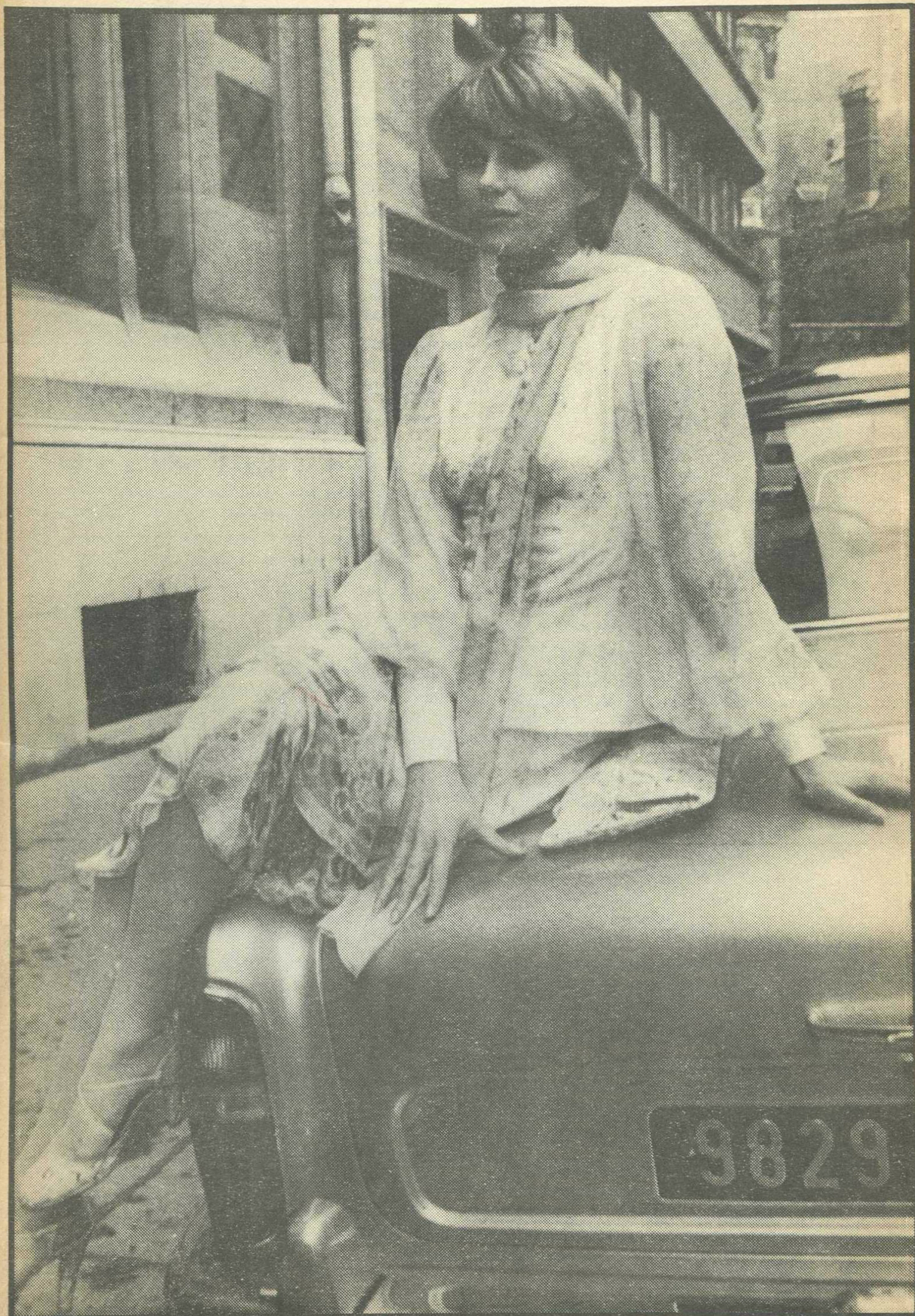


# *The Avengers/Patrick Macnee*<sup>275</sup> *Fan Network Newsletter 12*





# Issue 12

November - December 1979

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# Ramblings

There are probably many of you reading this issue as the first communication from me in quite some time. Indeed, I have had a couple of people write to ask if I'd gone on vacation or had a local mail strike or some other such catastrophe to keep me from answering mail.

I'm still here. However, this month has been very busy and I've had little time for tending to the mail. I've finally started a new job (as a drafting trainee) and that takes 10 hours out of every day, including the long drive to and from work. Seeing as how this same 10 hours had previously been allotted for answering mail and Network activities, something had to give.

Next event of the month was that my car got demolished while parked innocently on the street. The guy who caused the accident doesn't have insurance (of course...) and this took up time for insurance hassles and new car shopping. Hence, more time taken from mail answering.

The following week my brother was admitted to the hospital in critical condition and we were stationed in the intensive care waiting room for several days until they finally lost him. For a week after that I wasn't good for much of anything, let alone letter writing!

But now things are looking up. The Newsletter is coming along slowly but surely and I think we have some interesting tidbits included within these pages! Fall is here and the trees are lovely. I've been elected Student Council President where I'm training (gasp!) and, to top things off, I'm starting to catch up on the mail. Sooo... keep the faith if I owe you a letter, article clipping, tape copies, etc.

Since this is the last issue of the year, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Happiness to ye, but please party safely!



# Mrs. Peel - You're Needed!

The new fall season has begun on American TV and one can not help but notice that "The New Avengers" is missing from the CBS late night line-up. I have been inundated by letters asking when the series will be rerun and in what time slot. In hopes of setting things straight I will print here what information I have, both from England and from CBS-TV in New York.

Presently, I have no 'official' word from Avengers Enterprises in England concerning the show's future. However, I do have an article from the "Sunday People" dated September 2, 1979 which states that the producers plan to film another 26 episodes of "The New Avengers" (2 years) beginning early in 1980. The article quotes Brian Clemens as saying, "The show is a big hit in the States and the Americans have agreed to provide most of the finance for another 26 episodes. Other companies over here are also interested and it is now just a case of sorting out who puts in what."

A call to CBS on October 19 provided the following information as they see things...

The original 26 "New Avengers" episodes did indeed stir great interest and plans are to rerun the series, but not until sometime next year - probably starting in the fall of 1980. CBS is in favor of filming more episodes and has been negotiating with Avengers Enterprises to obtain more. However, they do not have any confirmation that additional episodes have been agreed upon.

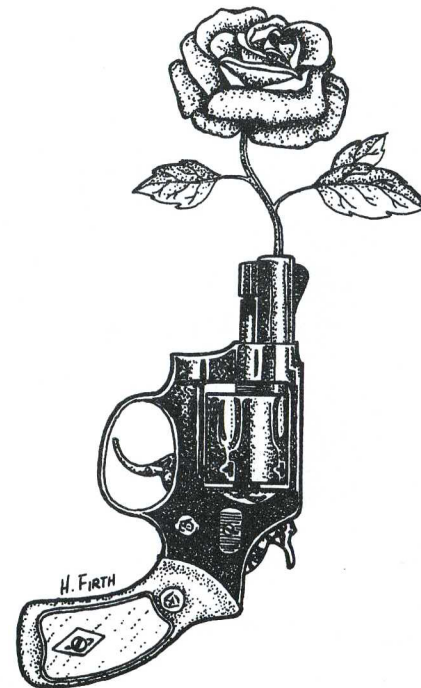
In lieu of showing "New Avengers" reruns this season, CBS has purchased 25 episodes of the original "Avengers" - color episodes, Diana Rigg era - and will begin airing them around the end of the year. Proposed time slot? Wednesday nights at 12:40 am.

So there you have the latest information... make of it what you will. I'll keep updated and future Newsletters will contain additional details. (And no, I don't yet know which "Avengers" episodes CBS purchased.)

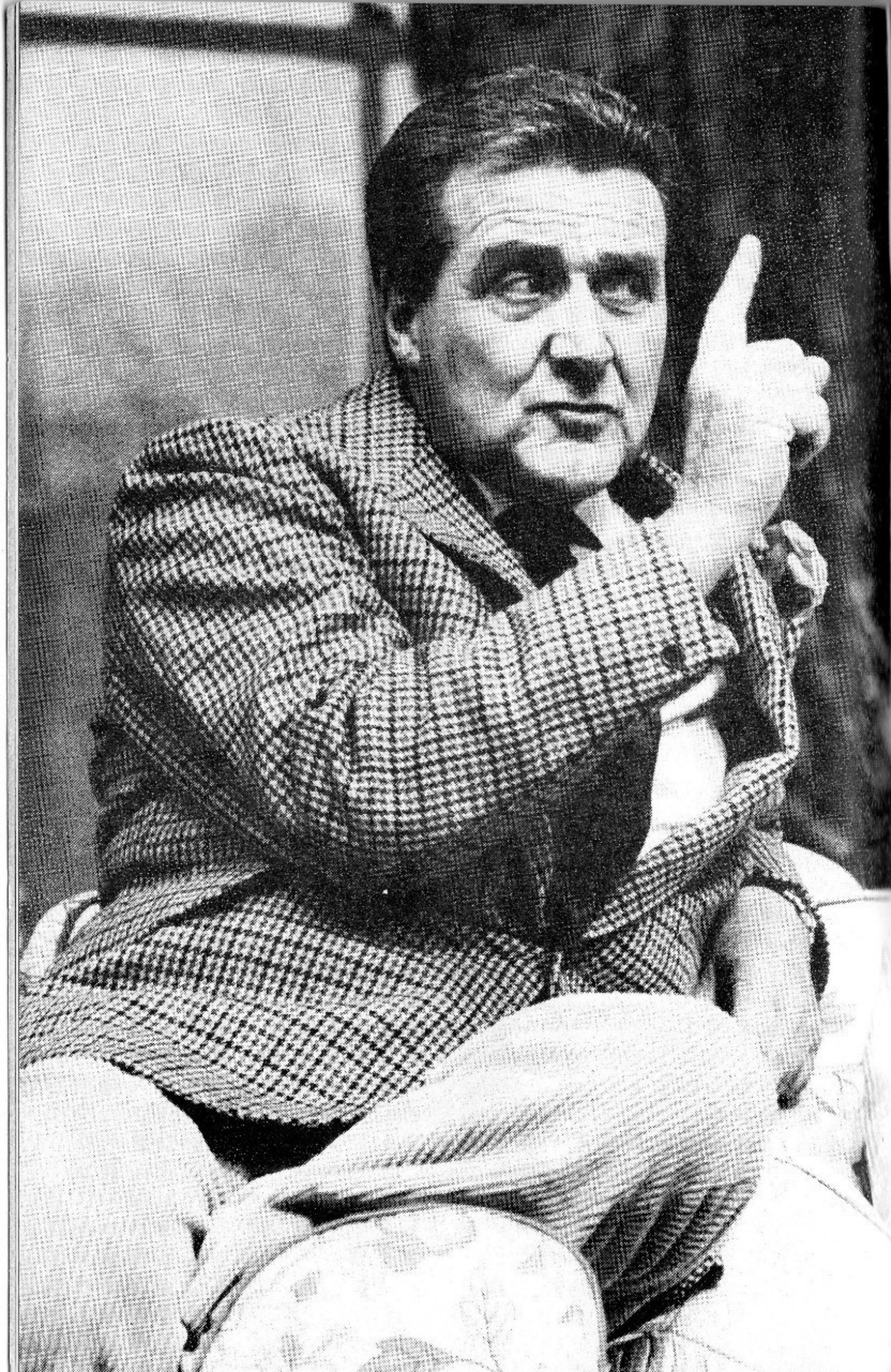
This news brings up some interesting thoughts. What will TNA be like if further episodes are filmed? What will the characters be like upon their return?

Will there be any episodes shot in America? (I can think of a nice plot involving an art theft at Kansas City's Nelson Art Gallery. The world-famous Country Club Plaza would make a beautiful backdrop for filming.... Ahem!) Anyone with speculations?

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped support "The Avengers"/"New Avengers" by contacting local television stations and CBS-TV to let them know that we enjoy the series. It would seem that, one way or another, our voice is being heard! A reminder for those who would like to write with comments - the address is CBS Television Network, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019. Letters should be polite and typed if possible. Don't write "The New Avengers" on the outside of the envelope or your letter might be forwarded to England, unopened.







## Report from England

"The Grass is Greener" came and went and so did my two meetings with Pat Macnee. I went to see him at about 2.05 pm (the play began at 2.30) and then watched him make-up as we talked for about 10-12 minutes. Then I went off to watch him perform. It finished about 4.40 and then I gave Pat time to change and we had another (longer) chat until 5.15 when I managed to find my way back to London having finally met the great man!

Pat really is as charming, elegant and straight a man both as you could wish for and as he is reported. He looked very fit and bronzed (he had to make-down, not up!) and said he'd recently been playing a lot of tennis back in the States with people like Lee Majors, Peter Graves and James MacArthur.

He asked if I'd seen Joanna's new show as he'd missed it and when I said it was fine except for the scripts he agreed by saying that Joanna had told him they'd been very dissatisfied with the scripts but hoped for a second series. He also mentioned how David McCallum was a "very dear man".

I spoke of how very good Gareth was in "Deathtrap" and that pleased him no end. He said he'd been offered the play Stateside but refused it because of "that horrible garrotting sequence. Horrible! I couldn't do that every night with all that blood." Nice touch of sensitivity on the person's part, I thought, rather than the actor's.

I mentioned that I'd caught "King Solomon's Treasure" and he was aghast - "Oh no, that's awful!" He said they'd made it during a brief lull from negotiations on TNA #1 back in December '76 and after they'd done their bit the special effects were done and "... they were so terrible they didn't dare release it. I'm surprised it's surfaced here at all." I assured him I'd found it great fun and that the saving grace had been the beautiful clear colour photography of Africa - certainly some of the best I've ever seen. Odd, considering the cheapness of the production.



What else did he mention? Oh yes... said he'd met up with Honor Blackman not long ago in Kenya (or somewhere) where she was playing in something and neither had any idea the other was nearby until they caught sight of one another. He was very rich in his praise of her and of Diana Rigg ("...so brave and wonderful.")

The highlight of the meetings came when Pat complimented me on my clothes and we talked a bit about the continental and American fashions. Now that made me feel good!

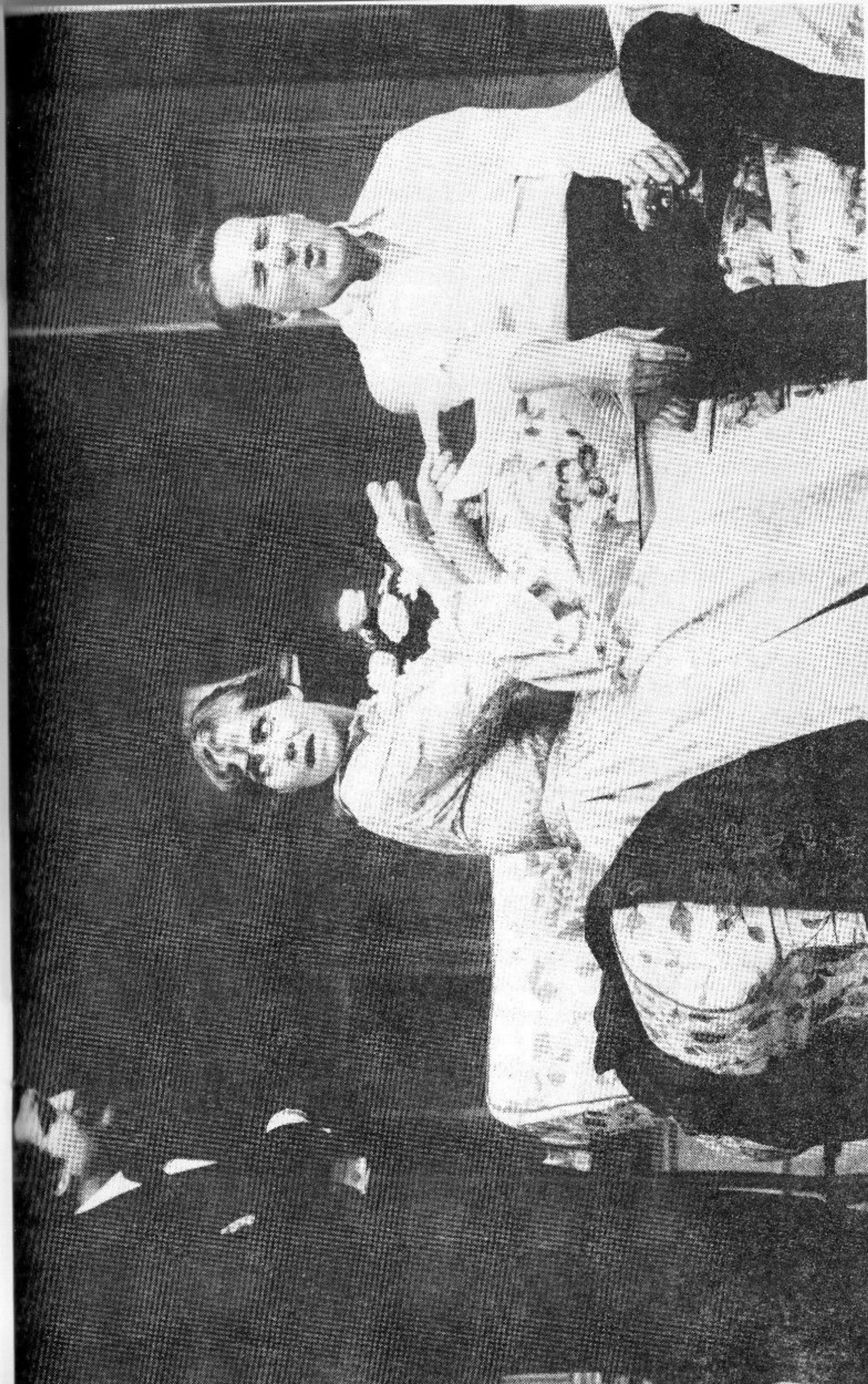
Pat kept telling me before the play that I probably wouldn't like it too much as it was all rather easygoing and old-fashioned. But he was wrong again there as I found the pace a pleasant change and the single set was very nicely realised - almost Steedian!

Of course, seeing the Thursday matinee performance, the theatre was packed almost exclusively with gentle old ladies. I felt positively a child in the company of about 400 of them! One had a most unfortunate barking laugh and she let it rip in tiny bursts without warning... eventually Norman Eshley as the butler broke up on delivering a parting line. I thought it might have been in the play until I heard him telling someone about it backstage.

The play was great. Pat took a bit of getting used to as a very slow-talking but nonetheless urbane aristocrat whose wife was 'stolen' from him by an American millionaire touring their open country mansion. But after the first act the whole play really picked up speed and was a joy. Maybe you remember the movie with Cary Grant in Pat's role?

The whole cast, incidentally, were very good. Nesbitt wasn't as bad as the review suggests - the role was rather a dull one to begin with, unfortunately.

There was a very unusual and memorable set-piece involving a pistol duel between the American and the cuckolded earl in a long corridor in the mansion. For the stage this was done very ingeniously by having Derren Nesbitt onstage shooting at Pat offstage who was in the corridor through a double-doors. All very well done!





# Network News

On behalf of the Fan Network, articles from our 1978 Newsletters were submitted for consideration in the International Council of Fan Clubs' 1979 Literary Contest. I'm happy to announce that Sally Syrjala came in as first runner-up in the competition with her article entitled "Mother" (NL #5). Congratulations to Sally and thanks for the wonderful writing you've done in past issues!

We will most likely be entering the next IFCF Literary Contest with material from our 1979 issues. Although we don't have quite as many articles from members this year I still feel that there were many excellent pieces and hope that one of them comes away with an award next year.

Those of you who are unfamiliar with the ICFC might be interested in contacting the organization for details. This group deals with fan clubs as a whole and is aimed at upholding the integrity of fandom as a hobby. Fan club members are invited to join in this endeavor by becoming members of the ICFC and, at the same time, help support their individual club and Honorary within the ICFC.

For details send a self-addressed envelope and a first class stamp (unattached) to: Mrs. Jean L. Crocker, President, 206 Ashdale Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4L 2Y9.

This is the last issue of the Newsletter to be printed in 1979 and it is now time for readers to vote on their favorite "Midnight Meanderings" from the past 6 issues. Enclosed with this mailing should be a ballot with which you may vote and which, hopefully, will explain the tally system for determining winners. If you do not receive a ballot please let me know and I'll send one.

To be eligible for voting, you must have read at least two Newsletters in the past year which contain the "Meanderings" column (#7, 8 and 11 included). Your cooperation in helping to select a winner will be greatly appreciated. Deadline for returning ballots is December 10, 1979.

The May 28, 1979 edition of Europe's "Time" magazine contained a fascinating article on Diana Rigg. Diana is featured on the cover and a 6-page article inside goes into great detail concerning her life, career, education and views. The writer explores an array of reasons for Diana's popularity, yet we conclude that her attraction stems from a unique and diverse personality coupled, of course, with great talent.

Having reached her largest audience through TV's "The Avengers", most will quickly associate Diana with Mrs. Emma Peel opposite Patrick Macnee's John Steed. However, this one role is a small part of Miss Rigg's very full career and our appreciation of Emma often shadows a lady equally deserving of notice!

With an eye toward this oversight, "Time" has come up with an article which delves into the other facets of Diana's career and offers us a view of what variety she is capable of. Along with well researched and written text, there are a great many photographs as illustration. All total, a very interesting article!

Unfortunately, I don't believe that the article appeared in any issue of the American "Time" and I have no idea how to obtain additional copies of the European edition. The article will go into our clipping file (a new supplement will be compiled soon) and everyone will have a chance to read it if they wish.

There was an article in the November issue of "Starlog" magazine which contained an interesting tidbit of news. Universal Studios has added a new section to their public tour which allows visitors to live a short time in the world of "Battlestar Galactica". A tram loaded with passengers is 'captured' by Cylon warriors and forced aboard their ship as it prepares for take-off. Once aboard, the hostages are threatened by Cylons and their Imperious Leader who menacingly informs the captives that they are doomed to become a midnight snack for visiting Ovions. Of course, a heroic Colonial Warrior saves the day and frees the tram in time



for its next scheduled stop, but not until they have been treated to a ferocious laser battle and smokey destruction of the Cylon ship.

Of interest to "Avengers" fans is the fact that, as in TV's "Galactica", the voice of the Imperious Leader is provided by Patrick Macnee! And for those who never got a good look on TV, the "Starlog" article provides a photo of the Imperious Leader to go with the ominous voice. It's worth a glance!

Another science fiction magazine recently ran a lovely article which "Avengers" fans will appreciate. Issues #13 and #14 of "Starburst" magazine contained a beautifully detailed 2-part article concerning "The Avengers" and its relation to science fiction.

Although "The Avengers" was not essentially a SF program, a great many of its stories involved an element of science fiction technology or had plots leading from a science fiction premise. These touches of the future were so subtly infiltrated into the show and wordlessly accepted as a part of everyday living that we might sometimes forget that they were, in fact, fiction and not reality!

Fortunately, writer Richard Holliss did not lose sight of the show's futuristic approach and has researched this aspect to come up with an excellent account of science fiction's contribution to "The Avengers". There are a total of 10 pages devoted to the various episodes with an abundance of photos as illustration, many in color.

Now that everyone is properly enthused and planning to search out copies of the magazine immediately, I might mention that "Starburst" is a British publication. For those who have a well stocked SF bookstore nearby there might be a chance of obtaining copies without much hassle. However, there are no subscription prices quoted in the magazine nor ordering instructions for overseas readers. You might try writing for the information: "Starburst", Marvel Comics Ltd., Jadwin House, 205-211 Kentish Town Road, London NW5. If I learn anything about ordering I'll let you know.

I have a letter from Gareth Hunt dated 28 August which contains some good news. Gareth states that his

play, "Deathtrap" is doing well and looks to be set for a further successful run. Obviously, since the play is still going strong, there is no new information on Gareth's current projects.

For anyone planning a trip to England in the near future (or for those lucky enough to live there already!), I'd highly suggest that you catch a performance of "Deathtrap" at the Garrick Theatre in London (Charing Cross Road) while Gareth is starring in the play!

I made a rather unexpected discovery last week which I hope a few other members caught as well. The Atlanta super station WTBS is currently showing "Winston Churchill: The Valiant Years" at 10:00 pm on Fridays. This documentary series, made in 1960, was produced by Patrick Macnee (see interview in NL #10) and will be of interest to fans who wish to see evidence of Mr. Macnee's talents other than acting.

I don't know how long the series has been running nor how many episodes were filmed all total. However, if you have cable TV and receive WTBS or if you live in an area where their signal reaches, it would be worthwhile to check your local listings to see if the series is on.

To date, I've caught two episodes - those dealing with the evacuation at Dunkirk and with the fall of France during WWII. They covered the subjects beautifully with detailed narration (the words of Churchill are read by Richard Burton) and an abundance of excellent period film footage. The exhaustive research which Mr. Macnee spoke of in our Newsletter interview is much in evidence when viewing the series and the stories are told so as to be both informative and interesting. Recommended viewing if you get a chance.

#### PEN PAL

Mariane Lecocq, 99.11 Rue de Beaurewart, 59100 Roubaix, France. Female, age 24. Hobbies are the cinema, music, literature and the theatre. I am interested in writing to other fans.





## 'K' is for Kill

### Part I 'The Tiger Awakes'

John Steed had called up Emma Peel after the peace of a village in England had been shattered on July 25, 1965 when a young Russian soldier had burst into an old nissen hut and machine gunned a Salvation Army band. The Russian had made off, leaping over an obstacle, falling and rolling and failing to rise to his feet again. The young soldier had suddenly changed into a very old man who died simply of old age. Steed told Mrs. Peel that it had been a problem which they might never solve. Until...

Three men in their early twenties had driven their jeep into a garage workshop in a small town in France on August 14, 1977. Within seconds they had been machine gunned by a young Russian soldier and the garage destroyed with a grenade. Steed had been contacted by Mrs. Peel - he left for France with Purdey and Gambit.

At the garage the owner survived and had talked over and over about a Russian soldier who launched the attack. Steed thought it tied up with the attack on the English village years previously. The three young men who died had worn ex-army surplus jackets which had given them a military appearance.

Outside the town the young Russian soldier observed Purdey, Gambit and Steed through a telescopic sight, about to fire on them until interrupted by a series of distant explosions. Gambit and Purdey raced off on a motor bike to investigate while Steed, with Frenchman Colonel Martin, went by car.

A Russian officer directed a mortar crew in an attack on a chateau as Steed's car had raced into view. Quickly they'd turned on it and raked the road with machine gun fire. Steed had spun the car and he and Martin had baled out as Purdey and Gambit roared onto the scene and crashed into a field under gun fire.

The chateau the Russians attacked had been



empty for years. Steed, Purdey, Gambit and Martin had been pinned down in a ditch as the soldiers made an orderly withdrawal. A sniper had creased Martin from a tree. Gambit, with a dynamic karate move, attacked the tree and got the Russian down with a dislocated neck. Purdey examined the Russian's pay-book and, according to it, the dead young Russian at her feet had been fifty-two years old.

The Russian officer and his soldiers had met up with another group of soldiers. They'd joined forces to attack further targets together. Steed and Martin poked around inside the chateau which thirty years previously had been the H.Q. of Allied Security. Outside a group of French Commandoes had prepared to go into action.

Gambit had been in the autopsy room as the doctor examined the Russian soldier - the body had suddenly aged to a man of fifty-two.

Colonel Martin told Steed that he hoped to contain the military operation as they seemed to be only up against a dozen or two crazy men. Further away, another large house was attacked by the Russians. Steed and Purdey had taken off in a helicopter to observe and direct Colonel Martin and his troops. As the Russians had started to split up, Steed and Purdey landed, determined to capture at least one Russian alive. Purdey caught a young Russian officer whose pay-book identified him as sixty-five years old.

Gambit and the doctor who had witnessed instant old age had found something buried into the brain which looked like a small radio transmitter.

An elderly Frenchman had recognised the captured Russian officer from before the war and thought it must be the Russian's son until a fencing scar proved otherwise. The Russian made a bid to escape. Gambit shot him and again the Russian's body aged immediately.

In Russia, they realised with horror that a satellite had gone wrong and emitted a full strength signal over France for twenty-two minutes, activating several units of commandoes... a secret army which they now had to destroy. The Russians had prepared for World War III with the aid of something they'd discovered in Tibet... The Sleeping Dragon.

Steed received a call from the Russian Ambassador in Paris warning him about the possibility of World War III. As Steed turned to Purdey and Gambit, a Russian machine gun opened fire on them...

## Part II 'Tiger by the Tail'

John Steed, Purdey and Gambit had found themselves caught up in a war situation in France. Young Russian soldiers had started appearing in groups hell bent on attacking targets thirty years out of date. When killed, the Russians' bodies had aged almost instantly. How many Russians were involved? What were their objectives? Steed had been warned by the Russian Ambassador to Paris that they were on the brink of World War III.

Steed, Purdey and Gambit had been pinned down by gunfire in a large house by an isolated group of Russian soldiers overlooked by the French paras until Gambit had managed to break out and kill them.

Helped by the Frenchman, Colonel Martin, they'd examined the map carried by the Russians which contained targets that no longer existed, confirming they were up against a small army with out-of-date equipment attacking out-of-date military targets. They decided to find out more by interrogating the prisoners.

The temporary Prisoner-of-War base proved to have no prisoners left to interrogate. They had all died from natural causes... old age, total degeneration, a speeded up process of senility. The doctor had performed an autopsy on several of the dead men and removed a radio device from each of their skulls. Purdey and Gambit checked out the effects of the dead men and found in the hinged shoe of one of the Russians, a deposit slip dated February 1946... St. Ceir Depository.

The Russian Ambassador to Paris had discovered that the 250 Russians the French had either rounded up or killed were not the entire force. There had been two more - two K-Agents on special assignment.





Inside the St. Ceir Depository a dusty, neglected crate had been smashed open and Minsky, a K-Agent, emerged, pausing only to kill a workman who'd questioned him. Purdey and Gambit arrived too late.

The Russian Ambassador barely escaped arrest in his own embassy and raced to find Steed and warn him as Gambit and Purdey had toured the depositories unaware of the danger they were up against. Turkov, the second K-Agent, had left his hiding place minutes ahead of Gambit and Purdey's arrival. He'd left one small, terrifying clue... a long range magnum bullet with an explosive tip - an assassin's bullet.

The Russian Ambassador had reached Steed and warned him about the small armies planted in every European country by a method of suspended animation. Guerilla fighters hidden in various storehouses sleeping a scientifically induced sleep to be awakened by a radio signal to a transmitter buried in the brain. The two K-Agents had been highly trained assassins who, if they reached their targets, his pursuer gunned him down.

Gambit took his training to the ultimate when dealing with almost certain death from a gun shot. Minsky, the K-Agent, had been shot down after he killed General Gaspard, an old war hero. Steed had warned the French Minister to tighten security on the President.

Gaspard was to have a V.I.P. funeral attended by the President at a closely guarded military cemetery. Steed, Purdey and Gambit realised that the photo of Gaspard Minsky carried had been supplied recently... Gaspard had been a set-up for the real target - the French President. They raced to the funeral. Turkov had already concealed himself there. Would they be too late? Where was Turkov? The President had arrived... the assassin's gun had been lined up. Could Steed, Purdey and Gambit prevent the inevitable?



"K Is For Kill"

by Brian Clemens

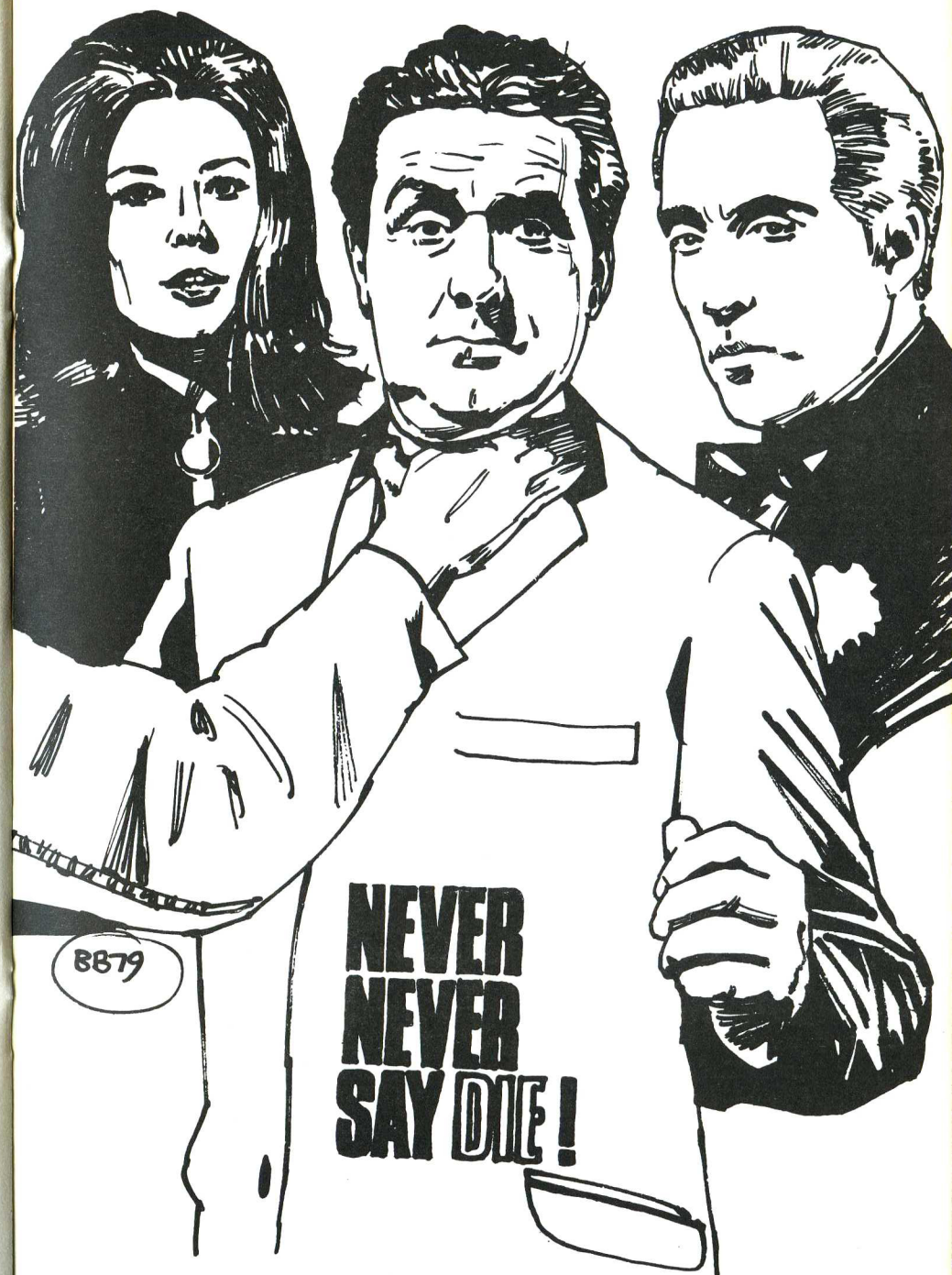
Produced by  
Albert Fennell  
&  
Brian Clemens

Music by Laurie Johnson  
Directed by Yvon Marie Coulais

CAST

<u>Character</u>	<u>Artist</u>
John Steed	Patrick Macnee
Purdey	Joanna Lumley
Mike Gambit	Gareth Hunt
Colonel Martin	Pierre Vernier
General Gaspard	Maurice Marsac
Stanislav	Charles Millot
Toy	Paul Emile Deiber
Jeanine Leparge	Christine Delaroche
Kerov	Sacha Pitoeff
*Turkov	Maxence Mailfort
•Ivan	Eric Desmaretz
•Vassili	Sylvain Clement
•Soldier	Krishna Clough
•Salvation Army Major	Kenneth Watson
•Monk	Tony Then
•Penrose	Eric Allan
*Minister	Alberto Simono
*Waiter	Jacques Monnet
*Minski	Frank Olivier
*Guard	Guy Mairesse
*Secretary	Cyrille Besnard

(•) Appeared only in Part I.  
(\*) Appeared only in Part II.





# Never, Never Say Die

by

Philip Levene

In which Steed meets a dead man... and Emma fights the corpse!

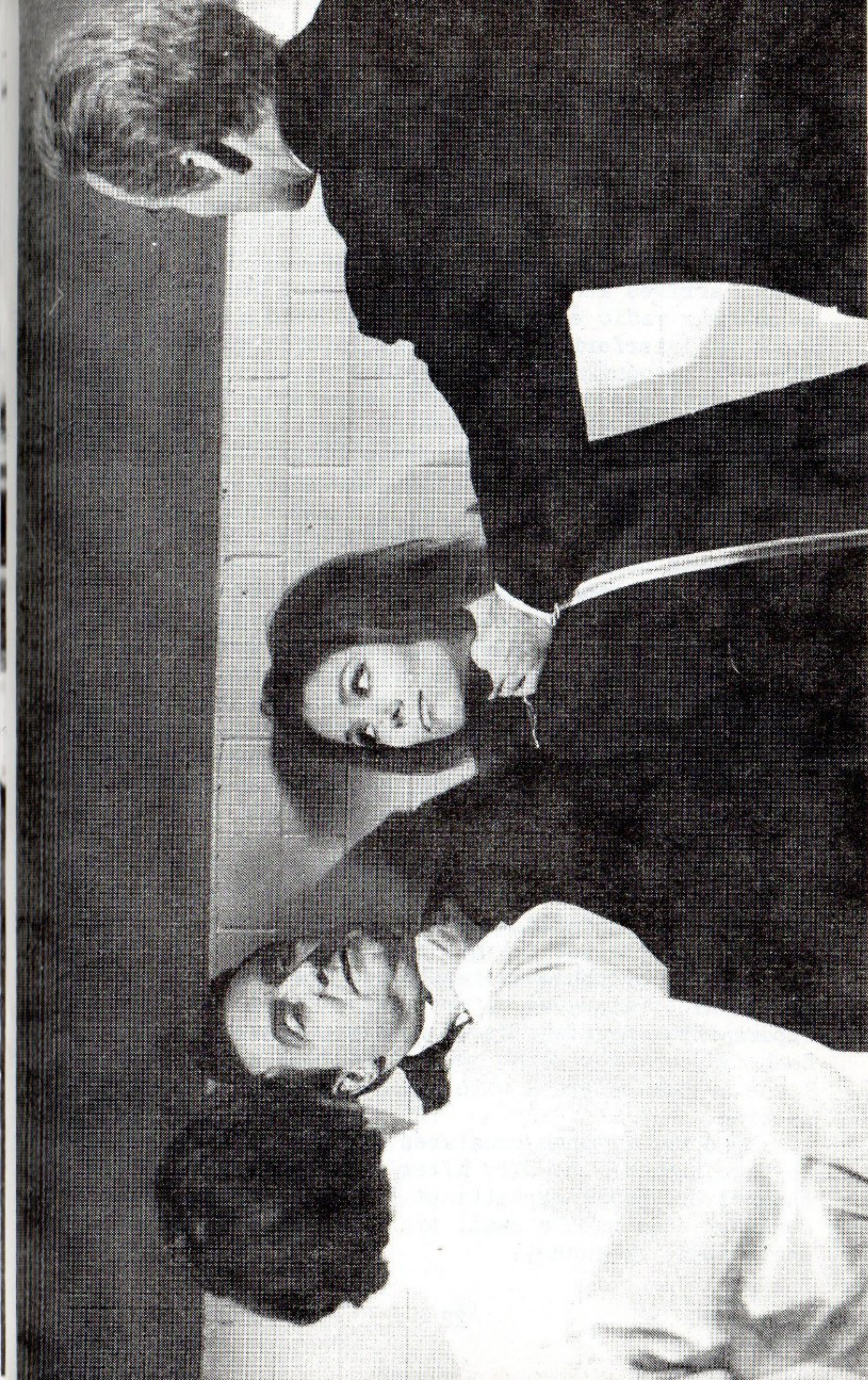
After a corpse walks out of a mortuary, John Steed and Emma Peel are called in to investigate. A man named Whittle claims to have given the dead man a lift in his car and later, Emma and Steed are astonished to witness the corpse walking into Whittle's fast moving car. This time they are positive that the man is well and truly dead - but Emma realises that there is no sign of blood.

An ambulance arrives and takes the body away but soon afterwards another ambulance arrives, the second driver not knowing that the body has already been removed. It is now obvious that it has been kidnapped.

On the journey, the 'dead' body comes to life and escapes from the ambulance, unnoticed by the other occupants, Dr. Penrose and his assistants.

Still pursuing the mystery, Emma and Steed visit a local public house where a workman named Taylor tells them of a man who miraculously survived the shock from a 100,000 volt pylon. They are later joined by two soldiers who tell them of a stranger who walked onto the local Army Firing Range and appeared to be unaffected by a burst of machine gun fire.

Believing that these events are linked in some way with the missing body, Steed and Emma go in search of this 'superman'. Emma eventually traces the man to a lonely cottage. He attacks her and although she fires several times at him, the bullets appear to have little effect on his tough skin. He overcomes her and as he is about to strangle her, Dr. Penrose and his assistants burst into the room and take the monster away. Afterwards, the still dazed Emma finds a diary on the floor. It belongs to a Professor Stone and on one of the pages are the words, "George Eccles, Arial Cottage".





Steed locates Dr. Penrose and follows him to the Neoteric Research Unit which is engaged in top secret governmental work under Professor Stone. He poses as a security officer, bluffs his way into Stones' office and is astonished to find that the mysterious professor is, in fact, the 'dead' man for whom they have been searching.

Emma, who has been following up the clue in the diary, arrives at Arial Cottage to meet George Eccles, an amateur radio enthusiast who has been accused by Stone of interfering with the radio equipment at the Unit. He demonstrates the method used to tune into the Unit's frequency whilst, at the same moment, Stone is suddenly taken ill and rushed to the secret Experimental Section. Soon after leaving the cottage, Emma hears a crash and when she investigates finds that Eccles has been strangled.

Steed manages to enter the Experimental Section where he is confronted by two Professor Stones. One is human, the other a plastic, radio-controlled replica. It is obvious that the latter is the 'dead' man with the super-human faculties. The real Professor Stone explains how the minds of the greatest living men could be stored inside its miraculous brain and used for the benefit of future generations.

Emma, whilst searching Stone's cottage, finds a control panel which obviously operates the creature, but she is discovered by Penrose and taken to the Research Unit.

Back in the public house, Steed meets Penrose and, suspicious of his strange mannerisms, follows him back to the Unit. They are met by Stone who tells Steed that he is following yet another electronic plastic replica. He pretends to immobilise the creature with electronic brainwaves before taking Steed into the Experimental Section. Steed realises that he has been trapped, for both the real Penrose and the real Stone are prisoners - with Emma - in the Experimental Section.

The two strange creatures explain that they intend to take over the country after first duplicating themselves, but their attempt is foiled by Emma who destroys them with a small transistor which blocks their radio frequency.

## "Never, Never Say Die"

starring

Patrick Macnee

as

John Steed

and

Diana Rigg

as

Emma Peel

### Cast also includes:

Professor Stone .....	Christopher Lee
Dr. Penrose .....	Jeremy Young
Dr. James .....	Patricia English
Eccles .....	David Kernan
Whittle .....	Christopher Benjamin
Sergeant .....	John Junkin
Private .....	Peter Dennis
Carter .....	Geoffrey Reed
Selby .....	Alan Chuntz
Elderly Gent .....	Arnold Ridley
Young Man .....	David Gregory
Nurse .....	Karen Ford

Designed by Robert Jones

Music by Laurie Johnson

Directed by Robert Day

Produced by Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens

Executive Producer Julian Wintle



## Natter

I'd like your reaction to an idea... The season of conventions has just passed and I've had many members asking about the possibility of having an "Avengers" convention sometime in the future. The idea sounds marvelous as I'm a con-goer myself and enjoy meeting fans a great deal. However, there are a few problems.

First, we only have 200 or so members and it's obvious that not all of them would want to or be able to attend such a gathering. This would leave us with a very small convention! Without many attendees you can not afford convention facilities nor pay for guests (unless you charge an outrageous price for membership) and I'm financially unable to throw a weekend party for 50 of my closest friends.

There have been suggestions of smaller gatherings - mini-cons, picnics, dinner functions and so on. In such cases we could probably handle the finances to break even on facilities, but there remains the question of entertainment. Perhaps some members could be persuaded to loan videotapes for viewing or we could pass around photos or read aloud from the "Avengers" paperbacks (?) but I doubt that this would be encouragement enough for people to travel halfway across the nation for a day or two!

I don't mean to sound defeatist about the matter, although I'm at a loss for ideas on how to go about organizing such an event (and I've seen the financial losses which can occur from disorganization). Even if we had 10 people for a hot dog grill I think that it would be marvelous, but would something of this nature be worthwhile? Is there anyone out there with thoughts or suggestions? I'm open to ideas!

Another suggestion which was presented to me concerns Fan Network sales items. I'm thinking about having club T-shirts made up or, at least, iron-on transfers. However, I've not looked into the matter yet concerning procedure, cost, etc. The club logo (Rose-and-Revolver) has been quite popular and might go well on other items. Again, I'm open to ideas.

## Garage Sale

For those who don't have a chance to see the ITV series starring Joanna Lumley and David McCallum, Star Books has available the paperback "Sapphire and Steel" written by Peter J. Hammond. It has a very nice color cover photo of Joanna and David.

I have a few copies to sell (see below) plus the book is available by mail order from Star Book Service, GPO Box 29, Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles. The order number is 0352305142 and the price is 75p. Postage/packing rates are as follows: UK orders pay 22p for the first book plus 10p per copy for each additional book ordered to a maximum charge of 82p. OVERSEAS pay 30p for the first book and 10p per copy for each additional book. Check for current rate of exchange when ordering and make payment by International Money Order.

The following books are available from Fan Network headquarters. Books are used (unless specified otherwise) and prices include postage:

Avengers #6 "Drowned Queen" \$1.00  
Avengers #7 "Gold Bomb" \$1.00  
Avengers #8 "Magnetic Man" \$1.00  
Avengers #9 "Moon Express" \$1.00  
New Avengers #1 "House of Cards" \$1.25

(American edition)

TNA #1 "House of Cards" new copy \$1.75

(American edition)

TNA #2 "Eagle's Nest" new copy \$1.75

(American edition)

"Sapphire and Steel" new, 4 copies \$1.75 ea.

When ordering books please send a SASE and indicate an alternate choice if acceptable.

Back issues of the Newsletter are still available - #3, 4 and 5 are \$1.40 each or 3/\$4.00. #9, 10 and 11 are \$1.60 each or 3/\$4.50.

Prices are for U.S./Canadian members. Make checks or money orders payable to Heather Firth or The Avengers Fan Network (U.S. dollars, please)..





We've located another dealer who sells duplicate slides, including several from "The Avengers" and "New Avengers". TV Chariot, Robert Cain, PO Box 234, Mesa, AZ 85201 has duplicate slides for 75¢ each or 8x10 color photos (from the same shots) for \$3.00 each, plus postage. He also has material from "Star Trek", "Battlestar Galactica", "The Prisoner", "Space: 1999", "Logan's Run", "UNCLE", "Salvage One", "Buck Rogers" and many other collectors' shows.

Slides/photos must be ordered by number. Send \$1.25 for their catalogue and be sure to mention that you are interested in "Avengers" material (or list your other wants).

I looked at TV Chariot's merchandise at the recent Denver convention and found it to be very good quality and worth the price! However, I've never ordered from them through the mail and so can't advise on their service. The catalogue says to allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of items ordered.



## LOCs of Gold

Jacky Fulton - Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:

I had no idea there was an "Avengers" club. I've been a fan for years. I prefer the early series with Emma Peel and the others, but I do have a great passion for Gambit. If he had been in the early lot I'd have been in heaven!

When I was in England my last boss was Ralph Sheldon and he edited the "New Avengers" - or every other one really... Bob (Dearberg) did the others. I never met any of them, but it was very interesting to see the scripts Ralph brought over from the studio before the series was out. They all looked highly confusing as they contained all his written comments as well as the writers'.

Your remarks about the Americanization of "The New Avengers" is quite true. Ralph often said that people were unhappy with the way things were going, but since the Canadian TV folks had a vested interest in the new series their hands were tied somewhat. Foreign money wanted a sophisticated image... the sort that came with a large budget rather than good taste.

I've just been reading the LOCs at the back of the Newsletter. The one that caught my eye was from Cheryl Huffey from Essex, England (I lived there most of my life - small world, really). She says that "... anyone worth his salt should know that "The Avengers" were John Steed and Cathy Gale." I'm not actively disagreeing with her, but it seems to me that "The Avengers" were different things to different people. To me, Steed will always be paired with Emma Peel. The chemistry was right between them, Diana Rigg was and is a very fine actress and the strength of their relationship carried them through as much as the stories.

I never cared for Cathy Gale or Tara King... they never 'felt' right to me. The modern "Avengers" have managed to capture that elusive togetherness and caring that characterized Steed and Mrs. Peel's relationship. As usual, the caring is never voiced (or very rarely) and this is, I think, the secret

of the whole fabric of their relationship. Once we're bombarded with the "I love you" and "I really care" remarks then something gets lost. It's only a workable part of their relationship if it's alluded to and not pushed down the viewers' throat.

Louis Goldberg - Southfield, MI:

I, being an active member of what is commonly known as 'Fandom', caught wind of you and your organization from friends who are already members.

Now, although a great "Avengers" fan from as long as I can remember (I saw the episodes when they were first shown but couldn't comprehend them until they played in reruns some years later), the reason for this letter has little to do with the series itself.

In the last 3½ years I have become a very serious Film/TV soundtrack collector. And as far as Mr. Laurie Johnson is concerned, I am an avid fan of his work, too. My collection contains many theme albums he did with his orchestra as well as privately pressed albums with his music on them. These albums have music from such things as "The Avengers", "First Men on the Moon" and "Dr. Strangelove".

I've heard practically everything he ever did for the Film/TV medium. From "Moonraker" (an earlier film with the same title as the Bond film) to "Captain Kronos, Vampire Killer". According to my facts, I own every disc of Johnson's except for the album that contains the "Avengers" theme and the incidental music from the series.

There is something you could do for me. I can wait, however long it takes to own a copy, but I am tired of waiting to hear it! Dealers that own copies for sale would always show me what the album looked like, but they would never play it to me. (I was never in the mood to pay the high price that is usually asked for a copy.) If I sent you a cassette tape and a few dollars to cover the expense and bother of making a recording, would you possibly send me a recording of the score? I don't think you could begin to believe how greatly appreciated this action would be! ((Anyone out there who can help? I don't have a copy of the album myself...))



Gene Davidson - Berea, OH:

I enjoyed Lynn Facianne's comments about fan clubs. The truth is that those teen fan clubs such as for Shaun Cassidy usually have about 100,000 or more members, but they are run by professional business people who are out for money. There's no personal communication between the staff and the members at all. The fan club for the Osmonds had 300,000 members! I think of your organization as more for a discerning group.

Dan Helmick - Michigan State University, East Lansing:

Thank you for the "Avengers"/"Prisoner" article. Fantastic! What you'd described to me was great, but the article is absolutely superb! ((Dan is referring to an article which appeared in the fanzine "En Garde" and concerns "The Avengers" and "The Prisoner"... speculating that the two are working together to overthrow The Village, and that Number 6 is actually related to Mrs. Peel. Some very interesting speculation!))

Has it occurred to anyone that John Drake may not necessarily be the secret agent's real name??? As the son of a multimillionaire industrialist, he might attract a bit more attention than would be desirable for the member of a clandestine government organization. So, voila! ... a simple name change, perhaps a convenient accident for his original identity (would he enjoy having his identity ultimately reduced to a number?), leaving Emma sole heir.

In fact, while I'm only familiar with his role as Number 6, he doesn't strike me as the type who would prefer easy luxury (for Emma, of course, Avenging was just a hobby - and not really official at that). He and Emma would remain quite close, naturally (perhaps they're even twins). Hey, this is fun! Let's see you argue with that.

Oh, something I should mention to all interested parties... London Phase 4 Records has a two-album set out entitled "The Return of James Bond". Disc 1 holds 007 stuff. Disc 2 features themes from other spy tales and highlights the "Avengers" theme in a delightfully loyal rendition! It's in print, but difficult to locate. If anyone discovers a source...?

Sally Syrjala - Centerville, MA:

I have this strange feeling Bill Bradshaw is becoming a very envied person! I enjoyed the interview with Pat very much last time. I think any type of writing Bill does on his meetings with Gareth and Pat will also come out quite nicely and give people an idea of keeping in touch with them and what they are doing.

If only there could be two more years of "New Avengers" material...! I am sure each year would be better than the year before. "The Avengers" had been out of production for awhile and it takes a year or so to work things back into shape. I am hoping very much there will be more new episodes. Do you have any idea when all this might be found out as to being in existence or not? Also, would the late-night spot still hold or would the series be jumped into more prime-time viewing space?

Leni Sommer - Greeley, CO:

Well, I got to see the episode of "The Hardy Boys" that you mentioned. What a delight! Of course, there was never any doubt who "our friend with the umbrella" really was - the best in the business, unimpeachable reputation, not to mention the characteristic use of intellect instead of brute force.

And then there was the repeat of "War of the Gods". Between Pat and Lorne Greene that show had so much class I could hardly stand it! And the tension when the two confronted each other...

I adored Cassiopia's account of trying to get some life readings from him - his charming (or was it beautiful) smile and her racing heart beat! Cassiopia has a lot of class and showed it. She wasn't blindly taken in the way Sheba was. Not that I really blame her (I'd be tempted myself). However, being the mystic and symbolist that I am, I knew as soon as he (Iblis) didn't like the lights that he was the bad guy, in spite of that gorgeous white costume.

Has anyone written in to say that "The Avengers" is Steed and the Ian Hendry character yet? Of course, it would have to be one of our friends from England.



Diane Lind, President; The Patrick Macnee Fan Club,  
Omaha, NE:

I recently saw a 1980 "Battlestar Galactica" calendar in which one of the months is illustrated with a photo of Count Iblis just after he was struck by a laser blast.

Just found out that our CBS affiliate (WOWT) will not carry the new show "California Fever" this fall. Instead, they have scheduled reruns of Rod Serling's "Night Gallery" for that time slot. Not only was it a good show, but if you'll remember, Pat guested on the program in 1971 in a vignette entitled "Lagoda's Heads" with Brock Peters. So, will be watching this season for that one.

Vic Gryniwicz - Chicago, IL:

I know this is a bit off target, but I just watched the first episode of "A Man Called Sloan". It has got to be the first respectable prime time spy show in several years. There were a few glaring errors, but all things considered, the show was somewhat better than the Road Runner cartoon plots we've been getting in recent Bonds. If the show improves (as most do over a season) it should create and hold a large audience, especially in its present time slot.

ABC can at least cover with "Hart to Hart". If NBC should start a neo-spydom craze on television (it's gotta be obvious we've had our fill of sit-coms and jiggles) this could force CBS to re-release "The New Avengers" (possibly in a prime time slot?).

By the way, was it only me that kept making comparisons between the androids in "Sloan" and our old friends, the cybernauts? The twisted plot and humor was there.

Etcetera...

We haven't been getting quite so many article submissions for the "Meanderings" column lately. In the event that memories need jogging, typers require prodding... or for those new people who never knew... you may send in articles which you've written concerning "The Avengers" or a related topic. Those chosen for printing in the Newsletter will go into the "Midnight Meanderings" section and become eligible for the yearly writing contest (as well as for the ICFC Literary Contest if they're good enough!). Keep articles around 500 or so words please.

As a suggested topic of discussion for next issue - What have we learned about Mike Gambit's character and past from aired "New Avengers" episodes and printed adaptations?

Episode synopses for next issue are "Medium Rare" and "Pandora". I'd like to thank everyone who has written with suggestions of episodes they would like to see featured. As it would turn out, all those which have been suggested are episodes which I don't have photos from! I'll keep looking however and run your favorites as soon as possible.

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#### Credits

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"K is for Kill" plot synopsis courtesy of CTV Television Network and Avengers Film & TV Enterprises, Limited.

Whatever Happened to 3 Stable Mews??



