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Look-in

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THE NEW AVENGERS

BACK ON TV! BIG COLOUR PIN-UP PLUS COMP!

THE BAY CITY ROLLERS

ARE BACK TOO! COLOUR FEATURE & LP COMP!

TOP BIONIC ADVENTURE INSIDE!

exclusive picture strips



It's great having the super threesome team of John Steed, Purdey and Mike Gambit back in the latest "Avengers" series. And, like us, you're probably dying to find out a bit more about the people who actually play the parts of our heroes on the screen. Well, come with us and find out what Patrick Macnee, Joanna Lumley and Gareth Hunt are really like away from the eye of the camera...

Purdey always manages to look sophisticated and unruffled on the television situation. Off-screen, actress Joanna Lumley also looks as if she could cope with any situation that cropped up. Thirty-year-old Joanna got the part of Purdey from thousands who auditioned.

As she herself said at the time: "I was very dejected at the time I did the audition. I'd been out of work for six months and there were loads of little things going wrong

at the flat that needed fixing, like the loo not flushing! I was so fed up I'd thought of packing up and going off to the States! So I couldn't believe it when I was offered the part. It was such a good one and I knew it would be fun to do."

As it turned out, of course, Joanna did find the part of Purdey an interesting challenge, even despite the tough schedule and hard work everyone had to put into the first series.

When the episodes are actually filmed, Joanna has to get up at six in the morning to get to the studio or location by seven-thirty. Then everyone works until the light goes.

As Joanna remarked: "Even when I'm not actually in front of the camera I might be busy at the hairdresser, the costume department or talking to people in the publicity department. It's all very hectic but I love it!"

Joanna has learned now how to cope

with all the pressures of making such a successful series. And another member of the cast who's also accustomed to all the work and pressure is actor Patrick Macnee. He's been playing the role of John Steed in the "Avengers" since the very start of the series way back in the '60's.

And Patrick now has everything worked out just right. When the last series was in the can he flew straight back to his house in Palm Springs, on the edge of the Californian desert, just to relax and unwind. "I'd put on almost two stones while filming," Patrick said, "and I knew I'd have to get back home and work off all the excess weight."

Patrick Macnee's method of losing weight is to go on a strict diet of eating just good, wholesome raw foods. And he does lots of extra work in his garden as one form of exercise. As well as that he swims daily, plays a lot of tennis and walks for eight miles a day! "Eight miles" →

THE RETURN OF THE AVENGING THREESOME!



is nothing," he modestly claims, "I know for a fact that David Niven walks twenty miles a day!"

Patrick Macnee's always been an actor. He was born in London and his father was a famous horse trainer, "Shrimp" Macnee. Patrick also has the distinction of being the first ever actor to appear on Canadian television way back in 1952.

Want to know what Patrick Macnee and Gareth Hunt share in common? — they were both in the Navy when they were younger. But Patrick was in the Royal Navy and Gareth spent six years in the Merchant Navy. And it was while he was spending his time aboard ship that Gareth says he had a brush with his first real life adventure.

"I was seventeen at the time," Gareth recalled, "and our boat was in the Bay of Biscay."

"Suddenly, a wild, raging storm blew up and the boat became uncontrollable, buffeting about in the wind and sea. I was sure we'd had it! I couldn't see a way out for us and I was just terrified. Like anyone must who finds themselves in this situation I prayed. And I promised myself that if I survived I'd write home to my mother more often."

"Once you've come so close to the other side things never seem quite the same again."

Which is why, perhaps, Gareth has the attitude to take life as it comes.

He sees acting as just another job and his success in both "Upstairs, Downstairs" and the "Avengers" hasn't given

him any notion that he's now a 'superstar'.

"I don't want to be a sex symbol," Gareth told us, "it's not my scene. I don't enjoy the publicity bit or being recognised. On TV, you're to a certain extent the product of the public."

"In any case, the fact that I'm acting in a successful series doesn't mean to say that I've arrived. It's just a stepping stone to something else. I'd like to be a director and I'd like to write. I may do all this later."

Gareth is also a very private, retiring person. He's spent his leisure hours in the last two years re-decorating a large, old house he bought in Putney, London. If he says he enjoys staying at home then Gareth also admits to being a good cook. His favourite recipe is sausage casserole!

Success for the "Avengers" must have meant more money in the bank for all three stars, yet not one of them seems to have any outward show of it. Gareth drives around in a Beetle car. "Even if I had the money," he told us, "I'd never go in for buying something like a Rolls Royce. For a start, you'd never be able to park it in London! And a Rolls would use up so much petrol, too!"

Joanna herself only drives a Mini. "I do quite a lot of walking as well."

Joanna lives in the South West London area and there's a story of how, one day, she just decided that she needed a long walk. So she slammed out of the house, without taking anything with her, to have a long stroll.

However, after a few miles she soon wore herself out and decided she'd take a

bus home. Only one thing was wrong though! She'd forgotten her purse and didn't have any money on her to get home!

In the series, Joanna does a lot of the falls, roof top jumps, car skidding and motor cycle riding herself. "It really was hard at first," she recalled, "especially as I suffer from vertigo!"

Joanna is also as settled in her home life as both Patrick Macnee and Gareth Hunt. She feels that she did all there was to do back in the Swinging Sixties.

Between acting assignments Joanna 'drifted' into modelling work — and found herself overnight fame as a 'Face Of The Sixties'.

She was married very briefly for eight months when she was twenty-one and always says now that she'll think very hard before doing that again. Among the many famous people who've dated her have been Rod Stewart and Patrick Lichfield!

There's one point that seems to be clear about all three stars from the "New Avengers". All of them take their work very seriously and not one of them seems to be affected by the title 'superstar'.

After all, as Gareth put it, acting is just a job, like any other.



Exclusive Look-in Competition

50 FANTASTIC NEW AVENGERS MISSION KITS MUST BE WON!

That's right! You could become a young New Avenger overnight simply by entering this week's terrific Look-in competition. This superb Mission Kit, made by Thomas Salter Ltd., will bring the excitement of Steed, Gambit and Purdey to each of our 50 winners because it contains all the equipment needed for a dangerous secret assignment — including gun with silencer, code discs, identity cards, hand grenade, mission routes and a real camera that takes 16 pictures on an standard 127 roll of film! Everything a young Avenger could possibly ask for to help him or her with a special investigation, in fact!



RULES:
Entry is free and open to all Look-in readers aged 16 and under living in the United Kingdom, with the exception of the families of employees of ITV publications Ltd., Thomas Salter Ltd. and their agents. The senders of the first 50 all-correct entries drawn from the postbag after the closing date will receive a New Avengers Mission Kit. The Editor's decision will be final and no correspondence can be entered into.

TO ENTER

First of all, though, you'll have to track down the answers to the following five questions. When you've found them, complete the coupon (right), not forgetting to add your name, address and age, and send it, on a POSTCARD only, to: Look-in, New Avengers Comp., P.O. Box 141, London SE6 3HR, to arrive not later than Monday, 26th September 1977.

QUESTIONS

1. Who plays the part of the lovely Purdey in 'The New Avengers'?
2. Where does Patrick Macnee live?
3. What is Gareth Hunt's favourite dish?
4. How many miles does Patrick Macnee walk a day?
5. What have Patrick Macnee and Gareth Hunt in common?

Send, on a POSTCARD only, to: Look-in New Avengers Comp., P.O. Box 141, London SE6 3HR.

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| 1 | Name |
| 2 | Address |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | Age |

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