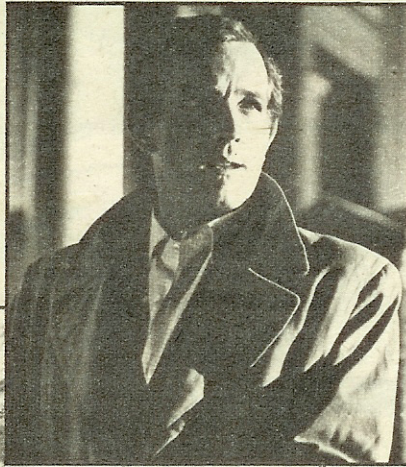




in view

DATELINE LONDON ... with Dave Lanning bringing you TV's top diary

The old, New Avenger



Ian Hendry in *Police Surgeon* (inset) and now in *The New Avengers*

THERE'S A certain poetic quality about the guest appearance of Ian Hendry in this week's episode of *The New Avengers: To Catch a Rat*.

For, back in 1960 Hendry was one of the original Avengers; in fact, the programme developed from his own series called *Police Surgeon*.

"Rather eerie going back after 16 years and seeing Steed's same bowler hat," said Hendry. "I left when the show was at its peak because I've always believed in keeping moving. And inevitably when you keep moving you go around in the odd circle."

Poetic, too, that immediately before returning to *The New Avengers* set, Hendry had been out on tour for three months with a play called *Motive* with another Avengers "original", Honor Blackman.

Hendry has certainly broken a lot of new ground since he was Dr. Geoffrey Brent in the old run. He's done seven different television series (including *The Informer*, *Probation Officer* and *The Lotus Eaters*), he turned down a chance of becoming the filmic James Bond, pre-empted Alfie in the film *Live Now—Pay Later*, and is still restlessly plumbing his own talents and discovering new depths.

He has been writing poetry himself. Music, too. He's jotted down enough poetic prose to fill five small volumes ("or one large one"), has completed 10 songs (two of which are under consideration by Sammy Davis Jr.). "Writing both is a complete release for me," he said. "I'm hitting the pencil these days, instead of the bottle, and people."

Final poetic coincidence about Hendry's Avengers return: in *To Catch a Rat*, he plays a circus trapeze artist. And his very first experience in showbusiness was as a stooge to *Coco the Clown*.

TV TOP TWENTY

Back come the bouncing Avengers

THE BBC'S recent domination of the top of the television ratings took a pasting last week — from established ITV programmes.

And *The New Avengers*, which fell over the past weeks from eighth position to 18th, is making a fighting comeback. Last week it reached 14th place in the ratings.

Here are the figures for the week ending November 14, giving the estimated number of homes viewing.

- 1 *The Sweeney* ITV 9,400,000
- 2 *George And Mildred* ITV 9,250,000
- 3 *Bruce Forsyth And The Generation Game* BBC 9,150,000
- 4 *This Is Your Life* ITV 8,400,000
- 5 *Sale Of The Century* ITV 8,350,000
- 6 *Coronation Street (Mon.)* ITV 8,000,000
- 7 *Opportunity Knocks* ITV 7,950,000
- 7 *Crossroads (Wed)* ITV 7,950,000
- 9 *Crossroads (Thurs.)* ITV 7,900,000
- 9 *Crossroads (Friday)* ITV 7,900,000
- 11 *Wednesday At Eight* ITV 7,600,000
- 12 *Coronation Street (Wed)* BBC 7,150,000
- 13 *Crossroads (Tues.)* ITV 7,500,000
- 14 *The New Avengers* ITV 7,150,000
- 14 *Dr Who* BBC 7,150,000
- 14 *Duchess Of Duke Street* BBC 7,150,000
- 17 *News At Ten (Mon.)* ITN 7,050,000
- 18 *World In Action* ITV 6,900,000
- 19 *Sykes* BBC 6,750,000
- 20 *Royal British Legion Festival Of Remembrance* BBC 6,650,000

© Figures provided by Audits Of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee For Television Advertising Research.



IOANNA: Shopping

Purdey buys a laugh

WATCH for a familiar face in an unfamiliar setting this evening, when Joanna Lumley, Purdey in the *New Avengers*, pops up at Grace Brothers' store.

The episode of *Are*

Diana play

Av

D

so

div

ACTRE

Rigg,

Emma

TV

Avenger

ing a

Miss

married

Israeli

chem

1973.

N

The

together

and we

separate

year.

The

another

Honor

was di

year.

And

son, who

the s

named a

woman's

Stubbs.

EXCLUSIVE SMO

Look

THE NEW

SPECIAL FEATURE

ERIAN MOORE'S

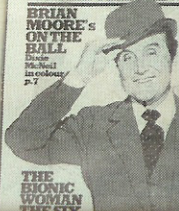
ON THE

BALL

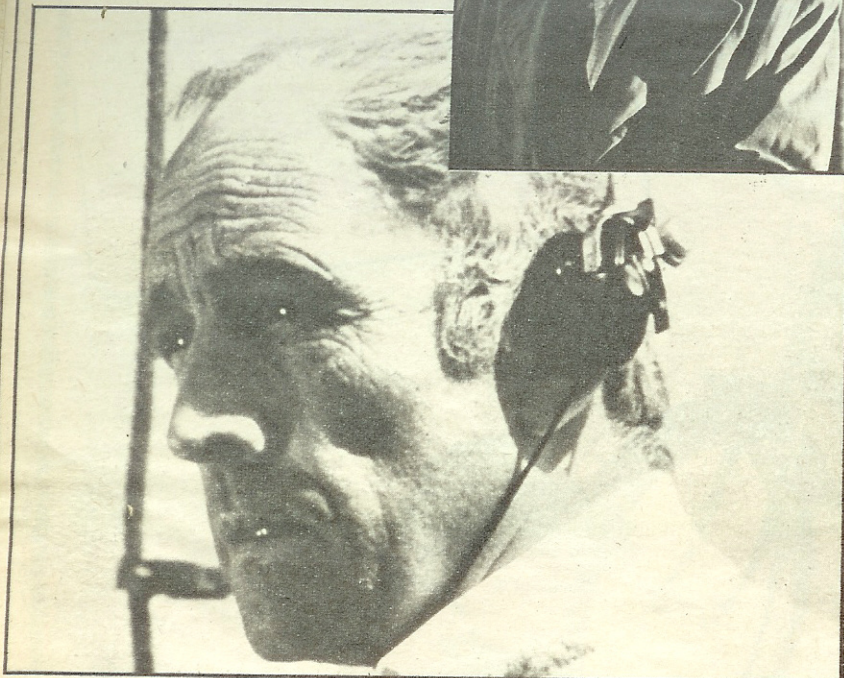
THE

THE

THE



New Avenger



Ian Hendry in *Police Surgeon* (inset) and now in *The New Avengers*

THERE'S A certain poetic quality about the guest appearance of Ian Hendry in this week's episode of *The New Avengers: To Catch a Rat*.

For, back in 1960 Hendry was one of the original Avengers; in fact, the programme developed from his own series called *Police Surgeon*.

"Rather eerie going back after 16 years and seeing Steed's same bowler hat," said Hendry. "I left when the show was at its peak because I've always believed in keeping moving. And inevitably when you keep moving you go around in the odd circle."

Poetic, too, that immediately before returning to *The New Avengers* set, Hendry had been out on tour for three months with a play called *Motive* with another Avengers "original", Honor Blackman.

Hendry has certainly broken a lot of new ground since he was Dr. Geoffrey Brent in the old run. He's done seven different television series (including *The Informer*, *Probation Officer* and *The Lotus Eaters*), he turned down a chance of becoming the filmic James Bond, pre-empted Alfie in the film *Live Now—Pay Later*, and is still restlessly plumbing his own talents and discovering new depths.

He has been writing poetry himself. Music, too. He's jotted down enough poetic prose to fill five small volumes ("or one large one"), has completed 10 songs (two of which are under consideration by Sammy Davis Jr.). "Writing both is a complete release for me," he said. "I'm hitting the pencil these days, instead of the bottle, and people."

Final poetic coincidence about Hendry's Avengers return: in *To Catch a Rat*, he plays a circus trapeze artist. And his very first experience in showbusiness was as a stooge to Coco the Clown.

top of the television ratings took a pasting last week — from established ITV programmes.

And *The New Avengers*, which fell over the past weeks from eighth position to 18th, is making a fighting comeback. Last week it reached 14th place in the ratings.

Here are the figures for the week ending November 14, giving the estimated number of homes viewing.

- 1 *The Sweeney* ITV 9,400,000
- 2 *George And Mildred* ITV 9,250,000
- 3 *Bruce Forsyth And The Generation Game* BBC 9,150,000
- 4 *This Is Your Life* ITV 8,400,000
- 5 *Sale Of The Century* ITV 8,350,000
- 6 *Coronation Street (Mon.)* ITV 8,000,000
- 7 *Opportunity Knocks* ITV 7,950,000
- 7 *Crossroads (Wed)* ITV 7,950,000
- 9 *Crossroads (Thurs.)* ITV 7,900,000
- 9 *Crossroads (Friday)* ITV 7,900,000
- 11 *Wednesday At Eight* ITV 7,600,000
- 12 *Coronation Street (Wed)* BBC 7,150,000
- 13 *Crossroads (Tues.)* ITV 7,500,000
- 14 *The New Avengers* ITV 7,150,000
- 14 *Dr Who* BBC 7,150,000
- 14 *Duchess Of Duke Street* BBC 7,150,000
- 17 *News At Ten (Mon.)* ITN 7,050,000
- 18 *World In Action* ITV 6,900,000
- 19 *Sykes* BBC 6,750,000
- 20 *Royal British Legion Festival Of Remembrance* BBC 6,650,000

© Figures provided by Audits Of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee For Television Advertising Research.



JOANNA: Shopping

Purdey buys a laugh

WATCH for a familiar face in an unfamiliar setting this evening, when Joanna Lumley, Purdey in the *New Avengers*, pops up at Grace Brothers' store.

The episode of *Are You Being Served?* (BBC 1, 8 pm.) is a hilarious repeat.

Joanna, 29, plays a German customer who calls during German week at the store.

But it is the regular cast who grab the attention when they dress in German gear.

Diana Rigg played Emma

Avenger

Diana

seek

divor

ACTRESS

Rigg, who Emma Peel TV series Avengers, is ing a divor

Miss Rigg, married 43-year Israeli artist chem Gueff 1973.

Name

The couple together only and were separated within year.

The marriage another A Honor Blackman was dissolved year.

And Linda son, who was the series, named as "the woman" by Stubbs.

EXCLUSIVE SMOKE IN

Look

THE NEW AVEN

SPECIAL FEATURE • BIG CO

BRIAN MOORE'S ON THE BALL

THE SEXY MILLION DOLLAR BEAN

PICTURE STRIP ACTION

