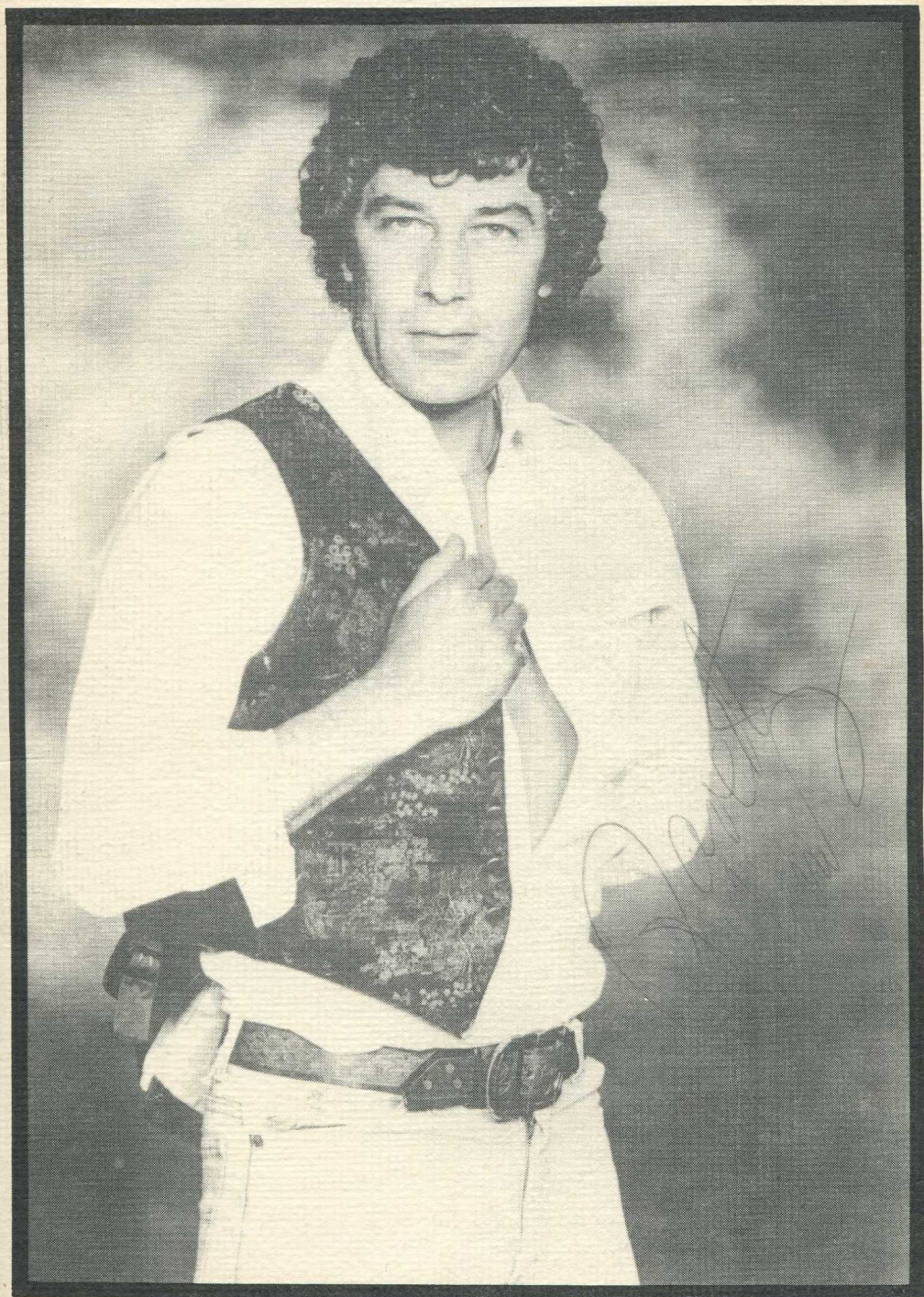


The Avengers · Patrick Macnee  
Fan Network Newsletter 8





# Issue Number Eight

March · April, 1979

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Back cover artwork by Bill Bradshaw

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\* \* \* \* \*

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# Ramblings

By the time this Newsletter reaches readers "The New Avengers" will be nearing the completion of its 26 episodes here in the United States. It seems such a short time ago that I was printing news of the show's purchase by CBS-TV. I suppose that for fans of the "Avengers" and "New Avengers" we will never be able to get enough of the show!

However, a good bit of news is afoot. I called CBS last month and they do intend to show re-runs of all the "New Avengers" episodes beginning in late March. They plan to air them in approximately the same order as shown before - here in the US, that is - and at the same time slot.

Members have reported from several different viewing areas that the series is shown at an assortment of odd times and days, depending on when local affiliates decide to show the program. There are even some areas where the series hasn't been carried at all! Hopefully everyone will get the repeats when they are aired, and members who haven't been able to get the show at all yet might consider writing to local affiliates to suggest that they pick it up the second time around.

In all cases, it might be a good time to write CBS-TV to say a word of thanks and let them know how much we have enjoyed "The New Avengers". With enough good words flowing in they might start to think about repeating the repeats. We can hope! The address is 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019.

With this issue of the Newsletter I would like to welcome Gareth Hunt as the Fan Network's second Honorary President - Patrick Macnee being our club's President also. I know that Gareth has many fans within the group and hope that they enjoy seeing whatever information we can find to print on his career.

This issue runs a few extra pages... I found that there were a few extra words that I wanted to pass on. Enjoy!



## An Avenger in America

Patrick Macnee has been showing up on several television programs here in the U.S. lately. Since the last Newsletter, he has been on "The Mike Douglas Show", "Dinah" (twice), "Good Morning America", "Battlestar Galactica" and "Sweepstakes".

The "Battlestar Galactica" episode entitled "War of the Gods" was a two-part show with Patrick guesting as a mysterious visitor, Count Iblis. While searching for lost pilots who disappeared without explanation, Apollo, Starbuck and Sheba discover Count Iblis on a deserted planet - the sole survivor of a crash which destroyed his ship and people. Iblis is taken aboard the Galactica and quickly attracts the following of the fleet by promising them a successful end to their search for the thirteenth colony and Earth. He claims himself a superior being, proving the point by performing an assortment of minor miracles. The people are ready to join Count Iblis, blindly doing as he wishes in return for their safe passage to Earth. Only Commander Adama and his son Apollo have doubts about the Count's motive. They set about discovering who he is, what he had to do with the missing pilots and why he refuses to divulge any information about himself.

Count Iblis is a very enigmatic character, wonderfully charming and attractive but with an underlying hint of evil and mystery. His fate is uncertain by the end of the show as he leaves - but with a vow to return in the future. There are a good many questions left unanswered and there is indeed room for a return by Mr. Macnee. We can hope that the producers of "Galactica" see fit to bring the Count back for another try at overpowering the fleet with his sinister smile!

\* \* \* \* \*

Opposite page: Lorne Greene and Patrick Macnee in the "Battlestar Galactica" episode, "War of the Gods". Photo courtesy of ABC Television Network.





Patrick's appearance on "Sweepstakes" was delightful. This series, which is a new program on the NBC line-up, is similar to "Love Boat" and "Fantasy Island" in that each has several small stories going at the same time within an episode. And in all three we are guaranteed happy endings for all concerned.

"Sweepstakes" revolves around the theme that in each installment there are a collection of persons with tickets in the state lottery, each with their own good reason for winning. We are introduced to each character and led through their lives during which time they either win or lose the lottery.

In this episode, Patrick Macnee played opposite Joan Hackett as a husband and wife who are bored with their marriage and try conveying methods to make the other start divorce proceedings. But neither wishes to take the first step because in either case they would lose financial support from the families which are carrying them in such grand style.

They discover that their sweepstakes ticket has been chosen to enter the finals for a chance at the \$1 Million Grand Prize and each sees it as an escape from the rut of their marriage. Therein lies the path for some hilarious squabbles between the two to ascertain who the winning ticket really belongs to (he had bought the ticket, but only after she got him drunk and convinced him to do so). As it turns out, the Grand Prize goes to a couple who deserve the prize money much more than anyone else (of course) and our bored couple return to their boring marriage to try and devise another method of solving their problem.

In keeping with the policy of eternal happy endings, they do in fact come up with a workable solution and find that their marriage has never been so much fun before. Both find totally insane and entertaining pranks to play on the other in order to break the monotony and return some of the 'fun' to life. Can you picture our gentleman Patrick with a pie in the face!

A nice bit of outrageous comedy to turn from Mr. Macnee's more serious parts of late. Fun viewing, and recommended come re-run time.

The talk show visits were lovely and gave viewers

a chance to see a bit of the gentleman behind John Steed. The "Mike Douglas" show is described somewhat by Diane Lind in the letter column. Aside from discussing fashions and "The New Avengers" Patrick had some very nice comments to make about Diana Rigg's new play, "Night and Day" and her performance in it. Another rather touching moment came later in the program during Christina Crawford's interview. Christina's book about her film star mother, Joan, is filled with stories of horrors inflicted upon her as a child. With all the dirt being brought forth about the lady after her death, it was very nice to hear a gentle remembrance presented by Mr. Macnee.

I did not see the "Good Morning America" interview (it was scheduled twice before and cancelled both times. When it finally was on there was no mention in "TV Guide"! ). However, I caught both appearances on "Dinah". The first was very nice and relaxed. As Patrick entered, dressed typically Steed-ish, Dinah commented that he never wears that sort of thing around home but prefers to run around in tennis clothes. This led to a discussion of tennis lessons, swimming pools and California living in general. Michael Caine was also a guest and there were comparisons between their two lifestyles. Patrick also discussed marriage, his children, plans for the future and the fact that he speaks standard Queen's English... it is we Americans who have the odd accent!

The second appearance on "Dinah" was rather strange. The major guests were two gentlemen with contrasting views on the legality of pornography. This directed the topic of discussion for all the guests... none of whom spoke a great deal because of the verbal barrage going between the first two men. Patrick got in a few comments, but on the whole I much preferred his first visit with Dinah.

Still no word on an airdate for "Billion Dollar Threat" and I have little information on the film yet. As soon as I hear anything I'll have the news in the Newsletter. However, I imagine that it will be shown between issues, so keep an eye on your local listings.



# Report from England

The following are some bits of news and various notes from our Representative in England, Bill Bradshaw.

## Gareth Hunt

Gareth Hunt signed to co-star in #3 of Jackie Collins' sexy bestseller-into-movie series. After "The Stud" and the slated "The Bitch" sequel will be "The World is Full of Married Men" in which Gareth co-stars with Joan Collins, Anthony Franciosa, Carroll Baker and Georgina Hale. Filming has started on the movie.

He's also recently done a 15-second commercial for Nescafé Coffee..."

Gareth has made a second TV commercial extolling the virtues of Nescafé Instant Coffee in which he dashingly rattles a fist-full of coffee beans at the viewer and purrs "...there are this many beans in each cup of Nescafé Coffee..."

Some more news about Gareth Hunt - though whether the trade paper item is a put-on or not I'm not sure. Here goes:

"Lionel Bart is to write the score for a new stage show, 'Superman: The Musical' with Gareth Hunt and Jess Conrad both playing Superman."

Also, Gareth is starring in a new series for the spring called "Words on War" - a succession of star-studded scenes about warfare taken from 18 different plays and a selection of poems and dramatic works. The series is a 6-part venture and other big names involved are Trevor Howard, Vera Lynn, Ronald Fraser, Dennis Waterman, Paul Eddington and Susan Hampshire.

## Linda Thorson

I'm going to see Linda's play tomorrow (Saturday 9th of December, 1979 at 5:00 pm) at Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. I'm sure the play'll be worthwhile in itself actually as it's fully booked up (was at the first apparently) with only another week to run. The reviews have been good, Linda says

(Guildford news doesn't reach London, so no cuttings I'm afraid!) and she sounded really happy about it on the phone. If she can do three shows a day and still sound happy it must be good.

((Later)) Saw the play. Tremendous! It was a comedy thriller called "Murder in a Bad Light". It was the premiere of this new farce by Dave Freeman and alongside Linda were a great cast - Terry Scott, Anthony Sharp (in the "New Avengers" episode, "To Catch a Rat", incidentally), Heather Chasen and Derek Godfrey. Like all farces it's impossible to explain to someone who hasn't seen it, but basically it involves the predicaments in which a tax-exiled author, illegally staying in the country, puts his agent and his weekend houseguests. The subplot being that a murder has been committed in a nearby village and a subsequent murder is done later on in the house itself. Whodunit?

It was a really lovely experience seeing Linda and a lot of other marvelous actors putting over such a fine play. It's very funny, occasionally works well as a "shocker" and Terry Scott and Anthony Sharp had much of the play's best moments. Their timing and facial expressions have long been favourites of mine. But Derek Godfrey and Heather Chasen had some hilarious scenes together, too. Linda played Lorna Bassett, another author down for the weekend, and had some nice screaming to do, but (as she said to me after the show) it wasn't the best of parts as a showcase so when the play goes to the West End, as it most surely will, she won't carry on in the role.

She (recently) returned from Rome and started rehearsals for a three-part version of the play "Oresteia" for the BBC. This stars Linda and Sian Phillips as the Furies of the Underworld, Claire Bloom as Athena and (surprise!!) Diana Rigg as Clytemnestra. The trilogy won't be aired until March of '79 however, which means an annoying wait.

Linda seemed to enjoy herself in the Christmas TV offering of celebrity-sports-for-charity, "Christmas Star Games". Taped back in October or November, she was on the winning team of "Mower's Marvels", headed by Patrick Mower, and did really well in the swimming and running events.



Diana Rigg

I'm off to see Diana Rigg at the Phoenix Theatre tomorrow (Jan. 8th). The play's been on since November, but even though the playhouse is only 10 minutes' walk from our studio I only just got around to booking tickets. It's a sell-out!

((The next day)) The play was as good as it'd been built up to be! John Thaw, William Marlowe and Olu Jacobs were very funny and convincing, and the sets were excellent. (I was on the front row and at curtain up on Act One we were blinded by an eye-level onrush of damn dry ice!)

Diana looked gorgeous and was great, but backstage she looked even more beautiful, which I hadn't expected. You sort of expect to be 'less-than-blinded' in the flesh, but she beat the rule. (Well, Linda did too, so I guess that theory of mine really goes out of the window now!) Last of three people to get the programmes signed, I didn't have either the time or inclination to ask her anything or even say what I was representing as she had four friends with her.

Joanna Lumley

"Count Dracula's Vampire Bride" as mentioned in Newsletter #7 isn't a new movie. It's the U.S. release version of the last of the Hammer "Dracula" cycle with Chris Lee, originally titled "The Satanic Rites of Dracula". I caught it last in Leeds about 8 months ago. Smashing variation on the old, old vampire theme. A mixture of James Bond, Howard Hughes, Fu Manchu and the Gothic Horror bit. Lots hated it, but I thought it was a nice unexpected shot in the arm.

Patrick Newell

Patrick Newell is starring as Major Alexander in "The Strange Affair of Adelaide Harris", a 6-part BBC drama show based on the thriller by Leon Garfield.

Do you know of the role he played (while still 'Motherly') back in the 1971 ITV series, "The Misfit"? Star was Ronald Fraser as Major Basil "Badger" Allenby-Johnson, lately retired from the Indian Empire and come home to the swinging London of the 60's and early 70's. Lovely show - gentle, hilarious,

and in the second and final series of 13 Patrick Newell co-starred as Badger's brother.

He turned up again last week in "Robin's Nest" as a rival Maitre'd in a restaurant. Very funny and very slim!



Artwork by Bill Bradshaw



# Network News

## New Pen-Pals

EMILE SANDER, IV: 4901 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122. Born 7/14/57 (Viva la France!). Interests - "The New Avengers" (especially Purdey), "Monty Python", "M\*A\*S\*H", politics, star-gazing, much more. Would like to hear from all.

CHARLES A. BRADLEY: 4219 Elba Street, New Orleans, LA 70125. Scorpio, November 14. I am mainly interested in anything concerning "The Avengers". Other interests are baseball, karate, collecting and trading all types of sports cards. Also, I'm hooked on old movie serials. I'm awaiting your letters, so write on!

DEBBIE STAY: 21 Marion Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150. Born 10/3/57. I enjoy reading - mainly science fiction but I do enjoy mysteries, love stories, occult and unexplained phenomenon. I like watching TV - "M\*A\*S\*H", "Battlestar Galactica", "CHiPS", "Vegas", "Eight is Enough". Hobbies include crocheting, collecting clothing designs and doing some of my own. A bit of trivia - Gareth Hunt made his theatrical debut in Ipswich, England which is where I was born.

FRANK DUNN: 56 White Street, Swoyersville, PA 18704. I am 23 years old, 5'10" with brown hair and eyes. My birthday is February 21, 1956. Interests are drawing, reading horror stories and decorating. Hobbies are painting and making art foam decorations. I hope to go to school to become a commercial artist or a window dresser.

Some PBS-TV stations around the nation have started carrying a collection of British comedy series including "Ripping Yarns", "Wodehouse Playhouse", and "No, Honestly". You might want to check your local listings to see if any are shown in your area since they are quite amusing. In one episode of "Wodehouse Playhouse" entitled "The Truth About George" Patrick Newell had a small part as a gentleman with a speech problem.

There is a new fan club being formed for "The Avengers" with an emphasis on the "New" variety,

particularly stars Gareth Hunt and Joanna Lumley. Contributions of artwork, poems, articles, info, stories, etc. are being sought for the club newsletter. Membership cards and stationery will be available through the club and various projects are planned - no details of yet. This club is in the formation stages at the moment and they are looking for members to join and participate. For more information send a SASE to:

Gareth Hunt/Joanna Lumley  
"Avengers" Fan Club  
Cindy Phares, President  
PO Box 267  
Nederland, TX 77627, USA

Another member in France is working to form a fan club in that country for Diana Rigg. I have no details on this club at the moment other than an address: Patrick Sansano, 10 Rue Joliot Curie, Cité Nocaze, 26200 Montelimar, France. You are welcome to write Patrick if you would like more information, but I suggest that you enclose an International Reply Coupon. As plans for the club are finalized I hope to print news of the project.

For fans of the James Bond films, there is a club which you might want to look into: James Bond 007 Fan Club, PO Box 414, Bronxville, NY 10708. I have very little information on this group but do know that they have some excellent publications of interest to 007 fans. Drop them a SASE for details.

I am finalizing construction of the MI-5 Division of the Fan Network as this Newsletter is being typed. Stationery has been printed and membership cards are in the lay-out stage. Due to lack of room in this issue I will not be able to print details for joining, what is offered, required, etc. If you are interested please send me a SASE after March 15th and I will send more information as soon as it is available. Future issues of the Newsletter will probably carry instructions for joining - if space permits.



A reminder to members ordering article clipping copies... please print both the order number (at the front of the listing) and the title of the clipping when ordering. If these do not match - which they don't occasionally - I will go by the title of the clipping. If you do not have the number of the clipping be sure to print the entire title to avoid confusion. Thank you.

Actors Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee have been associated with "The Avengers" on several occasions and now both have turned up opposite Joanna Lumley in the "Dracula" film. For members who are fans of either gentleman, you can look into becoming a member of their fan clubs:

The American Peter Cushing Club  
Mrs. Debbie Del Vecchio, President  
174 Hackensack Street  
Wood Ridge, NJ 07075

The Christopher Lee International Club  
Pam Ellen Knox, President  
18330 Jovan Street  
Reseda, CA 91335

When writing to either of these clubs you should enclose a SASE. I have no details on their membership requirements or dues so you'll have to drop them a line to see what they are doing in the groups.

We have quite a few "Space: 1999" fans in the Network, one of whom runs a club and publication for the show. Anyone who hasn't contacted Steve Eramo or doesn't know about his club is suggested to drop him a line. The "Alpha Newsletter" is published six times a year and each issue is between 18 and 20 pages long. Contents include stories, reviews, articles on the series and stars, news, ads, raffles, photos and much more. A year's subscription is \$6.00. For more info (send a SASE) or to order "Alpha Newsletter" write to Steve at 5 Kimball Drive, Stoneham, MA 02180. Checks/money orders should be made out to Steve Eramo. Steve's publication is highly recommended and would be of interest to "Avengers" fans occasionally since he prints info on that show's stars sometimes.

## Garage Sale

There is another firm which sells the three "Avengers" films which are available from Derann Films in England (N/L #4). The three episodes available are "Return of the Cybernauts", "The Living Dead" and "The Positive-Negative Man". As with Derann, they are either full length or featurette size - full length being 6 reels, 400 ft. length with the featurette on 2 reels, 400 ft. length. They are in full color with sound. The new firm selling these films is Cinema Alberta, 4 - 10228 - 97 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5J 0L8. Prices are as follows: \$169.00 for full length versions, \$64.95 for featurette. 1st class postage for each film is \$3.50 with registration (\$1.00) and insurance (\$1.00) optional. Payment can be made by check, money order or can be charged to your Chargex, Bank Americard, Master Charge cards. For those who did not see the film information in issue #4: Unless the price in England has increased Derann Film Service charges less for these same films, Airmail postage included. Anyone wishing their address can SASE me.

Two publications recently printed episode lists from "Avengers" shows. For those who wish to have a reference source on the episodes it is advised that you look into ordering these two. "The Comic Reader" #163, December 1978 contains a listing of the first 26 "New Avengers" episodes with short plot synopses. It has a photo of Steed and 'Mother' to illustrate the listings and also mentions Patrick Macnee's recent appearance on "The Hardy Boys", commenting on the oddity of cross-overs in television programs/characters. "Rocket's Blast Comicollector" #146 has an episode listing of all the Emma Peel, Tara King and New variety "Avengers" episodes with short plot synopses and such lovely information as cast and crew credits. This article runs 9 pages and has 3 photos of Steed and Mrs. Peel plus 4 drawings. I might mention that members of the Fan Network were involved in supplying



both lists to these publications. Larry Charet of Chicago sent in the episodes to "The Comic Reader" and Craig Henderson helped supply episode listings for the Peel/King "Avengers" in RBCC. Many thanks to both of these gentlemen! Now for ordering instructions: single copies of the "Reader" are \$1.00 in the US and Canada (\$2.00 Airmail overseas). The address is Street Enterprises, PO Box 255, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. RBCC is \$3.00 first class, \$2.45 third class. No Airmail price is given. The address is James Van Hise, Editor, 10885 Parkdale Avenue, San Diego, CA 92126.

The 1979 "New Avengers" Annuals can be obtained from a couple of places now. Larry Charet, Larry's Bookstore, 1219-A Devon Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660 has a few of them for sale. His price is \$6.00, postage included. Checks or money orders are to be made out to Larry Charet and sent to the address above. Also, enclose a SASE. If Larry is out of the Annuals he will return your money. Bill Bradshaw, our representative in England is willing to help supply members with the Annuals as long as they remain available in his area. The price from Bill is \$7.50 including postage. Send an International Money Order made out to Bill Bradshaw. Do not send a personal check. The address is 83 Burgoyne Road, London, England, N4.

For Diana Rigg fans - Berkshire Record Outlet, Inc., 428 Pittsfield-Lenox Road, Lenox, MA 01240 has available a recording of Diana Rigg in the play "Pygmalion". I ordered a copy of the 2-record set and must say that it is a beautiful item! The records come in a box with a lovely color photo of Diana Rigg (Eliza Doolittle) and Alec McCowen (Henry Higgins) on the front. Inside there is a 4 page program with small black and white photos from the play, not to mention the albums - on the ARGO label, by the way. The recording is full length with all dialogue and is in stereo. I am very happy with mine and think that it is a "must" for fans of Diana. The price is right, too - \$3.98 for the 2-record set plus \$1.15 for postage/handling. (Prices are for US and Canadian members only.

Members in England should note that ARGO is from England and would probably be available there from your local dealer.) To order send check or money order - the number for ordering is Code E, ZSW 550/1 - Shaw: Pygmalion.

AVA International has several items which "Avengers" fans will be interested in. This company is the US distributor for Dinky Toys which now has a model of Purdey's TR7 for sale. Dinky Toys also has planned a model of Steed's special Jaguar, but problems have developed with their casting of this item so its production has been delayed. The Dinky Toy models are replicas in die-cast metal with movable parts. Purdey's TR7 is yellow with silver striping and a black monogram "P" on the front hood. The doors open and close and the bumpers are impact absorbent. It has a clear plastic wind-screen with black plastic interior, tyres and underside. Weight is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, length is  $3\frac{5}{8}$ ", height is  $1\frac{1}{8}$ ". Very nice! When ready, Steed's Jaguar will be blue-green in color with gold striping. A figure of Steed is driving and there is a villain which hangs onto the car. A press of the button sends the baddie flying off. Both of these items are licensed by Avengers Enterprises and carry the "New Avengers" name. However, there is also another Dinky model which would go nicely with the collection. They have a 109mm model of the Range Rover, quite similar to the one Steed drives in the series. The Range Rover is brownish in color, doors open and close as do the hood and back gate. Now all that we need is Gambit's auto to complete the set! Purdey's TR7 is item #112 and the cost is \$5.50 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. It can be ordered from AVA International, Inc., PO Box 999, Hewitt, TX 76643. I have a November 1, 1978 price listing for the other autos but no postage prices on these. The Jaguar is quoted at \$6.00, the Range Rover at \$5.00. Local toy and hobby stores carry the Dinky line and you may be able to order through them if you prefer not to order direct.

AVA International is also distributor for the Airfix Company which manufactures plastic model



kits. They carry a beautiful 1/12 scale model of a 1930 4½ litre Bentley which is similar to the one which Steed drove in the old "Avengers" series. (Newsletter #4, page 11 had details of the model kit.) Completed, the model is 14" long and 5" high with lovely detail - there are 278 parts to the kit. The price of this model is \$40.00 and you can obtain ordering instructions from AVA.

Jerry Ohlinger's in New York has several color 8x10's from "The Avengers" at \$4.00 each plus \$1.00 postage per order (\$3.00 postage if sent to a PO Box). The list which I have describes 12 shots from "The Avengers", 21 from "The New Avengers" and 8 of Diana Rigg in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". They also have 13 B&W 8x10's from "The New Avengers" and over 100 from the old series. Black and whites are \$1.50 each plus postage (same as for color). The address is Jerry Ohlinger's Movie Material Store, 120 W. 3rd St., New York, NY 10012.

Omega Enterprises Ltd., PO Box 744, FDR Station, New York, NY 10022 has color photos for sale at \$4.00 each. There are 8 shots of "The New Avengers" and 19 from "The Avengers" (including 1 of 'Mother' and 3 of Tara). These same shots may be ordered as duplicate slides for 75¢ each. For postage/handling add 10% of the total for your order, New York state residents should add 8% sales tax. Omega also has for sale all 6 titles of the "New Avengers" paperbacks - British editions - for \$2.00 each. Postage per book is 50¢ additional. Also, you can order the set of all 6 for \$10 plus postage. This is a better price than the \$3.00 per book for Airmail delivery from J. Barnicoat in England and my order was shipped quickly. Upon my request they are also going to try and stock the book "John Steed: Jealous in Honour". I'll let you know if they get it in, or you can write and ask yourself. At the present time Omega has two of the old series "Avengers" books for sale also. #1 "The Floating Game" is \$1.00 (fair condition), #3 "The Passing of Gloria Munday" is \$1.50 (near mint). Add 50¢ postage per book.

## Emily

A plot synopsis of the "New Avengers" episode

by Dennis Spooner

Directed by Don Thompson

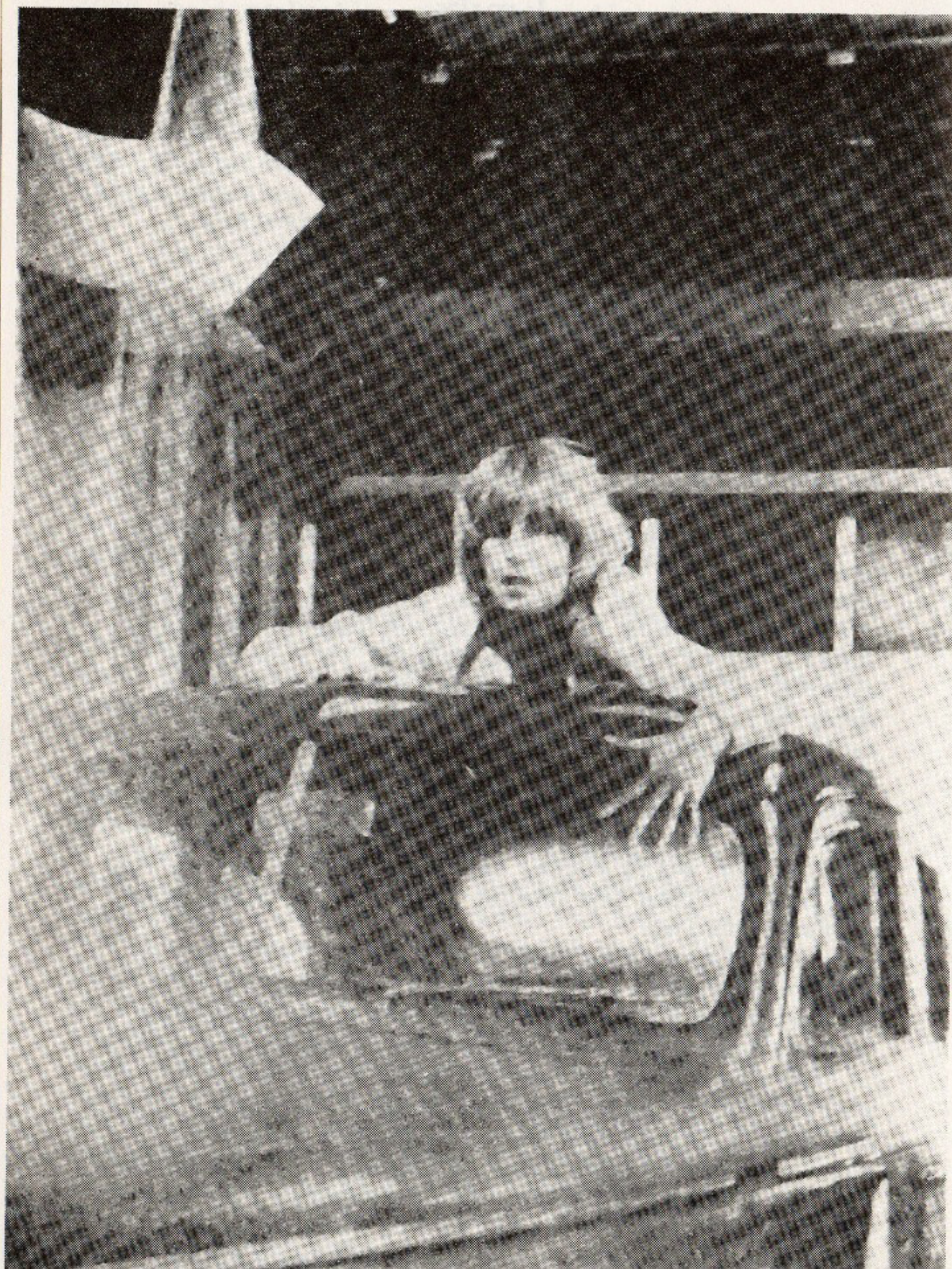
Text and photos are courtesy of CTV Television Network, Canada.

John Steed had wanted to know the identity of the Fox after Purdey's cover had been broken and she'd barely escaped with her life. The Fox had been active in Canada and was still believed to be there... Purdey had discovered that funds were delivered regularly to the Fox by a Courier called Alkoff.

Steed, Purdey and Gambit staked out Alkoff's apartment in Toronto and when he left, Steed and Gambit trailed him in one car and Purdey in another. Alkoff had headed for a marina on Lake Ontario and taken a motor boat out and stopped in a deserted stretch of water some distance from the shore. A water skier had made a fast spectacular pick up of the briefcase containing the money - Purdey had 'borrowed' a boat and pursued the skier along the lake while Steed and Gambit had driven along the shoreline. The skier had made dry land and his waiting car while Purdey had been headed off by the tow boat - Steed and Gambit took up the chase some distance behind.

The water skier had been Douglas Collings, a liaison officer between British and Canadian intelligence - a man with enough inside knowledge to keep himself several moves ahead of any pursuers. He had abandoned his car in the filling station workshop of a small Canadian town as Steed and Gambit arrived. Collings had made his escape in a car which had been later found abandoned. There had been no fingerprints but Steed had remembered the Fox had leapt across the roof of a car in the workshop prior to making his escape - there was the possibility that he had left a palm print. Collings heard about





this and moved into action as Steed, Gambit and Purdey returned to the workshop. The car had gone - it belonged to a Miss Daly and was called Emily. It was no ordinary car, it was old - a sort of family heirloom - it had been in the garage for an overhaul and had been picked up by Miss Daly.

Steed found Miss Daly and Purdey took a trip through a car wash to save the palm print. Steed, Purdey and Gambit needed to take Emily and the palm print to Headquarters. Collings - the Fox - was determined to stop them. Could they make it across country - would Emily run on booze? The Police were looking for a car wearing a bowler as the Fox started to close in with a mortar...

Produced by

Albert Fennell

Brian Clemens

Music by Laurie Johnson

Character

Artist

John Steed  
Purdey  
Mike Gambit  
Miss Daly  
Douglas Collings  
Phillips  
Reddington  
Mirschtia  
Kalenov  
Radio Operator  
Chicken Farmer  
Mechanic  
1st Policeman  
2nd Policeman  
3rd Policeman  
4th Policeman

Patrick Macnee  
Joanna Lumley  
Gareth Hunt  
Jane Mallett  
Les Carlson  
Richard Davidson  
Brian Petchey  
Peter Aykroyd  
Peter Torokvei  
Jack Duffy  
Ed McNamara  
Don LeGros  
Sandy Crawley  
John Kerr  
Pat Patterson  
Bill Balentine

Filmed on location in Canada





## Super Secret Cypher Snatch

by  
Tony Williamson

Produced by  
Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens

Directed by  
John Hough

An agent named Roger Jarret runs for his life from the buildings of a Cypher H.Q., pursued by an armed man in white overalls, gas-mask and bowler. Other men in white overalls block his way as he turns this way and that, and finally he is gunned down, while the guards at the establishment take no notice of what is happening. Jarret's body is bundled into a van bearing the sign "Classy Glass Cleaning".

The Cypher Establishment is quiet as before as a blonde named Betty drives up and says hello to the guard at the door. Despite the violent death the guard says things are 'routine and boring'.

Mother tells Steed that M.I.12 have lost a man, Jarret, and they have asked Mother's department to find him. Steed starts with Webster, the Director of the Cypher H.Q., whom we have seen briefly in the opener, a witness to the killing.

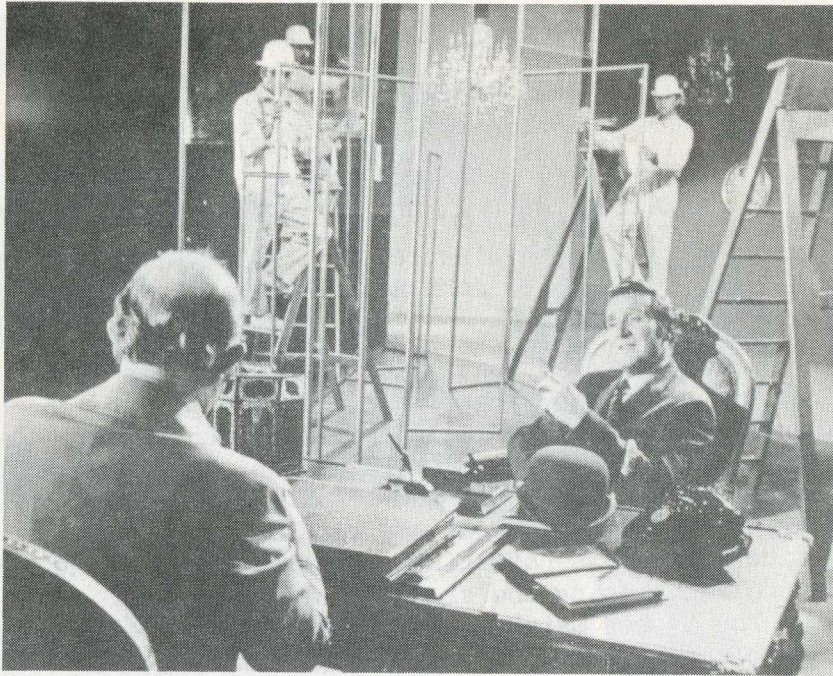
Webster says he has never seen the man before when presented with a photograph of Jarret.

Tara searches Jarret's flat with Ferret of M.I.12, and they come across the agent's body in the window-seat, and also a rolled-up page of a calendar for the day of Jarret's death, hidden in a pen. Watching them as they find this is Maskin, posing as a window-cleaner across the street.

Webster continues to deny that Jarret was ever at his establishment, and Steed suspects he is lying. He picks up Jarret's lighter-cum-camera during his visit.

Steed joins Tara, Ferret and photographer Peters at Jarret's flat, and Peters says he will have a look at the apparently quite ordinary pictures of





the Establishment which Jarret has taken. When he does so at his darkroom, Maskin, the window-cleaner, shoots him from the outside.

Steed and Tara are quickly on the scene. They find the charred remains of the photographs, but Steed has the negatives from which to prepare more prints. On the prints they see the Classy Glass Cleaning van, which they connect with the murder of Peters the photographer - the assassin must have used a ladder.

Ferret of M.I.12 decides that after the murders of Jarret and Peters they must have someone else inside the Cypher H.Q. He selects Tara King. Steed, meanwhile, goes off to investigate the Classy Glass Cleaners.

Charles Lather, the man in charge at Classy Glass, tells Steed that the Cypher H.Q. has not been visited by them for months. They used to have the contract, but gave it up as uneconomical.

Steed departs in the Bentley, and is pursued by one of the cleaning firm's vans. Maskin uses a ladder

in an exciting chase to finally smash Steed's windscreen and crash the car. But Steed is not injured. When he recovers consciousness, he tells Mother to send off Ferret to aid Tara in the Cypher H.Q. He suspects that after the attempt on his own life, she may be in real danger.

Tara is sent for the Q. Cypher file by Webster, and as she gets it is alarmed to see a Classy Glass van pull up outside. When Ferret finally gets to the Cypher H.Q. he is amazed to see there are no guards. Soon he is attacked by one of the Classy Glass men in overalls, and suffocated with a cleaning leather. Tara can see the body of Ferret, but she only stands there staring at it, no expression on her face.

When we see the Cypher H.Q. again, Ferret's body has been removed and the girls are working normally. Tara is puzzled that she forgot to fetch the file for her 'boss', Webster.

When she meets Steed, she is sure that Ferret has not been at the Cypher H.Q. She has the funniest feeling that the day 'did not happen at all'.

Tara and Steed visit the yard of Classy Glass and there discover Ferret's body. They also see Jarvis and Vickers as they come to take the body away in the van and dump it at Ferret's home.

Next day, Tara takes her place at the Cypher H.Q., keeping in touch with Steed by 'phone.

Later, Steed discovers something strange in one of the photographs as Vickers and Jarvis are leading another raid on the Cypher H.Q. They cut the 'phone lines, and knock out the guards with vapour-sprays they carry with them. The inside staff they knock out by putting the vapour into the ventilator inlets. A voice - on a dictaphone - tells the staff it is a perfectly normal working day, while the raiders photograph all the secret documents in sight.

Steed has realised that something very strange has happened at the cypher H.Q. from the picture of Myra taken by agent Jarret. Myra is shown in one of the pictures allowing a match to burn down into her fingers. Steed approaches the place, disposing of Classy Glass men as he goes, and bursts in on Jarvis and Vickers at their work. Tara eventually



joins him in a hectic fight in the Cypher H.Q. whose climax is Steed meeting Lather at gunpoint in Webster's office. Tara helps him out by impaling Lather to the wall with one of the Classy Glass ladders.

Steed decides he will try his 'hypnotic' powers on Tara, but only succeeds in sending himself to sleep. Tara, now in charge, orders her hypnotic subject to take her to their favourite restaurant for dinner.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Artist</u>
John Steed	Patrick Macnee
Tara King	Linda Thorson
Peters	John Carlisle
Maskin	Simon Oates
1st Guard	Alec Ross
Jarret	Clifford Earl
Vickers	Donald Gee
Ferret	Ivor Dean
Betty	Anne Rutter
Myra	Angela Scoular
2nd Guard	Lionel Wheeler
Davis	Anthony Blackshaw
Lather	Nicholas Smith
Webster	Allan Cuthbertson

Designer Robert Jones

Music Supervision by Laurie Johnson

Additional Music by Howard Blake

Executive in charge of Production Gordon L.T. Scott





# Midnight Meanderings

## Avengers Style Music

by Gene Davidson

This article concerns the various record products which have come out pertaining to "The Avengers". I'll list them in chronological order for the most part.

Naturally, when any successful program proves itself in England you can expect the theme of the show to be issued on a record. The first version of "The Avengers" theme came out on Pye Records and was titled "Theme From The Avengers". The flip side, "Minor Bossa Nova" had nothing to do with the show itself. The orchestra playing it was the Laurie Johnson Orchestra, Mr. Johnson being the composer of the theme.

Next, due to the overwhelming popularity of the show, came an album of TV themes by an artist named Brian Fahey. His album called "Time for TV" had a magnificent color album cover showing Steed and Emma in the Bentley. This album was worth the price just for the album cover alone.

Then came the first Laurie Johnson "Avengers" LP. The album featured a great cover photo of Steed and Emma in a typical "Avengers" type pose similar to those seen in the closing credits of the show. In 1968 came another Laurie Johnson album called "Themes And..." which featured the new updated "Avengers" theme with a trumpet playing the main portion of the tune this time. This album also had a short song called "Tag Theme" which was the "Avengers" music heard during the last couple minutes of each "Avengers" Linda Thorson episode - during the time Steed and Tara joked about what had taken place in that particular episode. The album cover has just a small photo of them on the front with a much larger picture of Laurie Johnson.

During the same year, Linda Thorson came out with a single called "Here I Am/Better than Losing You". The A side is a great song and she sings very well indeed. The English 45 has a picture sleeve of Linda as Tara and the French single has a picture cover of Linda with an earring in her nose! In 1969 Ember

Records released one final song by her on an album of various artists called "Future Star Explosion" which is now quite rare.

Moving on through the years we come to 1973, the year in which Diana Rigg issued her first disc called "Sentimental Journey". Unfortunately the record did not do too well. However it remains a tremendous collectors item which few people were aware of when it was first issued. Diana did have another song ready for release as a 45 record, but it never came out.

And now in 1978 comes yet another "Avengers" theme... this time the "New Avengers" theme has been issued as a 45. This is quite phenomenal since it's been released so many times before.

And thus we have the recording side of the "Avengers" personnel. It's sad to realize that many people would probably wish to pick up on these records and now they are so hard to find. But perhaps in record circles these collectors items will turn up on occasional lists.

\* \* \* \* \*

That's all the Meanderings this issue. Let me remind readers that anyone may submit articles to be printed in this section. The best submissions will be chosen for each issue and at the end of the year subscribers will vote on their favorite from the past 6 issues. The winner and runner-up will receive prizes of free Newsletter subscriptions (and whatever else I'm able to come up with!).

Articles should be around 500-600 words. Longer or shorter entries may be printed as I see fit. Subject matter can be anything having to do with "The Avengers" or anyone involved with the show. Articles not printed as Meanderings may be used in later issues or may be printed (in part or in whole) as letters-of-comment, depending on content, length, etc.

The suggested topic for next issue: Would anyone care to comment on performances by "Avengers" stars in other roles?



## LOCs of Gold

SALLY SYRJALA, Centerville, MA:

It would seem the question of Patrick Macnee's voice appearing (if that is the correct term for an audio presentation) on "Battlestar Galactica" is now a proven point. Not only do they have his voice, but his being as well to appear. From the previews it seems he will play some superbeing who may be a link to the thirteenth colony which sought out Earth. The previews bring to mind a take-off of a "Space: 1999" episode that had the superbeing wishing to make the Commander, Helena, Maya and Tony into his 'children'. These are just impressions based upon a few seconds of coming attraction type footage.

((Later)) Just finished watching Part 2 of "War of the Gods". The impression of the "1999" episode remains intact. There the evil being was defeated by a complete absence of light. Here he was defeated by the forces of light.

We could say the episode of "Star Trek", "Who Mourns for Adonais" was also in evidence. This god-like figure needing the belief of followers to sustain him.

Then, how about "The Squire of Gothos"? An errant child playing with human playthings and being punished by his own kind. Or even "And the Children Shall Lead". The evil Gorgon was caused to leave the scene by people seeing into his real character. Just so, the Prince of Darkness is rendered a non-threat by understanding who/what he is and refusing to follow.

So many loose ends left floating around waiting for resolution... what happens to Boltar? Does he remain exiled to the prison ship? The Cylons - does the whisking away of the evil Count mean they, his creations, are also summarily dealt with? The fleet who had come to look for the Count - did they understand what happened to him and where he went? Did they blame the ruling council for his disappearance therefore causing their morale to sag even more?

"Medium Rare" was the fare on "The New Avengers" tonight. Find this truly an intriguing bit of scheduling to follow so closely on the heels of the

"Galactica" episode. Most interesting correlations between the two. In both we delve into the field of parapsychology. In one, Count Iblis was the one who had developed these powers and in the other a parlor-variety medium was the supposed repository of these gifts.

The 'true' believers in the correct course were triumphant in both instances. In the "Galactica" episode Apollo stood beside his father in opposing the evil Count. In the "New Avengers" Steed's partners stood by him with their faith in spite of all the conflicting circumstances.

The endings of these two vehicles were even much akin to one another. In "War of the Gods" it is shown the Count was truly not a god-figure, but only from a race of peoples more highly advanced than the Galactica crew. In "Medium Rare" the medium was shown to be but a normal, undeveloped psychic who benefited from the fact that sound is carried by air currents and can be transmitted via metallic pipes.

STEVE ERAMO, Stoneham, MA:

This past Sunday I saw Patrick Newell on episode 14 of "The Duchess of Duke Street". He played Tommy Shephard, one in a group of wealthy British people enjoying a weekend at Louisa's seashore home. He was excellent! He looks a lot different since losing all that weight.

I'm happy that more and more people are getting to like the character of Gambit. Many times it is the scripts which limit a character's development. If there is a third series (hope, hope!) an episode for the development of Mike Gambit certainly is in order and would be much appreciated!

BOB RICCI, Hyde Park, MA:

Dale Robinette is a fantastic young actor. I know him from "Fantastic Journey" and other shows. I do hope Patrick's appearance ((in "Billion Dollar Threat")) will get him his own series.

I suggest members check used book stores for a magazine called "Space Trek", Winter 1978 issue. It has a write-up on "The New Avengers" with photo.



SUE GINTER, Fullerton, CA:

I have a question to put to the "Space: 1999" members of the Network. Was the actor who portrayed Professor Lopez in "Target" the same actor who portrayed MacDonald in Series Two's "Journey to Where"? I didn't recognize the face, but the voice sounded vaguely familiar.

DERWIN MAK, Kitchener, Ontario:

Unfortunately, we couldn't see Patrick Macnee on "Definition". Although it used to be on at 4:00 pm CFTO-TV changed the time slot to 10:05 am without informing "TV Guide". But last summer Gareth Hunt was on "Definition". He talked about his new record called "Money" (with songs such as "Money", "Cash", "More Money", etc.) and strange events on the "New Avengers" set. Such as the time they had to destroy a car so they set it on fire. After the car was destroyed they found out that they had forgotten to put film in the camera!

Did you see "Time" magazine, March 22, 1976? In the "People" section they have a photo of Joanna Lumley as an earlier version of Purdey.

Linda Thorson was scheduled as a guest on CBC's late-night talk show, "Canada After Dark" on Thursday, January 4th. Unfortunately (or fortunately, according to former viewers and critics) "Canada After Dark" has been canned after half a season of terrible ratings. Since the crew got 90 days notice they still can probably get Linda Thorson to go on.

GENE GRAINER, New Orleans, LA:

I loved "Hostage", especially the parts with Gambit - scarce as they were. The only thing that I didn't like was that Purdey just happened to get her chains undone at a convenient moment. That's such an ole cliché! They probably had 6,000 ways to do it and that was the only way it would work, but it was something of a disappointment to see that on a show like "The New Avengers".

ROSENFELD, SIROWITZ & LAWSON, INC. ADVERTISING:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter to our client, Colibri.

The commercial you saw recently in Denver also ran in the Kansas City and St. Louis markets during the period November 20 - December 10, 1978.

It is entitled 'Jewelry Store Revisited' and was shot in May of this year.

In reference to Mr. Macnee, he has been Colibri's spokesman for several years now and will represent them again on television in 1979. He was chosen because his image embodied many of the characteristics of the Colibri line of lighters, i.e. taste, style, sophistication, etc.

Hopefully Mr. Macnee will be with us for years to come.

I've enclosed a Colibri catalogue. ...Once you or your members have decided on an item, please give me a call and I'll be happy to channel your order to the appropriate parties.

((Note: I have the catalogue mentioned above and will be happy to assist any members wishing to order from the Colibri line. If you are unable to find what you want in your area drop me a line. Editor))

DIANE LIND, President - The Patrick Macnee Fan Club, Omaha, NE:

I read in "TV Guide" that Pat was scheduled to make an appearance on "The Mike Douglas Show" on December 15th. Although Pat's interview was short (7:10), it was just delightful. As always, his manner and dress were impeccable. He wore a dark greenish-blue suit with a light blue shirt and a deep gold, almost avacado tie. He and Mike mainly discussed fashions and the latest styles in clothing for men. There was also a brief mention about the "New Avengers" and a short film clip from one of the upcoming episodes (("Dirtier by the Dozen")). But the really amusing part of the show came later when Mike Douglas introduced Jeff Kutash and his disco dancers. After their performance, Mike invited them to teach his other guests, including Pat, a few of their disco dance steps. I must admit that Pat sure is no John Travolta, but he certainly is a jolly good sport.





I love this photo... seems like it would lend itself quite well to some catchy caption, but I can't for the life of me think of one. If you come up with a good one let me know!

etcetera...

Re-runs of "Upstairs, Downstairs" are being aired across the nation and because of Gareth Hunt's part in the series I was very interested in finding information about the program. However, I am told that the episodes being aired now (in my area at least) are before Gareth came on the scene as Frederick. There have been 70 episodes filmed so far, only part of which are being shown at the moment. So don't be too upset if you have been unable to spot Gareth in the series so far.

I have an address in London and will try writing for information on the episodes with Gareth, but nothing is promised.

The article in the "Times-Picayune" which mentioned our group ((see Newsletter #7)) brought quite a bit of response so I typed a letter to the question-and-answer column where the address appeared and was pleased to find that they printed my letter as well. This received even more response and so we now have a good many members in the New Orleans area. Fan Network membership now totals over 130 members - this in little over one year. I'd like to thank everyone who has brought in new members in one way or another. Keep up the good work!

I just received some beautiful photographs from England of the original "Avengers" episodes, Emma Peel era. One of them is on the preceding page and others will be in future Newsletters. Next issue I will use some to illustrate a synopsis of the episode, "A Touch of Brimstone". Also in the next issue will be the synopsis of "Hostage". Thanks to everyone who has written about the plot synopses... it seems that this feature is very popular and yes I do intend to continue it as long as I have enough photos and information. So far I have not come up with synopses to the first series of "New Avengers" but am trying!

Remember - "The only thing that can't be replaced is the love in life of an old friend." John Steed.







