

Vladek and his Iron Curtain call

A FAMILIAR FACE in dozens of cinematic Iron Curtain spy dramas, Polish-born actor Vladek Sheybal has his own personal, and diplomatically downstage East-West escape story.

He didn't jump the Iron Curtain. He wasn't involved in one of those Bondish midnight handover ceremonies. He sort of slipped underneath while no one was really looking.

"As a young Polish actor, I won an Oscar award and part of my prize, given by the Ministry of Culture, was to spend two weeks in Paris and in London to study French and English," he explained.

"But I liked it so much in England, I just stayed on. Originally it was to be only for two years. But it is 18 years now and I consider myself very English," said Vladek at home in Fulham.

"I didn't defect. It was nothing political. I just liked it better here."

Since becoming a British citizen he has been rather pigeon-holed playing baddies with Eastern European accents, although he appears as Zacardi, an unusually compelling little bird-man in this week's *New Avengers* story *Cat Amongst the Pigeons*.

He's divorced (his ex-wife is a member of the Polish National Theatre in Warsaw), a dedicated loner who loves to paint and write plays (none yet sold in this country, but several in Germany). He speaks, in addition to his native tongue and English, fluent German, Italian and French and is resigned to being vaguely recognised as a face, rather than a name.

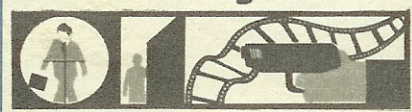
"I don't mind," he said. "I'm a shy, inconspicuous little fellow."

But he's still a man who managed to breach the Iron Curtain on a ministerial subsidy, which is a twist . . .



Joanna Lumley and Gareth Hunt help another threat in *The New Avengers* (with Patrick Macnee in the

8.0 The New Avengers



PATRICK MACNEE
GARETH HUNT
JOANNA LUMLEY in
To Catch a Rat

BY TERENCE FEELY
with IAN HENDRY

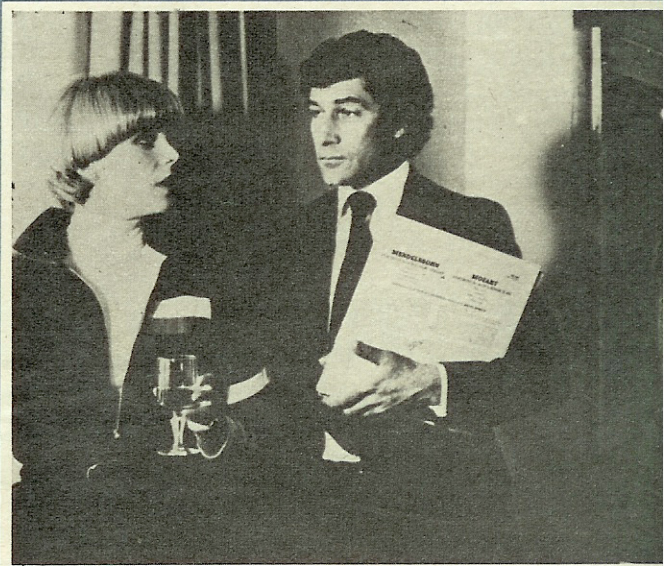
A man pushed from a trapeze . . . a radio message that's 17 years late and suddenly Steed and Gambit are fighting the Cold War of the 'Sixties again. While Purdey faces a rat that carries a gun.

● Patrick Macnee and all the gorgeous Avenger girls . . . meet them in a special *TVTimes* Souvenir Colour Extra. Read about it on page 30.

Jeremy Hawk—waiting for something wonderful: see page 79 and In View

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| John Steed | Patrick Macnee |
| Mike Gambit | Gareth Hunt |
| Purdey | Joanna Lumley |
| Gunner | Ian Hendry |
| Cromwell | Edward Judd |
| Quaintance | Robert Flemyng |
| Cledge | Barry Jackson |
| Grant | Anthony Sharp |
| Finder | Jeremy Hawk |
| Operator | Bernice Stegers |
| Nurse | Jo Kendall |
| Farmer | Dallas Cavell |
| Mother | Sally-Jane Spencer |

DIRECTOR JAMES HILL: PRODUCERS ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS



8.0 Purdey, Gambit and Steed again put their lives in try to out-wit Eastern European spies in this gripping *The New Avengers*. Joanna Lumley, Gareth Hunt and

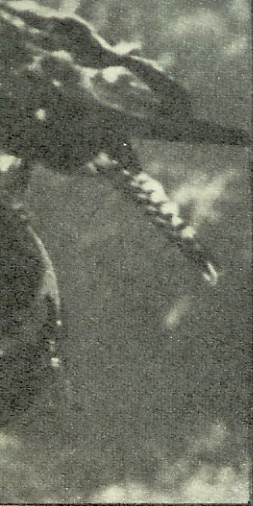
8.0 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in
Faces

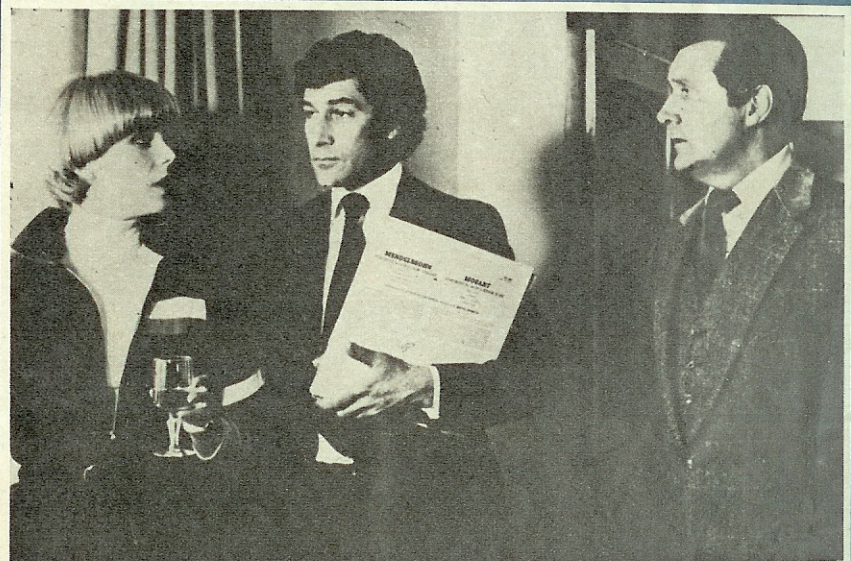
BY BRIAN CLEMENS, DENNIS SPOONER
Double trouble for *The New Avengers*. What do you do when the man waiting to kill you—is you? Who can Purdey trust? Is Purdey really Purdey?
Girls, stop chasing me, says Gareth



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It's all
diabolical



Joanna Lumley and Gareth Hunt help save the country from another threat in *The New Avengers* (ITV 8 p.m.). They star with Patrick Macnee in the series.



8.0

Purdey, Gambit and Steed again put their lives in danger as they try to out-wit Eastern European spies in this gripping episode of *The New Avengers*. Joanna Lumley, Gareth Hunt and Patrick Macnee

Operator
Nurse
Farmer
Mother

Jeremy Hawk
Bernice Stegers
Jo Kendall
Dallas Cavell
Sally-Jane Spencer

DIRECTOR JAMES HILL : PRODUCERS
ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

8.0 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
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Hunt: see page 14

Steed
Purdey
Gambit
Prator
Mullins
Clifford
Wendy
Bilston
Sheila

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
David De Keyser
Edward Petherbridge
Neil Hallett
Annabel Leventon
David Webb
Jill Melford

Craig
Torrance
Attendant
Tramp
Peters

Richard Leech
Donald Hewlett
Robert Putt
J. G. Devlin
Michael Sheard

DIRECTOR JAMES HILL : PRODUCER ALBERT
FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS



JOANNA : a diabolical plot.

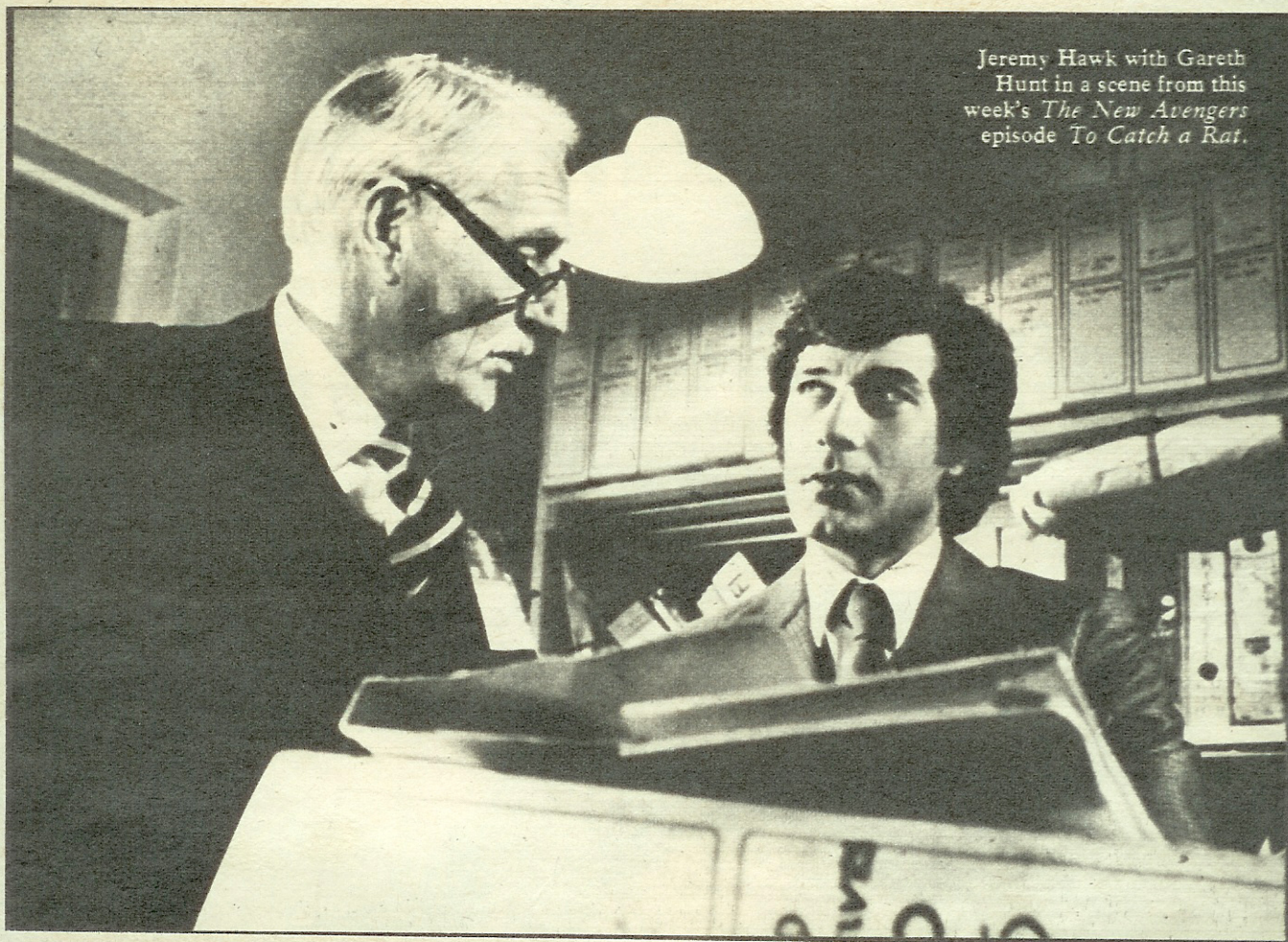
Purdey at the double

★ THERE'S a
double role for
Joanna Lumley
in this week's
AVENGERS epi-
sode (London and
Anglia ITV, 8.0,
other areas
Friday).

Besides the
lethal-kicking
Purdey, she plays
a woman who is
being groomed to
replace Purdey as
a look-alike.

It's all part of a
diabolical plot to
create doubles of
Britain's top men
eventually to take
control of the
country.

Steed and
Gambit have their
doubles, too. So
the problem is
who is who—and
whom can any of
them trust?



Jeremy Hawk with Gareth Hunt in a scene from this week's *The New Avengers* episode *To Catch a Rat*.

8.0 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
GARETH HUNT
JOANNA LUMLEY in

Tale of the Big Why

BY BRIAN CLEMENS

What was the secret Burt Brandon kept to himself during a prison term? It was valuable enough for someone to kill him and for John Steed, Mike Gambit and Purdey to risk their lives to find.

The exciting *TVTimes* souvenir Extra *The New Avengers* is on sale at your newsagents, price 40p.

John Steed
Mike Gambit
Purdey
Harmer
Irene
Brandon
Turner
Roach
Poole
Minister
Mrs. Turner

Patrick Macnee
Gareth Hunt
Joanna Lumley
Derek Waring
Jenny Runacre
George Cooper
Roy Marsden
Gary Waldhorn
Rowland Davis
Geoffrey Toone
Maeve Alexander

DIRECTOR ROBERT FUEST: PRODUCERS
FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

7.30

The News Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

Sleeper

BY BRIAN CLEMENS

The whole town's sleeping. And it's open day for the biggest bank raid ever. But Steed, Purdey and Gambit are still wide awake!

Steed
Purdey
Gambit
Brady
Tina
Chuck
Bart
Bill
Ben
Fred
Carter
Hardy

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
Keith Buckley
Sara Kestelman
Mark Jones
Prentis Hancock
Leo Dolan
David Schofield
Gavin Campbell
Peter Godfrey
Joe Dunne

DIRECTOR GRAEME CLIFFORD

7.30

The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

The Three-Handed Game

BY DENNIS SPOONER, BRIAN CLEMENS

Think of a secret. Split it three ways. Add a lethal tap dancer, Steed in a racing car, Gambit in the nude and Purdey in deadly danger—and call it all the adventure of *The Three-Handed Game*...

Steed
Purdey
Gambit
Ranson
Juventor
Ivan
Larry
Prof. Meroff
Masgard
Tony Field

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
David Wood
Stephen Greif
Tony Vogel
Michael Petrovitch
Terry Wood
Gary Raymond
Noel Trevarthen

DIRECTOR RAY AUSTIN: PRODUCERS
ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

7.30 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

Dirtier By the Dozen

BY BRIAN CLEMENS

Old soldiers never die—or do they? Steed's looking for a lost General, Gambit joins the Army and Purdey faces one—alone.

<i>Steed</i>	Patrick Macnee
<i>Purdey</i>	Joanna Lumley
<i>Gambit</i>	Gareth Hunt
<i>Col. Miller</i>	John Castle
<i>Sgt. Bowden</i>	Shaun Curry
<i>Travis</i>	Colin Skeaping
<i>Gen. Stevens</i>	Michael Barrington
<i>Capt. Tony Noble</i>	Michael Howarth
<i>Terry</i>	Brian Croucher

DIRECTOR SIDNEY HAYES

7.30 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE in
Gnaws

BY DENNIS SPOONER

It's huge—deadly—it lives underground and eats people. Steed and Gambit are

the hunters and Purdey is the bait.

<i>Steed</i>	Patrick Macnee
<i>Purdey</i>	Joanna Lumley
<i>Gambit</i>	Gareth Hunt
<i>Charles Thornton</i>	Julian Holloway
<i>Walters</i>	Morgan Shepherd
<i>Carter</i>	Peter Cellier
<i>Harlow</i>	John Watts
<i>Ivan Chislenko</i>	Jeremy Young
<i>George Ratcliffe</i>	Patrick Malahide
<i>Joe</i>	Keith Marsh
<i>Arthur</i>	Ken Wynne
<i>Malloy</i>	Keith Alexander

DIRECTOR RAY AUSTIN.