-112

#### **General Chariot Corp. Introducing Tobacco To Civilisation**

Warner PRO 142

#### **Nudist Camp Exposé/Filming A TV Commercial**

Warner Bros. PRO 156

#### **Superman And The Dry Cleaner/King Kong**

Warner Bros. PRO 206

# Norman Gunston

by Peter Tatchell

It's been said a successful Tonight Show host doesn't have to do anything, but must do it well. In the case of "Norman Gunston", he did numerous things ... singing, dancing, investigative reporting, probing interviews and would break into a harmonica solo at the drop of a ratings point. And he did them all very badly. He was, however, enormously successful.

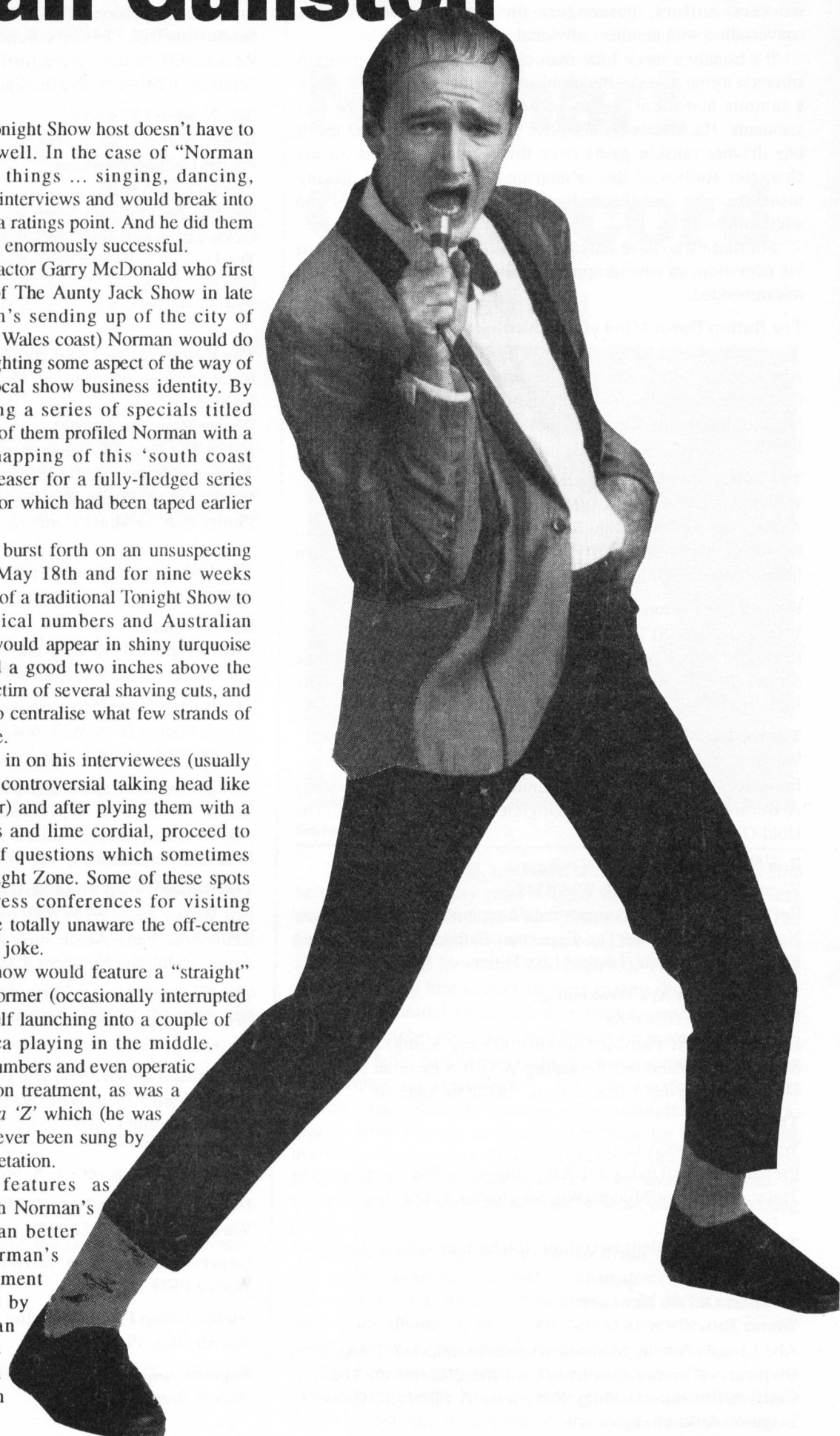
Norman is the brainchild of actor Garry McDonald who first used him in the second series of *The Auntie Jack Show* in late 1973. As part of the program's sending up of the city of Wollongong (on the New South Wales coast) Norman would do a short, in-depth segment highlighting some aspect of the way of life there, purporting to be a local show business identity. By 1975, the team was producing a series of specials titled *Wollongong The Brave* and one of them profiled Norman with a storyline involving the kidnapping of this 'south coast superstar'. The special was a teaser for a fully-fledged series featuring the character (a pilot for which had been taped earlier that year).

*The Norman Gunston Show* burst forth on an unsuspecting public at 7:30pm on Sunday May 18th and for nine weeks proceeded to use the framework of a traditional Tonight Show to satirise interview styles, musical numbers and Australian television in general. Norman would appear in shiny turquoise tuxedo with pants that finished a good two inches above the ankles, his face appearing the victim of several shaving cuts, and a hairstyle which tried in vain to centralise what few strands of hair remained on his balding pate.

Clipboard in hand, he'd zero in on his interviewees (usually a touring actor or musician, or controversial talking head like Fred Nile or Dr. Bertram Wainer) and after plying them with a complimentary bucket of chips and lime cordial, proceed to probe them with a selection of questions which sometimes seemed straight out of the *Twilight Zone*. Some of these spots were pre-taped at genuine press conferences for visiting celebrities, many of whom were totally unaware the off-centre reporting was actually part of the joke.

On the musical side each show would feature a "straight" vocal by some well known performer (occasionally interrupted by Norman) with the host himself launching into a couple of numbers, often with harmonica playing in the middle. Sentimental ballads, loud rock numbers and even operatic arias were given the full Gunston treatment, as was a touching rendition of *Liza with a 'Z'* which (he was surprised to discover) had only ever been sung by Leeza Minulli prior to his interpretation.

There were also such features as "Consumer Straight Talk" (with Norman's tips on how a householder can better utilise everyday items), "Norman's Dreamtime" (a story time segment presented for younger viewers by "Uncle" Norman) and an evaluation of the show's ratings in previous weeks, and how each viewer and audience member can help them skyrocket.



Apart from becoming an overnight sensation (even if it took months), Norman had several definite career goals. About all else he wanted to be awarded the Television industry's highest reward ... the gold Logie (the ultimate success symbol). Like his fellow personality Paul Hogan, he craved a series of fabulously well-paid cigarette commercials, and even presented a sample advertisement showcasing "Something-Or-Other" super milds or menthols to give any multi-nationals who might be interested a chance to see what he could do.

By the end of the series the character had become famous across the country, and the ABC quickly arranged for a second season of programs to go out later that year. In the months between, McDonald flew to America and recorded a number of interviews with such personalities as Muhammad Ali, Telly Savalas and Hugh Hefner for inclusion in the show. He also achieved one of Norman's aims in obtaining sponsorship from a brand of cigarettes (Dukes) which were screened on commercial television before such advertising was banned.

The second Gunston series continued on as before with several new features. "Consumer Straight Talk" was incorporated into the new "Spaceship Southern Hemisphere", a 3-minute soap opera segment "The Checkout Chicks" was launched (featuring ex-*Number 96* sexpot Abigail) and Norman conducted a Look-A-Like competition with viewers lucky enough to resemble him invited to send in an entry. (The eventual prize winners included Messrs. W. Beatty and R. Redford from overseas).

Ever one to tackle hard-hitting news stories as they happened, Norman rushed to the steps of Parliament House in Canberra that fateful day Prime Minister Whitlam was sacked by the Governor-General. Footage of him thrusting his microphone into a crowd of Labour politicians including Bill Hayden and Bob Hawke found its way into his program the following week. Throughout the constitutional crisis Liberal politicians had been banned from appearing on the Gunston show following a party directive.

Musical highlights during this second season included a harmonica harmonising session with Frank Zappa and an in-depth chat with Paul and Linda McCartney. One of Norman's questions asked whether there was any truth in the notorious 1960s rumour that Paul was dead.

By the end of the eight-week run, Gunston was proclaiming his show had been cancelled by the ABC hierarchy, and urged viewers to mount a nationwide protest. He needn't have worried, though, for 1976 would be the most momentous of his career.

To keep in the public gaze, Norman appeared on a number of radio stations (both music and talkback) and began releasing record versions of vocals he'd performed on his television program. His debut single, notable as the industry's first double B side, offered a salute to the Swedish group Abba and soon racked up enough sales figures to go "gold". As a result, he quickly followed it with an album **Norman Gunston - The Popular Ballad Animal**, which was also a big seller.

Then, the night of Friday, March 12th, 1976 and the *TV Week* "Logie" Awards presentation. Early in the evening Norman was named as the best new talent on Australian television and collected his award to an enthusiastic response from his fellow artists. An hour later though, their cheers and applause neared pandemonium when he was announced as the winner of the gold Logie - the most popular performer on TV. What started out as a satire on an industry riddled with mediocrity had all of a sudden backfired in spectacular fashion.

In the months that followed Norman's fans could buy a souvenir booklet tracing his illustrious career - "Norman Gunston's Finest Moments", and Garry McDonald packed his turquoise tuxedo for a second overseas trip ... this time to Britain where the BBC had signed him to record a Gunston special. The 45-minute program aired on BBC 2 later that year with guests Michael Caine, Diana Dors, Malcolm Muggeridge and Glenda Jackson being treated to the traditional Gunston interview technique.

Realising it was on to a good thing the ABC commissioned a third series of shows, beginning on July 27th, and in addition to highlights from the BBC special being included, Norman also "did battle" with Mary Whitehouse, Tim Brooke-Taylor and political heavyweights Margaret Thatcher, Malcolm Fraser and the vanishing MP John Stonehouse. Not all of Norman's victims went along with the joke, however, with Rudolph Nureyev throwing him out of his dressing room mid-interview and Keith Moon (of "The Who") showering him with alcohol.

By the end of the year, Garry McDonald began to worry he was becoming typecast as his monstrous creation and convinced the ABC to back a series of programs featuring him in a range of other characterisations. In the meantime, he acted the part of Roy Rene's classic comedy creation "Mo" in a stage production at the Nimrod Theatre, and used his version of the character in the television series which went out in mid-1977.

Gunston fans were not entirely forgotten, however, with McDonald launching his alter ego on a concert tour across the country, and Norman could also be seen narrating the musical tale of *Peter And The Wolf*.

Throughout the 1970s the Seven Network had relied heavily on comedy product for their ratings and had noted great success with their hour-long specials featuring Paul Hogan and *The Naked Vicar Show* team. With Hogan's recent defection to the Nine Network, Seven management approached McDonald to bring Gunston to commercial television for a series of one-hour specials.

With a bigger budget and more production time between shows (he did only four a year) he felt Norman wasn't dominating his life quite so much and was able to pursue other ventures. Once again he flew to the US and pre-recorded a batch of celebrity interviews with the likes of Burt Reynolds, James Garner, Henry Winkler and Richard Burton. By now, word of mouth had spread through Hollywood about this weird Aussie character with the shaving nicks and strange dress-sense so doors were easier to open to the big names.

McDonald did two years of specials for Seven before opting for a change of approach from the interview/musical program. The new series, titled *Gunston's Australia* would see Norman travelling to all parts of the country in his personalised aeroplane, and investigating the people and places that make up this "wide, brown land". From cattle stations in the outback to isolated oil rigs off the coast, he and his clipboard visited every notable nook and creditable cranny. In one segment he recreated an authentic picnic at Hanging Rock and in another did his best to help out the tourism industry by puttying up the cracks on Ayers Rock.

The programs were designed to go out as a series of half hours but Seven chiefs in Sydney programmed them as hourly specials, much to the annoyance of McDonald and the writers. Elsewhere in Australia they were transmitted as intended, but a twelve month delay in scheduling (they finally aired in 1981)

lead to a rift with the Network and McDonald decided Norman's career-span was perhaps coming to an end. He was also eager to move on to new ventures.

McDonald's success in the ABC sitcoms *Mother And Son* and *Eggshells* resulted in Norman being put on the "back-burner" for most of the 1980s, although he did make a brief attempt at cracking the American market when he appeared on an unsuccessful entertainment-style program.

As the 1990s dawned, Norman came out of semi-retirement (or, as he put it, 'semi-retrenchment') for appearances on *The Midday Show* where he co-hosted a couple of editions with Ray Martin. He also did a vocal at the 1991 Melbourne Comedy Festival Gala to the delight of the crowd.

For the future, who knows? It's believed Garry McDonald is not averse to bringing back the 'little Aussie bleeder' on a regular basis but so far no acceptable offer has been made by the decision-makers at the television networks. It's a pity, because Gunston's unique mixture of wit and satire is greatly needed on a medium where mediocrity is still the 'norm'.

## Television

### *The Aunty Jack Show*

Series 2 only

October 29 1973

### **The Channel 9 Show**

November 5 1973

### **The Iron Maiden Show**

November 12 1973

### **The Golden Glove Show**

November 19 1973

### **The Ear, Nose And Throat Show**

November 26 1973

### **The Little Lovelies Show**

December 3 1973

### **The R Certificate Show**

### *Wollongong The Brave*

April 18 1975

### **Norman Gunston - The Golden Weeks**

### *The Norman Gunston Show*

In early 1975 a pilot edition was recorded featuring guests Paul Graham and Abigail. It has never been screened.

Series 1:

May 18 1975

Rolf Harris, Lady Fairfax and Kerrie Biddell.

May 25 1975

Edward Woodward, Colleen Hewitt and Prince Leonard Of Hutt.

June 1 1975

Stratford Johns, Andrea, Reverend Fred Nile and Chelsea Brown.

June 8 1975 Ray Barrett, Jack Thompson, The Skyhooks and Edith Dahl.

June 15 1975

Warren Beatty, Jack Munday, Paul Graham and The Horrie Dargie Trio.

June 22 1975

Mike Willesee, Dr. Bertram Wainer and Marcia Hines.

June 29 1975

Cheech and Chong, Al Grassby, Bobbi Sykes and Little Pattie.



Garry McDonald as Norman Gunston

July 6 1975

Edward Woodward, Michele Dotrice, Peter Wherrett and Beatrice Faust.

July 13 1975

Gary Glitter.

### *Series two:*

October 6 1975

Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Winifred Atwell and Lady Fairfax.

October 13 1975

Telly Savalas, Ray Charles, Peter Allen and Juni Morosi..

October 20 1975

Denise Drysdale, Ayers Rock and President Nixon's bodyguards.

October 27 1975

Hugh Hefner, Barbi Benton, Don Dunston and Barry Crocker.

November 4 1975

Paul and Linda McCartney, Father Jim McLaren and The Renee Geyer Band.

November 11 1975

Sally Struthers, John Gorton, The Seekers and Miss Australia.

November 18 1975

Vidal Sassoon, Michael Cole, Debbie Byrne, and Senator Albert Field.

November 25 1975

Frank Zappa, Edith Head, Judy Stone and Marc de Pascale.

### *Series three:*

July 27 1976

Rudolph Nureyev, Malcolm Muggeridge, Frank Hardy and the Ink Spots.

August 3 1976

Michael Caine, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Tony Greig and Julie Ismay.



August 10 1976  
 Diana Trask, John Stonehouse and Margaret Fulton.  
 August 17 1976  
 Fred Daly, Glenda Jackson, and Holly T. Lipton.  
 August 24 1976  
 Mary Whitehouse, The Leyland Brothers, Donald Smith and John Sturgess.  
 September 7 1976  
 Diana Dors, Caroline Jones and Delilah.  
 September 14 1976  
 Vera Lynn, The Who, Margaret Thatcher and George Davis.

### *The Garry McDonald Show*

Norman was featured in this eight episode ABC series which ran from July 29 to September 16 1977

### *Norman Gunston Specials*

April 19 1978  
 Burt Reynolds, Helen Reddy, Henry Winkler and Phil Silvers.  
 June 14 1978  
 James Garner, Elke Sommer, Robert Stack and Bob Simpson.  
 August 15 1978  
 Mick Jagger, Susannah York, Fred Schepisi and Karen Knowles.  
 October 11 1978  
 Richard Burton, Christopher Plummer, James Mason and Olivia Newton-John.  
 April 23 1979  
 Lee Marvin, The Bee Gees, Troy Donahue, Dawn Fraser and Karen Black  
 May 28 1979  
 Jack Lemmon, Leif Garrett, Chevy Chase, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Ian "Molly" Meldrum.  
 September 12 1979  
 Elliot Gould, George Segal, Valerie Perrine and George Hamilton.

### *Gunston's Australia*

Eight half-hour editions were filmed, but owing to poor ratings the final three were dropped in Melbourne. In Sydney, the programs were screened as one-hour specials. Shown by the Seven Network in early 1981.

#1: Norman sets off in his personalised DC-3 around Australia. He visits Ayers Rock and tries to buy a day pass for admission to Pine Gap.  
 #2: Norman drops by Prime Minister Fraser's country homestead, visits Prince Leonard of Hutt and retraces the journey of Burke and Wills.  
 #3 Norman tries sheep shearing, checks out some lady mud wrestlers and has a picnic at Hanging Rock.  
 #4: Norman visits his ancestral home Normanton, spends time on an oil rig and a nudist beach, and attempts to beat the land speed record.  
 #5: Norman tries skiing at Thredbo, cattle droving in the outback and tries to find opals in Coober Pedy.  
 #6: Norman checks out aboriginal land rights, Kalgoorlie's Golden Mile and hijacks his own plane.  
 #7: Norman visits Darwin and checks how it's surviving after the cyclone, goes deep sea fishing off Cairns and spends a day in the Barossa Valley.

#8: Norman gets Bill Hayden to sign for a statue he's donating to Parliament House in Canberra and arrives home in Wollongong.

### *Book*

#### *Norman Gunston's Finest Moments*

1976 souvenir booklet produced by Angus And Robertson and the ABC with a selection of scripts, photos and dialogue sequences from Norman's first year in the big time.

### *Records*

#### **Aunty Jack Sings Wollongong**

Polydor LP 2905 012

Norman is featured on four tracks Rip Off/Wollongong The Brave/Wollongong The Brave Revisited/What's On In Wollongong

#### **Salute To ABBA/Hors D'Oeuvre**

Electric/Lamington single LAM 021

#### **The Popular Ballad Animal**

Electric/Lamington LP LAM 4338, Festival L 36272

Delilah/If/Jailhouse Rock/Send In The Clowns/Salute To ABBA/Norman's Dreamtime Piano Man/Vesti La Guibba/Liza With A Z/Consumer Straight talk/A Little Love And Understanding/Pinball Wizard/Daddy What If?/I (Who Have Nothing)

#### **I Might Be A Punk/Love Me Tender**

Festival/Mushroom single K 6766

#### **Nylon Degrees**

Festival/Mushroom LP L 36700

Recorded with a live audience.

Delilah/Howzat/Jailhouse Rock/Ode To A Landlady/Salute To ABBA/Send In The Clowns/I Go To Rio/I Might Be A Punk

#### **Howzat (studio version)/Delilah**

Festival/Mushroom single K 7171

#### **KISS Army/Normdrum**

7 Records single MS 455

#### **Boy Norman - Join The Dots**

E.M.I./Plaza maxi-single PLAZ 1204

Carnal Chameleon/Thriller/Bop Girl (+ instrumental mixes of all three).

### *Video*

#### *The Gunston Tapes*

ABC/Thorn-E.M.I. Z ABCV 8507

100 minutes of excerpts from Norman's ABC programs:

Sally Struthers/The Who/Warren Beatty/Send In The Clowns/John Gorton/Paul Graham/The Joys Of Funny Business/Cheech And Chong/Edward Woodward and Michele Dotrice/Ex-President Nixon's retreat/What If?/Frank Zappa/'Something Or Other' Cigarette Commercial/The Ratings Battle/Joe Frazier/Muhammad Ali/Father Jim McLelland/Paul and Linda McCartney/Spaceship Southern Hemisphere: Parents Without Pets/Ray Charles/Jack Munday/Rudolph Nureyev/Delilah/November 11 1975/Norman For Governor-General/Father Of The Year/Over The Rainbow/Previews: Margaret Thatcher+Jack Thompson+Hugh Hefner+Malcolm Muggeridge+Telly Savalas

# Fred Allen

by Peter Tatchell

Many of today's comedians rely on four-letter words for most of their material. Fifty years ago American radio funnyman Fred Allen was content to use a three-letter word ... wit. Allen was widely regarded as the leading light of the golden age of broadcasting from the early 1930s until the dawn of the television era twenty years later. His cleverly structured wordplays endeared him to millions of listeners across the country and his program was a Sunday night institution for much of its run.

Fred Allen loved the English language and in addition to writing most of his scripts, he was adept at producing a clever and totally spontaneous ad-lib should the occasion arise. His humorous approach to everyday life surfaced off-air as well, as evidenced by his prodigious letter writing (a collection of which appeared in print a decade after his death).

Born John Florence Sullivan in Massachusetts on May 31 1894, he first achieved fame as a juggler (like that other great wordsmith, W.C. Fields). A vaudeville tour to Australia in 1916 was the catalyst to his becoming a comedian, though at that stage of his career he was known as Freddy James. Soon after his return to the U.S., a mix-up by a booking agent saw him billed as Fred Allen, the name he would use for the rest of his life.

The next few years saw Fred progress from small-time vaudeville circuits to starring roles on Broadway. His first appearance there was in *The Passing Show Of 1922* for the Shuberts, who then used him in a number of their other productions: *Artists And Models*, *Vogues Of 1924* and *The Greenwich Village Follies*. Though not particularly notable in show business terms, they did serve to introduce Fred to the love of his life, Portland Hoffa. The pair formed a double act both professionally and offstage (they were married in early 1927).

Fred's next venture on Broadway was the musical *Polly* which despite a lengthy series of out-of-town tryouts couldn't survive longer than a couple of weeks in the big time. Within three months though, he was back with *The Little Show* and finally on the road to stardom. Co-starring with Clifton Webb and Libby Holman, Allen (and wife Portland) had a hit on their hands. One of the revue's main sketches, *The Still Alarm*, was subsequently filmed by Warner Bros. as a Vitaphone short, with Allen and Webb repeating their stage roles. Fred also appeared in a Paramount short called *The Instalment Collector* but was never to find success as a movie star.

Allen, Holman and Webb repeated their *Little Show* success in *Three's A Crowd* which opened in October 1930 and ran for some 272 Broadway performances before embarking on a tour, but the early 1930s saw the height of the Depression and the show was forced to close soon after. Back in New York, Fred was not encouraged by the precarious state of flesh and blood theatre and decided to try his luck in an entertainment medium then in its infancy ... radio.

On Sunday night October 23rd 1932 Fred Allen debuted in the half-hour *Linit Bath Club Revue* over C.B.S. His \$1000-a-week salary (out of which he had to pay his cast) was considerably less than that paid to others on the airwaves like Al Jolson, Ed Wynn or Eddie Cantor, but in a matter of weeks he



Fred Allen

was making a name for himself. His witty playlets and oddball characters took a sideways look at life which appealed to listeners everywhere, and was in stark contrast to the more recognisable offerings by his radio rivals. By the end of the 26-week season he was pleased to receive a letter of encouragement from Groucho Marx.

Hellman's Mayonnaise picked up the sponsorship for Allen's second season and *The Salad Bowl Revue* aired on Friday nights over N.B.C. stations during the latter half of 1933.

With his success as a radio comedian, Allen found himself on a treadmill to oblivion (to quote the title of his memoirs). Week after week he was required to come up with a new collection of routines for the program, and the quest to be original and imaginative was a daunting task.

Moving to a Wednesday night timeslot in January 1934, Allen headlined *The Sal Hepatica Revue* which ran for eighteen months, initially as a half-hour show before expanding to a 60-minute offering for the bulk of its run.

By the mid-1930s, network programming had settled into the traditional October to June seasons, and Fred took over the 9pm to 10pm slot with his memorable *Town Hall Tonight* and stayed with N.B.C. until the end of the decade. The format for the show included interviews with unusual guests (often with strange occupations) and performances by 'The Mighty Allen Art Players', his group of radio professionals adept at providing vocal characterisations for his imaginative sketches.

Allen satirised the news stories of the day and conducted dummy interviews with some spokesperson or man on the street who'd comment on the topic under discussion.

The broadcast of December 30 1936 was particularly notable in creating a running gag that one of radio's most successful routines ... Allen's feud with Jack Benny. Fred's guest that night was a child violinist whose playing of *The Flight Of The Bumblebee* inspired an Allen ad-lib which praised the ten-year-old's performance and suggested in comparison Benny should hang his head in shame. The following Sunday night, Jack responded with an Allen put-down on his program and the 'tit-for-tat' mud-slinging was on in earnest. In private life, the two were the best of friends, and the rivalry on air led to a public confrontation at New York's Hotel Pierre, the movie *Love Thy Neighbor*, and countless guest spots on each other's broadcasts throughout the 1940s. The gag was still going strong when Fred appeared on Benny's television show in 1953.

At the end of 1940, Fred switched to CBS and hosted *The Texaco Star Theatre*, another hour-long program in his old timeslot on Wednesday nights. In early 1942 the show switched to Sunday nights, and from the 1942/3 season onwards became a 30-minute broadcast (in line with most of the other big-name offerings).

Highlight of these new half-hour programs was a feature called Allen's Alley where Fred would discuss a weekly topic with the residents of a mythical, multi-cultural neighbourhood. As he wandered from house to house he'd get the views of Mrs. Pansy Nussbaum (a Jewish immigrant lady played by Minerva Pious), cantankerous Irishman Ajax Cassidy (Peter Donald), rustic hayseed Titus Moody (Parker Fennelly) and a southern politician Senator Beauregard Claghorn (Kenny Delmar, Allen's announcer). The Claghorn character was notable in inspiring an animated spinoff, the loud-mouthed rooster Foghorn Leghorn of Warner Bros. cartoons. The Alley lasted the rest of Allen's radio career and along the way other inhabitants came and went (depending on their popularity), perhaps the most memorable being the Shakespearian thespian Falstaff Openshaw who recited pretentious poetry (portrayed by Alan Reed, who later achieved fame as the voice of Fred Flintstone).

Having a shorter tighter show had its drawbacks though. Fred often found his adlibbed remarks sprinkled throughout the performance resulted in the audience laughing much longer than had been allowed for, and as a consequence the half hour was up before the final sketch had been completed. On such occasions, network executives simply faded the proceedings mid-sentence to allow the following program (paid for by a different sponsor) to begin on time.

Allen was also unhappy with the industry bureaucrats who seemed intent on blunting his satirical comments lest they offend some minority or ethnic group. Having slaved over a hot typewriter wracking his brain for ideas (often until early morning) he resented this continual interference with his creativity.

By the end of 1944, Fred's health was beginning to suffer the years of overwork, and high blood pressure forced him to take a year off. He returned to the airwaves in October 1945, again on Sunday nights, but back on N.B.C.

With television in the wings, the golden days of radio were almost over and Allen's program wasn't helped when a big-money giveaway show called *Stop The Music* was scheduled up against him. Within months his ratings suffered badly as a

sizeable portion of his audience were lured away by the promise of cash and prizes, and by mid-1949 *The Fred Allen Show* made its last broadcast.

A year later, Fred was signed for television to star in *The Colgate Comedy Hour* (in rotation with Eddie Cantor, Bobby Clark and Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis). Despite his years of experience on the stage, he wasn't at ease in front of the cameras, and disliked having to memorise the material (having spent nearly twenty years reading from a script). An attempt to transfer Allen's Alley to the medium wasn't successful and he stayed with the *Comedy Hour* for only its first season.

Fred's radio career wasn't entirely over, however, and he appeared (on a semi-regular basis) on N.B.C.'s 2-hour Sunday night extravaganza *The Big Show*, hosted by Tallulah Bankhead. Though boasting almost every star name in show business, the audience had switched to television, and the venture was abandoned after two seasons.

Allen tried several other television formats in the early 1950s (*Sound Off Time* in late 1951, *Judge For Yourself* in the 1953/4 season, and finally appeared as a panellist on *What's My Line*) but his health wouldn't allow him to endure the pressure of another full-scale variety show.

In 1954 he turned his attention to writing, and compiled a volume of reminiscences about his radio years called *Treadmill To Oblivion* which soon became a best seller. He had almost completed a follow-up *Much Ado About Me* (detailing his earlier career) when he suffered a fatal heart attack while out for a stroll in his beloved New York on March 17 1956.

Radio performers over the years have found fame to be a fickle thing and though the name Fred Allen may not have endured as well as it deserves he is still revered as one of the major talents in an era when millions of listeners across America found fun and enjoyment in the glow of a bakelite box.

Here are a few of the lines Fred penned ...

I like long walks — especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.

When you smoke cigarettes you're likely to burn yourself to death. With chewing tobacco the worst thing you can do is drown a midget.

To a newspaperman, a human being is an item with the skin wrapped around it.

She was prettier than a peacock backing into a sunset.

Milk hasn't been so high since the cow jumped over the moon.

His arm looked like a buggy whip with fingers.

I've seen better looking legs on a bridge table.

It was as quiet as a small boy banging two pussy willows together in a vacuum.

(Discussing a geometry problem) Let X be the signature of my father.

(On New York mayor Fiorello La Guardia) He's the only man I know who can milk a cow standing up.

(To a strange-looking cello player in the orchestra pit) How much would you charge to haunt a house?

California is a wonderful place to live - if you're an orange.

An associate producer is the only guy in Hollywood who will associate with a producer.

I'm always afraid I'll wake up at twelve o'clock and find the place turned back into a pumpkin.

The Brown Derby is a popular cafe where people from Iowa mistake each other for movie stars.

Some movie stars wear their sunglasses even in Church - they're afraid God might recognise them and ask for autographs.

A radio censor is a man who comes into his office every morning and finds a molehill on his desk. His job is to build that molehill into a mountain before he goes home.

Radio executives are a group of men who, singly, can do nothing, but together can agree that nothing can be done.

A vice-president is a bit of executive fungus that forms on a desk that has been exposed to conference. On a boat this growth would be called a barnacle. If the United States can get along with one vice-president, I don't know why N.B.C. needs twenty-six.

An advertising agency is eighty-five per cent confusion and fifteen per cent commission.

Jack Benny is the only fiddler who makes you feel that the strings would sound better back in the cat.

There is a saying you can't take it with you. But if you see a funeral procession with a Brink's armoured car behind the hearse, you'll know Jack is having a try at it.

## *Fred Allen's Radio Career*

### **The Linit Bath Club Revue**

CBS Sundays 9pm Oct 23 1932 to Apr 16 1933  
30 minutes

### **The Salad Bowl Revue**

NBC Fridays 9pm Aug 11 to Dec 1 1933  
30 minutes

### **The Sal Hepatica Revue**

NBC Wednesdays 9:30pm Jan 3 to Mar 14 1934 (30 minutes)  
and Wednesdays 9pm Mar 21 1934 to Jun 26 1935 (60 minutes)

### **Town Hall Tonight**

NBC Wednesdays 9pm  
60 minutes

Oct 2 1935 to Jun 24 1936

Oct 7 1936 to Jun 30 1937 (not on Oct 14)

Nov 17 1937 to Jun 29 1938

Oct 5 1938 to Jun 28 1939

Oct 4 1939 to Jun 26 1940

### **Texaco Star Theatre**

CBS Wednesdays 9pm  
60 minutes

Oct 2 1940 to Jun 25 1941

Oct 1 1941 to Feb 25 1942

CBS Sundays 9pm (60 minutes Mar 8 to Jun 28 1942)

CBS Sundays 9:30pm

30 minutes

Oct 4 1942 to Jun 27 1943

Dec 12 1943 to Jun 25 1944

### **The Fred Allen Show**

NBC Sundays 8-30pm (8pm from Jan 2 1949)  
30 minutes

Oct 7 1945 to Jun 30 1946 (sponsored by Tenderleaf Tea)

Oct 6 1946 to Jun 29 1947 (sponsored by Tenderleaf Tea)

Oct 5 1947 to Jun 27 1948 (sponsored by Ford cars and trucks)

Oct 3 1948 to Jun 26 1949 (sponsored by Ford cars and trucks)

## *Fred Allen's Films*

### *The Still Alarm*

1930 Warner Bros./Vitaphone short

### *The Installment Collector*

1930 Paramount short

### *Thanks A Million*

1935 Twentieth Century Fox feature

### *Sally, Irene and Mary*

1938 Twentieth Century Fox feature

### *Love Thy Neighbor*

1940 Paramount feature

### *It's In The Bag (aka The Fifth Chair)*

1945 United Artists feature

### *We're Not Married*

1952 Twentieth Century Fox feature

### *O. Henry's Full House*

1952 Twentieth Century Fox feature

## *Fred Allen On Disc*

### **Fred Allen Looks At Life (2LPs)**

Bagdad Records S-6969

Collection of 1930s and 1940s radio extracts, with narration.

### **The World Of Fred Allen**

Nostalgia Lane NLR 1023

Re-issue of record one of **Fred Allen Looks At Life**

### **Linit Bath Club Revue**

Radio Archives LP 1002

Complete broadcasts of December 25 1932 and January ? 1933.

### **The Famous Fred Allen Show of the 1940s**

Memorabilia MLP 712

Complete broadcast of October 21 1945

### **Fred Allen Vintage Radio Broadcasts**

Mar-Bren MBR 741

Complete broadcasts of October 28 1945 and April 11 1948.

### **Down In Allen's Alley**

Radiola MR-1008

Allen's Alley sketches of January 25 1948, December 28 1947, October 7 1945 and June 6 1945. Plus The State Of American Humor broadcast of January 30 1949 and Fred's speech to a Jack Benny Friar's Club Roast of November 9 1951.

### **The Texaco Star Theatre With Fred Allen**

Radiola MR-1083

Complete broadcast of May 10 1942..

### **The Fred Allen Show**

Radiola MR-1146

Complete broadcasts of April 11 1948 and April 25 1948.

### **The Great Radio Comedians (5LP set)**

Murray Hill 931699

Includes the complete broadcast of December 14 1947.

### **Jack Benny vs Fred Allen (2LPs)**

Radiola 2MR-2930 includes extracts from Allen shows of March 25 1938, May 26 1946 and June 26 1949, plus Benny shows of March 27 1938, January 15 1950 and April 26 1953 (misdated), and Command Performance broadcasts of December



25 1942, December 25 1943, December 25 1944 and May 9 1947. Also excerpts from Camel Comedy Caravan of June 11 1943, The Big Show of November 5 1950 and several Benny reminiscences.

**Jack Benny & Fred Allen (The Radio Feud Continues)**

Radiola MR-1111 includes promotions for *Buck Benny Rides Again* and *Love Thy Neighbor* plus a complete Benny broadcast of December 27 1942 (with Allen).

**Jack Benny & Fred Allen - Radio's Greatest Feud (3LPs)**

Murray Hill 898039

Same sketches as Radiola double-LP 2MR 293, plus the complete December 25 1932 Linit show and a 1944 Jack Benny broadcast.

**The Fred Allen Show and The Phil Harris Alice Faye Show**

Nostalgia Lane PBO221

Features the complete January 20 1946 show, with guest George Jessel, plus a 1950 Harris and Faye broadcast.

**Magnificent Rogue — The Adventures of W.C. Fields**

Radiola MR-1049

One-hour Biography In Sound radio tribute, narrated by Fred Allen

*Fred Allen Bibliography*

**Treadmill To Oblivion**

by Fred Allen

Atlantic/Little, Brown & Co., 1954

**Much Ado About Me**

by Fred Allen

Atlantic/Little, Brown & Co., 1956

**Fred Allen's Letters**

edited by Joe McCarthy

Doubleday & Co., 1965

**Fred Allen - His Life And Wit**

by Robert Taylor

Little, Brown & Co., 1989

the following titles feature chapters about Fred Allen ...

**No People Like Show People**

by Maurice Zolotow

Random House, 1952

**Some Interesting People And Times**

by Irving Wallace

Dale Books ppk 1978

**Radio Comedy**

by Arthur Frank Wertheim

Oxford University Press, 1979

**More Funny People**

by Steve Allen

Stein And Day, 1982

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\*\*\*BACK ISSUES\*\*\*BACK ISSUES\*\*\*BACK ISSUES\*\*\*BACK ISSUES\*\*\*BACK ISSUES\*\*\*

# Not The Nine O'Clock News

*Not The Nine O'Clock News* was originally scheduled to begin on April 2 1979 with a cast of Rowan Atkinson, Chris Emmett, Christopher Godwin, John Gorman and Jonathan Hyde. However, at the last minute, a general election was called and in keeping with BBC tradition all satirical programming was shelved. When the show finally premiered later in the year significant changes had been made to the cast with Atkinson the only member of the original team to be retained. (In its initial timeslot *Not The Nine O'Clock News* was replacing *Fawlty Towers* and John Cleese recorded a short video clip to launch the series. The bit had no relevance when the program finally aired, but it was retained for the version of the show issued by BBC Enterprises for transmissions overseas.)

CAST: Rowan Atkinson, Chris Langham (series 1 only), Mel Smith, Pamela Stephenson and Griff Rhys Jones

SERIES #1: BBC2 Mondays October 16 to November 20 1979 (6x25m)

• Also two highlights shows on December 28 1979 and March 18 1980

SERIES #2: BBC2 Mondays March 31 to May 12 1980 (7x25m)

SERIES #3: BBC2 Mondays October 27 to December 15 1980 (8x25m)

• 45 minute Christmas special on BBC1 December 30 1980

SERIES #4: BBC2 Mondays February 1 to March 8 1982 (6x25m)

• 35 minute special "Not The World's Cup" on BBC1 June 19 1982

## by M J. Simpson

The following is a list of recordings from this groundbreaking series, along with solo material by the stars. I have also included compilation albums which include *NTNON* or solo tracks. As a special bonus I have added an *NTNON* bibliography at the end. All items listed are UK issues ...

### *Not The Nine O'Clock News singles*

**The Ayatollah Song** (Pamela, with Rowan, Griff and Mel)/**Gob On You** (Mel, with Pamela, Rowan and Chris)

BBC RESL 88 (Dec 1980)

Issued in a mostly b/w picture sleeve showing Pamela, Rowan, Mel and Griff. The B-side was written by Chris Judge Smith (who also wrote a lot of material for punk songstress Lene Lovich).

**(I Like) Trucking** (Pamela, Rowan, Griff and Mel)/**Supa Dupa** (Pamela)

B.B.C. RESL 102 (Sep 1981)

In a picture sleeve similar to the **Hedgehog Sandwich** album.

**Not The US Presidential Conference** (Rowan, Griff, Pamela and Mel)/**Holiday Habits** (Rowan and Mel)

B.B.C. RESL 150 (Oct 1984)

In full-colour picture sleeve (U.S. flag) labelled "1984 Reagan/Mondale Souvenir Edition".

**Oh Bosanquet/Gob On You**

After The Break Records NB 5 (date unknown)

Both of these are newly-recorded studio versions (hence in stereo) and are therefore not available on any album. The artist credit is just *Not The 9 O'Clock News*, rather than any specific person, but lead vocals on the A-side are by Pamela, and those on the B-side are by Mel. The record was produced by Nic Rowley and Duncan Bruce. There was apparently no picture sleeve.

### *Not The Nine O'Clock News albums*

**Not The Nine O'Clock News** (Rowan, Chris, Mel, Pamela and Griff)

BBC REB 400 (LP), ZCF 400 (cassette) (Oct 1980) reissued as Music For Pleasure MFP 5810 (LP), TCMFP 5810 (cassette) (Oct 1987)

Death Of A Princess (An Apology)/David Attenborough/Confrontation Song/ Airline Safety/National Wealth Beds/Simultaneous Translation/General Synod's "Life Of Python"/The Ayatollah Song/Closedown//Points Of View/ Esther Rantzen/Stout Life/Gob On You/Gay Christian/Final Demands/ Bouncing Song/American Express/Oh Bosanquet/I Believe

Also appearing are Robert Bridges, Ridgewell Hawkes, Jim Broadbent (who went on to become half of the 'National Theatre Of Brent') and Billy Connolly (who contributes one word on "Airline Safety"). A largely black sleeve with cut-up photos. The Music For Pleasure reissue is scarce.

**Hedgehog Sandwich** (Rowan, Mel, Pamela and Griff)

BBC REB 421 (LP), ZCF 421 (cassette) (Oct 1981)

Royal Apology/News Summary/Constable Savage/Baronet Oswald Ernold Mosely/ University Challenge/(I Like) Trucking/Sir Robert Mark/Hi-Fi Shop/ England My Leotard ('Kate Bush')/Divorce/Political Obit/The Main Points Again/Bad Language/Gift Shop//Hedgehog Apology/Supa Dupa/Soccer Violence/ (Because I'm) Wet And Lonely (Barry Manilow song)/That's Lies/Creed (The New Revised Version)/I Believe (The Reagan Song)/The Aide/The Main Points Again/Not The Parrot Sketch/Open Marriage/Lager/And Finally...

Probably the definitive *NTNON* album, in the famous hedgehog sleeve. This is all second series material and every home should have a copy.

**The Memory Kinda Lingers** (Rowan, Mel, Pamela and Griff)



Mel Smith, Rowan Atkinson, Pamela Stephenson and Griff Rhys Jones

BBC REF 453 (double-LP), ZCD 453 (double-cassette) (Oct 1982)

The Spy Who Came In The Cold/The News/signature tune/Budget/Question Time/Headbangers/Rock Interview/Game For A Laugh/Typical, Bloody Typical/ Well, Mr. Glossop/Financial Times/Hey Bob/New Glea/Holiday Habits/ Pizza Moment/Failed In Wales/Rumbley's Pies/Made From Whales/Brain Death/ Swedish Chemists/Hey Wow/(Stop Wingeing)/Nice Video, Shame About The Song/Jackanory/Golf Trousers/The News/(Roland Davies)/Two Ninnies/Two Ninnies Song/Aussie Pilot/Does God Exist?/Re-Altered Images/McEnroe's Breakfast/Ah Come In Rawlinson!/Ask The Family/Polish Show(Song)/Aleebee/The Main Points Again/What A Load Of Willies!/(The Memory) Kinda Lingers/Grow Up You Bastards// Highlights from **Not In Front Of The Audience** (Drury Lane Theatre April 29 1982): Confrontation Song/American Improv/Duke Of Kent/Alien/(Oh, Oh, Oh, Means) I Respect You/The Pope's Visit (including Introduction From The Dean - A Word From The Sponsors - Tasty Wafer Time - Address By His Holiness - Papal Tee-Shirt Offer - Miracle)/I Laker!//Simon And Garfunkel/Awards/SAS/Interruptions (including Insulting The Audience Main Sketch)/Rant #4/Prompt/Barry Manilow/The Return Of Constable Savage/ Gob On You

In a gatefold sleeve which (subtly) revives the **Hedgehog Sandwich** motif.

#### Not The Double Album

BBC REH 516 (LP), ZCR 516 (cassette) (Oct 1984)

A reissue of the first half of the above set (not including the Drury Lane performance) in a very similar sleeve.

#### Not The Nine O'Clock News

BBC ZBBC 1009 (double-cassette) (Mar 1989)

A reissue of **HedgeHog Sandwich** and **Not The Double Album** with an inlay design similar to the sleeve of the former.

## Rowan Atkinson solo releases

### Live In Belfast

Arista SPART 1150 (LP), TCART 1150 (cassette) (Nov 1980)  
Man In Seat C23/Sir Marcus Browning MP/Mary Jane/The Wedding (including The Vicar - The Best Man - The Father Of The Bride)/I Hate The French/ Interval Announcement/Do Bears.../Senator Brea's Dead/The Devil/ Impatient Man In Queue Behind Student Atkinson's first solo album, co-written with Richard Curtis and Howard Goodall. (Goodall released his own version of "I Hate The French" on Columbia DB 9807, b/w "Boy In Blue" in Sep 1980).

### Tom Brown's Schooldays

Listen For Pleasure LFP 80191/2 (double-cassette) (? 1982), reissued as LFP 7376 (double-cassette) (Mar 1989)

The Thomas Hughes novel read by Rowan Atkinson.

### Comic Relief Presents Utterly Utterly Live

WEA WX 51 (LP), WX 51C (cassette) (May 1986)

Atkinson is featured on two tracks: Do Bears ... (with Kate Bush and Howard Goodall) and Fatal Beatings (with Angus Deayton) A fairly essential album, recorded at the Shaftesbury Theatre over the 4th - 6th May 1986. Atkinson performs two tracks from his **New Revue** and sings in the chorus on the final track 'Feed The World'. He also directed the show. (The cassette version includes an extra track 'Biggles' by Michael Palin).

### Not Just A Pretty Face

Polydor POLD 5217 (LP), POLDC 5217 (cassette) (Nov 1987)

Gobble D Gook/Tom, Dick And Harry/Vicar's Point/Perkin's Intro/Fatal Beatings/37-0/I Believe/Indian Waiter/Madonna/Awards/Zak/Fish/CND/ Peace Camp/Perkins Outro/Cana/A Nasty End

Rowan is assisted by Angus Deayton on several sketches. His "New Revue" played successfully in Britain, but flopped disastrously on Broadway.

### I Believe/Cana

Polydor POSP 899 (single) (Nov 1987)

Both tracks are from **Not Just A Pretty Face**. "I Believe" was originally included on **Hedgehog Sandwich** (with different lyrics). The picture sleeve is similar to the album - a series of colour photos of Rowan, plus a small black-and-white picture of Angus.

**The Stonk** (Hale And Pace, and the Stonkers)/**The Smile Song** (Victoria Wood) London LON 296 (7" single), LONCS 296 (cassette single) **The Stonk/The Smile Song/TheStonk** (extended version) London LONX (12" single), LONCD 296 (CD single) (all issued Feb 1991)

Bizarrely, 'The Stonkers' include amongst their number Rowan Atkinson on drums! The other drummers on that track are Cozy Powell and Queen's Roger Taylor, the guitarists are Queen's Brian May (who also produced and played keyboards), Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi and Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour, and Judie Tzuke is one of the backing vocalists. Promo videos were made for both tracks on this double-A side, which reached number 1 in the UK at the time of Red Nose Day 3.

### The Very Best Of Rowan Atkinson Live

Laughing Stock LAFFC1 (cassette) (Sep 1991)

Sir Marcus Browning MP/The Wedding (including The Vicar - The Best Man Father Of The Bride)/Senator Brea's Dead/The Devil//Tom, Dick And Harry/Fatal Beatings/Awards/Zak/Schoolmaster/Four Yorkshiremen

A compilation of four tracks from each of Rowan's solo albums, plus two from **The Secret Policeman's Ball**.

### **Hysteria 3**

EMI CDP 7980212 (CD) (? 1991)

Rowan appears on one track, interviewing Elton John.

**(I Want To Be) Elected** (Mr. Bean and Smear Campaign)/(**I Want To Be**) **Elected** (Smear Campaign) London LON 319 (7" single), LONCS 319 (cassette single) **(I Want To Be) Elected** (both above versions)/**Manifesto** (Mr. Bean) London LONCD 319 (CD single) (all issued Mar 1992)

The latest Comic Relief single: Rowan Atkinson as the award-winning, but normally silent, Mr. Bean. Smear Campaign is a little-known HM band Taste plus Iron Maiden frontman Bruce Dickinson.

### *Mel Smith solo releases*

#### **Mel Smith's Greatest Hits/Richard and Joey**

Mercury MEL 1 (single)(Nov 1981)

Would you believe, a punk tribute to Julie Andrews? Written by Rodney Beham-Guinness, of whom I know nothing. The B-side, written by Mel and Peter Brewis, is a lamentably homophobic duet between two actors, both played by Mel. Both sides were produced by Roger Taylor for TalkBack Productions (although it is unclear whether this is the Queen drummer or not). The picture sleeve shows Mel in punk get-up in a bedroom filled with Julie Andrews posters.

#### **The Gambler**

First Night SCENE 3 (LP), SCENEC 3 (cassette) (Sep 1986)

Act 1/Act 2

Including the songs: Get Yer Life/Loach's Song/ Loach's Song Reprise/Horse Race/Barmaid's Song/Ten Thousand Quid/Lullaby/Danny's Song/ Greyhound Race/I've Sailed Through Hell/Easy/Shaking In The Shadows/Poker Song  
Written by Mel Smith, Peter Brewis and Bob Goody, this 'comedy musical' is performed by the three of them plus Philip Davis and Paul Bown. Brewis also produced the record, acted as musical director, and played keyboards. The other musicians used were Mark Stevens (keyboards), Martin Dobson (saxophone) and Bob Critchley (drums). Recorded live at the Hampstead Theatre on May 22 1986, although by the time the album had been issued the production had transferred to the Comedy Theatre in the West End. The story concerns the seedy side of gambling and the problems when one gets into debt. Not overflowing with laughs, and with songs that are all instantly forgettable, as a 'comedy musical' it fails on both counts.

#### **Knights And Emeralds**

10 Records DIX 28 (LP) (Oct 1986) reissued as XID 11 (LP), CXID 11 (cassette) (Jun 1988)

Includes one Mel Smith Track: Tremblin' This 12-track film soundtrack album also features Maxi Priest, Rick Astley and Slade. All songs were specially recorded for the film.

#### **Tremblin' /Easy**

10 Records TEN 128 (single) (? 1986)

Mel's track from **Knights And Emeralds** backed with a track from **The Gambler**.

The sleeve is divided into nine squares, showing Mel in various rock'n' roll poses wearing an awful lilac teddy-boy jacket.

#### **Another Blooming Christmas/Ho! Ho! Ho! Hoedown**

(The Phoenix Hoedowners, rap by Mel Smith) Epic 657687 (7" single), 657687 0 (7" picture disc), 657687 4 (cassingle)

#### **Another Blooming Christmas/Ho! Ho! Ho! Hoedown/Another Blooming Christmas**

(The Phoenix Chamber Orchestra) Epic 657687 8 (cassingle with fold-out onlay) (all issued Dec 1991)

Two tracks (three if you count the instrumental version) from the soundtrack to the Raymond Briggs animated film *Father Christmas*, although the first two are different to the album versions. A lame, almost patronising couple of songs. The second cassingle includes not only an extra track but also a fold-out inlay depicting scenes from the film.

#### **Father Christmas**

Epic 469475 1 (LP), 469475 2 (CD), 469475 4 (cassette) (Dec 1991) The soundtrack to the animated film by Raymond Briggs (creator of *The Snowman*), narrated by Mel Smith.

### *Pamela Stephenson solo releases*

#### **Charles Charming's Challenges On The Pathway To The Throne**

Arista DLART 3 (double-LP), TLART 3 (double cassette) (Jun 1981)

An epic 'satirical poem' by Clive James, performed by Clive James, Pamela Stephenson and Russell Davies.

#### **Unusual Treatment**

Mercury PAM 2 (double single) (Jan 1982)

Mr. Wrong/Music Bitch Weekly/Italian Shoes/Pretty Boys

Released in a gatefold sleeve which, when opened, reveals Pamela in a black leather basque and fishnet tights, tied up with a red microphone cord. Tracks 1, 3 and 4 are credited to Burgess (Richard James, producer)/Walters (John, arranger)/Preger (?). Track 2 is written by Preger/Stephenson/Jenkin (this last, at a guess, being Guy Jenkin) and is a monologue in which Pamela, as a music Journalist, phones in her reviews of this single to Music Bitch Weekly and then *The Times*. The other three tracks are straightforward pop songs, "Pretty Boys" being slightly rocky. The musicians used were Stuart Elliott (drums), Andy Pask (bass), David Rhodes and Gary (Spandau Ballet) Kemp (guitars).

#### **Inside Information**

Music For Profit PAYE 001 (promo double-LP) (c. 1982)

Includes the above "Mr. Wrong" track (along with nineteen others by leading music artists and groups). A very scarce promo-only double album (in a nongatefold sleeve) which marks the only appearance on album of a track from Pamela's double-single. Includes a small, typed insert with writing and production credits.

#### **Lost Empires**

That's Entertainment Records TER 1119 (LP), CDTER 1119 (CD), ZCTER 1119 (cassette) (Nov 1986)

Soundtrack to a TV series about Music Halls which features Pamela on four tracks: A Pure White Rose + Somewhere/A Pure White Rose + I Don't Want To Play In Your Yard/Poor Little Dolly/The Nightingale And The Star + A Pure White Rose

### *Griff Rhys Jones solo releases*

#### **An Evening Without ...**

Original ORA 006 (LP), TORA 006 (cassette) (Oct 1981)

Griff is featured on eleven tracks: Night Shift Worker Blues/The Party (with Martin Bergman, Clive Anderson, Rory McGrath and Jimmy Mulville)/Franz Kafka Metamorphosis Blues (with Martin Bergman)/Leo Tolstoy Blues (with Martin Bergman)/Punting/Cowpoke (Griff and company)/Kamikaze (with Bergman, Anderson, McGrath and Mulville)/Committee



Meeting (with Bergman, Anderson, McGrath and Mulville)/  
Diction De Doque Vert (with Bergman, Mulville and Anderson)/  
Drinking Song (with Mulville and McGrath)/Man Breaking  
Broom During Long John Silver Impression A revue with a  
fairly star-studded cast, most of whom were largely unknown at  
the time. McGrath and Mulville went on to star in *Who Dares  
Wins*, Anderson in *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, and Bergman now  
manages and appears with his wife Rita Rudner.

#### **Silver Jackanory**

BBC ZBBC 1204 (double cassette) (? 1991)

Includes Mr. Gobble's Garden, written and read by Griff Rhys  
Jones.

### *Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones solo releases*

**Morons From Outer Space** (The Morons)/**Morons From  
Outer Space** (Dubious Version) E.M.I. MORON 1 (7" single)

**Morons From Outer Space** (Moronic Mix) plus above two  
versions E.M.I. 12 MORON 1 (12" single)(all issued Mar 1985)

A spin-off from the film of the same name. Not actually  
performed in the movie, but heard in the background towards  
the end. 'The Morons' are the five stars: Griff, Mel, Jimmy Nail  
(from *Auf Wiederseh'n Pet*), Paul Bown (who went on to star in  
the sitcom *Watching*) and Joanne Pearce. The song is a rather  
unmelodic piece about the aliens in the film, with music by  
Peter Brewis and lyrics by Mel Smith. All three mixes were  
produced by Brewis and John Walters. The picture sleeve is  
black with a drawing of Mel in his space-helmet. 12" promo  
copies carry a 'Manufacturer's Property Not For Sale' sticker on  
the back of the sleeve. A promo video was prepared for this  
single, including some scenes cut from the film.

#### **Alas Smith And Jones**

BBC REB 527 (LP), ZCF 527 (cassette) (Nov 1985)

Spin-Off/Kray-Tel/Sperm Bank/News For The Elderly/Wrinkle  
Rock/Hell's Angels/Crime Rate/Police V Press/Drugs/... And  
Now For The Football Results/A Sketch About Being Sick/Real  
Ale/But First The Headlines/ The Boss Sings For You/What Is  
Unique?/War/Advice From Down Under/What's In A  
Name?/Let Us Prey/The Women's Movement/Sob Story/A Song  
In Aid Of Starving Has-Beens/It Can Damage Your Health/And  
Finally ...

Tracks from the first series of their post-*NTNON* television  
show.

#### **Scratch 'N' Sniff**

10 Records DIX 51 (LP), CDIX 51 (cassette) (Nov 1986) I  
Spy/Antiques Roadshow/Hooligans/Drugs/Video Nasties/Meryl  
Streep/Autumn/Richard Branson/Christmas/Bob Geldof/  
VD/Mia Farrow/AIDS/Taboos/Perverts/Animals/Senior  
Citizens/Rigor Mortis

Live 'head-to-head' routines, most of which were originally  
performed on *Alas Smith And Jones*.

**Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree** (Mel and Kim Wilde)/  
**Deck The Blooming Hals** (The Mel Smith Yuletide Choir)

10 Records TEN 2 (7" single)

**Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree** (The Mega Merry  
Magimix)/**Deck The Blooming Hals**

10 Records TEN 212 (12" single) (both issued Nov 1987)

The Second Comic Relief single,(after Cliff Richard and The  
Young Ones' "Living Doll"). Although uncredited, the A-side  
also features Griff Rhys Jones (actually, the 12" sleeve does  
proclaim 'with tasty chunks of extra Griff & Mel'). The 12" A-  
side is listed on the label as 'The Ultra Merry Magimix'.

Produced by Stuart Colman (who also produced "Living Doll").  
The B-side is a sketch (written by Colman and R Head) in which  
Mel tries to conduct a choir, reminiscent of some of Stan  
Freberg's work. The promo video for this single included cameo  
appearances by Curiosity Killed The Cat and some *Spitting  
Image* puppets.

#### **Bitter And Twisted**

10 Records DIX 79 (LP), DIXCD 79 (CD), CDIX 79 (cassette)  
(Nov 1988)

More live 'head-to-head's. A rare promotional sampler for this  
album was put out as a video. With a grey inlay similar to the  
album cover (Mel and Griff's staring faces) it was apparently  
filmed by someone sitting in the audience with a hand-held  
video camera. Hence the quality is distinctly dodgy, and all that  
can be seen is Mel and Griff on stage with large recording  
microphones, plus the backs of some people's heads!

#### **The Big Red Tape**

no label STONK 1 (cassette) (Feb 1991)

Includes the Mel and Griff vocal "Brogues" An otherwise  
unavailable song from the 1990 series of "Smith And Jones",  
parodying Madonna's "Vogue". Written by Mel Smith and Peter  
Brewis, with lead vocals by Lee Gibson, backing vocals by Mel  
and Griff. **The Big Red Tape** was a compilation cassette in aid  
of Comic Relief Red Nose Day #3, only available through Our  
Price record shops. Other contributors to the tape include Ben  
Elton, Stephen Fry, French And Saunders, Lenny Henry and  
Spitting Image, and the whole thing is 'hosted' by Harry Enfield  
and Paul Whitehouse as 'Smashie' and 'Nicey', the Fab FM  
DJs.

### *Miscellaneous Albums featuring the Not The Nine O'Clock News cast members*

#### **The Secret Policeman's Ball**

Island ILPS 9601 (LP) (Dec 1979), ICT 9601 Z (Cassette),  
(May 1981), reissued as Laughing Stock LAFFC 2 (Cassette)  
(Sep 1991)

Includes: Schoolmaster (Rowan Atkinson)/Stake Your Claim  
(Rowan Atkinson and Michael Palin)/Four Yorkshiremen (John  
Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Rowan Atkinson)/The  
End Of The World (Peter Cook, Rowan Atkinson and Company)  
Atkinson's "Schoolmaster" sketch is well known, "Stake Your  
Claim" is from *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, "Four  
Yorkshiremen" from At Last! The 1948 Show, and "The End Of  
The World" was originally performed in Beyond The Fringe.  
Recorded at the 1979 Amnesty International Comedy Gala at  
Her Majesty's Theatre, London, over June 27 to 30 1979. An  
essential comedy album. A video version of the concert(s) was  
also released.

#### **Fundamental Frolics**

BBC REB 435 (LP), ZCF 435 (Cassette) (Nov 1981)

Includes: In The Beginning (Griff Rhys Jones)/Abu Ben  
Achdem (Rowan Atkinson, Pamela Stephenson, Mel Smith and  
Griff Rhys Jones)/Insulting The Audience (Griff Rhys Jones)/  
The Sheila Tanner Award (Griff Rhys Jones and Pamela  
Stephenson)/Schoolmaster II (Rowan Atkinson)/Ladies And  
Gentlemen - Mr. Chris Langham (Chris Langham)

Recorded live at the Apollo Theatre, London, on June 1 1981, a  
charity stage show partially directed by Mel Smith. A very  
obscure album, which is odd given the roll call of artists; the  
record also includes Alexei Sayle, 20th Century Coyote (Rik

Mayall and Adrian Edmonson), Elvis Costello, Jon Anderson, Neil Innes and others. This is the only appearance of all five *NTNON* cast members on a non-*NTNON* disc.

#### **The Secret Policeman's Other Ball**

Springtime HAHA 6003 (LP), CHACHA 6003 (Cassette) (Nov 1981)

Includes: A Word Of Thanks (John Cleese, John Bird, Rowan Atkinson and entire cast)/Road Safety (Rowan Atkinson)/Clothes Off (John Cleese, Pamela Stephenson and Graham Chapman)/Bee Keeping (Rowan Atkinson and John Cleese)/Divorce Service Rowan Atkinson, Griff Rhys Jones, Pamela Stephenson and John Fortune)/Reading The Riot Act (Chris Langham)/Top Of The Form (John Cleese, Rowan Atkinson, Griff Rhys Jones, John Fortune, Tim Brooke-Taylor, John Bird and Graham Chapman)

Recorded at the 1981 Amnesty International Comedy Gala over September 9-12 1981 at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London. "A Word Of Thanks" is credited to Atkinson/Cleese/Ronald Eyre (director of the stage show). "Road Safety" is credited as 'trad., arranged Rowan Atkinson'! "Clothes Off" and "Beekeeping" are both *At Last! The 1948 Show* sketches, as is "Top Of The Form" (although written by Cleese some years earlier). Chris Langham's routine is self-penned, and "Divorce Service" is, of course, and old *NTNON* sketch (written by John Cormack). Another essential comedy album.

#### **Glompus Van de Hoed's Tales From The Crypt**

Warner Bros. L 58406 (LP), K4 58406 (Cassette) (Nov 1981)

Act 1/Act 2

A spoof Victorian horror story, originally broadcast as a serial on Capital Radio (an London independent commercial station). This is a new in-studio recording (with audience) by the original cast of Andrew (*Fawlty Towers*) Sachs, Rory (*Who Dares Wins*) McGrath, Griff Rhys Jones, Mel Smith and Chrissy Roberts (who plays all the female characters). Written by McGrath and produced by Griff with Ric Cooper and Vick Wimpenny. Incidental music performed by The Stargazers. The sotry concerns Glompus Van de Hloed (Sachs), a Belgian professor of the paranormal, investigating a series of bizarre murders in Dunstable.

#### **The Laughing Stock Of The BBC**

BBC LAF 1 (LP), ZCLAF 1 (Cassette) (Apr 1982)

Includes re-issues of: General Synod's Life Of Python/Bad Language

Also on this annoyingly obscure album are tracks from *Monty Python*, *The Goons*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Round The Horne*, *Hancock's Half Hour*, *Yes Minister* and *Gerard Hoffnung*.

#### **We Are Most Amused**

Ronco RTD 2067 (double-LP), 4C-RTD 2067 (double-cassette) (Nov 1982)

Includes reissues of: Points Of View (Not The NineO'Clock News)/Best Man's Speech (Rowan Atkinson)/Sir Marcus Browning MP (Rowan Atkinson)/The Party (Griff Rhys Jones, Rory McGrath and Company)

A reasonably definitive compilation including one track from *NTNON*, two from Rowan's first solo album, and one from **An Evening Without ...**

#### **Panama Comedy Greats**

no label ARB 001 (cassette) (c. 1986)

Includes reissues of: Schoolmaster (Rowan Atkinson)/Four Yorkshiremen (John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Rowan Atkinson)

A very scarce cassette given via an offer with Panama Cigars, which includes two tracks from **The Secret Policeman's Ball**. Other artists on the tape include Flanders And Swann, Pete And Dud, Stanley Holloway and Max Boyce.

#### **The Secret Policeman's Third Ball - The Comedy**

Virgin V 2459 (LP), CDV 2459 (CD), TCV 2459 (cassette) (Sep 1987) reissued as OVED 270 (LP), OVEDC 270 (cassette) (c. 1989)

Another Amnesty International Comedy Gala album. This one includes one track by Chris Langham (with Mike Hurley as 'Bill Bore') and one by Mel and Griff. All tracks are simply titled with the name of the performer.

#### **The Complete Secret Policeman's Other Ball**

Island ESDMC 152 (double cassette) ESDCD 152 (double-CD) (Oct 1991)

Includes all tracks listed for **The Secret Policeman's Other Ball** plus: International Weightlifting (Griff Rhy Jones and Friends)/A Severe Depression (Chris Langham)/Chekhov And The Gorilla (John Bird, John Fortune and Chris Langham)/Everything's Coming Out Roses (Chris Langham)/ Seance With A Tit (Pamela Stephenson)

An expanded reissue of the original release, with an hour of previously unreleased material.

#### *Related Books*

All the following, unless stated, are 'large-format' paperbacks with multiple author credits

*Not! The Nine O'Clock News*  
BBC 1980

*Not 1982*  
Faber And Faber 1981.  
An odd book - small but very thick.

*Not The Royal Wedding*  
Sphere, 1981.  
Also published in hardback

*The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*  
Methuen, 1981.  
Scripts, lyrics and photos.

*Not 1983*  
Faber And Faber, 1982.  
The same format as *Not 1982*.

*Not The General Election*  
Sphere, 1983.

*The Smith And Jones World Atlas*  
Mitchell Beazley, 1983.

*Morons From Outer Space*  
by Simon Bell  
Virgin, 1985.

Novelization of the Smith and Jones-penned screenplay.  
Standard paperback size.

*Prince Harry's First Quiz Book*  
by Sean Hardie and John Lloyd  
Faber And Faber, 1985.

*The Lavishly Tooled Smith And Jones Instant Coffee Table Book*  
Fontana, 1986.

*The Utterly Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book*  
Fontana, 1986.

Includes contributions from Rowan, Mel and Griff.

# WHAT'S NEW?

## COMPACT DISCS:

### **VICTOR BORGE LIVE AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM**

(Pickwick PKD 3147) reissue of the 1972 LP featuring:

Night And Day / Happy Birthday to you / Chopsticks / Hungarian Rhapsody / The Folk Song / The Russian Opera.

### **COMEDY WITH WAYNE AND SHUSTER**

(Columbia / Redhot 471089 2)

reissue of the 1960 LP by Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster featuring: Shakespearean Baseball Game / I was a T.V. Addict / Rinse The Blood off my Toga / Frontier Psychiatrist

### **JASPER CARROTT -CONDENSED CLASSICS**

(Chrysalis/Dover CCD 30)

A "best of" collection of LP tracks featuring: The Mole / Magic Roundabout / Car Insurance / The Nutter on the Bus / Truck Drivers / America / Zits / Number Plates / Football / The Driving Lesson / Scunthorpe Baths / Tribute To Eric My Idol / Explosive gases.

### **THE BEST OF HYSTERIA 3!**

(E.M.I. CDP 7980212)

Highlights from the 1991 fund raising concert for AIDS: Introduction (Stephen Fry) / Sexuality (Billy Bragg) / Contraception (Ben Elton) / Being Happy (Helen Lederer) / Together Again (Jools Holland and Sam Brown) / I An Actor (Nigel Planer) / Awards Acceptance Speech (Ruby Wax and Tony Slattery) / The Wilderness Years (Eddie Izzard) / Take Me In Your Arms (Lenny Henry) / Celebrity Sticky Moments (Julian Clary) / Why Fish Wear Socks (Steven Wright) / Rowan Atkinson Interviews Elton John / I wish I knew How It Would Feel To Be Free (Edwin Starr)

### **THE SULLIVAN YEARS - COMEDY CLASSIC**

(TVT Records TVT 9432 2 )

Comedy performances from the Ed Sullivan television show: Robert Klein / Joan Rivers / Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara / Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner / Alan King / Jack Burns and Avery Schreiber / George Carlin / Flip Wilson (2 tracks).

### **MONTY PYTHON - GALAXY SONG**

(Virgin CD single)

Galaxy Song / Christmas In Heaven / Always Look on the Bright side of Life.

### **MONTY PYTHON - I LIKE CHINESE**

(Virgin CD single)

I Like Chinese / Brian Song / Galaxy Song.

## VIDEOS:

### **STEPTOE AND SON**

Two new BBC releases each featuring three black and white episodes.

"65 Today" / "The Lodger" / "The Bird"

"The Stepmother" / "Full House" / "The Wooden Overcoats".

### **SYKES**

BBC release featuring three black and white episodes from the early 1960s starring Eric Sykes, Hattie Jacques and Richard Wattis.

"Sykes and a Bath" / "Sykes and an ankle" / "Sykes and a Haunting".

### **THE WORKER**

Three black and white episodes from the mid 1960s starring Charlie Drake.

### **GEORGE AND THE DRAGON**

Four black and white episodes from the late 1960s starring Sid James, Peggy Mount and John Le Mesurier.

### **TWO OF A KIND**

Two black and white episodes of the 1960s Morecombe and Wise show.

### **DAD'S ARMY**

Two new BBC releases each featuring three colour episodes. "No spring for Frazer" / "Absent Friends" / "A. Wilson (Manager?) Uninvited Guests" / "The Desperate Drive of L. Cpl. Jones" / "The king was in his Counting House".

### **CARRY ON LAUGHING**

Two volumes of episodes from the mid 1970s television version of the famous film series, each specially written for the small screen. "Orgy and Bess" / "The Prisoner of Spenda"

### **RITA RUDNER**

An hour of highlights from Rita's 6 part 1990 BBC series

### **FLANDERS AND SWANN - The Only Video**

An hour of songs from the duo's stage successes "At the Drop of a Hat" and "A Drop of Another Hat"

### **THE MARY WHITEHOUSE EXPERIENCE**

Highlights from the stage version of the popular BBC radio and television series.

### **CARROTT'S COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN**

Two releases of the Jasper Carrott television specials, originally screened at Christmas 1989 and Christmas 1991 on the BBC.

## BOOKS:

**Dave Allen : Gods Own Comedian** by Gus Smith (Robert Hale London)

**Fanny Brice : The Original Funny Girl** by Herbert G Goldman

**Jackie Gleason : An Intimate Portrait Of The Great One** by W.J. Weatherby (Pharos Books, New York)

**The Great One : The Life And Legend Of Jackie Gleason** by William Henry

**Peace Work** by Spike Milligan (Michael Joseph, London)

**The Golden Girls : 10 Scripts.** Created by Susan Harris (Boxtree, London)

**Mother and Son** - 5 scripts by (A.B.C. Books)

