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LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

Issue 8 1993

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LAUGH is priced at \$4.00 per issue (plus \$1.00 postage) in Australia and the U.S. and £2.00 per issue (plus 50p postage) in Britain. Limited stock of Back Issues are also available at these prices. Subscription rates for four issues are \$20.00 (Aus and U.S.) or £10.00 (Britain) sent by air.

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CLASSIFIEDS:

● IT'S (The Monty Python Fanzine) has vacancies for new readers. Write to Sheila Gibson, P.O. Box 365, University Station, Syracuse, New York 13210, U.S.A.

● WANTED: 1948 Show, Marty, Frost Report on video. Also b/w Till Death Us Do Part's — buy or exchange: John Wrigley, 185 The Wheel, Ecclesfield, Sheffield S30 3ZA, Great Britain.

● WANTED: Video recordings of Rutland Weekend Television. Contact: Mark French, 15 Isham Close, Northampton NN2 7AQ, Great Britain.

● WANTED: Episodes of TV series Dick Turpin, Making Out, Love Thy Neighbour. Willing to buy or swap (I have a sizeable collection). Contact: Bill Frost, 10 Byrne Road, Balham, London SW12 9JD, Great Britain.

● THE TONY HANCOCK SOCIETY remembers the Lad himself with regular meetings, recordings & quarterly newsletters (featuring articles and interviews by those who knew and worked with him). UK/Overseas membership is £5 Sterling. Write to 77 The Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6NL, Great Britain.

● FOR SALE: Detailed guides to Steptoe & Son, ITMA, Band Waggon, The Burkiss Way, Round The Horne and others. Tony Lang, 52 Pembury Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8BT, Great Britain.

● THE AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION APPRECIATION SOCIETY collects and promotes the classic programmes of the 60's and 70's. P.O. Box 186, Reservoir, Victoria 3073, Australia.

● PYTHON/1948 SHOW/ISIRTA/COOK & MOORE: I am interested in trading recordings of these and other related programmes. Paul Redhead, 36 Well Rd., Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PS, England.

● Hundreds of THREE STOOGES licensed merchandise for sale. Also want to buy 16mm Stooges &/or Ted Healy films. Send long, self-addressed, stamped (2oz postage) envelope to Frank Reighter, 10220 Calera Rd, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19114, U.S.A.

BACK ISSUES:

Limited stock of back issues is available at regular prices and postage. Unfortunately our first issue is now sold out.

LAUGH #1 Barry Humphries/Jack Benny On Television/Monty Python On Disc/The Young Ones/Band Waggon

LAUGH #2 Steptoe & Son/Not Only... But Also/The Marx Brothers On Disc/Police Squad/George Wallace/Craig Ferguson On Disc

LAUGH #3 The Goodies/Roy Rene, 'Mo'/Tom Lehrer/The 'Doctor' Movies/Eddie Cantor On Radio & TV

LAUGH #4 Norman Gunston/The 'Doctor' TV Series/Bob Newhart On Disc/Not The Nine O'Clock News/Fred Allen

LAUGH #5 The Black Adder/Take It From Here/Victor Borge/Yes, What?/Abbott & Costello

LAUGH #6 Lenny Henry/Dad's Army/Jimmy Durante/John Clarke/Steve Martin

LAUGH #7 Ronnie Barker/Stan Freberg/Billy Connolly/Graham Kennedy

The Amnesty Concerts

by Peter Tatchell

In late 1975, Amnesty International, the worldwide human rights organisation, was preparing to celebrate its fifteenth anniversary. They envisioned a modest fundraising concert to be staged one Sunday night in London's West End featuring a number of performers, who would hopefully donate their talents for the evening. One of the artists they approached was John Cleese (then riding high with the first series of *Fawlty Towers*). Cleese not only agreed to appear, but promised to rope in a few friends from the world of show business. The result was not a single night's entertainment, but three, and a coming together of the top names of British comedy.

Titled "A Poke In The Eye (With A Sharp Stick)", it premiered on April Fool's Day 1976 and reunited cast members of "Beyond The Fringe", "The Establishment", "The Cambridge Circus", *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and *The Goodies* who recreated a selection of their most famous routines originally performed on stage and television over the previous fifteen years. Dudley Moore and Eric Idle were unable to take part in the proceedings, but Terry Jones substituted in the "Fringe" sketches, and Peter Cook returned the compliment by joining the Pythons in their courtroom sendup.

Also on the bill were Barry Humphries (finally cracking the big-time with the stage success "Housewife Superstar", and a BBC television special some weeks earlier), Des Jones exhibiting some physical dexterity with a pantomime routine, and Neil Innes (about to appear with the Pythons in New York a fortnight later) providing a musical offering.

The shows were enormously successful (both artistically and financially) and Amnesty's coffers were also supported by an LP and a 100 minute television documentary of the occasion (titled *Pleasure At Her Majesty's*). Screened as an Omnibus program by the BBC, it was also given theatrical release.

A year later, London's Mermaid Theatre played host to a smaller one-night concert in a similar vein. "The Mermaid Frolics" offered a mixture of music and comedy with the mainstays of the original production (Cleese, Cook, Miller and Jones) being joined by Peter Ustinov, Julie Covington, John Williams and the Bowles Brothers Band. Again, there was an LP of highlights and a TV special.

In 1979, it was back to Her Majesty's for the (first) "Secret Policeman's Ball" held over four consecutive nights. This time, Cook and the Pythons were joined by Billy Connolly, medicos Buckman and Beetles, the riotous Ken Campbell Roadshow (featuring future *Doctor Who* Sylvester McCoy) and a rubber-faced clown on the threshold of success, Rowan Atkinson. Like the previous concert, the shows featured several musical artists as well with Pete Townshend and Tom Robinson joining former participants John Williams and Neil Innes in donating their services.

Notable moments included Cook's wickedly savage satire on a recent highly-publicized court case and guest appearances by several well-known celebrities in a Pythonesque game show send-up.

Merchandising for the event included two LPs (one comedy, one featuring musical items) and a video. ITV screened an hour of highlights as a Christmas treat six months later.

The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane was the venue for the fourth Amnesty presentation "The Secret Policeman's Other Ball", staged in late 1981. Though missing Cook, Jones and Palin, the performing lineup boasted the return of Billy Connolly and Barry Humphries (as the redoubtable 'Dame Edna'), Alexei Sayle, Jasper Carrott and four-fifths of the *Not The Nine O'Clock News* team. Cleese, Bennett, Fortune, Chapman and John Wells represented the sixties era with a mix of classic routines (several from *At Last! The 1948 Show*) and many newly scripted items.

The musical content was expanded with such names as Sting, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Bob Geldof, Phil Collins and Donovan joining the festivities. And this time, in addition to a video and two LPs, Methuen put out a large format paperback as a souvenir of the event.

Six years elapsed until "The Secret Policeman's Third Ball", with a cast reflecting the popular names in British comedy in the latter half of the 1980s. Lenny Henry, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, Emo Phillips, Gareth Hale and Norman Pace, Phil Cool, Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French, Craig Ferguson and Ben Elton joined Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, Chris Langham, Bill Oddie, Warren Mitchell (as 'Alf Garnett'), Andrew Sachs (as 'Manuel') and the Spitting Image puppets to headline the bill.

Rather than reworking a lot of classic comedy routines, the four concerts of the "Third Ball" relied on mostly new material. On the musical side, Duran Duran, Joan Armatrading and Jackson Browne led a long list of pop performers.

Souvenirs included a book, two videos and two LPs (which were also released on the soon-to-be-dominant compact disc).

By comparison, the "Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball" was a much more modest affair (despite its title). Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the first "Ball", the accent was back on comedy with the old guard of Cleese and Palin joined by Fry and Laurie, Victoria Wood, French and Saunders, Robbie Coltrane, Lenny Henry, Ben Elton, Will Rushton, Adrian Edmondson, Jimmy Mulville and the Spitting Image puppets. Highlight of the four concerts was the reuniting of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, who performed two of their classic 1960s routines ('One Leg Too Few' and 'The Frog And Peach'). Other favourites to get a revival were Python's 'Crunchy Frog' and 'The Last Supper', not to mention an audience-fooling version of 'Pet Shop'.

Surprisingly, there was a distinct lack of merchandising for the event with a briefly-available video being the only souvenir issued (which, happily, has now been rereleased). ITV covered the occasion with an hour-long program of highlights screened a month later.

Two years later, London's Duke Of York's Theatre was host to an Amnesty fundraiser titled "The Famous Comper's Police Dog" with Julian Clary, Arthur Smith, Jeremy Hardy, Kit Hollerbach and a number of other stand-up performers donating their services. A video release was the concert's only merchandising.

When Amnesty itself achieved its thirtieth anniversary at the end of 1991, ITV marked the occasion by presenting a 2-hour all-star telethon. Predominantly a musical event, "Amnesty's Big 30" also featured a number of introductions and standup routines by leading comedy names, some of whom abandoned

humour to highlight individual cases in which Amnesty was involved. Again, only a highlights video was issued of the telecast.

To date, there have been seven stage productions and the telethon all of which have played a significant part in injecting much-needed capital into Amnesty's bank balance. Along the way, a wealth of audio, video and printed material has paid tribute to the cream of the comedy world.

A Poke In The Eye (With A Sharp Stick)

Her Majesty's Theatre on April 1, 2 and 3 1976

featuring Alan Bennett, John Bird, Eleanor Bron, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Carol Cleveland, Peter Cook, John Fortune, Graeme Garden, Terry Gilliam, Barry Humphries, Neil Innes, Des Jones, Terry Jones, Jonathan Lynn, Jonathan Miller, Bill Oddie and Michael Palin.

Directed by Jonathan Miller.

a 100 minute Omnibus special *Pleasure At Her Majesty's* documented the rehearsals and performances (screened on BBC1 on December 29 1976, and released theatrically).

Videos

Beyond The Fringe

Wizard release, NTSC only (70mins)

Pet Shop (Cleese & Palin)

Happy, Darling? (Bron & Fortune)

Funky Gibbon (Brooke-Taylor/Garden/Oddie)

Pantomime (Des Jones)

Lawrence (Bennett)

True British Spunk (Humphries)

The Miner (Cook)

Court Room Sketch (The Pythons plus Cook)

The Last Supper (Cleese & Lynn)

Telegram (Bennett)

Protest Song (Innes)

Asp (Cook & Fortune)

College Of Advanced Slapstick (The Pythons plus Oddie)

Appeal (Bron)

So That's The Way You Like It (Bennett/Cook/Miller/T Jones)

Lumberjack Song (Palin & Company)

Secret Policeman's Private Parts (US Media/NTSC, Supreme/PAL) 80m

contains highlights from the first four Amnesty events

Pet Shop (Cleese & Palin)

Court Room (The Pythons plus Cook) * split into 4 segments

Sensation Seekers (Ken Campbell Roadshow) # from S.P. Ball

You Say Potato (Bird & Fortune)

Hangman (Carrott) # from S.P. Other Ball

The Last Supper (Cleese & Lynn)

Please (Bron & Fortune) # from S.P. Ball

Protest Song (Innes)

What's On In Stoke Newington (Sayle) # from S.P. Other Ball

Asp (Cook & Fortune)

College Of Advanced Slapstick (The Pythons plus Oddie)

• split into 2 segments

Reading The Riot Act (Langham) # from S.P. Other Ball

Happy, Darling? (Bron & Fortune)

Bookshop (Cleese & Booth) # from Mermaid Frolics

Forgive Me (T Jones) # from Mermaid Frolics

Conductor (Atkinson) # from S.P. Other Ball

Reagen (Wells) # from S.P. Other Ball

Silly Song (Gilliam & Cleese)

Royal Australian Prostate Foundation (Humphries) # from S.P. Other Ball

The Name's The Game (Cleese/T Jones/Ford/Brearley) # from S.P. Ball

Lumberjack Song (Palin & Company)

(video also featured musical items by Townshend, Donovan, Collins and Geldof)

Audios

A Poke In The Eye (With A Sharp Stick)

Transatlantic LP TRA 331

A Brief Introduction (Cleese)

Asp (Cook & Fortune)

Happy, Darling? (Bron & Fortune)

The Last Supper (Cleese & Lynn)

Telegram (Bennett)

Funky Gibbon (Brooke-Taylor/Garden/Oddie)

Appeal (Bron)

Court Room Sketch (The Pythons plus Cook)

Portraits From Memory (Miller)

You Say Potato (Bird & Fortune)

Baby Talk (Bron & Fortune)

So That's The Way You Like It (Bennett/Cook/Miller/T Jones)

The Complete Poke In The Eye (With A Sharp Stick)

Castle 2CD ESDCD 153, double-cassette ESDMC 153

features the above tracks plus previously unreleased items:

Pet Shop (Cleese & Palin)

T.E. Lawrence (Bennett)

Protest Song (Innes)

A Few Words From Idi Amin (Bird)

Siblings (Fortune & Bron)

Cactus In My 'Y' Fronts (Brooke-Taylor/Garden/Oddie)

Argument Clinic (The Pythons)

Mummy, Mummy, Mummy (Brooke-Taylor/Garden/Oddie)

Au Pair (Bron)

Spunk (Humphries)

Audition (alt version of 'You Say Potato') (Bird & Bron)

Sick Man's Blues (Brooke-Taylor/Garden/Oddie)

Crunchy Frog (The Pythons)

Miner (Cook)

The Dead Parrot Society

Rhino CD R2 71049

features a number of "A Poke In The Eye" tracks:

The Dead Parrot (aka Pet Shop) (Cleese & Palin)

Court Room Sketch (The Pythons plus Cook)

Memoirs Of A Miner (aka Miner) (Cook)

Protest Song (Innes)

Happy, Darling? (Bron & Fortune)

Crunchy Frog (The Pythons)

The Audition (aka You Say Potato) (Bird & Fortune)

The Penultimate Supper (aka The Last Supper) (Cleese & Lynn)

Argument Clinic (The Pythons)

The Lumberjack Song (Palin & Company)

+ assorted other Amnesty, Private Eye and related material

The Mermaid Frolics

Mermaid Theatre on May 8 1977

featuring Pete Atkin, The Bowles Brothers Band, Connie Booth, John Cleese, Peter Cook, Julie Covington, Des Jones, Terry Jones, Jonathan Miller, Peter Ustinov and John Williams.

Directed by Terry Jones.

ITV screened a 60m highlights show on September 10 1977.



Video

The Secret Policeman's Private Parts
US Media/NTSC, Supreme/PAL 80m
features two items from "The Mermaid Frolics"
Bookshop (Cleese & Booth)
Forgive Me (T Jones)

Audio

The Mermaid Frolics
Polydor LP 2384 101, cassette 3192 450
E.L. Wisty From Beyond The Veil (Cook)
Bookshop (Cleese & Booth)
Queen Mary And Pieter de Hoogh (Ustinov)
Forgive Me (T Jones)
Words ... And Things (Cleese & Miller)
The Miner (Cook) # from "A Poke In The Eye"
Oratorio (Ustinov)
plus musical items by Covington, Atkin, The Bowles Brothers
Band and Williams.

The Secret Policeman's Ball

Her Majesty's Theatre on June 27, 28, 29 and 30 1979
featuring Rowan Atkinson, Chris Beetles, Eleanor Bron, Rob
Buckman, The Ken Campbell Roadshow, John Cleese, Billy
Connolly, Peter Cook, John Fortune, Neil Innes, Clive James,
Terry Jones, Michael Palin, Tom Robinson, Pete Townshend,
John Williams and guest appearances by Melvyn Bragg, Mike
Brearley, Anna Ford and Clive Jenkins.
Directed by John Cleese.
ITV screened a 60-minutes highlights show on December 22
1979.

Video

The Secret Policeman's Ball
Columbia-Tristar/PAL (95mins)
Interesting Facts (Cleese & Cook)
Apology Telegrams (James)
Pregnancy Test (Cook & Bron)
School Master (Atkinson)

Cheese Shop (Cleese/Palin/Beetles/Buckman)
Sensation Seekers (Ken Campbell Roadshow)
The Country And Western Supersong (Connolly)
Confession (Bron)
Pianist (Atkinson)
The Name's The Game (Cleese/Jones/Ford/Jenkins/Brearley)
Entirely A Matter For You (Cook)
Scotsmen In Rome (Connolly)
Four Yorkshiremen (Atkinson/Cleese/Jones/Palin)
The End Of The World (Cook & Company)
plus musical items by Townshend, Williams, and Robinson,
and a merchandising advert by Cook, Cleese & Connolly

Audio

The Secret Policeman's Ball
Island LP ILPS 9601, cassette ICT 9601
Interesting Facts (Cleese & Cook)
The Country And Western Supersong (Connolly)
How Do You Do It? (Palin & Jones)
School Master (Atkinson)
Pregnancy Test (Cook & Bron)
The Name's The Game (Cleese/Jones/Brearley/Jenkins/Ford/
Bragg)
Stake Your Claim (Palin & Atkinson)
Entirely A Matter For You (Cook)
Cheese Shop (Cleese & Palin)
Please (Bron & Fortune)
Four Yorkshiremen (Cleese/Palin/Jones/Atkinson)
Two Little Boys In Blue (Connolly)
The End Of The World (Cook & Company)
• a separate release **Music From The Secret Policeman's Ball**
(Island LP and cassette) featured musical items by Townshend,
Robinson, Innes and Williams.

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on September 9, 10, 11 and 12 1981
featuring Clive Anderson, Rowan Atkinson, Jeff Beck, Alan
Bennett, Martin Bergman, John Bird, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Jasper

Carrott, Graham Chapman, Eric Clapton, John Cleese, Phil Collins, Billy Connolly, Donovan, John Fortune, Bob Geldof, Barry Humphries, Neil Innes, Chris Langham, Jimmy Mulville, Griff Rhys Jones, Alexei Sayle, Pamela Stephenson, Sting, John Wells and Victoria Wood.

Directed by Ronald Eyre (assisted by John Cleese).

Video

The New Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Columbia-Tristar/PAL (90mins)

A Word Of Thanks (Cleese & Company)

Beekeeping (Atkinson & Cleese)

What's On In Stoke Newington (Sayle) • split into 2 parts

Denis The Menace (Wells)

Reading The Riot Act (Langham)

The Royal Australian Prostate Foundation (Humphries)

Australian Motor Insurance Claims (Carrott)

I've Had It Up To Here With Men (Wood)

Top Of The Form (Cleese/Atkinson/Bird/Brooke-Taylor/

Chapman/Fortune/Rhys Jones)

Ronnie (Wells)

Men's Talk (Bennett & Fortune)

Clothes Off (Chapman/Cleese/Stephenson)

Overture (Atkinson)

plus musical items by Sting, Collins, Donovan and Geldof,
and merchandising by Michael Palin (who wasn't in the show)

Audio

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Springtime-Island LP HABA 6003,

cassette CHACHA 6003

A Word Of Thanks (Cleese & Company)

Road Safety (Atkinson)

Australian Motor Insurance Claims (Carrott)

Clothes Off (Cleese/Stephenson/Chapman)

Had It Up To Here (Wood)

Men's Talk (Bennet & Fortune)

What's On In Stoke Newington (Sayle)

The Royal Australian Prostate Foundation (Humphries)

Denis The Menace (Wells)

Beekeeping (Atkinson & Cleese)

Song In A French Accent (Innes)

Divorce Service (Atkinson/Rhys Jones/Stephenson/Fortune)

Reading The Riot Act (Langham)

Top Of The Form (Cleese/Atkinson/Fortune/Rhys

Jones/Brooke-Taylor/Bird/Chapman)

Drinking (Connolly)

The Complete Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Island 2CD ESDCD 152, double-cassette ESDMC 152

features the above tracks, plus previously unreleased items:

The Singing Superstar (Humphries)

International Weightlifting (Rhys Jones & Company)

How To Get Out Of Your Head (Sayle)

What We Find (Wood)

A Severe Depression (Langham)

President Reagen's Big One (Wells)

Confessions Of A Van Driver (Carrott)

Chekhov And The Gorilla (Bird/Fortune/Langham)

Apeman (Innes)

Everything's Coming Out Roses (Langham)

A Song For Princess Di (Wood)

Man In A Glass Box (Sayle)

Seance With A Tit (Stephenson)

More Drinking (Connolly)

• a separate release **Music From The Secret Policeman's Other Ball** (Springtime-Island LP and cassette) featured musical items by Sting, Beck, Clapton, Geldof, Collins and Donovan.

Dead Parrot Society (Springtime-Rhino CD R2 71049)

features one track from **The Secret Policeman's Other Ball**:

Top Of The Form (Cleese & Company)

plus the soundtracks of TV and theatrical advertisements for the U.S. movie release of the concert, performed by Graham Chapman (as a representative of 'The Oral Majority')

Book

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Methuen large-size paperback

contains scripts, photos and song lyrics from the concerts.

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball

London Palladium on March 26, 27, 28 and 29 1987

featuring Joan Armatrading, Aswad, Chet Atkins, Joy Behart, Paul Brady, Richard Branson, Rory Bremner, Jackson Browne, Kate Bush, John Cleese, Phil Cool, Robbie Coltrane, Andy de la Tour, Duran Duran, Ben Elton, Erasure, Craig Ferguson, Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, Peter Gabriel, Paul Gambaccini, Bob Geldof, Dave Gilmour, Gareth Hale and Norman Pace, Lenny Henry, Jools Holland, Nigel Kennedy, Nik Kershaw, Mark Knopfler, Warren Mitchell, Youso N'Dour, Bill Oddie, Emo Philips, Courtney Pine, Lou Reed, Jonathan Ross, Andrew Sachs, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, Spitting Image, Loudon Wainwright 111, The Who Dares Wins Team, Working Week, World Party and Paula Yates.

Directed by Ken O'Neill.

Video

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball—The Comedy

Virgin VVD 271

Spitting Image (2 segments)

Phil Cool

Hale And Pace

Lenny Henry (2 segments)

Fry And Laurie (with John Cleese)

Craig Ferguson

French And Saunders

Rory Bremner

Smith And Jones

Ben Elton

Ruby Wax (with Henry/Geldof/Coltrane/Cleese)

• a separate release *The Secret Policeman's Third Ball—The Music* (Virgin VVD 270/PAL) featured musical items from the concert.

Audio

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball—The Comedy

Virgin LP V 2459, cassette TCV 2459, CD CDV 2459

Mike Hurley (as 'Bill Bore') and Chris Langham

Phil Cool

Emo Philips

Spitting Image

Hale And Pace (as 'The Two Rons')

Mel Smith And Griff Rhys Jones

Lenny Henry

French And Saudners

Andrew Sachs (as 'Manuel')

Warren Mitchell (as 'Alf Garnett')

Rory Bremner
Ben Elton
Mike Hurley (as 'Bill Bore')

Book

The Secret Policeman's Third Ball

Sidgwick & Jackson large pbk

contains scripts, photos and song lyrics from the concerts.

The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball

Cambridge Theatre on September ?, ?, ? and ? 1989

featuring John Bird, Rory Bremner, Kathy Burke, John Cleese, Robbie Coltrane, Peter Cook, Adrian Edmondson, Ben Elton, Dawn French, Lenny Henry, Jools Holland, Chris Langham, Dudley Moore, Jimmy Mulville, Steve Nallon, Michael Palin, Roland Rivron, William Rushton, Jennifer Saunders, Spitting Image and John Williams.

Directed by John Cleese and Jennifer Saunders.

ITV screened 60-minutes of highlights on October 28 1989.

Video

The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball

Central Video VC 6096/PAL, Columbia-Tristar CVR 16921/
PAL (95mins)

Pet Shop #2 (Cleese & Palin)

Bad Jokes (Henry)

Royal Breakfast (Spitting Image)

The Frog And Peach (Cook & Moore)

The Way We Were (Burke)

Argument Clinic (Palin/French/Langham/Cleese)

Cat Flaps (Henry)

Jazz Interlude (Holland & Rivron)

William Tell Trick (Coltrane & Edmondson)

Improvisation (French & Saunders)

The Last Supper (Cleese & Edmondson)

Biggles Goes To See Bruce Springsteen (Palin & Cleese)

The Politics System (Bird/Nallon/Bremner)

The Poem (Fry & Laurie)

Undercover Agent (Langham)

Crunchy Frog (Coltrane/Henry/Mulville/French/Saunders)

Guitar Solo (Williams/Saunders/Cleese)

One Leg Too Few (Cook & Moore)

Fast Food And Drink (Elton)

Contraception (French & Saunders)

Goodbye (Cook & Moore & Company)

The Famous Compere's Police Dog

Duke Of York's Theatre in 1991

featuring Jo Brand, Les Bubb, Otis Canneloni, Julian Clary, Lee Cornes, Kevin Day, Jenny Eclair, Simon Fanshawe, Stephen Frost, Jeremy Hardy, John Hegley, Kit Hollerbach, John Lenahan, Sean Murphy, Steve Rawlings, Michael Redmond, Arthur Smith, Mark Thomas

Video

The Famous Compere's Police Dog

Pickwick/PAL PCM 2158 88m

Arthur Smith

Michael Redmond

Kit Hollerbach

Otis Canneloni
Jeremy Hardy
Kevin Day
John Hegley
John Lenahan
Jo Brand
Les Bubb
Stephen Frost
Mark Thomas
Steve Rawlings
Sean Murphy (with Stephen Frost)
Lee Cornes
Jenny Eclair
Simon Fanshawe
Julian Clary

Amnesty's Big 30

2-Hour telethon from Central's Nottingham studios screened by
ITV

on December 28 1991

hosted by Alexei Sayle, Jonathan Ross, Paula Yates and Cathy MacGowan, featuring Rick Astley, Keith Chegwin, Julian Clary, Steve Coogan, Phil Cornwell, Jason Donovan, EMF, Dave Gilmour & His Band, Daryl Hall, Jools Holland & His Band, David St. Hubbins and Derek Smalls (of 'Spinal Tap'), Tom Jones, Mark Little, Mike McShane, Morrissey, Emo Phillips, Steve Punt and Hugh zzDennis, Rowland Rivron, Seal, Lisa Stansfield, David A. Stewart, Frank Skinner, Andrew Strong, Trev and Simon, Kim Wilde and pre-recorded links by Rosanne Barr, John Cleese, Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton, Gregor Fisher, Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders, Gareth Hale and Norman Pace, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones and Spitting Image.

Video

Amnesty International's Big 30—The Comedy Concert

Virgin VIR 767/PAL (60mins)

Mike McShane

Emo Phillips

Keith Chegwin And The Greatest Show On Legs

David St. Hubbins and Derek Smalls

Phil Cornwell and Steve Coogan

Spinal Tap

Frank Skinner

Mark Little

Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis

Trevor And Simon

Tom Jones

plus links by Spitting Image, Reeves and Mortimer, French and Saunders, Deayton/Hislop/Merton, Hale and Pace, Smith and Jones, and Gregor Fisher,

Amnesty case histories by Cleese and Barr,

and footage from previous concerts by Fry and Laurie (and Cleese), Elton and Henry.

• a separate video *Amnesty International's Big 30—The Music* (Virgin/PAL) featured a selection of musical items from the telethon.

Danny Kaye

by Peter Tatchell

Like the title of his 1955 movie, Danny Kaye was indeed a court jester. A favourite of royalty, to the public at large he was a truly great clown. For twenty years he was a top Hollywood star but perhaps his greatest success was on stage at the London Palladium where his rapport with the audience was legendary. Throughout his career he maintained an endearing childlike quality which not only appealed to adults, but created an instant rapport with youngsters, with whom he spent a great part of his later years as a goodwill ambassador for U.N.I.C.E.F. Like his friend Jack Benny he made many fundraising appearances with the world's leading orchestras and his mixture of pantomime and musical mimicry proved a delight to theatregoers everywhere.

Danny was born David Daniel Kaminsky in Brooklyn, New York in 1913, the third son of immigrant Russian parents. From an early age he would launch into a song or rhyme for his family and schoolfriends and it wasn't difficult to predict that some day the world of show business might provide a career path for the boy.

In his teens he attempted less colourful occupations but his heart was set on performing. Eventually, he and a friend took jobs at a resort in the Catskill Mountains of New York entertaining the holidaymakers. Like many another Jewish entertainer, the 'Borscht Belt' became a stepping stone towards later success.

Throughout the 1930s he progressed to burlesque and touring shows and at one point travelled to the far east where his talent for vocal gymnastics and eccentric movement gained enthusiastic response. Back home, times were tough and the theatrical profession no easier than the rest of the country. At one point he worked as assistant to the famed striptease Sally Rand and later he and a partner appeared in a show with bandleader Abe Lyman.

Like many other artists, he dreamed that one day he'd be in the movies and in 1937 made his motion picture debut—not in a big budget Hollywood feature, but in a series of two-reeler quickies churned out at the Astoria Studios on Long Island by Educational Pictures.

In front of the cameras during the day, Danny was back entertaining live audiences in the evenings. His renditions of such songs as 'Dinah' and 'Minnie The Moocher' so captivated a British impresario in the audience that he was offered an engagement at London's fashionable Dorchester Hotel.

He and partner Nick Long Jr performed before the creme de la creme for six weeks and died every night. In later years, he surmised that he'd come on too strong for the audience, although other appearances outside London went far more successfully. It was during this trip Danny Kaye made his television debut at the studios of the BBC (though the number of sets in use at the time wouldn't have been all that great).

Back in New York, and working as a single, he was given a part in a show called "The Straw Hat Revue" which made it to Broadway in late 1939. Though featuring Imogene Coca and Alfred Drake, Danny was the hit of the production with a novelty number called 'Anatole Of Paris' written by a young songwriter called Sylvia Fine.



Danny wasn't won over solely by her musical talents; the couple married a year later and she became a driving force behind his burgeoning career. In fact, in later years, he referred to himself as a 'wife-made man'.

The newly-married Kaye's next stop was New York's La Martinique night spot and after a disappointing opening his showmanship slowly but surely began to win over its patrons. As the engagement progressed audiences witnessed the development of a unique blend of comedy, song and movement that would mesmerise people around the world for years to come.

Broadway beckoned in January 1941 with a featured role in the Gertrude Lawrence musical "Lady In The Dark" and the legendary leading lady was forced to share the show's success with a red-headed scene-stealer who stopped the show with a jawbreaking rendition of 'Tschaikowsky' in which he rattled off the names of fifty Russian composers. A month after the opening Danny Kaye made his first visit to a recording studio and performed four of the show's numbers for the Columbia label.

Later that year, Danny was given top billing in Cole Porter's "Let's Face It", a show destined to be a long runner and in which he'd perform his legendary scat song 'Melody in 4F' (later repeated in his first feature film). As America entered the Second World War he was now acclaimed a top star on Broadway and in nightclubs.

The only real goal left for Danny to conquer was Hollywood, and famous moviemaker Samuel Goldwyn was the catalyst to make it happen. In the 1930s Goldwyn had produced a series of comedic moneyspinners starring Eddie Cantor and in 1944 he decided to repeat the process by adapting his first Cantor talkie *Whoopee* into a vehicle for Kaye. Retitled "Up In Arms", and with a topical wartime setting added, it was another enormous success for the producer, not to mention the star.

A follow-up, *Wonder Man* (the first of several double roles Danny would play on screen), was also a firm favourite with moviegoers and the Kayes could confidently relocate to the west coast.

Beer giant Pabst Blue Ribbon liked what they saw of the popular newcomer and sponsored him in a weekly primetime radio series. Although the program wasn't a huge rater it did run to a second season and cemented his place as a top name performer. And when he went on a six-week overseas tour to entertain troops in late 1945 top show business names like Sinatra, Garland, Burns and Allen, Benny and Cantor were engaged to host the show during his absence.

Meanwhile Danny was also hard at work at the Goldwyn Studios in a reworking of Harold Lloyd's *The Milky Way* now called *The Kid From Brooklyn*. Then a film many regard as Kaye's best, *The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty* which allowed him to portray a gallery of outlandish characterisations as the daydreaming hero created by James Thurber.

In December 1946 Danny and Sylvia adopted a baby girl (named 'Dena') but the following year was not destined to be a happy one for the Kayes. Marital problems led to a temporary separation some months later, and his new Goldwyn feature *A Song Is Born* was far too subdued a venture for his hordes of fans.

It was also a time when the Hollywood community was being put under the microscope by The House Of Un-American Activities Committee who were convinced the movie industry was riddled with communists. Danny joined Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall and several other film notables who travelled to Washington to protest the committee's tactics. And like Ed Murrow a decade later, he had to contend with a lot of mud slinging as a result.

Compared to the previous year, 1948 was a revelation. From personal and public tribulations Danny enjoyed the greatest triumph of his career. It took place on the stage of the London Palladium where his spontaneous blend of music and humour captivated British theatregoers for a spectacular season of appearances. It was the stuff of show business legend and no single act received as much public adulation before or since. Some months later he returned to be a special guest at that year's Royal Command Performance.

Back in Hollywood, Danny had parted with Sam Goldwyn and made his next feature, *The Inspector General*, for Warners (for whom he also did a comedy walk-on in the Doris Day film *It's A Great Feeling*). His London success caused a great demand for live performances and it was not until a couple of years later that he again appeared before movie cameras, in a 20th Century Fox movie *On The Riviera* (again playing two roles).

He agreed to return to Goldwyn for *Hans Christian Andersen* in 1952 which, apart from having an integrated musical score, proved an all-time winner with children of all ages. Danny then moved to Paramount where he joined Bing Crosby in the Irving Berlin songfest *White Christmas* and starred in two motion picture gems.

Knock On Wood saw him cast as a mixed-up ventriloquist caught in a web of espionage and mayhem, while *The Court Jester* blended comedy, action and melody into box-office gold. They marked the end of his peak years on the movie screen and the Kaye career started to change direction.

He continued to make live appearances and the occasional film but by the end of the decade had turned his attention to television, first with a couple of one-hour specials then, in 1963, a weekly series.

The Danny Kaye Show was a lighthearted mix of songs and comedy with guests like Gene Kelly, Lucille Ball and a swag of familiar names from TV, Broadway and the popular music scene dropping by to join in the fun. Gwen Verdon, Art Carney and Imogene Coca appeared on several occasions as did the Clinger Sisters and John Gary. And in the comedy segments Danny was ably supported by Harvey Korman and Howard Morris. The show lasted four seasons on CBS and ran to over 120 programs.

When it finished in 1967 Danny seemed to step out of the limelight to a degree. He agreed to appear in a supporting role in the Katharine Hepburn movie *The Madwoman Of Chailot* which was a box-office disaster, then a year later was back on Broadway in a Richard Rodgers musical *Two By Two*.

Playing biblical hero Noah, Danny virtually dominated the proceedings, adlibbing and working in bits of business much to the displeasure of the cast and crew, but to the delight of a large number of theatregoers. The production was further disrupted when Kaye tore a ligament in his leg three months into the run, and after a short layoff insisted on continuing his role in a wheelchair.

Now approaching his sixties, Danny saw no point in trying to recapture earlier triumphs, and preferred to spend his time helping U.N.I.C.E.F. or occasionally lending his name and comical conducting talents for the benefit of a symphony orchestra. In 1976 he starred in television versions of two classic children's stories *Peter Pan* and *Pinocchio* and soon after joined the Muppets for a half-hour of colourful silliness.

In 1980, he agreed to return to the stage at the London Palladium as the featured artist at that year's Royal Variety Performance (specially staged for the Queen Mother's 80th birthday). Turning the clock back over thirty years he relived memories of that earlier Royal performance when he was at the peak of his career.

Health problems began to appear soon after, and he became more reclusive than ever. He lent his dramatic talents to the telemovie *Skokie* in 1981 and apart from a straight acting role in a 1985 *Twilight Zone* revival and a guest spot on Bill Cosby's TV show, the Kaye career was over.

The jester with the nimble-tongue and playful charm died in 1987 and children around the globe mourned his passing.

Movies

- Dime A Dance* (1937 Educational 2 reeler) 18mins
- Getting An Eyeful* (1937 Educational 2 reeler) 18mins
- Money Or Your Life* (1938 Educational 2 reeler)
- Cupid Takes A Holiday* (1938 Educational 2 reeler) 15mins
- Night Shift* (1942 short)
- Up In Arms* (1944 Goldwyn/RKO) 105mins/colour
- Wonder Man* (1945 Goldwyn/RKO) 98mins/colour
- The Kid From Brooklyn* (1946 Goldwyn/RKO) 114mins/colour
- The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty* (1947 Goldwyn/RKO) 110mins/colour
- A Song Is Born* (1948 Goldwyn/RKO) 113mins/colour

The Inspector General (1949 Warner Bros) 102mins/colour (aka *Happy Times*)

It's A Great Feeling (1949 Warner Bros) 85mins/colour (* cameo only)

On The Riviera (1951 20th Century Fox) 90mins/colour

Hans Christian Andersen (1952 Goldwyn/RKO) 120mins/colour

Knock On Wood (1954 Paramount) 103mins/colour

White Christmas (1954 Paramount) 120mins/colour

Assignment Children (1955 Paramount short)

Hula From Hollywood (1954 short)

The Court Jester (1955 Paramount) 101mins/colour

Merry Andrew (1958 MGM) 103mins/colour

Me And The Colonel (1958 Columbia) 109mins/b&w

The Five Pennies (1959 Paramount) 117mins/colour

On The Double (1961 Paramount) 92mins/colour

The Man From The Dinners' Club (1963 Columbia) 96mins/b&w

The Madwoman Of Chailot (1969 Warner Bros/Seven Arts) 132mins/colour

Radio

The Danny Kaye Show

(sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer)

Series #1: CBS Saturdays Jan 6 to Apr 21 1945

& Fridays Apr 27 to Jun 1 1945 (22 editions)

with Lionel Stander, Eve Arden and Harry James Orchestra

Series #2: CBS Fridays Sep 28 1945 to May 31 1946 (36 editions)

with Butterfly McQueen, Jim Backus, Goodman Ace, Everett Sloane, Ken Delmar and Dave Terry's Orchestra

• Kaye was absent entertaining troops from Oct 5–Nov 9 1945

He was replaced by Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Burns & Allen, Jack Benny and Ed "Archie" Gardner.

Television

An Hour With Danny Kaye (CBS Oct 30 1960) 60m

The Danny Kaye Show (CBS Nov 6 1961) 60m

The Danny Kaye Show (CBS) 60m

Series #1: Sep 25 1963 to Apr 29 1964 (32 editions)

Series #2: Sep 23 1964 to Apr 28 1965 (32 editions)

Series #3: Sep 15 1965 to Apr 20 1966 (30 editions)

Series #4: Sep 14 1966 to Apr 12 1967 (30 editions)

with Harvey Korman and Paul Weston's Orchestra

Pinocchio (CBS Mar 27 1976) 90m

with Sandy Duncan, Flip Wilson, Liz Torres and Clive Revill

Peter Pan (CBS Dec 12 1976) 90m

with Mia Farrow, Virginia McKenna, Paula Kelly, Briony McRoberts, Ian Sharrock, Adam Stafford and Jill Gascoine

Skokie (telemovie 1981) (aka *Once They Marched Through A Thousand Towns*) 150m

Discography

Tschaikowsky/Jenny

Columbia 78 36025 (Feb 28 1941)

The Princess Of Pure Delight/My Ship

Columbia 78 36042 (Feb 28 1941)



It's Never Too Late To Mendelssohn/One Life To Live
Columbia 78 36163 (Mar 24 1941)

Dinah/Molly Malone
Columbia 78 36194 (May 5 1941)

Minnie The Moocher/Let's Not Talk About Love
Columbia 78 36582 (May 5 1941/Jan 9 1942)

Farming/Anatole Of Paris
Columbia 78 36583 (Jan 9 1942/Jan 23 1942)

The Fairy Pipers/The Babbitt And The Bromide
Columbia 78 36584 (Jan 9 1942/Jan 23 1942)

Eileen/Dinah
Columbia 78 36585 (Jan 23 1942/May 5 1941)

Bloop Bleep/I Got A Song
Decca 78 23950 (May 7 1947)

Tubby The Tuba (parts 1 & 2)
Decca 78 90011 (May 13 1947)

What's The Use Of Dreaming/I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now
Decca 78 24110 (May 14 1947)

Civilization/Bread And Butter Woman (both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 23940 (Sep 27 1947)

The Little Fiddle (parts 1 & 2)
Decca 78 88006 (Nov 28 1947)

When First My Old Old Love + In Enterprise Of Martial Kind/The Judge's Song
Decca 78 24473 (Dec 2 1947)

The Policeman's Song/If You're Anxious For To Shine
Decca 78 24474 (Dec 2 1947)

Nightmare Song/The Moon And I
Decca 78 24475 (Dec 2 1947/Dec 19 1947)

St. Louis Blues/Ballin' The Jack
Decca 78 24401 (Dec 10 1947/Dec 18 1947)

- Oh, By Jingo!/non-Kaye vocal**
Decca 78 24580 (Dec 10 1947)
- Beatin' Bangin' `N Scratchin'/Amelia Cordelia McHugh**
(both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 24536 (Dec 12 1947)
- Mad Dogs And Englishmen/Triplets**
Decca 78 24745 (Dec 14 1947)
- A Lullaby For Dena/Molly Malone**
Decca 78 24445 (Dec 17 1947)
- The Moon Is Your Pillow/non-Kaye vocal**
Decca 78 24747 (Dec 19 1947)
- Big Brass Band From Brazil/It's A Quiet Town** (both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 24361 (Dec 20 1947)
- Lobby Number (Manic Depressive Presents)(parts 1 & 2)**
Decca 78 24744 (Dec 20 1947)
- Put 'Em In A Box, Tie 'Em With A Ribbon/The Woody Woodpecker** (both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 24462 (Jun 4 1948)
- Candy Kisses/Thank You** (both with the Regalaires)
Decca 78 24623 (Mar 29 1949)
- Honey Bun/There Is Nothing Like A Dame**
Decca 78 24637 (Apr 18 1949)
- A Merry Christmas At Grandmother's House/All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth** (both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 24769 (Sep 14 1949)
- My Name Is John Wellington Wells/When I Was A Lad**
Decca 78 24865 (Sep 28 1949)
- I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/The Peony Bush**
Decca 78 24784 (Oct 2 1949)
- Love Me Or Leave Me/Happy Times** (both with the Lee Gordon Singers)
Decca 78 24820 (Nov 11 1949)
- The Handout Song/The Wreck Of The Old '97**
Decca 78 27050 (Dec 14 1949)
- Wilhelmina/C'est Si Bon** (both with the Lee Gordon Singers)
Decca 78 24932 (Feb 10 1950)
- Confidentially/A Paper Full Of Fish And Chips**
Decca 78 24965 (Feb 15 1950)
- Pigalle/Ladies Ladies**
Decca 78 27116 (May 18 1950/Jun 27 1950)
- Hula Lou/I'll Buy The Ring (And Change Your Name To Mine)**
Decca 78 28815 (May 18 1950/Feb 27 1953)
- Popo The Puppet/Tubby The Tuba Song**
Decca 78 27199 (Jun 27 1950)
- Tubby The Tuba At The Circus (parts 1 & 2)**
Decca 78 88059 (Aug 18 1950)
- Ching-Ara-Sa-Sa/Orange Colored Sky** (both with the Andrews Sisters)
Decca 78 27261 (Sep 28 1950)
- The Little White Duck/The Thing**
Decca 78 27350 (Nov 12 1950)
- The Liar Song (with Carol Richard)/I Left My Hat In Haiti**
(with Four Hits And A Miss)
Decca 78 27463 (Jan 16 1951)
- I Taut I Taw A Puddy Tat/non-Kaye vocal**
Decca 78 27456 (Jan 16 1951)
- Rhythm Of A New Romance/Happy Ending**
Decca 78 27596 (Mar 8 1951)
- On The Riviera/non-Kaye vocal**
Decca 78 27597 (Mar 8 1951)
- I'm Late/The Walrus And The Carpenter**
Decca 78 27564 (Mar 9 1951)
- How D'Yo Do And Shake Hands/Black Strap Molasses**
(both with Jimmy Durante, Groucho Marx and Jane Wyman)
Decca 78 27748 (Aug 12 1951)
- Riley's Daughter/Tongue Twisters**
Decca 78 27822 (Sep 26 1951/Sep 27 1951)
- Eat Eat Eat/Santa Claus Looks Like My Daddy**
Decca 78 27829 (Sep 26 1951)
- You're For Me Mimi/Mademoiselle De Paree**
Decca 78 28043 (Sep 27 1951)
- There's A Hole In The Bottom Of The Sea/Uncle Pockets**
Decca 78 27895 (Dec 20 1951)
- Wonderful Copenhagen/Anywhere I Wander**
Decca 78 28379 (Aug 11 1952)
- The King's New Clothes/The Ugly Duckling**
Decca 78 28382 (Aug 11 1952/Aug 12 1952)
- Thumbelina/No Two People** (with Jane Wyman)
Decca 78 28380 (Aug 12 1952/Aug 13 1952)
- Inchworm/I'm Hans Christian Andersen**
Decca 78 28381 (Aug 12 1952/Aug 13 1952)
- In My Neck O' The Woods/Manhattan Mambo**
Decca 78 29396 (Oct 29 1952/Sep 2 1954)
- What More Do You Want/I Love You That's One Thing I Know**
Decca 78 28665 (Oct 29 1952/Jan 27 1953)
- I Belong To Glasgow + Good Old 149 + Tschaiowsky/Anatole Of Paris**
Decca 78 28562 (Dec 20 1952)
- Night Of My Nights/Not Since Ninevah**
Decca 78 28953 (Oct 27 1953)
- Knock On Wood/All About You**
Decca 78 29079 (Feb 26 1954)
(* Monahan O'Han, from this session, not issued as a single)
- Stories Of The Ballet's Magic Toyshop (parts 1 & 2)**
Decca 78 88164 (Mar 9 1954)
- White Christmas** (with Bing Crosby, Peggy Lee and Trudy Stevens)/**Snow** (with Bing Crosby)
Decca 78 29342 (Apr 10 1954)
- The Old Man + Gee I Wish I Was Back In The Army** (with Bing Crosby)/**Mandy** (with Bing Crosby)
Decca 78 29341 (Apr 10 1954/Oct 19 1954)
(• Kaye/Crosby duets Blue Skies + I'd Rather See A Minstrel Show were recorded on Sep 9 1954 but not issued as singles)
- The Best Things Happen While You're**

Dancing/Choreography

Decca 78 29290 (Sep 2 1954)

Yon-U-Ary/I Love You Fair Dinkum (Dinky Di I Do)

Decca 78 29685 (Aug 30 1955)

Life Could Not Better Be/Outfox The Fox

Decca 78 29726 (Sep 7 1955/Sep 17 1955)

Where Walks My True Love/My Heart Knows A Lovely Song

Decca 78 29719 (Sep 12 1955)

(* other Court Jester vocals recorded on Sep 7, 15 and 27 1955 were not issued as singles)

Madam, I Love Your Crepe Suzette/My Darling Jenny Macoo

Decca 78 29874 (Sep 17 1955)

The Court Jester (parts 1 & 2)

Decca 78 88210 (Sep 21 1955/Sep 22 1955)

Little Child/Laugh It Off Upsy Daisy (both with Dena Kaye)

Decca 78 29806 (Dec 20 1955)

Delilah Jones/Molly-O

Decca 78 29904 (Mar 22 1956)

Love Me Do/Ciu Ciu Bella

Capitol 45 3603

D-O-D-G-E-R-S Song/Myti Kaysi At The Bat

Reprise 45 R20 105

Danny Kaye Collection

Columbia 10" LP CL 6023 (reissues of 78s)

Let's Not Talk About Love/Farming/The Babbitt And The Bromide/Eileen/Minnie The Moocher/Anatole Of Paris/The Fairy Pipers/Dinah

Danny Kaye Entertains

Columbia 10" LP CL 6249 (reissues of 78s)

The Princess Of Pure Delight/One Life To Live/Molly Malone/It's Never Too Late To Mendelssohn/Jenny/My Ship/Tschaikowsky

Pure Delight

Harmony LP HL 7012 (reissues of 78s)

Anatole Of Paris/Dinah/The Babbitt And The Bromide/Minnie The Moocher/The Fairy Pipers/Jenny/Tschaikowsky/It's Never Too Late To Mendelssohn/The Princess Of Pure Delight/Molly Malone

The Best Of Danny Kaye

Harmony LP HL 7314 (reissues of 78s)

same tracks as Pure Delight

Danny Kaye Album

Decca 10" LP DL 5033 (reissues of 78s)

Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/Triplets/Mad Dogs And Englishmen/A Lullaby For Dena/The Moon Is Your Pillow/The Little Fiddle (parts 1 & 2)

Gilbert And Sullivan And Danny Kaye

Decca 10" LP DL 5094 (reissues of 78s)

The Judge's Song/When First My Old Old Love I Knew + In Enterprise Of Martial Kind/The Policeman's Song/If You're Anxious For To Shine/Nightmare Song/The Moon And I/My Name Is John Wellington Wells/When I Was A Lad

Danny At The Palace

Decca 10" LP DL 6024 (reissue of 78s)

Anatole Of Paris/The Peony Bush/Ballin' The Jack/I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/I Belong To Glasgow + Good Old 149 + Tschaikowsky/Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/Triplets

Danny At The Palace

Decca 12" LP DL 8461 (reissue of 78s)

Anatole Of Paris/The Peony Bush/Ballin' The Jack/Madam, I Love Your Crepe Suzette/Mad Dogs And Englishmen/I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/I Belong To Glasgow + Good Old 149 + Tschaikowsky/Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/Hula Lou/Triplets/Not Since Ninevah

The Best Of Danny Kaye

Decca 2LP set DX(S) (7)175 (reissues of 78s)

Ballin' The Jack/Anatole Of Paris/Anywhere I Wander/Madam, I Love Your Crepe Suzette/The Policeman's Song/I'm Late/Pigalle/Molly Malone/I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/The Peony Bush/The Handout Song/Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/St. Louis Blues/A Got A Song/I Belong To Glasgow + Good Old 149 + Tschaikowsky/Where Walks My True Love/C'est Si Bon/Not Since Ninevah/Mad Dogs And Englishmen/Bloop Bleep/Triplets/I Love You Fair Dinkum/When I Was A Lad/Tongue Twisters

The Best Of Danny Kaye

British M.C.A. LP MCL 1704 (reissues of 78s)

Ballin' The Jack/Molly Malone/Bloop Bleep/Civilization */Oh By Jingo/ Candy Kisses/Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/Anatole Of Paris/St. Louis Blues/Bread And Butter Woman*/The Woody Woodpecker*/Big Brass Band From Brazil/Triplets/Tschaikowsky/I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now (*with the Andrews Sisters)

Danny Kaye's TV Favourites

Festival/Calendar LP R66 14 (reissues of 78s)

My Heart Knows A Lovely Song/Honey Bun/C'est Si Bon/Thumbelina/I Love You Fair Dinkum/Ballin' The Jack/Life Could Not Better Be/There Is Nothin' Like A Dame/Wonderful Copenhagen/St. Louis Blues/No Two People/The Moon And I

Hans Christian Andersen

Decca 10" LP DL 5433

I'm Hans Christian Andersen/Anywhere I Wander/The Ugly Duckling/Inchworm/Thumbelina/No Two People (with Jane Wyman)/The King's New Clothes/Wonderful Copenhagen

Hans Christian Andersen And Tubby The Tuba

Decca 12" LP DL (7)8479, M.C.A. MCA 148

reissue of the above 10" LP, plus:

Tubby The Tuba (parts 1 & 2)/Tubby The Tuba At The Circus (parts 1 & 2)/Uncle Pockets/There's A Hole In The Bottom Of The Sea

Knock On Wood

Decca 10" LP DL 5527 (studio recordings, plus reissues of 78s)

Knock On Wood/All About You/End Of Spring (instrumental)/Monahan O'Han/Tongue Twisters/I'm Late/C'est Si Bon

White Christmas

Decca LP DL 8083 (studio recordings, not soundtrack)

includes two Kaye solo vocals:

The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing/Choreography plus three duets with Bing Crosby:

The Old Man + Gee I Wish I Was Back In The Army/Blue Skies + I'd Rather See A Minstrel Show/Mandy

plus two vocals with Bing Crosby, Peggy Lee and Trudy Stevens:

Snow/White Christmas

The Court Jester

Decca LP DL 8212 (studio recordings, not soundtrack)

Overture (instrumental)/Life Could Not Better Be/Outfox The Fox/I'll Take You Dreaming/My Heart Knows A Lovely Song/I Live To Love/Willow, Willow, Waley/Pass The Basket/The Maladjusted Jester/Where Walks My True Love?/Life Could Not Better Be

Danny Kaye For Children

Decca LP DL 8726, M.C.A. MCA 525, CD MCAD 31079 (reissues of 78s)

The Little Fiddle (parts 1 & 2)/I'm Late/Popo The Puppet/The Walrus And The Carpenter/Laugh It Off Upsey Daisy (with Dena Kaye)/The Little White Duck/Tubby The Tuba Song/The Woody Woodpecker (with the Andrews Sisters)/I Taut I Taw A Puddy Tat/Outfox The Fox

The Best Of Danny Kaye

M.C.A. CD MCAD 31058 (reissues of 78s)

Ballin' The Jack/Madam, I Love Your Crepe Suzette/The Policeman's Song/I'm Late/Molly Malone/I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/Lobby Number (parts 1 & 2)/St. Louis Blues/Civilization (with the Andrews Sisters)/Tongue Twisters

Mommy, Gimme A Drinka Water

Capitol LP T 937 (reissued as SM 937 minus track: The New Baby)

Mommy, Gimme A Drinka Water/I'm Five/Bathtub Admiral/Playing On The See-Saw/The Thank-You Letter/The New Baby/Crazy Barbara/Colored Kisses/I'm Hiding/Just Imagine/Don't Tickle Me/I Like Old People, Don't You?/The Puddle

Up In Arms

Sountrak LP STK 113

unofficial release featuring four Kaye soundtrack vocals :
Lobby Number/Melody in 4F/Jive Number (with Dinah Shore)/All Out For Freedom

Merry Andrew

Capitol LP T 1016 (vocals taken from soundtrack)

The Pipes Of Pan/Chin Up, Stout Fellow (with Robert Coote and Rex Evans)/Everything Is Ticketty Boo/You Can't Always Have What You Want (with Pier Angeli)/The Square Of The Hypotenuse/Salud

The Five Pennies

Dot LP (2)9500 (vocals taken from soundtrack)

includes five solo Kaye vocals:

The Five Pennies/Indiana Radio montage/College Montage + Follow The Leader/Carnival Of Venice/Jingle Bells

plus three duets with Louis Armstrong:

Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home/Lullaby In Ragtime/The Five Pennies Saints

plus duet with Susan Gordon:

The Music Goes Round And Round

plus vocal with Louis Armstrong and Susan Gordon:

Good Night, Sleep Tight

Danny Kaye

Dena Label LP (no number)

vocals take from The Danny Kaye Show television series:

The Great Come And Get It Day/C'est Si Bon/Oh, Baby Mine (I Get So Lonely)/Ciu Ciu Bella/Down By The Riverside/South Rampart Street Parade/Ballin' The Jack/I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts/The Story Of Alice/Turn Around

Two By Two

Columbia LP S 30338

original cast album from the Broadway musical features Kaye vocals

Six Stories From Faraway Places

Golden Records LP 62

The Farmer Of Babbia/The Big Oven/Master Of All Masters/The Most Remarkable Cat/Nail Broth/The Tale Of The Name Of The Tree

Fairy Tales From Hans Christian Andersen

Golden Records LP 74

The Princess And The Pea/Perfectly True/The Tinder Box/The Match Girl/The Ugly Duckling/The Steadfast Tin Soldier

Grimm's Fairy Tales

Golden Records LP 92

Clever Gretel/Water Nixie/The Bean, The Straw And The Coal/Snow White And Rose Red/The Musicians Of Bremen/The Fox And The Geese/Rumpelstiltskin/Sweet Porridge

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The Life Story Of Danny Kaye by Dick Richards (Convoy Publications 1949)

The Danny Kaye Saga by Kurt Singer (Robert Hale Limited 1957)

The Secret Life Of Danny Kaye by Michael Freedland (W. H. Allen 1985)

Next issue

Beyond our Ken

The Honeymooners

and more.

LAUGH MAGAZINE

Britcoms Down Under

by Peter Tatchell

Since *Hancock's Half Hour* first appeared on Australian television in 1960, the British sitcom has proved a popular item with Antipodean viewers. Such shows as *Whack-O*, *Citizen James*, *The Rag Trade*, *Sykes*, *The Larkins*, *The Army Game*, *Bootsie And Snudge* and *Steptoe And Son* were all screened by the ABC, which was the only channel interested in scheduling overseas product not from the traditional American market. By 1966, however, the (commercial) Seven Network picked up repeat rights to a number of these titles, which again proved successful with the viewing audience.

So successful in fact that Seven brought Tony Hancock himself to Australia to star in a local version of his "Half Hour" format in 1968. Unfortunately, by then Hancock's personal life was in disarray owing to alcoholism and the great comedian committed suicide after only three episodes had been made (they were subsequently screened as a 90 minute special).

A year later Seven signed the English husband and wife team of Leslie Randall and Joan Reynolds for a series called *Joan And Leslie* about a migrant couple who've relocated down under. It was a family sitcom akin to the one the duo had presented during the early days of Britain's commercial television. In the intervening years the two were regular faces on a series of washing powder commercials. Their Australian venture, however, was not destined to be a long runner.

As the decade ended, Seven was a major buyer of programmes offered by the newly created Thames and London Weekend companies, including *Doctor In The House*, *Father, Dear Father*, *Please Sir* and *On The Buses*, all of which became mainstays of their schedules throughout the 1970s.

The BBC's *Dick Emery Show* was another favourite in their programming (edited, like their earlier BBC repeats, to allow five or six minutes of commercial content per half hour). When Emery toured Australia and New Zealand some years later, Seven signed him for a series of locally made programs based on his original British format.

Buoyed by the success of the venture, the network commissioned versions of three shows which had recently ended production in England ... *Father Dear Father*, the *Doctor* series and *Love Thy Neighbour*. In each case, only one or two members of the original casts were imported, with storylines explaining their presence 'down under'.

Seven also produced a Frankie Howerd opus called *Up The Convicts* a continuation of the star's character first seen in *Up Pompeii* and later taken through such movies as *Up The Chastity Belt* and *Up The Front*.

The 0-10 Network (which had been repeating *Dad's Army*) also got into the act with a locally made Benny Hill special and their own version of *Are You Being Served* with John Inman. Elsewhere on the dial, Ronnies Corbett and Barker followed up a successful tour of their stage show with a series of comedy/variety shows for the Nine Network.

Till Death Us Do Part star Warren Mitchell has been a regular visitor to Australia since the early 1970s when he toured Sydney clubs in the guise of 'Alf Garnett' and appeared in a series of sketch programs for Nine. By the mid-1980s, Garnett

had moved on to the spin-off "In Sickness And In Health" which by its fourth season had its three main players travelling to Sydney (as part of a BBC/ABC co-production).

An earlier joint venture between the two had produced a couple of specially written editions of *Not Only ... But Also* which saw Peter Cook and Dudley Moore fly to Australia in early 1971. Regular characters 'Pete and Dud' and 'Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling' were encountered in the southern latitudes, in company with local lad Barry Humphries.

Several of the abovementioned series used discarded or lesser quality scripts, but the *Not Only ... But Also* specials and both *Doctor Down Under* and *Father Dear Father In Australia* enjoyed subsequent airings on British television.

Herewith an episode guide to these Australian adaptations ...

The Tony Hancock Show

Seven Network (3x25m)

starring Tony Hancock, with Don Crosby, Gloria Dawn
screened as a 90-minute omnibus edition on Jan 25 1972

Joan And Leslie

Seven Network Oct 3 to Dec 19 1969 (12x25m)

starring Leslie Randall and Joan Reynolds, with Leila Blake, Stan Penrose

#1 Blue Eyes

Migrant journalist Leslie's first assignment is to take over a "lonely hearts" column

#2 Jealousy

Fed up with Leslie's numerous golf games, Joan decides to make him jealous

#3 The Children

To help Leslie write a psychology series, he and Joan borrow some children

#4 Slugsy

The name of a character in Leslie's crime serial causes misunderstandings

#5 Animal Lover

Joan is the left a pet following the death of her uncle

#6 The Malingerer

When Leslie catches a cold he fears the worst

#7 The Hay-Burner

Joan is worried about the fate of the milkman's horse

#8 The Poltergeist

Joan tries to trace the source of some late night noises in the flat

#9 The Boxer

Leslie is planning an expose of graft in the fight game

#10 The New Car

Leslie believes his new car is a grand prix winner

#11 Home Psychology

Leslie's current article on psychology leads to some rash diagnoses

#12 Christmas

Joan and Leslie decide to stay at home for their first Christmas downunder

Not Only ... But Also

ABC Feb 8 and 15 1971 (2x30m editions)



screened on BBC1 on June 18 and 25 1971.

starring Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, with guest Barry Humphries

#1 Pete & Dud Going Through Customs, On The Beach, At The Cricket/Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling Teaching Funnel Web Spiders To Swim/The Shirt Shop

#2 Colonel Bogey/One Leg Too Few/Bollard/Job Interview/Pet & Dud Homeward Bound

Up The Convicts

Seven Network June 18 1976 (2hr special) and July 19 1976 (1 hour) # produced as 6 half-hour programmes

starring Frankie Howerd, with Carol Raye, Frank Thring, Wallas Eaton, Anne Lambert, Peter Collingwood, Donald McDonald.

storylines centred on the exploits of a convict, Jeremiah Shirk, at Sydney Cove in the early 1800s.

Dick Emery In Australia

Seven Network Feb 8 to Apr 5 1977 (not Mar 29) (8x25m editions)

with Stuart Wagstaff, Jacki Weaver, Bob Hughes, Jenny McNae, Tom Oliver, Joseph Furst, Jane Harders, Harry Lawrence, Malcolm Keith, Christine Collins, Frank Lloyd

#1 As The Saying Goes

#2 Grand Hotel

#3 Airport

#4 Crime And Punishment

#5 Racing

#6 Leisure Time

#7 Man In The Street

#8 Big Store

Benny Hill In Australia

0/10 Network Oct 11 1977 (1x50m)

screened on ITV on Apr 12 1978

with Ron Shand.

sketches include Ned Kelly Jr., the Milky Bar Kid, Fred Scuttle, Mr. Chou Mein

• Benny also appeared in four 60-minute specials (titled *Curtain Call*) for Channel 7 Sydney in late 1960.

Father Dear Father In Australia

Seven Network

starring Patrick Cargill, Noel Dyson, Sally Conabere, Sigrid Thornton, Bill Kerr

series 1: Jun 25 to Aug 6 1978

#1 Once More With Feeling (by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke)

Patrick has taken up temporary residence at his brother's house in Australia to research his new book

#2 A Home From Home (by Richard Waring)

Unlike Nanny, who is enjoying the new locale, Patrick finds himself homesick for London's bleak weather

#3 The Floating Housekeeper (by Donald Churchill)

A strange woman suddenly takes over the running of Patrick's house

#4 Novel Exercise (by Richard Waring)

When Patrick and Nanny are seen acting out a violent scene from his book, a neighbour reports them to the police

#5 It Never Rains (aka A Word Of Appreciation)

Patrick is visited by an ardent female admirer ... the president of the Glover Appreciation Society

#6 Finding Your Feet

Nanny's desire to make a miniature Japanese garden in the living room isn't helped by thoughts of the nasty creepy-crawlies she might be bringing indoors

#7 The Lost Sheep

Nanny has suddenly become very absent-minded so Patrick decides to trace the cause of her strange behaviour

* ITV screened six of these episodes from Sep 5 to Oct 10 1978

series 2: May 24 to Jun 28 1980

#1 Straight From The Horse's Mouth

Liz enlists the support of Sue and Nanny to help her convince Patrick she should have a horse

#2 Father, Dear Father's Day

The girls organize a Father's Day party to help combat Patrick's homesickness

#3 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Confusion reigns following the discovery of some fifty-year-old letters belonging to two previous residents of the house

#4 The Wisdom Of Patrick

Patrick wants to dissuade Liz from a holiday in the mountains with her boyfriend, but using his godson as an example wasn't a good idea

#5 I Talk To The Trees

The girls' habit of talking to plants to encourage growth leads to a misunderstanding between Patrick and the lady next door

#6 Thruppling Thursday

In order to get out of attending a function, Patrick makes up a strange old English custom

Doctor Down Under

Seven Network

starring Robin Nedwell, Geoffrey Davies, Frank Wilson and John Derum.

series 1: Feb 5 to Mar 12 1979

#1 Thanks For The Memory (by Bernard McKenna and John Watkins)

Now working at St. Barnabas hospital in Sydney, Duncan is surprised to encounter Dick Stuart-Clark, an apparent amnesia patient

#2 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 gets a job

#3 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

#4 I Gotta Horse (by Bernie Sharp)

Dick's patient offers him half-ownership of a racehorse in lieu of his hospital bills, but after Duncan is lured in as well they learn the animal is a dud

#5 The Hawaiian Operation (by Jon Watkins)

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

#6 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 2: Mar 29 to May 10 1980

#1 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

#2 If You Can't Beat 'Em (by Jon Watkins)

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

#3 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

#4 Impatients (by Bernard McKenna)

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

#5 The Sydney Surprise (by Jon Watkins)

Duncan and Dick spend an afternoon on the Harbour

#6 The Name Of The Game

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

#7 Identity Crisis

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

* twelve of the above episodes were screened by ITV from Jan 11 to Mar 29 1981

Love Thy Neighbour In Australia

Seven Network May 4 to Jun 15 1980 (not on May 25)(6x25m)
starring Jack Smethurst, with Robert Hughes, Russell Newman, Sue Jones, Ken Goodlet, Graham Rouse

#1 Out Of The Frying Pan

Eddie has travelled to Sydney to take up a job offer but he misses his new boss at the airport and gets into an argument with a man in the terminal bar

#2 A Hard Day's Night

Eddie is missing his friends back home, not to mention the pub and the football

#3 A Night To Remember

Eddie is in charge of the house while Bernard and Joyce cruise to Fiji

#4 A Rose By Any Other Name

Next-door-neighbour Jim (a budding horticulturalist) gives Eddie a backhanded compliment by naming a new bloom after him

#5 Who's A Naughty Boy?

Jim tries to get Eddie to be unfaithful to Joan back in England

#6 The British Disease

Eddie is elected shop steward of the factory's new union and before long everyone is on strike

Are You Being Served?

Ten Network

starring John Inman, with June Bronhill, Reg Gillam, Shane Bourne, Judith Woodruffe, Anthony Bazell, Peter Collingwood, Basil Clarke, Ken Fraser, Christine Amor
series 1: Jun 16 to Aug 4 1980 (8x25m)

#1 Keep Fit Down Under

Old Mr. Grace sends Mr. Humphries to Australia to work in his cousin's store and one of his first ideas is to organize ballet classes to help the staff pass their insurance exam

#2 The Hero

Captain Wagstaff is furious when details of a rather personal ailment start circulating the store and he challenges the perpetrator to a boxing match

#3 Mrs. Crawford, Senior Person

Mr. Dunkling has come down with food poisoning and a the search for a temporary replacement leads to rivalry amongst the staff

#4 The Agent

Mr. Mankowitz makes some extra money by becoming an employment agent

#5 The Apartment

A fire leaves Mrs. Crawford homeless until Mr. Bone allows her to move into an empty area of the store, but a transport strike leads to her workmates sharing her accommodation #6 The Junior

Mr. Mankowitz is promoted to Department Manager while Mr. Dunkley is off on his long service leave

#7 Punch And Judy

Bone Bros. is in disarray when the cleaners and caterers go on strike

#8 Anything You Can Do

The canteen personnel withdraw their labour following an avalanche of complaints and the Third Floor staff take over

• A 60-minute John Inman Show (variety special) aired on Aug 11 1980 featuring the cast of the sitcom
series 2: Feb 28 to Apr 9 1981 (7x25m)

#1 Heir Apparent

It appears Mr. Humphries is the long lost son of Mr. Bone himself

#2 Camping In

Unable to get home because of a transport strike, the staff decide to stay in the camping department overnight

#3 Front Page Story

Mr. Humphries becomes editor of the store magazine and decides to increase circulation with a contest

#4 Our Figures Are Slipping

Sales are down at Bone Bros. and the staff are not impressed when Mr. Fenwick's adopts army-like selling techniques

#5 Undesirable Alien

Mr. Humphries considers marriage as a means of staying in the country when his working visa is declared invalid

#6 Diamonds Are A Man's Best Friend

The store is turned topsy turvy when a reward is offered to the finder of a missing gem

#7 His And Hers

The new assistant on the perfume counter is attracting a lot of attention

The Two Ronnies (in Australia)

Nine Network Oct 15 to Nov 5 1986 and Jul 17 to 31 1987 (7x45m)

starring Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker

#1 Pisonunciation/Headache/Robot In Pub/Arab Shopping/Singalong

#2 In The Trenches/The Body/Wedding/Cow Habits/Clowns

#3 More Trenches/Squash/Pub Chat/Fitness Talk/Dustmen

#4 Cocktail Party/Cricket Ball/21st Century/ Taxidermist/ Buskers

#5 Dining Late/Ju Jitsu/Automated Surgery/Cocktail Party/Races

#6 Cocktail Party/Grand Wizard/Cinema Pest/Dancing Marionettes

#7 Library/Chef/Myopic Speaker/Trendies/Diplomatic Transport

In Sickness And In Health (5th series)

BBC/ABC co-production (7x30m)

screened on BBC1 Sep 7 to Oct 19 1989

and on ABC TV Feb 3 to Mar 17 1990

starring Warren Mitchell, Carmel McSharry, Arthur English, with John Bluthal and Noelene Brown

#1 Arthur convinces Alf that marriage to Mrs Hollingbery would be financially beneficial

#2 Alf is planning to propose when the moment is right

#3 Now engaged, Mrs Hollingbery receives a letter from Australia

#4 Arthur agrees to travel to Australia with Alf and Mrs Hollingbery

#5 A long plane journey with Alf is not a pleasant experience

#6 Alf and Arthur sun themselves at a pub in Manly

#7 A visit to the outback leads to bad news about finance

Jasper Carrott

by Mark McKay

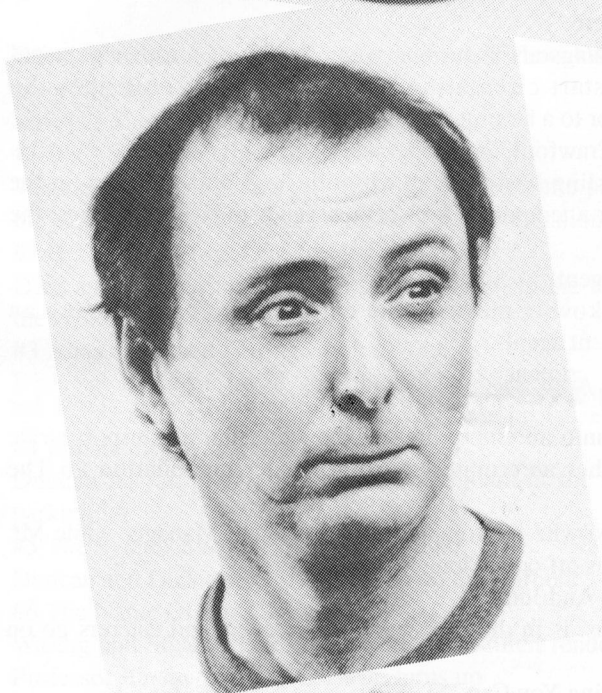
Caught in dual spotlights on an otherwise dark stage, Jasper Carrott looks like a startled jack rabbit dazzled by the headlights of an oncoming semi-trailer. Other descriptions have a similar zoological theme: a newspaper put him as 'a cross between a goldfish and a melancholy weasel'. However it is the very intimate and naturalistic raconteur style of the Birmingham-born comic that has led to his huge British success and enabled him to earn a living from comedy on three continents.

Born Bob Davies on March 14th 1945, he was nicknamed Jasper as a schoolboy and later added the "Carrott" on the spur of the moment when he was asked for his surname. His entry into show business was essentially as an agent, booking acts and opening folk clubs such as the Boggery in Solihull. Soon he was performing in the clubs in order to finance the agency, his early performances consisting mainly of songs (some by Tom Lehrer). With experience, he gradually cut down the number of songs as he built up a larger spoken repertoire.

Jasper's act for the first thirteen years of his career was basically autobiographical. He told stories about his childhood and his previous jobs—working in a Birmingham store called 'The Beehive' and as a salesman of toothpaste for false teeth. A mad keen football fan, his audiences were treated to stories about his team, Birmingham City ("Lose some, draw some, that's us"), and the dangers of being a heavily outnumbered supporter at a City v Manchester United 'away' game. A common thread running through all his monologues is the absence of jokes—Jasper has been heavily influenced by American stand-up comedians such as Shelley Berman, Bill Cosby and Woody Allen, who have all adopted a story-telling delivery style.

In 1975 DJM records commissioned a pilot record and Jasper spent most of his allowance recording a song called Funky Moped for the "A" side. This left him with little money for the "B" side, so it was filled with a risqué send-up of the children's television show, Magic Roundabout, which he had recorded at the Boggery two years earlier at a total cost of £6. Magic Roundabout was banned by the BBC ("The best thing that could ever happen to it"), and so it was the flip-side that sold 250,000 copies of the record, forcing it into third position on the charts. Jasper suddenly found himself a pop star, appearing on Top Of The Pops, and with his record listed in music magazines, leading to inevitable misunderstandings. In one routine he describes how a town councillor booking pop groups for a local venue rang his manager to ask "Do Jasper Carrott want to play Scunthorpe Baths?". His manager opportunistically replied, "They might."

The single led to LP records of live concert pieces, and more impressive show venues, such as the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. It was here where Michael Grade, Head of Programmes at London Weekend Television saw Jasper and offered him a pilot show. This led to a series of six half hour episodes of pure stand-up comedy, An Audience With Jasper Carrott (no relation to the later LWT An Audience With... celebrity audience series), which quickly used up nine years of material! Dressed in flared jeans and a denim jacket and with the ever-present but seldom-used acoustic guitar strapped to his person, Jasper entertained the studio audience with his



adventures in America and delight in discovering his favourite new word, 'zit'. LWT's faith in this new talent was justified when Carrott won a Pye Award for 'Outstanding New Personality'.

The following year saw Jasper (and LWT) taking a risk in televising his show live from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Entitled *The Unrecorded Jasper Carrott*, the star proved to everyone that the performance was going out live by changing television channels from on stage, showing the vociferous audience snippets from the rival programs on BBC1 and BBC2, and giving away the endings in case anyone at home was tempted to switch over. One highlight of the show was Jasper's demonstration of the audio quality of the microphones found in working men's clubs. At the end of this routine, the foam rubber mike hood had to be detached and wrung out.

The next television exploits took Jasper across the waters and allowed him to dabble in ad-lib shoot-on-the-run comedy. First up was a documentary made in America, which included a memorable conversation with a fast food joint's talking sign. Next, together with Terry Molloy and Bernard Latham, the story of three yobbos on holiday in the Costa del Sol, Spain was filmed on location. This incorporated a 'Candid Camera' approach, whereby real holidaymakers were secretly filmed in set-up situations. Most turned out to be incredibly obliging, even paying for the actors' drinks on demand! Back on more familiar ground both geographically and professionally, came *Beat The Carrott*, a stage show from the London Palladium. The introductory routine incorporated some spoofs on contemporary television ads, an idea later included in his BBC television shows.

The first of these was Carrott's Lib, which also marked a turning point in the Carrott career. He began to write with a team and came up with monologues about things that irritate him (*The Sun* newspaper and Reliant Robin three-wheeled cars are high on the list) or that he finds incongruous ("Why don't they make aeroplanes out of the same material they make black boxes out of?"). There was also plenty of topicality, possible due to the live transmissions, and a few television tricks—the studio audience was encouraged to laugh heartily as soon as they were on air so that viewers at home would think they'd missed something.

After a couple of years of Carrott's Lib, Jasper thought he was ready to have a stab at America, but he decided to go over there with no pre-publicity or strings pulled, and work his way from the bottom up. So it was that he found himself performing at 'open mike nights' in front of thirty-three people and 'dying the death' at 1:45am before an uninterested crowd of seventeen. However, with perseverance, he was soon booked as the leading act at clubs up and down the West Coast. Jasper found the visit very worthwhile—it proved to him that he could earn a living as a comic in America and he learnt a lot about the sort of material that goes down well there, but he didn't find the back-to-basics comedy club touring particularly appealing. Meanwhile, the public back home benefited from his experiences with commercial souvenirs of the trip: an LP record of his most successful routines recorded at the Great American Music Hall, San Francisco was released by Rhino, and a special was made for British TV, including stand-up from Santa Monica's Mayfair Theatre.

Back in England, Jasper continued to diversify his talents. He made his stage play debut in *The Nerd*, and went to Mauritius for the filming of his first movie, *Jane And The Lost City*, in which he plays a sadistic Nazi. He brought out a

scrapbook and later a novel (a farce centred around an ownership battle for a large London department store) and encouraged burgeoning talent, assisting Phil Cool with the writing for his TV series, and giving Stephen Punt and Hugh Dennis their own regular spot in his new live Saturday night series, *Carrott Confidential*. The three series featured plenty more Carrott monologues, 'Carrott Report' features, topical news items and mock advertisements. The fascination with ads led to a show entirely devoted to the most interesting ones from around the world with a few Carrott parodies thrown in. Jasper presented the show, making his entrance from inside a giant fridge.

The present decade began for Jasper with his first entirely pre-recorded TV series, *Canned Carrott*, which featured a spoof ad break in the middle of the show, an idea previously used in *The Goodies*. New features included the weekly adventures of Wiggy, an inept simpleton who appeared in short silent training films in different situations: as best man at a wedding, baking a birthday cake or as a photographer. Carrott's golfing mate, Robert Powell, who has starred in *Jesus Of Nazareth* and *Hannay*, played David Briggs to Jasper's Bob Louis in a segment called *The Detectives*. The two appeared as incredibly street-unwise plain clothes policemen hopelessly baffled by the slang thrown at them by their boss and the criminal fraternity. Jasper thought introducing this mini-series was a risk, but it was obviously one that paid off, as Louis and Briggs began this year in their own series of half hour episodes.

Jasper Carrott now appears as a mellowed, middle-aged and balding (or 'follicly challenged' as he prefers) star, who has been performing for almost twenty-five years. Happily, he is now as funny as he has ever been but to bigger audiences, filling the Albert Hall or the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. It was at the latter where he walked on stage towards the end of 1992 to announce that the Prince and Princess of Wales were in the audience. Turning to stage right he bowed reverently: "Good evening, sir". Straightening up, he turned and bowed to stage left: "Good evening, madam". A kiss goodbye to a knighthood perhaps, but another crowd-winner from Birmingham's famous son.

Discography

Funky Moped/Magic Roundabout
DJM DJS 388 (7" single) (June 1975)

Jasper Carrott Rabbits On And On And On...
DJM DJLPS 462 (LP) DJH 40462 (cassette) (1975)
Introduction/Spaghetti Junction/The Boggery/Sex Supermarket/In Concert/Local Radio/B.B.C. Medical/Magic Roundabout/Jersey/Waggy's Testimonial/Learner Driver/Tribute To Eric Idle My Idol

Bickenhill Rovers Skin'ead Supporters Song/Car Insurance
DJM DJS 649 (7" single) (March 1976)

Carrott In Notts
DJM DJF 20482 (LP) DJH 40482 (cassette) (October 1976)
Give Me An "F".../Top Of The Pops/My Cottage/New Faces/Now All Join In.../Bastity Chelt/Mal's Shirt/Wor Malcolm/Radio Adverts/My Mate Jake/Bantam Cock/Football News/European Cup/Cup Final 76/I'm A Goalie You Know/What Sa Teem?/The Complete C & W/Dem Blues/Blue Goldfish/French O Level/Hava Nagila

12 Days Of Christmas/Local Radio Promotion

DJM DJS 10815 (7" single) (December 1977)

A Pain In The Arm

DJM DJF 20518 (LP) DJH 40518 (cassette) (January 1978)

Introduction/Hangman/Getting Here/The Football Match/Local Radio Promotion/Hari Krishna/America/Zits/Number Plate/The Bus Trip/Car Insurance/Twelve Days Of Christmas

The Best Of Jasper Carrott

DJM DJF 20549 (LP) DJH 40549 (cassette) (1978)

Bastity Chelt/Jersey/Football Match/Zits/America/Number Plates/Bus Trip/Car Insurance/Magic Roundabout

The Unrecorded Jasper Carrott

DJM DJF 20560 (LP) DJH 40560 (cassette) (October 1979)

Intro/Muppets/Gleemodent/Zits/The Mole/Microphones/Punk Rock/Local Radio Presenters/The Nutter On The Bus/Mug Job/Explosive Gases

Fun At One

BBC REB 371 (LP) ZCF 371 (cassette) (1979)

Contains one track from Jasper: Car Insurance

Made In Australia

DJM (Australia) L 37516 (LP) (early 1980)

Arrival/Pantomime/Car Insurance/Bantom Cock/Day Trip To Bangor/Hangman/Pets/Driving A Truck/Twelve Days Of Christmas

12 Days Of Christmas/Car Insurance

DJM (Australia) K-8144 (7" single) (1980)

Beat The Carrott

DJM DJF 20575 (LP) DJH 40575 (cassette) (September 1981)

Intro/Television/Scunthorpe Baths/Acne/Australian Sticky Tape/Car Insurance (Australian Style)/Driving Lesson/Pets/Truck Driving/Biffer/Day Trip To Blackpool

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Island HAHA 6003 (LP) CHACHA 6003 (cassette) (November 1981)

Original cast album of the Amnesty International Comedy Gala at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on September 9, 10, 11 and 12 1981. Jasper appears on one track: Australian Motor Insurance Claims

We Are Most Amused

Ronco RTD 2067 (Double LP) 4C-RTD 2067 (Double cassette) (1981)

Contains one track from Jasper: The Nutter On The Bus

Carrott's Lib

DJM DJF 20580 (LP) DJH 40580 (cassette) (November 1982)

Tony Benn/Nuclear Aftermath/Think Tank/Black Box/Snow/Dieting/Getting Old/Motor Show/Test Tube Parents/Changing Tyres

The Stun (Carrott Tells All)

DJM DJF 20582 (LP) DJH 40582 (cassette) (October 1983)

Holidays/Hairloss/Child Psychologist/Computer Games/Sport/Virgin Voter/Hong Kong

Noel Edmonds Presents 'Listen With Mother'

BBC REC 525 (LP) (1984)

Jasper reads 'Gary the Greatest' by Margaret Joy, from the Noel Edmonds Show on BBC Radio 1 during winter 1982.

Jasper Carrott In America

Rhino (US) RNLP 817 (LP) (November 1985)



Gambling/Space Invaders/Rent-A-Wreck/Speeding/Fast Food Invasion/Nuclear Warning/Door Callers/TV/Cramps/Taxis/Snow/Car Insurance

Cosmic Carrott

CBS Portrait LAUGH 1 (LP) (1986)

The 60's/Cowards/Alternatives/Plumbers/Mechanics/Boy Scouts/Store Detectives/Cruise Missiles/More Cars/Fear/Animals/Xmas Time

Condensed Classics

Chrysalis CCD 30 (Compact Disc) ZDD30 (Double Cassette) (1991)

The Mole/Magic Roundabout/Car Insurance/Nutter On The Bus/Truck Drivers/America/Zits/Number Plates/Football/The Driving Lesson/Scunthorpe Baths/Tribute To Eric My Idol/Explosive Gases

The double cassette contains bonus tracks: Biffer & Jersey.

The Complete Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Island ESDMC 152 (Double cassette) ESDCD 152 (Double Compact Disc) (October 1991)

Reissue of the original LP contents plus a second collection of previously unreleased material. Jasper appears on two tracks: Australian Motor Insurance Claims & Confessions Of A Van Driver

24 Carrott Gold

EMI TC EMC 3655 (cassette)

Taken from his concert at Stratford Upon Avon in June 1990

Books by Jasper Carrott

A Little Zit On The Side

Arrow paperback 1979

Sweet And Sour Labrador
Arrow paperback 1982

Carrott Roots
Arrow paperback 1986

Shop! or A Store Is Born
Arrow paperback 1988

Television

An Audience With Jasper Carrott
LWT January 6 to March 3 1978, not on January 13 or February 3 (6 episodes).

The Unrecorded Jasper Carrott
LWT February 18 1979

Jasper Carrott In America
LWT November 2 1979

Carrott Del Sol
LWT January 2 1981

Beat The Carrott
LWT circa 1981

Carrott's Lib
BBC1
Series 1: October 2 to November 13 1982 (7 episodes).
Series 2: October 22 to December 10 1983 (8 episodes).
Special: December 30 1983

American Carrott
C4 January 19 1985

Carrott Confidential
BBC1
Series 1: January 3 to February 21 1987 (8 episodes).
Series 2: January 16 to March 5 1988 (8 episodes).
Series 3: February 4 to March 25 1989 (8 episodes).

Carrott's Commercial Breakdown
BBC1 December 29 1989

Canned Carrott
BBC1
Series 1: October 3 to November 7 1990 (6 episodes).
Series 2: November 21 1991 to January 2 1992, not on December 26 (6 episodes).

24 Carrott Gold
BBC1 December 28 1990

Carrott's Commercial Breakdown 2
BBC1 December 27 1991

One Jasper Carrott
BBC1 December 28 1992

The Detectives
BBC1

- 1) January 27 1993 What The Butler Saw
- 2) February 3 1993 Hostage
- 3) February 10 1993 Teed Off
- 4) February 17 1993 Acting Constables
- 5) February 24 1993 Studs
- 6) March 3 1993 Strangers In Paradise

Film

Jane And The Lost City (1988)
Adventures of the Daily Mirror comic strip heroine who does her bit to guarantee a British victory in the second world war.

Stars Kirsten Hughes, Sam Jones, Elsa O'Toole, Maud Adams, Jasper Carrott, Robin Bailey, Graham Stark, John Rapley, Ian Roberts.

Videos

Just A Carrott
Weekend Video
Contains edited versions of two LWT specials:
The Unrecorded Jasper Carrott & Beat The Carrott

Jasper Carrott Live
Rank Video V1031
Introduction/Cubes/The Football Match/Bastity Chelt/Local Radio/BBC Medical/America/Number Plates/The 12 Days Of Christmas/Exploding Gases

American Carrott
Castle Vision CVI 1043
From the Channel 4 TV special

24 Carrott Gold
Telstar TVE 6002
Live performance

Carrott's Commercial Breakdown
Telstar TVE 6005
From the BBC TV special

Carrott's Commercial Breakdown 2
Telstar
From the BBC TV special

Canned Carrott—All The Best Bits
Pickwick
From the BBC TV series

Canned Carrott—More of the Best Bits
Pickwick
More items from the BBC TV series

One Jasper Carrott
Pickwick
From the BBC TV special



Phyllis Diller on Record

Phyllis Diller has long been regarded as the 'First Lady' of American standup comedy. A star of nightclubs, movies and television her self-deprecating style and raucous laugh are a delight to millions. Over the years she has also been a best-seller on LP. Herewith an itemisation of her various releases ...

Wet Toe In A Hot Socket

Mirrosonic SP 6002

Cesspool Of Culture/I'd Rather Cha-Cha Than Eat*/Cornflakes On The Rocks/Guess Who I Saw Today*/I Hate Cheap Beauty Parlors/Today Will Be Yesterday Tomorrow/Thrift Flight/To Keep My Love Alive*/Wet Toe In A Hot Socket/Just Like A Man* (* songs)

Phyllis Diller Laughs

Verve V 15026

Ad Libs - The New Look/The Management/Old Age/The Beauty Parlor/Plastic Surgery/Lipstick/The New Cosmetic/My Moment Of Truth/Driving Downtown/Home Maker/The Suki Yaki Restaurant/Sequel To Suki Yaki/The Cleaners/Insecurity

Are You Ready For Phyllis Diller

Verve V 15031

Don't Eat Here/The Way I Dress/Bead Craft/Hypochondriac/Cook Book/Household Hints/Cheese And Turkey/Tightwad Airlines/Small Chest Condition/Labor Day

Born To Sing

C.B.S. (S)BP 233596

a collection of songs interrupted by one-liners:

(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction/Hello Young Lovers/Bei Mir Bist Du Schon/And This Is My Beloved/My Man/I Enjoy Being A Girl/The Man I Love/Nobody Makes A Pass At Me/If You've Got The Money (I've Got The Time)/The Curse Of An Aching Heart + A Bird In A Gilded Cage/One For My Baby (And One More For The Road)

Material from the two Verve LPs has also been repackaged on the following discs:

Great Moments In Comedy With Phyllis Diller

Verve V 15046

The Way I Dress /Cook Book /Household Hints /Cheese And Turkey/Tightwad Airlines/My Moment Of Truth/Old Age/Beauty Parlor/Plastic Surgery/Driving Down Town/The Suki Yaki Restaurant/Sequel To Suki Yaki/The Cleaners/ Insecurity

The Best Of Phyllis Diller

Verve V 15053

Don't Eat Here/The Way I Dress/Beadcraft/Hypochondriac/The Management/Cheese And Turkey/Tightwad Airlines/Plastic Surgery/Lipstick/The New Cosmetic

What's Left Of Phyllis Diller

Verve V 15059

New Look/Old Age/Beauty Parlor/Cook Book/Household Hints/Small Chest Condition/ Labor Day/My Moment Of Truth/Driving Downtown/Homemaker/The Suki Yaki Restaurant/Sequel To Suki Yaki/The Cleaners/Insecurity

The Beautiful Phyllis Diller

Verve V 15062)



Don't Eat Here/The Management/The Way I Dress/Tightwad Airlines/Plastic Surgery/Lipstick/The New Cosmetic/Bead Craft/Hypochondriac/Cheese And Turkey

* The Best Of ... and What's Left Of ... comprise a complete set of the Verve material

What's New?

Videos

The Abbott And Costello Show

Sanachie NTSC only

three more volumes of half-hour episodes from the early 1950s:

#4 The Drugstore/Square Meal/\$1000 Prize/Wife Wanted

#5 Police Academy/Charity Bazaar/Killer's Wife/Well Oiled

#6 Wrestling Match/In Society/Lou's Marriage/Beauty Contest

Mr. Bean

Thames PAL only

two volumes of half-hour episodes starring Rowan Atkinson:

The Terrible Tales Of Mr. Bean

features The Trouble With Mr. Bean and Mr. Bean Rides Again

The Merry Mishaps Of Mr. Bean

features Merry Christmas Mr. Bean and Mr. Bean In Room 426

Absolutely Fabulous

BBC PAL only

two volumes of half hour episodes starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley:

#1 Fashion/Fat/France

#2 Iso-tank/Birthday/Magazine

The Best Bits From The Late Show - Volume 2

ABC PAL only

90 minutes of highlights of the D-Generation's 1993 series

Books

Absolutely Fabulous by Jennifer Saunders (BBC Books, hbk)

all six scripts from the first series (screened on BBC2 in 1992)

Fashion/Fat/France/Iso-tank/Birthday/Magazine

Compact Discs

An Evening With George Burns

Dove label, no number

66 minutes of highlights from a 1974 concert, introduced by Jack Benny (originally issued as a 2LP set with extra material)

'Weird Al' Yankovic - **The Food Album**

Scotti Bros/Rock 'n' Roll Records 75421-2

Fat/Lasagna/Addicted To Spuds/I Love Rocky Road/Spam/Eat It/The White Stuff/My Bologna/Taco Grande/The Rye Or The Kaiser (Theme From Rocky X111)

'Weird Al' Yankovic - **Alapalooza**

Scotti Bros. Records 75415-2

Jurassic Park/Young, Dumb And Ugly/Bedrock Anthem/Frank's 2000 TV/Achy Breaky Song/Traffic Jam/Talk Soup/Livin' In The Fridge/She Never Told Me She Was A Mime/Harvey The Wonder Hamster/Waffle King/Bohemian Polka

Stan Laurel And Oliver Hardy

Another Fine Mess Records

three volumes of soundtrack excerpts from 1930's movies

Mess CD1: Cuckoo Song/At The Ball/The Trail Of The Lonesome Pine/There's Gonna Be A Fight/Eloping/We Want To Get Married/All Aboard/Ice Cream Shop/School Room/Lazy Moon/Where's My Clothes/Higher Endeavours/Four Rounds Tonight/Hat Eating/Way Down South + Dixie

Mess CD2: In The Good Old Summertime/Oh Gaston/You Are The Ideal Of My Dreams/At The Hotel/Phone Call/Looking For Mr. Smith/We Don't Sell Ice Cream/Annual Convention/Honolulu Baby/Let Me Call You Sweetheart/Box 204J/On The Quayside/Get Out Of Town/Hard Boiled Eggs And Nuts

Mess CD3: Fresh Fish/The New Recruits/We're Going Now/Furniture Payment/Long Distance/Drowning/Shine On Harvest Moon/Bed Strings/High Multitude/Victims Of The Depression/Court Room

Radio's Greatest Sitcoms

Prime Time Nostalgia 5CD Set PTN-722

features highlights from The Bickersons, Duffy's Tavern, Our Miss Brooks, The Phil Harris - Alice Faye Show and The Adventures Of Ozzie And Harriet

Radio's Greatest Comedians

Prime Time Nostalgia 5CD Set PTN-724

features highlights from Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Red Skelton, George Burns and Gracie Allen and Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy

National Lampoon's The Lost Tapes

J2 Communications

two volumes of previously unreleased tracks featuring John Belushi, Chevy Chase, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Billy Crystal, Harold Ramis and Christopher Guest

#1: Ron Fields' Music Perspective/A Public Disservice Message/A Message From God/Sniper Shots/Land A Million!/Sniper Shots #2/The Miss America Pageant/Sniper Shots #3/A Loan Interview/The End Of The World/Suicide Hotline/Sniper Shots #4/The Death Penalty Show/A National Cancer Society Message/Sniper Shots #5/Ron Fields' Music Perspective #2/Sniper Shots #6/The Humor Test/A Public Disservice Message #2/The Don Corleone Interview/Sniper Shots #7/The Mattress Police/The Perfect Master/Sniper Shots #8/A Plea From Patty Hearst/The Ali-Foreman Interview/Sniper Shots #9

#2: The Best Of The Bad News/An American Safety Institute Message/Death Penalty For Shoplifting?/Great Moments In Black History/Recipe Corner/Freezing Grandpa/A Public Disservice Message/The Perfect Master #2/Recipe Corner #2/Roger De Swann: Lady Windomere's Fan/I Have An Interesting Problem/An American Safety Institute Message/Bill Bradley's Basketball Tips For White Players/The Court Appointed Lawyer/Recipe Corner #3/Roger De Swann: Waiting For Godot/A Public Disservice Message/The Court Appointed Lawyer #2/A Ryan O'Neill Retrospective/What If Ed Sullivan Were Tortured?

Audio Cassette

Goon Show Classics - You Can't Get The Wood You Know!

BBC double-cassette ZBBC 1513)

contains four episodes:

The White Box Of Great Bardfield/Tales Of Montmatre/The Great Bank Robbery/The Mystery Of The Fake Neddie Seagoons

