

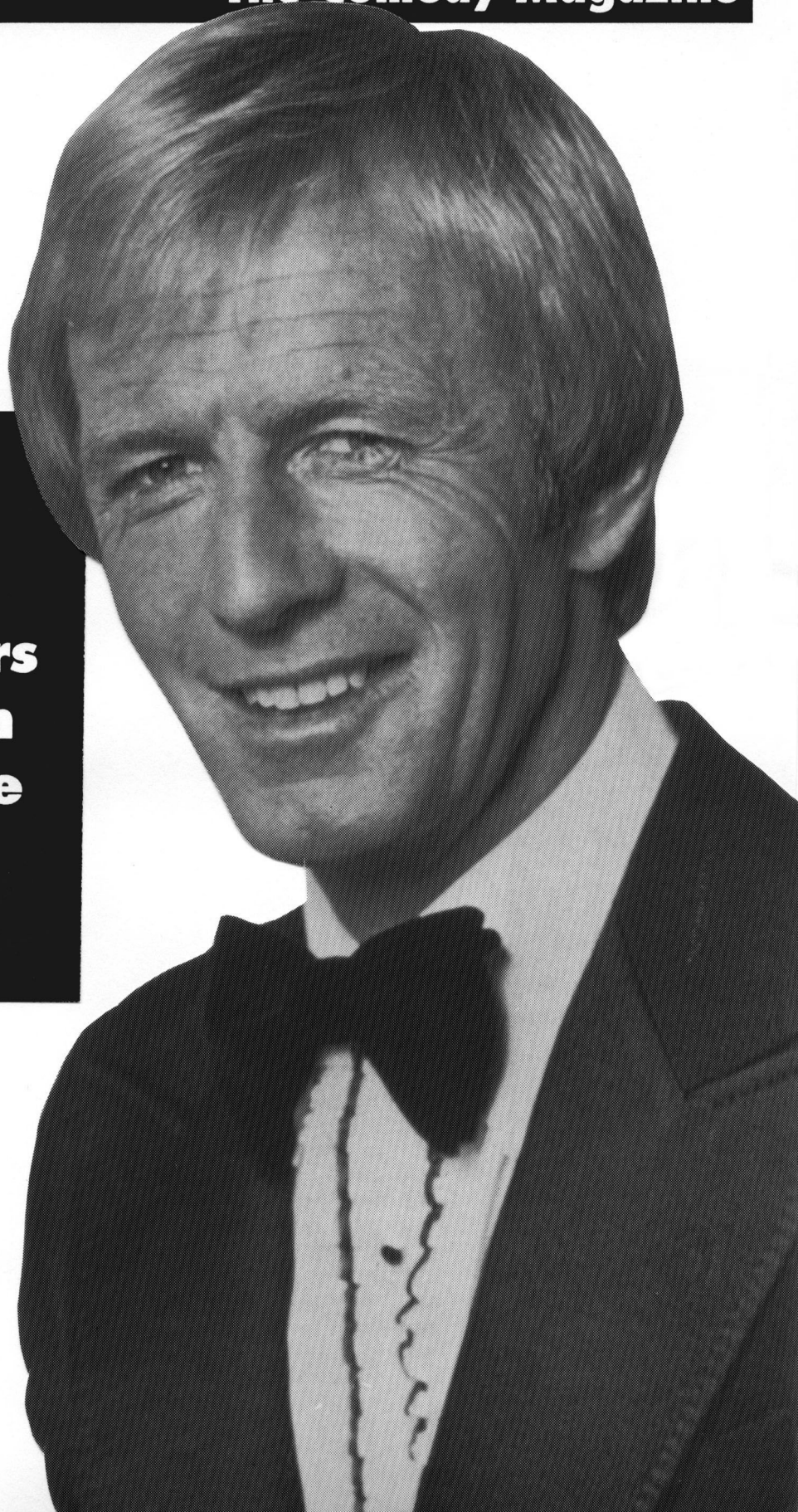
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# LAUGH

Issue 9

The Comedy Magazine

**Inside:  
Paul Hogan  
The  
Honeymooners  
Alan Sherman  
The Rag Trade  
Beyond Our  
Ken**



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## 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

**LAUGH #8** The Amnesty Concerts/Danny Kaye/Britcoms Down Under/Jasper Carrott/Phyllis Diller

## BACK ISSUES

# Paul Hogan on Television

by Peter Tatchell

It all began as something of a joke. In mid-1971, Sydney Harbour Bridge rigger Paul Hogan and a few of his workmates were bemoaning the treatment regularly meted out to contestants on the *New Faces* TV show. Why not work out a phony act and heap a bit back on the judges, thought 32-year-old Hogan, an Aussie battler with a wife and kids who'd left school in his mid-teens and worked his way through a myriad of jobs.

Billing himself as a knife-throwing tap-dancer from Lightning Ridge he duly appeared on the show and menaced the none-too-impressed adjudicators with his wooden props and ocker wit. Whether or not the producers of the program appreciated his sentiments, they were quick to note a glimpse of talent in his methods and invited him back for another appearance. By the end of the year (and after several more ludicrous sight acts) Hogan was a contestant in the finals of the show and though beaten into second place he was creating quite a stir with the viewers.

Enter journalist Mike Willesee, whose *A Current Affair* daily TV programme debuted the following week. One of his first segments featured a reporter sent out to interview the famous bridge worker about his newfound fame and views on life in general.

The three-minute item so impressed Willesee that Hogan was engaged as a regular on the series and for the next few months would knock off work at four o'clock in the afternoon and make his way to the T.C.N.9 studios. Eventually, he was offered a full-time job with the program and deserted the heights of the famous 'coathanger' for a career which would ultimately reach equally dizzy heights in show business.

An indication of the popularity of the two to three minute segments came when Hogan discussed tax returns and suggested attaching a \$10 note to the form to speed up the refund. Over seven thousand viewers followed his advice (much to the consternation on the tax office).

In March 1972, he was named the best new talent on Australian television at the annual T.V. Week Logie awards. Soon after, he was signed for a series of highly visible commercials for Winfield cigarettes and the Hogan face was also seen on billboards and in magazines around the country.

During his time with Willesee Paul met and befriended a journalist on the show named John Cornell whose business acumen lent direction to the Hogan career from then on. After a year with *A Current Affair* the two convinced Nine management to finance a one-hour special called *Hogan Abroad (or How To Travel Overseas Without Making A Mug Of Yourself)*. A mix of comedy and sightseeing filmed in Singapore, it was the start of phase two in the Hogan career.



Having spent eighteen months on the Nine Network, Paul switched to Seven for his next programme, this time set in London. Pleased with the response, the network signed Hogan and Cornell (who had built up a character of his own, the dim-witted and female-lacking Strop) for a series of hourlong specials to start the following March.

Limiting himself to six to eight appearances a year, the shows were a mixture of sendups and character sketches plus musical offerings by leading Australian pop artists. Central to the format was his alter-ego "Hoges", the down to earth Aussie know-all in sleeveless shirt, football shorts and boots who was continually having a go at authority and knowing all the tricks to achieve your goal with a minimum of effort.

Other "regulars" included Smithy, Leo Wanker and the talent-free Luigi The Unbelievable who tried all manner of colourful sideshow acts from spoonbending and knife throwing to becoming a strong man and occasional magician. Sketches invariably poked fun at local T.V. shows and commercials and various aspects of the Australian way of life in general.

Supporting him in the programmes (in addition to Cornell) were Andrew Harwood, Marguerite Frewin and Delevene Delaney (who would eventually become Mrs. Cornell), and later John Blackman and Sue McIntosh.

The mid-1970s also saw him involved in the all-star fundraising concert for victims of the Darwin cyclone tragedy, and appearing on an LP record with his antipodean version of **Peter And The Wolf**.

Hogan stayed with Seven until the end of the 1976 season before switching his team to Nine for more money and better production expertise. He continued there with basically the same format and his usual half-a-dozen shows a year.

By 1980 he was beginning to tire of the unrelated sketch format and appeared on only three programmes all with a specific theme. He lampooned a recent Nostradamus investigation, put forward a mock political campaign, and finally set up his own television network.

Impressed by the success Benny Hill was having with edited versions of his shows in America, Hogan decided to go the same route and packaged highlights from his specials into twenty-six half-hour programmes aimed at the overseas market. In the absence of new product, the Nine Network scheduled them for Australian transmission throughout most of 1981.

As it happens, Hogan's first appearance on British and American T.V. screens came not from his sketch material, but in a series of advertisements to promote Foster's Lager on the international stage and as part of a hugely successful government tourism campaign. For many in the northern hemisphere he was best known as an unofficial ambassador beckoning them to journey down under and take up his invitation to 'throw another shrimp on the barbie'.

Back home, he could be seen in the occasional special and on several Royal Gala and charity concerts aired by Nine in the early 1980s.

In November 1982, British television saw the launch of Channel 4 and their opening schedule included the Hogan highlights shows. After thirteen weeks it had become one of their top shows and a second batch was scheduled later in the year. To capitalize on his success in England, Hogan scripted two special programmes to be recorded in London and screened on Channel 4 and by Nine in Australia.

Apart from a straight acting role in the 1985 telemovie *The ANZACS*, the co-productions were to mark the end of the Hogan television career as he and Cornell were anxious to move into the film arena with an idea which had been on the drawing board since the late seventies. Getting financial backing for it was another thing however.

Eventually, Paramount Pictures decided to bankroll the project and an outback character with a penchant for tall tales hit movie screens around the world in late 1986. *Crocodile Dundee* was an enormous moneymaker wherever it played, earning over \$300 million on the American market and becoming the greatest success story in Australian cinema history. And, after a decade at the forefront of Australian show business, Paul Hogan was catapulted to international acclaim.

Two years later came the inevitable sequel *Crocodile Dundee 2* and another box office success. Hogan's private life came in for media scrutiny soon after when he and wife Noelene separated, caused in part by his ongoing relationship with Dundee costar Linda Kozlowski (whom he subsequently married).

Refusing to do a third Dundee movie, Paul opted for a new role and an injection of pathos into the storyline. Unfortunately, with *Almost An Angel* it was a case of third time unlucky and filmgoers didn't support his change of direction.

After a couple of years regrouping, 1994 sees the launch of his comedy western *Lightning Jack*, and Hogan is hoping his rags to riches success story will find itself back on course.

May 11 1973 (Nine Network)

*Hogan Abroad*

Hoges and Strop visit Singapore, and take in the sights of Bugis Street and the Tiger Balm Gardens

### *Seven Network specials*

August 22 1973

*Hogan In London*

with Warren Mitchell, Johnny Speight and Germaine Greer  
Hoges and Strop visit London, where they encounter Alf Garnett in a pub and visit Madame Tussaud's Waxworks

March 4 1974

with Tony Barber, Candy Devine, Ross Ryan, Mary Jane Boyd, Noel Brophy

picking up a sheila for Strop/the oil crisis/how to disguise yourself as a pop hero/mafia-run quiz "Fair Go Show"

April 21 1974

with Judy Stone, Julie Anthony, Rebecca Gilling

Pierre Hogan on Aussie restaurants/"Choose Your Career"  
covers burglary/Romeo and Juliet ballet/Luigi the Unbelievable

May 12 1974

with Belinda Green, Leonard Teale, Johnny O'Keefe, Stevie Wright, Dig Richards, Marsha Hines, the Bankstown Police Choir

streaking/Genghis Hogan and his travelling sex and violence show

June 23 1974

with Ron Frazer, Kerrie Biddell, Sherbet, Tony Pantano, the Socceroos, Tommy Tycho

Hoges advice to Adolph Hitler/a computer date for Strop/Luigi the Unbelievable takes up knife-throwing/how to get more people to go to Church

July 28 1974

with Eddie Charlton, Max Rowley, Candy Raymond, Bev Harrell, Jamie Redfern, Hush

teaching the Chinese to play Aussie Rules/recording a wedding ceremony for posterity/snooker tips/Strop's dream/Luigi the Unbelievable becomes a strongman

September 1 1974

with Kate Fitzpatrick, Bert Newton, Johnny Farnham, William Shakespeare, Heathermae Reading, Leea Vlahes

in trouble over a radio and TV licence/a look at the Post Office/Australian sex habits on film

# Seven also screened six highlights shows from Sep 27 to Nov 1 1974



• Paul Hogan appeared in *A Concert For Darwin* in January 1975

March 16 1975

with John Newcombe, Bob Hawke, Chris Kirby, Patricia Stephenson, Doug Parkinson, Kate Fitzpatrick  
Hoges talks to Bob Hawke about taking "sickies"/This Is Your Life John Newcombe/Smithy the war veteran

April 13 1975

with John Gorton, Kevin Johnson, Renee Geyer, Bob Hudson, Sherbet, Noel Brophy, Barbara Rogers  
parking officers/Sherlock Hogan/Luigi the Unbelievable attempts spoonbending

May 25 1975

with Stuart Wagstaff, Al Grassby, Jon English, Ross Ryan, Allison McCallum, Julie Raines  
Sherlock Hogan and Dr. Stropson visit a staely home/Smithy at a Chinese restaurant/Hoges versus the school inspector

June 22 1975

with Kerrie Biddell, God, David Gray, The New Seekers

A.S.I.O. reports on defence/Hurricane Hogan's health studio

July 13 1975

with Leonard Teale, Skyhooks, Lee Conway, Chelsea Brown, The Kinsmen

police destroying marijuana/Luigi the Unbelievable conjures up a lady for Strop/Tex Dubbo, country and western singer and bird impersonator

August 10 1975

with Terry Donovan, Johnny Wakelin, Heathermae Reading, Hush, Ronnie Arnold

a Fairy Godfather helps Stropafella/Smithy visits the police/a doctor has unorthodox methods

September 7 1975

with Michael Pate, Mary Jane Boyd, Darryl Braithwaite, The Muchachos

Indians sketch

October 6 1975

with Norman Gunston, The Hues Corporation, Julie Anthony, Normie Rowe, Marty Rhone

Norman and Hoges trade compering tips/Luigi the Unbelievable and Guiseppi the Wonder Dog/Tarzan in the suburbs/Strop wants brains as well as beauty

# Seven also screened a highlights show on Oct 20 1975

March 3 1976

with Gus Mercurio, Bill and Boyd, The Ted Mulry Gang, Heathermae Reading

March 24 1976

with Stuart Wagstaff, Sherbet, Jade Hurley, Brenda Kristen, The Australian Ballet

A.B.C. staff cuts/customs officials/Hoges the dentist

April 28 1976

with Michael Willesee, John Paul Young, Mike McClellan, Marcia Hines, Beryl Cheers, The Korean Children's Choir  
bikie on a skateboard/This Is Your Life

June 9 1976

with Andy Gibb, Frank Ifield, Beryl Cheers, Jon English, Caterina Valente

July 7 1976

with Mark Holden, Max Merritt, Judy Stone, The Silver Studs  
tips for the Olympics/how to get on in the Public Service/the Headmaster

August 18 1976

Paul Hogan Pays Back Glen Campbell

with Rod Stewart, The Captain And Tennille, Hugh Hefner,

Telly Savalas, The Bellamy Brothers, Candi Staton, Richard Anderson, Darren McGavin  
"Mugger Of The Year"/Hoges gets a shoeshine in New York

September 29 1976  
with Sherbet, Trevor White, Brenda Kristen, Ronnie Arnold  
"It's Academic"/Cleopatra/world-record holders/classic movies/  
Hoges on jury duty

October 13 1976  
with Mark Holden, Digby Richards, Ol' 55, Ronne Arnold, Kate Fitzpatrick  
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs/a bank hold-up/animal hospital/ long lost loved ones quiz

# Seven also screened highlights shows on Nov 24 and Dec 15 1976

### *Nine Network specials*

March 30 1977  
with The Ritchie Family, Doug Ashdown, John Paul Young  
Billy Galoot—stockman/history of Hoges/Hoges and Strop meet the Queen/Countdown presents Scungy Peterson and the Gutter Scums

May 22 1977  
with Lynda Stoner, Peter Aanensen, Daryl Braithwaite, Marcia Hines, Ol' 55, John Braidwood  
TV shows during the non-ratings period/Hoges and Strop at a fancy dress ball/the Dregs at a pizza parlour/Rolf Harris/Detective Donger/John Singleton commercial/Nigel at the library

June 19 1977  
with Jon English, Renee Geyer, Dragon, Claire Binney, Bill Bennett, Roger Stephen, Linda Stoner, Marion Edward  
Seeds—son of Roots/supermarket in the year 2000/Hoges is Strop's valet/Starsky and Hutch/energy conservation

July 26 1977  
with Ray Burgess, Billy T  
Pot Of Brass talent show/Japanese tourists/Number 96/Hoges and Strop try medical care/Billy Galoot

September 13 1977  
with Don Lane, Bert Newton, Mark Holden, Dennis Lillie, Linda George  
Filth War—21st century soap opera/a football approach to cricket/the apprentice burglar/do-it-yourself hypnotism

September 27 1977  
with José Feliciano, Peter Allen  
magic carpet economy air travel

# Nine also screened highlights shows on Oct 13 and Nov 1 1977

April 5 1978  
Guests unknown  
killer mullet/return of the man from Stung/legs cause havoc in park

May 4 1978

with George Benson, John Paul Young, Debbie Byrne  
Pot Belly snooker championship/Commonwealth religious games/A Casual Affair

May 30 1978  
with Dr. Hook, Paul O'Gorman  
Harry Butler/Nigel makes a hospital visit/Leo Wanker/the Toongabbie Triangle/a married Phantom/Saturday Night Fever

July 5 1978  
with Jon English, Ray Burgess  
dogs are quite human/picnics/Donger seaches for a new identity/  
The Sullivans/fashion parades

August 9 1978  
with Johnny Farnham, Dragon, Delilah  
Ask The Leyland Brothers/Star Trot/Leo Wanker/Hoges in the army/appreciating art

September 11 1978  
with Status Quo, Sherbet, Doug Parkinson, Don Lane  
Stung—the old wino/This Is Your Strife

# Nine also screened highlights shows on Sep 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 and Nov 1 1978

March 29 1979  
with Glen Shorrock, The Little River Band, Karen Pini, Sue McIntosh  
the barbecue/Hoges and Strop have a domestic row/joggers outlawed/World Series Bowls

May 3 1979  
with Glen Shorrock, Kim Durant, Moscos and Stone  
Australia is emptying because of cheap fares/Strop makes an announcement/taxation/World Series Lawn Bowls

June 13 1979  
with Tom Waits, Max Merritt, Sports  
the Tax Man visits Hoges/dentists/receptionists

July 25 1979  
with Jon English, Marcia Hines, Glen Shorrock, The Little River Band  
Trevor Dags—disco dancer/mongrel breeder Herb Guthrie promotes pet food/Luigi has advice for Don's wheel segment

August 21 1979  
with Renee Geyer, Marc Hunter, Air Supply, Glenn Shorrock  
Hoges and Strop as astronauts/Leo Wanker—granny catcher

September 26 1979  
with Roger Voudouris, Mona Richardson, Jo Jo Zep and The Falcons  
the Swatz family in 1942 Berlin/the Marrickville Horror/Flyways/ Leo Wanker escapes from a barrel/Countdown/Have A Go Aussie

# Nine also screened highlights shows on Oct 3, 10, 17 and 24 and Nov 7 and 14

April 28 1980

*The Prophecies Of Hoges*

with Split Enz, Claudja Barry

World Series War/Clunk Eastwood/The Sound Of Music

• Paul Hogan appeared in the *Royal Charity Concert* on May 27 1980

August 13 1980

*Hoges For Prime Minister*

with Renee Geyer, Ol' 55

Hoges outlines how he'd run Australia if elected

October 22 1980

*H.O.G. 1*

with Christie Allen, Air Supply, Karen West, Phillip Brady

Hoges starts his own television network with shows like *Sale Of The Week*, *Benny Five-O* and *In Search Of The Great Grey Wino*, plus cookery and exercise programmes

# Nine also screened highlights shows on Oct 29 and Nov 5, 12 and 15 1980

September 22 1981

*The Hoges Report*

with Australian Crawl, Billy Field, Karen West Rudolpho Majinski—ballet dancer/George Fungus exposes a menace on Australian beaches/Leo Wanker/Superdag

June 8 1982

*Hoges '82*

with Split Enz, Moving Pictures

SWATT Squadron with Leo Wanker/Raiders Of The Lost Ark/bio-chemical age/armchair sportsmen

September 21 1982

*An Evening With Hoges*

with The Little River Band, Vince Jones, Bobby Limb, Dawn Lake Werewolf/Superquiz/security systems

• Paul Hogan appeared in the *Royal Gala Concert* on April 14 1983

• Paul Hogan appeared in *Australia's Entertainment Spectacular* on May 1 1983

October 10 1983 (CH4 November 4 1983)

*Paul Hogan's England*

with Buck's Fizz, Dexy's Midnight Runners

Kung-fu restaurant/Perc the wino/World Series Executions/Norm's trip through Europe

November 1 1983 (CH4 December 30 1983)

*Paul Hogan's England #2*

with Tim Brooke-Taylor, Peter Cleall, Dire Straits, Paul Young Harry Butler/dangerous London bobby/Conan the Barbarian/Charles Bronson



## *Records*

### **A Concert For Darwin**

2LP set produced as a joint fundraising venture by the major Australian record companies (1975) comprises the soundtrack of the all-star Seven Network TV special of January 1975 which featured a five-minute Paul Hogan monologue

### **Paul Hogan Narrates Peter And The Wolf**

E.M.I. LP SCA 011 (1976)

Paul Hogan Narrates Peter And The Wolf/The Young Person's Guide To The Orchestra

## *Books*

*Hogan—The Story Of A Son Of Oz* by James Oram

(Columbus Books, London and Hutchinson, Australia paperback 1987)

*Paul Hogan—The Real Life Crocodile Dundee* by Sandra Jobson

(St. Martin's Press, New York 1987 and W.H. Allen, London 1988)

# A Collector's Guide to the Honeymooners

by Peter Tatchell

Groucho Marx called it "the only real classic that's been on television". From a ten-minute segment on the Jackie Gleason variety show of the early-1950s, *The Honeymooners* has become a television legend and millions of viewers around the world have eagerly followed the antics of the Kramdens and the Nortons for over forty years.

For a time, only thirty-nine editions were accessible for screening but such was their popularity they were scheduled on a daily basis year after year until fans could recite the dialogue off by heart. As we enter *The Honeymooners'* fifth decade a more generous offering of programs is now available, thanks in the main to Gleason himself, who arranged for recordings to be made of his work in an era when the Networks themselves saw no need for such preservation.

Before itemising the shows which are part of current syndication package and those released on video, let's give a brief history of the program ...

In mid-1950 the minor (and now defunct) Dumont Network signed Jackie Gleason to host four editions of their Saturday night *Cavalcade Of Stars* variety show. A year before, he'd starred in the TV version of *The Life Of Riley* sitcom (when the original radio lead William Bendix was unavailable) but the series was cancelled after only 26 episodes. Gleason was eager for the Dumont venture to be a success and insisted on taking a certain amount of control of the production during his stay.

His first show, on July 8 1950, was a riot and the Network sensed it was on a winner. A little-known actor, Art Carney, joined the cast for Gleason's second week and by the third program *Cavalcade Of Stars* featured a sketch about a bickering married couple, Ralph and Alice Kramden (with Pert Kelton as Alice). Response to Gleason's appearances was so great Dumont signed him as full-time host for *Cavalcade* and over the next two years he was able to populate the show with a gallery of regular characters ... Joe The Bartender, The Poor Soul, Reggie Van Gleason The Third and, of course, Ralph Kramden. In addition to the Kramdens, *The Honeymooners* featured Carney and Joyce Randolph as upstairs neighbours Ed and Trixie Norton (although in her original appearance Trixie had been played by Elaine Stritch).

In mid-1952 (following a successful nationwide personal appearance tour by the *Cavalcade* troupe) Gleason was lured to CBS. Ill health forced Pert Kelton to relinquish her role in the *Honeymooners* segment at the time of the switch and she was replaced by Audrey Meadows.

Gleason was annoyed to learn Dumont had allowed recordings of his show to be destroyed (and it was only after his death that material from this era finally surfaced). As a result he personally arranged for kinescopes to be made of his new CBS programs (a fact which was also largely unknown until over thirty years later).

The Jackie Gleason Show became a top-rater in the CBS lineup from the start and its most popular feature was undoubtedly *The Honeymooners*. Over the next three seasons it progressed from a short seven minute sketch to the dominant ingredient of the program (on occasion taking most of its running time).

In 1955 it was decided to split the hour in two, with the usual sketch-variety show occupying the first half followed by a sitcom-length episode of *The Honeymooners* (pre-filmed on a system called Electronicam). Thirty-nine editions were produced for the 1955/6 season before Gleason decided they were exhausting acceptable storylines, and production reverted to the original integrated format. It is these "Classic 39" programmes that have been repeated over and over in the years since. They were also the only shows from the *Honeymooners* heyday to be screened in Britain, Australia and the rest of the world.

The Kramdens and Nortons continued to appear as before within the variety hour and in early 1957 took part in a series of musical escapades when Ralph wins a trip for four to Europe.

After five seasons for CBS, Gleason's Saturday night ratings began to dip and the network cancelled the show. It made an unsuccessful comeback in a half-hour Friday night timeslot in late 1958 without Art Carney (who was pursuing a straight acting career). As a result, *The Honeymooners* was discontinued (for a time, anyway).

The next few years saw Gleason on Broadway and in the movies and it was not until September 1962 that he was back in his old Saturday night CBS timeslot with a new 60-minute offering "Jackie Gleason And The American Scene Magazine". And he was back with a winner.

Once again the format included sketches featuring his favourite old-time characters (Joe the Bartender now appeared as straightman to Frank Fontaine's 'Crazy Guggenham') but *The Honeymooners* enjoyed a brief revival when Art Carney guest-starred on five occasions during the first couple of months. In the absence of Audrey Meadows and Joyce Randolph, the female roles were played by Sue Ane Langdon and Patricia Wilson.

Then, in January 1966, Audrey Meadows agreed to appear as Alice in a remake of a poignant 'Adoption' episode of the 1950s (the final time a *Honeymooners* episode would be produced in black and white).

Later that year the Kramdens and Nortons were back on a semi-regular basis and in colour when Gleason recreated the 'Trip To Europe' musical versions of 1957 in his CBS Saturday night show. Audrey Meadows and Joyce Randolph were not willing to relocate to Miami (where the series was made) and their parts were taken by Sheila MacRae and Jane Kean. In all, the *Honeymooners* were featured on forty-two editions of the Gleason show between 1966 and 1970 (when it was cancelled) in plots recreating storylines of the fifties.





Now out of his long-term contract with CBS, the rival ABC Network scheduled four *Honeymooners* 1-hour specials in the mid to late 1970s, all featuring Gleason, Carney, Meadows and Kean. They were destined to be the last time Ralph and co. would be seen in new productions.

As the 1980s arrived, *Honeymooners* fans bemoaned the fact that apart from the specials, they still had only thirty-nine stories to watch. In 1985 though, Gleason sensed that the time was right to release the treasure trove of 1950s recordings he still had stored in an airconditioned vault in Miami. Amid a wave of publicity it was announced that over seventy-five *Honeymooners* segments would be released to television and commercial video.

The picture quality of the old kinescopes was more than acceptable for transmission and several specials were compiled to launch the "lost" material to the viewing public. MPI Video began releasing collections of the sketches (in 1-hour packages) and cable network Showtime aired the segments on TV screens across the country.

With Viacom now able to substantially increase its syndication offering with all this "new" material the problem was how to package these additional stories which ranged in length from seven to forty-eight minutes. It was decided to combine two of the shorter segments per 25-minute program, and split the longer ones over two editions (often padded out with a short recap at the beginning of the continuation episode). Unfortunately the segments which ran between 25 and 35 minutes didn't fit into either category and had to be edited down to the required program length.

Thus, when Jackie Gleason died in 1989, there were 107 half-hours of *The Honeymooners* airing across America, and 22 volumes of commercially issued videos. Then in 1993, it was decided to release the "classic 39" editions to home video as well (two shows per tape).

And that same year New York's Museum Of Television And Radio presented a three-month season of even earlier "lost"

*Honeymooners* sketches (from the Dumont days), preserved for over forty years by Gleason scriptwriter Snag Werris. Included in the seven episode package screened was the very first sketch to feature Ralph and Alice Kramden (from July 1950).

The clock had come full circle.

Dumont sketches screened at The Museum Of Television And Radio:

- \* Ralph and Alice argue over who should buy some bread (the first *Honeymooners*, with Art Carney as a cop)
- \* Ralph can't find his razor and remembers his wedding day
- \* The Kramdens consider buying a television (with Elaine Stritch as Trixie)
- \* Ralph doesn't think Alice likes him driving a bus
- \* Ralph misunderstands Alice's dealings with a jeweller (Joyce Randolph takes over as Trixie)
- \* The Kramdens fight over going on a radio quiz programme
- \* special extended length Christmas segment which also features Gleason's other characters

The "lost" *Honeymooners* sketches from the CBS years (1952-1957):

*Nov 1 1952 The Cold (8m)*

Ralph is laid up with a cold and is not a model patient

*Nov 8 1952 Pickles (7m)*

Ralph thinks Alice must be pregnant because she's eating pickles

*Nov 22 1952 Jellybeans (8m)*

Ralph wants to win \$100 by guess how many jellybeans are in a jar

*Jan 17 1953 Alice Plays Cupid (12m)*

Alice tries to matchup one of Ralph's workmates with a woman from her ladies auxiliary

*Jan 24 1953 Suspense (11m)*

Ralph overhears Alice rehearsing a play and thinks she is going to murder him

*Jan 31 1953 Lost Job (9m)*

Ralph thinks he's been fired when he finds a pink slip of paper in his pay envelope

*Feb 21 1953 Anniversary Gift (10m)*

Trixie gives Alice the same anniversary present Ralph has bought her

*Mar 7 1953 Income Tax (11m)*

Ralph calculates he owes \$15 in Income Tax

*Mar 14 1953 Alice's Aunt Ethel (9m)*

Ralph is forced to sleep in a cot in the kitchen when Alice's aunt pays a visit

*Mar 21 1953 What's Her Name (7m)*

Ralph is driving himself crazy trying to remember the name of a movie actress

*Mar 28 1953 Lunchbox (9m)*

Ralph complains about what Alice gave him for his lunch

*Apr 11 1953 Hot Tips (11m)*

When Ralph agrees to place a lot of racetrack bets for his neighbours, the cops think he's a bookie

*Apr 18 1953 Norton Moves In (12m)*

The Nortons are overnight guests while their apartment is being painted

- Apr 25 1953 Ralph's Diet (12m)*  
Ralph is finding it difficult to resist breaking his diet
- May 2 1953 Dinner Guest (10m)*  
Ralph invites a bus company executive to dinner to angle for a promotion
- May 9 1953 Manager Of The Baseball Team (10m)*  
Ralph has been appointed manager ... but not of the bus company
- Jun 6 1953 The Prowler (11m)*  
The Kramdens and Nortons are worried about a prowler in the neighbourhood
- Jun 13 1953 Guest Speaker (14m)*  
Ralph is having trouble with his Racoon Lodge speech
- Jun 20 1953 Vacation At Fred's Landing*  
Ralph and Ed talk Alice and Trixie into going away on a fishing trip
- Jun 27 1953 Glow Worm Cleaning (10m)*  
Ralph is jealous because Alice has been chosen to be in a magazine advertisement
- Sep 26 1953 Lucky Number (17m)*  
Ralph plays hookey from work to go to the ballgame and wins \$1000
- Oct 10 1953 Hot Dog Stand (35m)*  
Ralph and Ed get a bank loan to buy a hot dog stand
- Oct 24 1953 Two Tickets To The Fight (11m)*  
Ralph wants to go to a fight instead of having dinner with Alice's uncle George
- Oct 31 1953 Halloween Party (9m)*  
Ralph thinks the bus company party is a costume affair
- Nov 7 1953 Champagne And Caviar (11m)*  
Ralph tries to impress the bus company president with an expensive dinner
- Nov 14 1953 Letter To The Boss (33m)*  
Ralph mistakenly thinks he's been fired and writes an abusive letter to his employer
- Nov 28 1953 Finger Man (12m)*  
Ralph helps the police capture a wanted killer on his bus but he escapes and threatens to settle the score
- Dec 12 1953 Santa And The Bookies (34m)*  
Thinking Alice is pregnant, Ralph gets a part-time job as a Santa Claus but it turns out to be a front for illegal bookmakers
- Dec 19 1953 Honeymooners Christmas Party (37m)*  
While Ralph is out getting the potato salad, Alice is visited by a succession of Gleason characters (with guest Frances Langford)
- Dec 26 1953 New Year's Eve Party (37m)*  
Alice finds some sheet music lost by the Dorsey brothers who reward her with tickets to their New Year's Eve party at the Statler Hotel
- Jan 16 1954 This Is Your Life (40m)*  
Alice is helping the This Is Your Life people surprise Ralph but he thinks she's seeing another man
- Jan 23 1954 Cottage For Sale (39m)*  
Ralph and Ed are conned into buying a shonky summer cottage in the country
- Mar 27 1954 Lawsuit (15m)*  
Ralph breaks his leg in an accident and is talked into suing the bus company for \$10,000
- Apr 10 1954 The Next Champ (37m)*  
Ralph decides to manage a rookie boxer who turns out to have a glass jaw
- Apr 17 1954 Stand In For Murder (41m)*  
Ralph looks exactly like a mobster who is about to be bumped off so one of his henchmen arranges for them to swap places
- Apr 24 1954 Move Uptown (37m)*  
Ralph wants to take the lease on a bigger, plusher apartment but has to sublet his old one first
- May 1 1954 The Man In The Blue Suit (33m)*  
Alice donates an old suit of Ralph's to a local charity unaware he has hidden some poker winnings in one of its pockets
- May 8 1954 Hair-Raising Tale (37m)*  
Ralph is conned into buying some phony hair restorer
- May 22 1954 Boxtop Kid (40m)*  
Ralph wins a trip to Europe provided he can lose some weight
- May 29 1954 Two Men On A Horse (38m)*  
Ralph loses \$200 belonging to the Racoon Lodge and he and Norton try to win it back at the racetrack
- Jun 5 1954 Good Buy Aunt Ethel (41m)*  
Ralph is annoyed that Alice's aunt is a house guest and tries to marry her off to a local butcher
- Jun 19 1954 Vacation/Fred's Landing (31m)*  
The Kramdens and Nortons camp in the woods on a fishing holiday (\* remake of the June 20 1953 episode)
- Sep 25 1954 Ralph's Sweet Tooth (36m)*  
Ralph has been hired to appear in a candy commercial on TV but a bad tooth ruins things
- Oct 2 1954 Game Called On Account Of Marriage (34m)*  
Ralph wants to go to the World Series on the day Alice's sister is getting married Oct 23 1954 The People's Choice (40m)  
After helping capture a wanted criminal on his bus Ralph is asked to run for assemblyman by members of a corrupt political party
- Nov 13 1954 Battle Of The Sexes (35m)*  
When Ralph and Ed adopt a "lord and master" attitude to their wives the girls walk out forcing them to fend for themselves
- Nov 20 1954 Teamwork Beat The Clock (32m)*  
The Kramdens are in line to win a TV set on Beat The Clock but at the last moment Alice opts out to be with her sister who's just had twins
- Nov 27 1954 Brother-In-Law (35m)*  
Alice's brother wants to borrow money to buy a run down hotel, but Ralph decides to steal the idea for himself
- Dec 11 1954 Songwriters (36m)*  
Ralph writes the lyrics to Ed's music but a publisher agrees to promote it only if they'll change the words
- Jan 15 1955 Kramden Vs Norton (34m)*  
When Ed wins a TV set with a lottery ticket Ralph gave him for his birthday, a feud erupts over the ownership
- Jan 22 1955 A Promotion (39m)*  
Ralph is promoted to assistant cashier but accidentally locks the safe before the money has been put in

Jan 29 1955 *The Hypnotist* (38m)  
 Alice won't give Ralph money to go to a Racoon convention in Chicago so he decides to have her hypnotised to reveal where she has it hidden

Feb 5 1955 *Cupid* (39m)  
 Ralph is trying to arrange a date for an old school friend but neighbourhood gossip causes Alice to think he's cheating on her

Feb 12 1955 *A Little Man Who Wasn't There* (38m)  
 A bus company psychiatrist believes Ralph's rudeness is being caused by aggravation from Norton

Feb 19 1955 *Hero* (40m)  
 Ralph is idolised by a fatherless kid who has just moved into the building and foolishly agrees to take part in a boy scout competition

Feb 26 1955 *The Great Jewel Robbery* (38m)  
 Ralph has collected money from other bus company employees for a wedding present for the boss's daughter but when the expensive watch is delivered Alice thinks it's her birthday present

Mar 5 1955 *Peacemaker* (33m)  
 Ralph tries to settle an argument that has erupted between Ed and Trixie

Mar 26 1955 *The Adoption* (37m)  
 The Kramdens decide to adopt a baby but Ralph is adamant he wants a boy

Apr 2 1955 *Stars Over Flatbush* (37m)  
 Norton convinces Ralph he should believe in astrology and ask for a raise as the stars suggest

Apr 9 1955 *One Big Happy Family* (38m)  
 The Kramdens and the Nortons decide to save money by sharing an apartment in Queens but if two's company four's a crowd

Apr 16 1955 *A Weighty Problem* (48m)  
 Ralph has been told to lose some weight but going on a diet isn't an easy thing for him or those near him

Apr 23 1955 *Boys And Girls Together* (37m)  
 Alice and Trixie believe their marriages would improve if they spent more time with their husbands

Apr 30 1955 *Principle Of The Thing* (34m)  
 Ralph is sick of conditions in the apartment building and is advised to withhold the rent until things are fixed (\* with guest Jack Benny)

May 14 1955 *Songs And Witty Sayings* (39m)  
 Ralph and Ed are competing against Alice and Trixie in an amateur night contest at the local theatre

Oct 13 1956 *Double Anniversary Party* (13m)  
 Alice and Ralph have arranged surprise functions for their anniversary

Oct 20 1956 *Check Up* (10m)  
 Ralph tries to fail a company medical because he thinks it's for an insurance policy he doesn't want

Oct 27 1956 *Forgot To Register* (14m)  
 Ralph and Alice are on different sides of the political fence during a local election

Nov 3 1956 *Expectant Father* (16m)  
 Ralph and Ed both believe their wives are pregnant

Nov 10 1956 *Good Night Sweet Prince* (15m)  
 Ralph is working the night shift and can't get any sleep during the day

Nov 17 1956 *Two-Family Car* (17m)  
 Ralph and Ed have half shares in a winning lottery ticket and fight over who should own the car

Nov 24 1956 *Love Letter* (37m)  
 Ralph finds one of Ed's old love letters to Trixie but believes he's been writing to Alice

Dec 8 1956 *Finders Keepers* (37m)  
 Ralph and Ed create havoc trying to find \$1000 in a radio contest

Dec 15 1956 *Catch A Star* (37m)  
 Ralph has promised to get Jackie Gleason to appear at the Racoon dance

Jan 19 1957 *My Fair Landlord* (36m)  
 Fed up with the apartment Ralph buys an old house in Queens and convinces Ed to sign a 99-year lease as tenant

Jun 1 1957 *Manager Of The Baseball Team* (11m)  
 Ralph thinks he's been made manager of the bus company (\* remake of the May 9 1953 sketch)

The "Classic 39" Honeymooners episodes (all run 25m):

Oct 1 1955 *TV Or Not TV*  
 Alice wants a television so Ralph and Ed decide to split the cost but then can't agree on which programmes to watch

Oct 8 1955 *Funny Money*  
 Ralph finds a suitcase full of \$50,000 in his bus and after it remains unclaimed he starts spending the money, which turns out to be counterfeit

Oct 15 1955 *The Golfer*  
 Ralph professes to be a great golfer to impress a bus company executive into giving him a promotion

Oct 22 1955 *A Woman's Work Is Never Done*  
 Alice is sick of Ralph finding fault with her housework and gets a job to pay for the Kramdens to have a maid

Oct 29 1955 *A Matter Of Life And Death*  
 Ralph mistakenly thinks he has only six months to live and sells his tragic story to a magazine so Alice will have some money after he's gone

Nov 5 1955 *The Sleepwalker*  
 Ralph tries everything to cure Norton's sleepwalking including taking him to a psychiatrist

Nov 12 1955 *Better Living Through TV*  
 Ralph and Ed try to sell a batch of kitchen gadgets by appearing in a live commercial on late night television

Nov 19 1955 *Pal O' Mine*  
 Ed has bought a ring inscribed "to a great pal" for a workmate who has just been promoted but when Ralph finds out it's not for him a blazing row develops

Nov 26 1955 *Brother Ralph*  
 When Ralph is laid off work Alice gets a job at an office where she must pretend to be unmarried

Dec 3 1955 *Hello, Mom*  
 Ralph argues with Alice over the impending arrival of her mother and the fight spreads to the Norton's upstairs

Dec 10 1955 *The Deciding Vote*  
 Ralph has an argument with Ed over a shonky vacuum cleaner but then needs his vote to be elected the Racoon's convention manager

*Dec 17 1955 Something Fishy*

Ralph and Ed conspire to prevent their wives accompanying them on the Racoon's fishing trip

*Dec 24 1955 'Twas The Night Before Christmas*

When a neighbour gives Alice the same Christmas present Ralph had bought her, he has to pawn his new bowling ball to buy something else

*Dec 31 1955 The Man From Space*

Ralph and Ed compete for the prize in the Racoon Lodge's costume party

*Jan 7 1956 A Matter Of Record*

Alice walks out after an argument between Ralph and her mother so he records an apology on Ed's disc-maker

*Jan 14 1956 Oh My Aching Back*

Ralph ignores Alice's warning and injures his back the night before a company physical

*Jan 21 1955 The Babysitter*

Alice has had a phone installed to help with her new babysitting job but Ralph thinks she's having an affair

*Jan 28 1955 The \$99,000 Answer*

Ralph is a contestant on a TV quiz show and has chosen popular songs as his category

*Feb 4 1956 Ralph Kramden, Inc*

Ralph talks Ed into purchasing 20% of profits from all his future enterprises but then learns he may have inherited a fortune

*Feb 11 1956 Young At Heart*

The Kramdens and Nortons try to recapture their youth by going roller-skating

*Feb 18 1956 A Dog's Life*

Ralph and Ed decide to market some tasty goodies they found in Alice's icebox little realizing it is dog food

*Feb 25 1956 Here Comes The Bride*

Ralph's advice to a workmate who's about to marry Alice's sister leads to a marital breakdown soon after the wedding

*Mar 3 1956 Mama Loves Mambo*

A handsome Latin dancer moves in next door to the Kramdens and starts giving Mambo lessons to all the wives in the apartment block

*Mar 10 1956 Please Leave The Premises*

Ralph refuses to pay a \$5 rent increase and the Kramdens and Nortons barricade themselves in

*Mar 17 1956 Pardon My Glove*

Alice has to postpone Ralph's surprise birthday party when she's been offered the services of an interior designer to redo the apartment

*Mar 24 1956 Young Man With A Horn*

Ralph realizes his lack of success at playing a cornet reflects his achievements in life and tries to improve himself

*Mar 31 1956 Head Of The House*

Ralph insists he is the head of his family for a newspaper article and accepts a challenge that he can order Alice to prepare any sort of meal he chooses

*Apr 7 1956 The Worry Wart*

Ralph worries about an irregularity he's apparently made on his income tax return

*Apr 14 1956 Trapped*

Ralph has been witness to a shooting and keeps silent until the criminals take over the apartment

*Apr 21 1956 The Loudspeaker*

Ralph thinks he is to be made Racoon Of The Year and prepares a speech

*Apr 28 1956 On Stage*

Ralph and Norton are to star in a stage production put on by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Racoon Lodge

*May 5 1956 Opportunity Knocks But*

Ralph agrees to teach his boss how to play pool in the hope it will result in a promotion

*May 12 1956 Unconventional Behavior*

Ralph and Ed find themselves locked in handcuffs en route to a Racoon convention in Minneapolis

*May 19 1956 The Safety Award*

Ralph is to be presented with a safe driving award if only he can make it to the ceremony without having an accident

*May 26 1956 Mind Your Own Business*

When Ed follows Ralph's advice and is fired he gets a job selling irons door-to-door

*Jun 2 1956 Alice And The Blonde*

Ralph tries to ingratiate himself with the new manager of the bus company and his wife, but Alice and Trixie aren't impressed

*Sep 8 1956 The Bensonhurst Bomber*

An argument at the pool hall leads to Ralph being challenged to a fight

*Sep 15 1956 Dial J For Janitor*

Sick of complaining about the faults in the apartment building Ralph takes on the job of janitor himself

*Sep 22 1956 A Man's Pride*

Ralph tries to impress one of Alice's old boyfriends by telling him he runs things at the bus company

### *Honeymooners Specials*

*The Honeymooners Second Honeymoon* (ABC Feb 2 1976) 60m  
It's Ralph and Alice's 25th wedding anniversary

*The Honeymooners Christmas* (ABC Nov 28 1977) 60m

Ralph is the director of the Racoon Lodge's production of "A Christmas Carol"

*The Honeymooners Valentine Special* (ABC Feb 13 1978) 60m

Alice is being secretive and Ralph thinks she is having an affair

*The Honeymooners Christmas Special* (ABC Dec 10 1978) 60m

Ralph and Ed invest their life savings in an attempt to win a million dollar lottery

*The Honeymooners Reunion* (NBC May 13 1985) 60m

first package of highlights from "lost" Honeymooners segments, introduced by Gleason and Meadows

*Seasons Greetings From The Honeymooners* (syndicated 1985) 2hr

lengthy excerpts from three "lost" editions:

Honeymooners Christmas Party Santa And The Bookies

New Year's Eve Party

*Honeymooners Anniversary Celebration* (syndicated 1985) 2hr

collection of "lost" Honeymooners excerpts including:

Double Anniversary Manager Of The Baseball Team

Brother-In-Law Norton Moves In

Glow Worm Cleaning (colorized) Kramden Vs Norton

The Adoption Songwriters

“Lost” Honeymooners episodes in Viacom syndication package:

Guest Speaker + Lost Job  
Norton Moves In + Dinner Guest  
Good Night Sweet Prince + Jelly Beans  
Manager Of The Baseball Team (1953 version) + Income Tax  
Forgot To Register + Halloween Party  
Ralph’s Diet + Alice Plays Cupid  
Lucky Number + Pickles  
Anniversary Gift + Finger Man  
What’s Her Name + Champagne And Caviar  
The Prowler + Glow Worm Cleaning  
Hot Tips + Check Up  
Double Anniversary Party + Lunchbox  
Expectant Father + The Cold  
Suspense + Two Tickets To The Fight  
Two-Family Car + Alice’s Aunt Ethel  
Ralph’s Sweet Tooth (edited)  
Game Called On Account Of Marriage (edited)  
Battle Of The Sexes (edited)  
Teamwork: Beat The Clock (edited)  
Kramden Vs Norton (edited)  
The Great Jewel Robbery (edited)  
Stars Over Flatbush (edited)  
Principle Of The Thing (edited)  
Finders Keepers (edited)  
Hot Dog Stand (edited)  
Love Letter (edited)  
Letter To The Boss (edited)  
The Adoption (edited)  
One Big Happy Family (edited)  
The Man In The Blue Suit (edited)  
Vacation/Fred’s Landing (edited)  
Boys And Girls Together (edited)  
Brother-In-Law (edited)  
Catch A Star (edited)  
Peacemaker (edited)  
My Fair Landlord (edited)  
The Next Champ (edited)  
Hair Raising Tale (edited)  
Move Uptown (edited)  
Songwriters (edited)  
The People’s Choice (2 Parts)  
Cupid (2 Parts)  
Cottage For Sale (2 Parts)  
This Is Your Life (2 Parts)  
Box Top Kid (2 Parts)  
Stand In For Murder (2 Parts)  
Songs And Witty Sayings (2 Parts)  
Little Man Who Wasn’t There (2 Parts)  
A Weighty Problem (2 Parts)  
The Hypnotist (2 Parts)  
Good Buy Aunt Ethel (2 Parts)  
A Promotion (2 Parts)  
Two Men On A Horse (2 Parts)  
Hero (2 Parts)  
(\* the Viacom package also includes the “classic 39” editions)

“Lost” Honeymooners episodes issued by MPI video:

#1 Letter To The Boss/Suspense/Dinner Guest  
#2 Songs And Witty Sayings/Norton Moves In  
#3 Christmas Party/Forgot To Register  
#4 New Year’s Eve Party/Two-Family Car  
#5 Next Champ/Expectant Father  
#6 Move Uptown/Lucky Number

#7 Little Man Who Wasn’t There/Goodnight Sweet Prince  
#8 My Fair Landlord/Income Tax  
#9 Ralph’s Sweet Tooth/Cold/Pickles  
#10 Cupid/Manager Of A Baseball Team (1957 version)  
#11 Vacation At Fred’s Landing (1954)/Teamwork : Beat The Clock)  
#12 Great Jewel Robbery/Guest Speaker  
#13 Love Letter/Champagne And Caviar  
#14 Hair Raising Tale/Finger Man  
#15 Hot Dog Stand/Alice Plays Cupid  
#16 Cottage For Sale/Jelly Beans  
#17 Principle Of The Thing/Alice’s Aunt Ethel  
#18 The Hypnotist/Glow Worm Cleaning  
#19 Two Men And A Horse/The Check Up  
#20 A Promotion/Hot Tips  
#21 Boys And Girls Together/Anniversary Gift  
#22 This Is Your Life/Halloween Party

“Classic 39” Honeymooners episodes issued by CBS video:

#1 TV Or Not TV/Honeymooners highlights  
#2 A Dog’s Life/Pardon My Glove  
#3 Funny Money/Trapped  
#4 The \$99,000 Answer/On Stage  
#5 The Bensonhurst Bomber/Opportunity Knocks, But  
#6 The Man From Space/The Loudspeaker  
#7 Better Living Through TV/Mind Your Own Business  
#8 Mama Loves Mambo/The Baby-Sitter  
#9 Unconventional Behavior/The Deciding Vote  
#10 Something Fishy/Oh My Aching Back  
#11 The Safety Award/Please Leave The Premises  
#12 Alice And The Blonde/Hello Mom  
#13 A Man’s Pride/A Matter Of Record  
#14 Ralph Kramden, Inc/Young Man With A Horn  
#15 Head Of The House/Here Comes The Bride  
#16 The Golfer/Brother Ralph  
#17 A Matter Of Life And Death/The Worry Wart  
#18 The Sleepwalker/Pal O’Mine  
#19 A Woman’s Work Is Never Done/Dial J For Janitor  
#20 Young At Heart/’Twas The Night Before Christmas

## Records

And Away We Go! (Capitol 10” LP H 511)

features eight Jackie Gleason vocals:

And Away We Go!/The Poor Soul/You’re A Dan-Dan-Dandy/Reggie Van Gleason 111/Hy’a Mister Dennehy/One Of These Days—Pow!\*/Here’s Charlie/You’re A Nice Man (\* as Ralph Kramden)

The Jackie Gleason Show (Nostalgia Enterprises LP 006)

features the complete soundtrack of the December 20 1952 programme

It’s Honeymooners Time (Murray Hill LP P-18860)

reissues of Honeymooners related vocals and instrumentals:

One Of These Days—Pow! (Gleason)/Song Of The Sewer, Va Va Voom and Sheesh What A Grouch (all Carney)/Dear Ralph (Jane and Audrey Meadows)/The Honey-Earthers (Stan Freberg)/You’re My Greatest Love and Melancholy Serenade (both Jackie Gleason Orchestra)/It’s Honeymooner Time (Jesse Goldberg)/I Want A Wife Like Alice Kramden (Jack Simmons and the Kramdenettes)

# Beyond Our Ken

by Mark McKay

The date—1st July 1958, the time—just approaching nine o'clock. Nervous fingers tune in the Bakelite set to the BBC Light Programme, and as the valves warm up a voice becomes more audible, recognisable as urbane young announcer, Douglas Smith: 'You have either been listening to, or have just missed *Beyond Our Ken* . . .' The latter alternative would appear to be the more apt, however over the next six years there would be over a hundred and twenty new opportunities to ensure it never happened again.

The Ken of the title was veteran broadcaster Kenneth Horne, he of the fruity voice and shiny head, who always seemed an outsider to the world of show business, despite being the star of a number of successful wireless entertainments. Horne had achieved international fame when he teamed up with his RAF junior, Richard Murdoch in the popular 1940's radio show, *Much-Binding-In-The-Marsh*. But as well as being a household name over the airwaves, he was also a top business executive for various companies, and his business skills no doubt helped him to build a team for this new comedy venture. Another Ken was brought into the cast -Kenneth Williams, who had taken part in the pilot show the previous year and was now becoming disenchanted with his contributions to *Hancock's Half Hour*, feeling he was unwanted and superfluous. Williams even took a few of his characters with him from Tony Hancock's show, including his famous irritating man with the nasal voice and perennial catchphrase "Stop Messin' About!", referred to in the Hancock scripts as "Ken (snide)". In *BOKs*, he turns up in unexpected situations—as Mr. Hyde in the Jekyll & Hyde parody, taking Richard Burton's part in *The Fabulous Cleo* and as a Loch Ness monster who doesn't believe in Kenneth Horne.

Kenneth Williams found *Beyond Our Ken* an excellent exhibition for his vocal portraits, producing effete young actor laddies, northern town councillors, mellifluous BBC Programme Planners, old buffer Humphrey Boreham-Stiff and figures of authority such as Arthur Figley, who seemed to be running most of the businesses Kenneth Horne required the services of in each episode. He was even given the opportunity, as was Kenneth Horne in an earlier programme, to play himself in a slightly fictitious version of the Kenneth Williams story. But versatility seemed to be the norm amongst this talented cast and excellent characterisations also came from Betty Marsden and Hugh Paddick. Betty seemed to be able to deliver any female voice from an evil old witch to a Celia Johnson stiff-upper-lip type, sometimes adding a nice touch by dropping out of character to deliver a punchline. For the story of Cleopatra, in which Betty plays the title role, she reproduces Elizabeth Taylor's accent brilliantly for this epic tale of a love comparable to that of Romeo & Juliet, Napoleon & Josephine or David Frost & himself. Kenneth Horne plays Caesar, trading compliments with Cleo: 'It's a good thing you look as beautiful as ever' -'It's a good thing you look as handsome as ever'. A third voice (Hugh Paddick) chips in: 'And it's a good thing this is radio!'

For the first series Ron Moody was the other regular; from the second series he was replaced with Bill Pertwee, who came

from a famous theatrical family and is best known today as Air Raid Warden Hodges in *Dad's Army*. There was a high turnover of chanteuses: Pat Lancaster featured in three series, Janet Waters, Jill Day and Eileen Gourlay all only lasted one series each. The musical group was initially the Malcolm Mitchell Trio, then later The Fraser Hayes Four (inflation?), who seemed to undergo a customised name change to The Hornets for the fourth series. Eric Merriman and Barry Took together wrote the first forty-odd half-hours, and were then asked to take over from Frank Muir and Denis Norden in scripting *Take It From Here*. During this venture a rift set in their partnership and they found it impossible to write together. Kenneth Horne and producer Jacques Brown realised they had to choose one or the other for the next season of *BOK*, and opted for senior partner Eric Merriman. He alone was responsible for all the subsequent scripts although occasional jokes and sketches (including *The Siege of Troy*, *The Mystery of Maltravers Grange* and *Beau Brummell*) seemed to be lifted from Muir & Norden penned *Take It From Heres*.

The show incorporated the standard variety format, with three longsketches or features separated by musical contributions. However, there were innovations—The closing item in all but the last series was the magazine feature, *Hornerama* (a spoof on the TV current affairs show, *Panorama*), in which Ken took to the streets with his roving microphone to find people with opinions on a particular topic. Heard today, some of the chosen subjects seemed to show a measure of foresight: 'Russia—Is their political outlook in trouble? Or can we take it as red?' Fantastically, every week Horne the interviewer came across the same willing contributors—first the spluttering Stanley Birkinshaw (Hugh Paddick), whose loose teeth made every conversation a dampening experience, even dousing the Olympic flame in one edition. In January 1963 Stanley even joined the Fraser Hayes Four in their song, putting his sibilance to full use in "I Miss My Swiss Miss". Another favourite was an old (unnamed) codger of Kenneth Williams' who was always asked how long he'd been involved in his present activity so he could reply with his catchphrase 'Thirty-five years!'. Of course surprise is an essential ingredient of comedy, so after the catchphrase had become popular, the audience were tricked with let-down answers like 'seventeen months!'. But the trickery turned full circle when the audience were delighted to hear the old catchphrase once more. Paddick and Williams teamed up for those 'decadent dilettantes', Charles and Rodney, embryonic forms of Julian and Sandy, the camp couple from *BOK's* successor, *Round The Horne*. Their dialogues invariably ended with the pricking of their bubble of pretentiousness, as in the *Hornerama* on art, when Rodney has been praising Charles' painting to the hilt: 'I think it's the best thing you've ever done... and I do sincerely hope it doesn't rain and get washed off the pavement.' Other regulars from the early years were Ambrose and Felicity, two old bickering dodderers played by Williams and Betty Marsden and Horne's own creation, Cecil Snaith (Hugh Paddick) an accident-prone BBC roving reporter who spoke in confidential hushed tones à la Richard Dimbleby, laughed at his own weak jokes, and would inevitably fall victim to a broadcasting cock-up and utter his



throw-back line: 'And with that we return you to the studio!'

Shows began with a quickie film title playlet—a sort of audio charade, and an interesting challenge to the listeners to guess the title before the orchestra struck up and Kenneth Williams at his most supercilious drawled the answer to the 'film worth remembering, which is more than can be said for the next half hour'. A couple expressing how much they were looking forward to their brand new fire place was thus "Great Expectations", a motorway jam with traffic lights stuck was "Forever Amber" and, even more contrived, a son complaining that he's had spotted dick for dessert every day for the past three months turned out to be an excerpt from "101 Dalmatians". Funny names have been a comedy tradition continuing to this day in *I'm Sorry, I Haven't A Clue*, and so it was in *BOK*, with Douglas Smith having the honour of announcing the people that would be taking part. Amongst this distinguished group were Mollie Cule, Marion Haste, Miss Roseanne Crown, Crispin Noodle, Maude Upriver, Oliver Sudden and Sir Arthur Mo. Kenneth Horne, who prefers to remain anonymous, was introduced and he launched into an account of his activities during the week, with jokes contributed by a lady in the Salvation Army, Mrs. Mollie Millett.

Kenneth Horne had been a regular on panel shows, then as now a popular (and cheap) entertainment, but in *BOK* he was cast as the question master, supervising the queries put to a distinguished panel of experts in a comedy version of *Any Questions?* This began as an occasional feature in 1958, but from the fifth series it became the regular closing spot. Of the four panel members, Kenneth Williams' rustic farmer Arthur

Fallowfield was the most durable. In his opinion, the answer to every question lay in the soil, and he made no bones of the fact that he was looking for someone to love, although this certainly appeared to exclude Fanny Haddock, Betty Marsden's gushing take-off of TV chef Fanny Craddock. Many other characters bore strong resemblances to persons living: Eunice Gaysmile ('luvvie' actress Eunice Gayson), Dalcolm Ditheridge (broadcaster and journalist Malcolm Muggeridge), Bertrand Bussell (dithering philosopher Bertrand Russell), Ryfe Hobertson (scottish TV reporter Fyfe Robertson) and Bill Pertwee's Hankie Flowerd (comedian Frankie Howerd who had just made a successful come-back in the early '60's). Questions supposedly came from the audience and answers could come back ebulliently from Pertwee's volatile Irish drinker, Seamus O'Toole or languidly from Paddick's teenage pop idol (alternative spelling also appropriate), Ricky Livid, whose main contribution to the discussion—"I like the backing"—stemmed from his belief that he was on the *Juke Box Jury* panel.

Before the credits and details of where letters of complaint should be sent, Horne signed off with a closing thought. Originally these were supplied by the writers ('If a man keeps five hundred pounds under his pillow is it enough to retire on?'), but for later series these were sent in by listeners (and acknowledged on air). One wonders how many fans began a prosperous writing career from supplying *BOK* with lines like 'Do ghost trains stop at manifestations?'

Behind the scene troubles brought *BOK* to a close in February 1964 (in Kenneth Williams' recently published diaries, he discloses that Eric Merriman 'incurred the wrath of the BBC'). However the entire cast transferred to an even more successful and durable comedy classic, *Round The Horne*, before its run was cut short by Kenneth Horne's sudden death at a television awards presentation a fortnight before his sixty-second birthday. In the world of showbusiness, humility often seems to be a rare commodity but Ken was always aware of his limitations and never saw himself as an actor. He thought he should be called Peg - 'something to hang the show on'. We remember him as a star of British radio, with the numerous surviving episodes of *Much Binding*, *Round The Horne* and *Beyond Our Ken* testimony to his talents.

### Episode Guide

123 episodes of *Beyond Our Ken* were transmitted, comprising seven series and two Christmas specials. Right from the start, BBC Transcription Services recorded many of the shows, making them available for broadcast on overseas radio stations.

**Series #1** (Light Programme Tuesdays, later Wednesdays July 1 to November 19 1958—21 shows plus Christmas Special Wednesday December 24 1958)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Ron Moody, Pat Lancaster, The Malcolm Mitchell Trio.

These episodes are known to survive:

1/3	Jul 15 1958	Surgeon's Dinner/Panel Game/Sketchbook For 1908
1/4	Jul 22 1958	Barber's/Musical Soirée/Art
1/5	Jul 29 1958	Taxi/Tittle Tattle/The English
1/7	Aug 12 1958	Whirly Bird/Stork Up The Chimney/Sport
1/8	Aug 19 1958	Morning After Party/What's On In London/Love & Marriage

1/9 Aug 26 1958 A Trip To France/Paris/Motoring  
 1/14 Oct 1 1958 Dentist's/The Bobby Beamish  
 Story/Advertising  
 1/15 Oct 8 1958 Hungerford House/Panel  
 Game/Education

**Series #2** (Light Programme Thursdays March 19 1959 to July 30 1959—20 shows plus Christmas Special Monday 21 December 1959)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Pat Lancaster, The Fraser Hayes Four.

These episodes are known to survive:

2/5 Apr 16 1959 Forever Amber/Life Of Dirk Mills/Hospitals  
 2/6 Apr 23 1959 Innocents Abroad/The Salad Trap/Housing  
 2/8 May 7 1959 A Farewell To Arms/Rocky, The Wild One/Show Business  
 2/10 May 21 1959 Trader Horne/Wolfhound Of The Tuskervilles/Cricket  
 2/11 May 28 1959 Every Boy's Book Of Birds/A Woman In Curlers/ Communications  
 2/12 Jun 4 1959 The Rains Came/The Nanooks/The Summer  
 2/13 Jun 11 1959 Deep Are The Roots/Festival Of Popular Song/Water  
 2/15 Jun 25 1959 The Sea Wolf/Look Out, I'm Livid!/Ships  
 2/17 Jul 9 1959 The Cruel Sea/Spanish Holiday/A Second Look At Britain  
 2/18 Jul 16 1959 Black Beauty/Animals/Holidays  
 2/20 Jul 30 1959 Great Expectations/The Wee Folk/The Film Industry  
 SP Dec 21 1959 First Night Of 'Island Treasure'

**Series #3** (Light Programme Fridays April 15 1960 to July 15 1960—14 shows)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Pat Lancaster, The Fraser Hayes Four.

These episodes are known to survive:

3/1 Apr 15 1960 Tobacco Road/Ken Loses His Penny/Photography  
 3/2 Apr 22 1960 Look Back In Anger/Skiing In Switzerland/Show Business  
 3/4 May 6 1960 A Touch Of The Sun/Paris 1900/Public Transport  
 3/5 May 13 1960 Hay Fever/Curtain Up/Holidays  
 3/7 May 27 1960 School For Scandal/Picture-Go-Round/Local Affairs  
 3/8 Jun 3 1960 The Ice Man Cometh/Trouble On The Khyber Pass/Food  
 3/9 Jun 10 1960 The Reluctant Debutant/Poetry Society/The City  
 3/10 Jun 17 1960 This Happy Breed/Fitzroy Primm & Oscar Wilde/Entertainment  
 3/11 Jun 24 1960 Dear Octopus/The Fantastic Heat/Sport  
 3/12 Jul 1 1960 Love From A Stranger/The Archers/Russia  
 3/14 Jul 15 1960 The Most Happy Fella/The Kenneth Horne Story/France

**Series #4** (Light Programme Thursdays October 20 1960 to March 2 1961—20 shows)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Janet Waters, The Hornets.

These episodes are known to survive:

4/1 Oct 20 1960 Suddenly Last Summer/Buying A New House/The Olympic Games  
 4/2 Oct 27 1960 Spring In Park Lane/The BBC/Gramophone Records  
 4/3 Nov 3 1960 Gentleman's Agreement/The Time Machine/London  
 4/4 Nov 10 1960 3 Coins In The Fountain/Mystery Of Maltravers Grange/The Sea  
 4/5 Nov 17 1960 The Man With The Golden Arm/Kitty From Kensington/Sport  
 4/6 Nov 24 1960 The House Of Wax/Swiss Family Robinson/Newspapers  
 4/7 Dec 1 1960 Desire Under The Elms/Nero & Ancient Rome/Crime  
 4/8 Dec 8 1960 Brief Encounter/Picture-Go-Round/Public Services  
 4/9 Dec 15 1960 The 39 Steps/Inspector Polly Potter Of Scotland Yard/Show Business  
 4/10 Dec 22 1960 A Christmas Carol/The Festive Season  
 4/11 Dec 29 1960 Room At The Top/Raffles/Holidays  
 4/13 Jan 12 1961 The Horse Soldiers/The Hans Liszt Story/Old British Customs  
 4/14 Jan 19 1961 All Quiet On The Western Front/Giggleswade Festival/Love & Marriage  
 4/15 Jan 26 1961 The Charge Of The Light Brigade/Kenneth Williams Story/Housing  
 4/16 Feb 2 1961 A Hatful Of Rain/La Dolce Even More Vita/Magic & Mystery  
 4/17 Feb 9 1961 Twelve O'Clock High/The Abominable Snowman/Leisure  
 4/18 Feb 16 1961 Tea And Sympathy/Love In A Georgian Manor/The Film Industry  
 4/19 Feb 23 1961 Some Came Running/Locked Out/The New Towns  
 4/20 Mar 2 1961 Tunes Of Glory/A Taste Of Bittersweet/History

**Series #5** (Light Programme Thursdays October 12 1961 to February 22 1962—20 shows)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Jill Day, The Fraser Hayes Four.

All episodes survive:

5/1 Oct 12 1961 Around The World In 80 Days/ Loch Ness Monster/Entertainment  
 5/2 Oct 19 1961 The Magnificent Seven/The Siege Of Troy/Careers  
 5/3 Oct 26 1961 The Young Lions/The Willow Pattern Plate/Education  
 5/4 Nov 2 1961 Oscar Wilde/The Petticoat Lane Story/The Arts  
 5/5 Nov 9 1961 101 Dalmations/Beau Jests/Our Affluent Society  
 5/6 Nov 16 1961 No Trees In The Street/The Restoration Piece/Homes & Gardens  
 5/7 Nov 23 1961 The Bells Are Ringing/Johann, The



5/8	Nov 30 1961	Night & The Music/Clubs The Defiant Ones/Lollipop Place/Business & Commerce
5/9	Dec 7 1961	Ferry To Hong Kong/Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde/Sport
5/10	Dec 14 1961	A Yank At Oxford/Room At The Big Top/Travel
5/11	Dec 21 1961	Love In The Afternoon/Horne In Wonderland
5/12	Dec 28 1961	Anastasia/Picture-Go-Round/Parties & Indoor Games
5/13	Jan 4 1962	The Great Train Robbery/As Crime Goes By/The Country
5/14	Jan 11 1962	Too Late Blues/Fred Black's Scandals/Winter
5/15	Jan 18 1962	Terror Of The Tongs/One Step Beyond Our Ken/The Cinema
5/16	Jan 25 1962	Ice Cold In Alex/El Fred/Holidays
5/17	Feb 1 1962	The Devil At 4.00/The Voyage Of Odysseus/Show Business
5/18	Feb 8 1962	For Whom The Bell Tolls/ Giggleswade Festival 2/Art
5/19	Feb 15 1962	Under Two Flags/The Power Of Svengali/The Press
5/20	Feb 22 1962	The Three Musketeers/The Last Of The Moccasins/Radio

**Series #6** (Light Programme Thursdays December 27 1962 to March 21 1963—13 shows)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick, Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Eileen Gourlay, The Fraser Hayes Four.

All episodes survive:

6/1	Dec 27 1962	Doctor No/Fred Solomon's Mines/Sports & Hobbies
6/2	Jan 3 1963	Sorry, Wrong Number/Taking The Mikado/Show Business
6/3	Jan 10 1963	<b>100th Edition</b> The Corn Is Green/Tunbridge Wells Fargo/Kitty From Kensington
6/4	Jan 17 1963	The Loves Of Carmen/Viva Casara/Films
6/5	Jan 24 1963	Two Weeks In Another Town/The Scientific Spy/Music
6/6	Jan 31 1963	Only Two Can Play/Corn In Egypt/Health
6/7	Feb 7 1963	In Search Of The Castaways/Rumpelstiltskin/Fashions
6/8	Feb 14 1963	Period Of Adjustment/The Twinkle Dolls/Holidays
6/9	Feb 21 1963	Tender Is The Night/Take Your Pickwick/Transport
6/10	Feb 28 1963	The Miracle Worker/A Brief Encounter/Jobs
6/11	Mar 7 1963	The L Shaped Room/The Three Musketeers/Television
6/12	Mar 14 1963	The Pot Carriers/Doctor Yes/Books
6/13	Mar 21 1963	Lolita/Goodbye Mr. Chips With Everything/Beyond Our Ken

**Series #7** (Light Programme Sundays November 24 1963 to February 16 1964—13 shows)

Starring Kenneth Horne, Kenneth Williams, Hugh Paddick,

Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, The Fraser Hayes Four.

All episodes survive:

7/1	Nov 24 1963	Fifty-five Days At Peking/The Fabulous Cleo
7/2	Dec 1 1963	Gigi/From Frinton With Love
7/3	Dec 8 1963	The Longest Day/The House Trap
7/4	Dec 15 1963	The List Of Adrian Messenger/ Carmen To The Garden
7/5	Dec 22 1963	The Man With The Golden Arm/Giggleswade Festival 3
7/6	Dec 29 1963	The Seven Year Itch/Drake's Progress
7/7	Jan 5 1964	High Noon/The Horrible Thing On The Isle Of Wight
7/8	Jan 12 1964	The Great Escape/Beau Brummell
7/9	Jan 19 1964	Nudes Of The World/Deferred Man
7/10	Jan 26 1964	Ten Tall Men/The Love Game
7/11	Feb 2 1964	How Green Was My Valet/Liszt's Variations On Rigoletto
7/12	Feb 9 1964	Forever Amber/Ascent In The Himalayas
7/13	Feb 16 1964	Things To Come/Zulu

### *Discography*

#### **Beyond Our Ken**

(Parlophone LP PMC 1238)

Features excerpts from the original radio shows:

Introduction and Twinkle Doll's Concert Party (from Feb 14 1963)/Hornerama (Feb 14 1963)/Tunbridge Wells Fargo (Jan 10 1963)/Picture-Go-Round (Dec 28 1961)/Dr. Yes (Mar 14 1963)

#### **Tomorrow/Nuts And Bolts**

(Parlophone single R5136)

Ricky Livid (Hugh Paddick) and the Tone Deafs

### *Cassettes*

#### **Beyond Our Ken**

(BBC double cassette ZBBC 1148)

Contains four complete broadcasts (May 13, Jun 10, Jul 15 1960 and Jan 12 1961)

#### **Beyond Our Ken 2**

(BBC double cassette ZBBC 1407)

Contains four complete broadcasts (Feb 9 1964, Dec 7 1961, Dec 29 1963 and Dec 1 1963)

# Alan Sherman on record

by Peter Tatchell

In the area of song parodies Allan Sherman has no peer. The 1960s saw this one-time producer of "The Steve Allen Show" move from party favourite to public performer by creating lyrics to famous classical compositions. Later, when his newfound fame meant money could be spent on adapting more recent (and copyrighted) songs, he produced a number of popular LPs and singles poking fun at them. Unfortunately his success was not to last beyond a handful of years and when he died in 1973 the vogue had passed. Twenty years later though, a series of "best of" releases pays tribute to the wit and nonsense of a funny man and a true one-of-a-kind.

**A Satchel And A Seck** (duet with Sylvia Froos)/**Jake's Song**  
Jubilee 78rpm (1951)

## **Allan Sherman And Friends**

Jubilee LP JGM 5019

features the above two Sherman tracks, plus vocals and monologues by other artists

## **My Son, The Folk Singer**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1475 (Dec 1962)

The Ballad Of Harry Lewis/Shake Hands With Your Uncle Max/Sir Greenbaum's Madrigal/My Zelda (Matilda)/The Streets Of Miami/ Sarah Jackman/Jump Down, Spin Around (Pick A Dress O' Cotton)/Oh Boy/Shticks And Shtones

## **My Son, The Celebrity**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1487 (Mar 1963)

Al 'N Yetta/Barry Is The Baby's Name + Horowitz + Get On The Garden Freeway/Mexican Hat Dance/The Bronx Bird Watcher/Let's Call Up The A.T. And T. And Protest To The President March/Harvey And Sheila/Won't You Come Home Disraeli?/No One's Perfect/When I Was A Lad/Come Back To Sorrento/Shticks Of One And A Half A Dozen Of The Other

## **My Son, The Nut**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1501 (Oct 1963)

You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louis/Automation/I See Bones/ Hungarian Goulash No. 5/Headaches/Here's To The Crab Grass/Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/One Hippopotami/Rat Fink/You're Getting To Be A Rabbit With Me/Eight Foot Two, Solid Blue/Hail To Thee, Fat Person

## **Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/Here's To The Crabgrass**

Warner Bros single 5378 (1963)

## **You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie/The Twelve Gifts Of Christmas**

Warner Bros single 5406 (1963)

## **My Son, The Vampire/I Can't Dance**

Warner Bros single 5419 (1963)

## **The Drop-Outs March/Skin**

Warner Bros single 5435 (1963)

## **Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!** (original and new version)

Warner Bros single 5449 (1964)

## **Allan In Wonderland**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1539 (May 1964)

Skin/Green Stamps/Holiday For States/You Need An Analyst/The Drop-Outs March/I Can't Dance/Night And Day/Little Butterball/ Good Advice

## **Pop Hates The Beatles/Grow Mrs. Goldfarb**

Warner Bros single 5490 (1964)

## **The End Of A Symphony** (with the Boston Pops Orchestra)

R.C.A. single 47-8412 (1964)

## **Songs For Swinging Livers Only**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1569 (1965)

Grow, Mrs. Goldfarb/Your Mother's Here To Stay/Pills/Shine On, Harvey Bloom/J.C. Cohen/Pop Hates The Beatles/Beautiful Teamsters/Kiss Of Myer/Crazy Downtown/The Twelve Gifts Of Christmas/Bye, Bye, Blumberg

## **Crazy Downtown/The Drop-Outs March**

Warner Bros single 5614 (1965)

## **The Drinking Man's Diet/The Laarge Daark Aardvark Song**

Warner Bros single 5672 (1965)

## **My Name Is Allan**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1604 (Jan 1966)

It's A Most Unusual Play/The Laarge Daark Aardvark Song/That Old Back Scratcher/Call Me/Peyton Place, U.S.A./The Drinking Man's Diet/Secret Code/The Painless Dentist Song/Chim Chim Cheree/Go To Sleep, Paul Revere/An Average Song

## **Allan Sherman Live!**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1649

Taking Lessons/A Waste Of Money/Smog Gets In Your Eyes/Sorry 'Bout That/Mononeucleosis/Dodgin' The Draft/The Rebel/When I'm In The Mood For Love (You're In The Mood For Herring)/Second Hand Nose/Sam, You Made The Pants Too Long/If I Could Play Piano/Son Of Peyton Place

## **Odd Ball/His Own Little Island**

Warner Bros single 5806

## **Westchester Hadassah/Strange Things In My Soup**

Warner Bros single 5896

## **Togetherness**

Warner Bros LP W(S) 1684 (Apr 1967)

Westchester Hadassah/Strange Things In My Soup/Turn Back The Clock/Signs/Down The Drain/Plan Ahead/ Togetherness/ Spanish Flea/ My Aunt Minnie/If I Were A Tishman/There's No Governor Like Our New Governor

## **Peter And The Commissar**

R.C.A./Victor LP LM/LSC 2773

Peter And The Commissar/Introduction/Variations on How Dry I Am/The End Of A Symphony

## **The Fig Leaves Are Falling/Juggling**

R.C.A. single 47-9693 (1969)

\* Allan Sherman can also be heard singing Sue Me (with



Debbie Reynolds) on the 1963 LP of Guys And Dolls (Reprise 2016)

the following discs feature reissues of the above vocals:

**Mexican Hat Dance/Won't You Come Home, Disraeli**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 115 (Nov 1963)

**Me/No One's Perfect**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 122 (Jan 1964)

**Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh! (2nd version)/You Need An Analyst**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 140 (Sep 1964)

**Crazy Downtown/You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 160 (Apr 1965)

**Shine On Harvey Bloom/Your Mother's Here To Stay**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 5725 (Aug 1965)

**Twelve Gifts Of Christmas/Crazy Downtown**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 5736 (Nov 1965)

**It's A Most Unusual Play/Peyton Place, U.S.A.**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 5741 (Jan 1966)

**Second Hand Nose/If I Could Play The Piano**  
(British) Warner Bros single WB 5749 (Jun 1966)

**Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah!/Sarah Jackman**  
Warner Bros single 7112

**My Son, The Nut (volume 1)**  
(British) Warner Bros EP wep 6120/wse 6201  
You're Getting To Be A Rabbit With Me/Hungarian Goulash No.5/ Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/Eight Foot Two, Solid Blue/You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie/Hail To Thee, Fat Person

**My Son, The Celebrity (volume 1)**  
(British) Warner Bros EP wep 6127  
No One's Perfect/Mexican Hat Dance/Me/Harvey And Sheila

**Won't You Come Home, Disraeli?**  
(British) Warner Bros EP wep 605  
Won't You Come Home, Disraeli?/Green Stamps/You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie/Crazy Downtown

**The Best Of Allan Sherman**  
(British) Warner Bros LP W 1132, Valiant LP VS 112  
Won't You Come Home, Disraeli?/The Bronx Bird Watcher/Skin/ Mexican Hat Dance/Crazy Downtown/Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh! (2nd version)/Sir Greenbaum's Madrigal/Green Stamps/Little Butterball/ You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie

**The Very Best Of Allan Sherman**  
(British) Warner Bros LP K 56056 (1976)  
That Old Back Scratcher/Your Mother's Here To Stay/Sarah Jackman/ Shine On, Harvey Bloom/Painless Dentist Song/Second Hand Nose/Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/Twelve Gifts Of Christmas/Mexican Hat Dance/My Zelda/Waste Of Money/Bye Bye Blumberg

**The Best Of Allan Sherman**  
Rhino LP RNLP 005  
Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/Crazy Downtown/Eight Foot Two, Solid Blue/Harvey And Sheila/When I Was A Lad/Good Advice/Sarah Jackman/You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie/J.C. Cohen/One Hippopotami/Twelve Gifts Of Christmas/Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh! (2nd version)

**The Gift Of Laughter - The Best Of Allan Sherman (Volume 2)**  
Rhino LP RNLP 70818 (1986)

A Waste Of Money/Grow, Mrs. Goldfarb/Shake Hands With Your Uncle Max/Lotsa Luck/You're Getting To Be A Rabbit With Me/Me/Shticks Of One, Half A Dozen Of The Other/Al 'N Yetta/The Rebel/Pop Hates The Beatles/Rat Fink/Chim, Chim, Cheree/The Streets Of Miami/Hail To Thee, Fat Person

**My Son, The Greatest - The Best Of Allan Sherman**  
Rhino CD R21S 75771 (Oct 1988)  
Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!/Crazy Downtown/A Waste Of Money/ Harvey And Sheila/Good Advice/Sarah Jackman/You Went The Wrong Way, Old King Louie/One Hippopotami/Shake Hands With Your Uncle Max/You're Getting To Be A Rabbit With Me/Shticks Of One And Half A Dozen Of The Other/Al 'N Yetta/The Rebel/Pop Hates The Beatles/ The Twelve Gifts Of Christmas/Chim Chim Cheree/Lotsa Luck/The Streets Of Miami/Hail To Thee, Fat Person

# The Rag Trade

by Peter Tatchell

By the start of the 1960s television had overtaken radio as Britain's most popular home entertainment medium. Old favourites like *Take It From Here*, *The Goon Show*, *Educating Archie*, *Life With The Lyons* and *Ray's A Laugh* would all conclude within a short period of time as broadcasting budgets dwindled and writing and performing talents added vision to their offerings.

The BBC's top two television comedies of the fifties *Hancock's Half Hour* and *Whack-O!* had also reached the end of their runs at the start of the new decade. In place of formats centring on star comedians like Tony Hancock or Jimmy Edwards the Light Entertainment Department opted instead for an ensemble piece with several lesser names from the theatrical and movie world in lead roles.

Scripted by *Educating Archie* alumni Ronald Wolfe and Ronald Chesney, *The Rag Trade* dealt with labour relations at a small London clothing factory, Fenner Fashions. Proprietor Harold Fenner (played by Peter Jones) is constantly at loggerheads with the shop steward of his lady machinists, Paddy (Miriam Karlin), ever anxious to blow her whistle and call "everybody out!" at the merest hint of labour dissent.

Caught in the middle of this tug-of-war between productivity and remuneration is garment cutter Reg (Reg Varney) who is anxious to appease both sides, and invariably ends up the unwilling helpmate in Paddy's extra-curricular money making chicanery.

Also participating in the fray are sailor-chasing blonde and the firm's occasional model, Carole (Sheila Hancock), and the dithery, almost elfin buttonholer Lily (Esmá Cannon).

*The Rag Trade's* first season screened at the end of 1961 and was enormously popular with viewers who quickly warmed to the farcical situations and endearing mix of characterization. For ten weeks Fenner unearthed a variety of under-the-counter wedding dresses, stuffed dolls and any number of other work-related perks, not to mention the disruptive appearance of sailors on shore leave, romantic Mediterranean designers and chicken legs in the pockets of his proudest creations.

Public response was so great a second series of thirteen programmes was rushed into production and went out a short four months later.

By the end of 1962, the popularity of the show inspired a theatrical spin-off at the Piccadilly Theatre featuring most of the cast, and E.M.I. records got into the act by releasing an LP of highlights from the television soundtrack.

Soon after, a third series was back on the B.B.C., but Sheila Hancock and Esmá Cannon had now left the cast. In the role of the "dumb" blonde came Barbara Windsor as the buxom Judy, whom storylines decreed would act as a love interest for Reg (Windsor had in fact appeared in a minor role in the show's first season, but had few lines).

Three episodes into the run the marvelous Irene Handl also became a regular, playing Reg's chattering mum who is hired as Fenner's book-keeper. However, despite the addition of such fine actresses, the shift in emphasis to Reg and Judy threw the format off-centre and at the conclusion of thirteen programmes it was decided to conclude the show's run. But, *The Rag Trade* wasn't quite finished as it happened.



Fourteen years later, commercial television's London Weekend decided to revive the series and brought back Jones and Karlin to recreate their roles in a new batch of fifteen episodes, now set in the late 1970s.

In place of Reg Varney, ex-*Upstairs, Downstairs* actor Christopher Beeny was signed to play Tony, the "man-in-the-middle" in the workroom. Anna Karen moved her character of Olive (from *On The Buses*, also scripted by Wolfe and Chesney) to Fenner Fashions, and Diane Langton (who had taken over the Barbara Windsor role in a recent *Carry On*) appeared as the Windsorsque Kathy. More prominent in these new editions was the role of Mrs. Fenner (played by Rowena Cooper, and later Joy Stewart).

The new venture initially reworked a number of the original plotlines, but by the time of a follow-up season (a year later) new stories were created. And a decade and a half after its premiere, *The Rag Trade* delighted a whole new generation of viewers.

## Series 1

BBC October 6 to December 8 1961 (10 episodes)  
starring Peter Jones, Miriam Karlin, Reg Varney, Sheila Hancock, Esmá Cannon.

### 1. *The Baby*

When Fenner finds one of the girls has brought her baby to work, the resultant fracas between management and staff threatens production of a line of polka dot gowns.

### 2. (title unknown)

Paddy promises Carole the girls will be able to make her a wedding dress with material left over from an order for Arcadia Gowns.

### 3. (title unknown)

Fenner installs a time-clock to help gain a contract with chain store Parks and Spicer and the resultant docking of wages leaves the girls with no money to bet on a sure thing at the races.

### 4. *French Fashions*

Fenner arranges for Carole to model a pair of slacks at the Ritz Plaza to help secure an American order.

### 5. (title unknown)

Paddy allows Carole to wear a sample dress to lunch with her sailor boyfriend and a resultant mishap jeopardizes a 3:30 viewing by a prospective buyer.

### 6. (title unknown)

Fenner is determined to enforce a ban on eating in the workroom when an angry customer returns items of food in his

garments.

7. (title unknown)

Fenner Fashions has been awarded a contract to supply Wren uniforms to the Admiralty by inadvertently tendering bankruptingly low prices so the girls have to show their workmanship is shoddy to save the situation.

8. (title unknown)

Fenner is laid low with a heavy cold at the very moment he has to produce a gown which is to be worn on television by an international singing star and lead to numerous orders.

9. *The Italian Designer*

The arrival of Roberto, an Italian beachwear designer, causes strained relations among the girls in the workroom.

10. *The Golliwogs*

To make a bit of pocket money for the Festive season, Paddy and the girls produce 300 golliwog dolls, unbeknownst to Fenner.

## Series 2

BBC April 6 to June 29 1962 (13 episodes)

starring Peter Jones, Miriam Karlin, Reg Varney, Sheila Hancock, Esma Cannon

1. (title unknown)

When the one-armed bandit in the restroom has taken all the girls' money, Paddy wants to make use of the 15 pounds Reg has been given to pay the electricity bill.

2. (title unknown)

Lily's dog has ruined one of Fenner's upmarket creations so the girls set up a temporary salon to try and market it themselves.

3. (title unknown)

Reg finds himself trapped in the ladies' rest room without his trousers on the day a factory inspector visits.

4. (title unknown)

Fenner arranges for Reg to paint his flat whilst he is away in Amsterdam but Paddy sees it as the perfect venue for her birthday party.

5. (title unknown)

Paddy and Carole take the day off and use Fenner's new buttonhole machine to make four bridesmaid's dresses but problems occur when it breaks down.

6. (title unknown)

Owing to a mixup with stainproofer, the girls end up ruining Fenner's coat and try to get his measurements to make a replacement without his knowing.

7. *Stay-In Strike*

Paddy and the girls are unhappy with Fenner's new secretary and decide the only way to have her removed is to take industrial action.

8. *The Fish And Chip Shop*

Despite having to complete a rush order for Fenner, Reg and the girls agree to mind the local fish shop when the owner's wife has a baby.

9. (title unknown)

Having tricked Fenner into a generous rate for a line of satin dresses, the girls make far more than he can sell and have to help him entice a prospective client with a special lunch.

10. (title unknown)

When Paddy's excessive safety precautions cause some dress prices to skyrocket, the only way Fenner can sell them is to convince the client they are the work of a French designer.



11. (title unknown)

The arrival of handsome Dr. Blake leads to so many of the girls requiring his treatment that a factory inspector thinks they're employed in an unsafe workplace.

12. (title unknown)

When Fenner refuses the girls a raise, they set up a sideline as a Chinese laundry in conjunction with the local barber shop.

13. (title unknown)

Having been left with a surplus of Baby Doll nighties, Fenner tries to get an overdraft but must agree to a inspection visit by the bank manager.

• a stage production of *The Rag Trade* premiered at London's Piccadilly Theatre on December 19th 1962. Scripted by Wolfe and Chesney, it starred Jones, Varney, Karlin and Cannon and ran for 77 performances.

## Series 3

BBC January 5 to March 30 1963 (13 episodes)

starring Peter Jones, Miriam Karlin, Reg Varney, Barbara Windsor, Irene Handl

1. *The Australian*

Reg considers emigrating "down under" so Fenner and Paddy try to line up a romantic interest for him with one of the new girls.

2. *Triplets*

Having Judy help him fill out his tax form results in Reg receiving a large refund because it's believed he has a wife, three children and a grandmother to support.

3. *The Budgie*

Fenner employs Reg's mother as book-keeper and she insists on bringing her talking budgerigar Bertie to work with her.

4. *The Baby Sitter*

Reg's mother keeps interrupting the girls' card game so they relocate to the Fenner's where one of their fellow-workers is babysitting.

5. *Second Mrs. Fenner*

Owing to Reg's motor scooter accident, the girls are not ready with a sample coat, so Paddy suggests Fenner delay the Australian client with a home-cooked meal but Mrs. Fenner was planning on celebrating their anniversary by dining out.

6. *Chef's Special*

To entice Reg into becoming engaged, Paddy suggests Judy prepare him a succulent meal.

7. *The Italian Bit*

Reg has an argument with Judy and wants to invite an Italian girl named Maria home for a meal if her brothers agree.

8. *Baby Dolls*

When Reg and the girls bet Fenner's money on a losing



greyhound they use army surplus parachute silk to make an order of nighties.

#### 9. *After The Ball*

Paddy pretends Judy is Fenner's daughter at the annual Fashion World ball to impress a chain-store heir and the deception could lead to them placing a large order for polka dot dresses.

#### 10. *The Engagement Ring*

Engagement celebrations at the local pub are disrupted when the pearl disappears from Judy's ring.

#### 11. *Crocodile Tears*

The shoe is on the other foot when Fenner needs cash to pay for some crocodile belts at a time when the girls have won 80 pounds on the pools.

#### 12. *National Productivity Year*

Fenner Fashions attempt at a productivity drive are thwarted by Paddy's "Everybody out!" whistle.

#### 13. *The American Buyer*

When an efficiency-minded prospective buyer looks like taking over the business, Paddy and Judy decide to get new jobs but their first approach is to the very man they are hoping to avoid.

### Series 4

London Weekend September 11 to December 18 1977 (not on Dec 4) and December 24 1977 (15 episodes)

starring Peter Jones, Miriam Karlin, Christopher Beeny, Anna Karen, Diane Langton, Rowena Cooper

#### 1. *Stay-In Strike*

Fenner's ideas for improving output result in an industrial revolt in the workroom.

#### 2. *The Sample*

Paddy allows Kathy to wear Fenner's sample dress on a date with her new boyfriend.

#### 3. *Fixing The Rate*

To increase efficiency, Fenner uses a stop-watch to time production in the workroom.

#### 4. *The Lunch Problem*

Mr. Fenner refuses to set up a staff canteen so the girls decide to do the cooking themselves.

#### 5. *The Export Order*

Fenner Fashions have received an order from New York but Kathy's birthday celebrations threaten to delay things.

#### 6. *The Italian Line*

Fenner hires an Italian designer and the girls aren't happy when Paddy falls for him.

#### 7. *Olive's Baby*

The girls go on strike when Fenner won't allow Olive's baby in the workroom.

#### 8. *The Wedding Dress*

The Fenners arrive at the factory for some Saturday morning stocktaking just when Paddy and the girls are secretly making

Kathy's wedding dress.

#### 9. *The Sideline*

Paddy's latest infatuation leads to the setting up of an undercover industry in the workroom.

#### 10. *The Guv'nor's Wife*

Mrs. Fenner is to attend a rally featuring Margaret Thatcher but Paddy's sentiments are with the Labour Party.

#### 11. *The New Girl*

The staff at Fenner Fashions aren't pleased when their employer hires a personal assistant straight from college.

#### 12. *The Bet*

The girls feel a horse called "Paddy" running in the 2:30 is too good an omen to pass up.

#### 13. *The Accident*

Paddy tries to get compensation for Kathy by way of an arranged industrial accident.

#### 14. *The New Brother*

When Fenner employs an Indian girl to do the embroidery, the girls aren't thrilled about her efficient methods.

#### 15. *Christmas Rush*

Fenner urges the girls to complete an order of dresses before the holidays then has to get them to alter his wife's cocktail frock.

### Series 5

London Weekend September 8 to October 20 1978 (7 episodes) starring Peter Jones, Miriam Karlin, Christopher Beeny, Anna Karen, Diane Langton, Joy Stewart

#### 1. *The Annual Ball*

The girls are asked to make a special dress for Mrs. Fenner to wear to the Gown Makers' Ball.

#### 2. *The Leather Line*

When Fenner decides to introduce leatherwear into the workroom, Paddy sees it as an excuse for a new set of negotiations.

#### 3. *Stress*

Fenner has to undergo a life insurance medical examination before the bank will agree to another loan.

#### 4. *A Bad Patch*

Fenner Fashions reputation for poor service has resulted in a lack of orders and with no bonuses the girls organize a few money-making schemes.

#### 5. *Come Back Paddy*

Paddy refuses an offer from a rival firm until Mrs. Fenner gets involved.

#### 6. *Self-Defence*

A spate of attacks in the area prompts Paddy to insist Fenner organize self-defence lessons.

#### 7. *Fenner's Folly*

Fenner is trying to arrange a large order with a Chelsea boutique and has to negotiate with a very attractive buyer.

### Record

#### **The Rag Trade**

(Parlophone LP PMC 1188)

features soundtrack extracts from series 1 and 2:

A Letter From Bill/Tea Break At Fenner's/A Cold Cure For Fenner/A Baby In The Works

### Book

*The Rag Trade* by Peter Buchanan

(W.H. Allen/Star paperback, 1977)

# What's

# NEW?

## VIDEOS:

### **Bottom**

B.B.C. Video PAL

three series 2 shows with Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson: Digger/Culture/Burglary

### **Magda — The Best Of Magda Szubanski**

Visual Entertainment Group APV 015 PAL

75m of highlights from the Seven Network series Fast Forward

### **The Very Best Of Fast Forward**

Visual Entertainment Group APV 016 PAL

90m of highlights from the Seven Network series

### **The Doug Anthony All Stars — Dead And Alive**

Warner 4509 91480-3 PAL

75m performance in London

## BOOKS:

### **The Official Andy Griffith Show Scrapbook**

by Lee Pfeiffer (Citadel Press paperback)

episode guide plus a history of the series

### **The Craig Charles Almanac Of Total Knowledge**

by Craig Charles and Russell Bell (Boxtree paperback)

### **Keeping Up Appearances — Hyacinth Bucket's Book Of Etiquette For The Socially Less Fortunate**

by Jonathan Rice (BBC Books)

## COMPACT DISCS:

### **The Stan Freberg Show**

Radiola CDMR-1166

two complete CBS broadcasts: August 4 and October 6 1957

### **The Best Of Jonathan Winters**

Dove (no number given)

tracks not listed

### **Eddie Cantor — The Show That Never Aired**

Original Cast OC 9347

On October 23 1940 Cantor's NBC broadcast was pre-empted so he and Dinah Shore performed a 50-minute show for the studio audience

### **Kevin Bloody Wilson — Nashville Trash**

Sony/Both Barrels BBCD 1493

The Sheila Singer/Don't Touch Your Sister/When You're Stoned/The All-Time Loser's Blues (part 1)/Mean, Lean Lovin' Machine/Tears And Snot/A Tool That'll Fix It/The All-Time Loser's Blues (part 2)/Damn Good Shit/Sex, Drugs And Rock 'n' Roll

### **Jive Turkey's Christmas Comedy Album**

Sony/Columbia 474880 2

Just Another Christmas Day (Gina Riley)/Aussie Metal Christmas (Bruno Lucia)/Tele-Kon (George Kapiniaris)/Jive Turkey (Jive Turkey)/Kylie's Turkey (Maryanne Fahey)/True Blue Santa (Russell Gilbert)/The Xmas Cup (Alan Pentland)/Tutti Frutti (Peter Moon)/ The Xmas Shopper From Hell (Margaret Downey)/ Rabbitborough's Christmas (Ian McFadyan)/The Little Greek Shepherd Boy (George Kapiniaris)/Con's Christmas Socks (Mark Mitchell)/A Perfect Christmas (Stephen Kearney)/Turkey (Jive Turkey)/Absolutely Perfect (Special K.V. Main Man Yuri)/The Night Of The Endless Christmas (Geoff Brooks)

### **John Clarke — The Fred Dagg Tapes**

Festival D 19742

reissue of the LP (see track itemisation in Laugh #6)

### **John Clarke — Swim Between The Flags**

Festival D 19752

reissue of the LP (see track itemisation in Laugh #6)

