

Helping the Avengers get their man

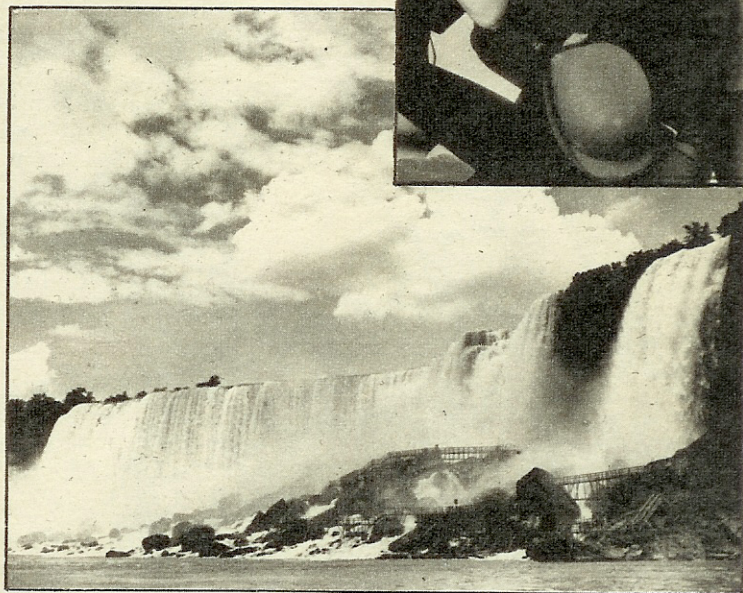
WHAT DO Canadian Mounties have in common with Steed, Purdey and Gambit, on the right? Well, besides always getting their men, they share the billing during a set of seven *New Avengers* programmes filmed in and around Toronto.

The trouble-shooting trio spent about four months filming on the other side of the Atlantic. There the agents find themselves calling on the co-operation of the Canadian authorities. That's where the bold and fearless heroes on horseback gallop into the picture on their own brand of trusty steed.

The locations provide an added bonus for *Avengers* with an eye for scenic beauty. Some of the action

centres around Niagara Falls (pictured here) and Lake Ontario.

The trip, however, was no holiday for Messrs. Macnee, Hunt and the leggy Miss Lumley. But they had enough spare time to join the regular Friday night exodus of Toronto people escaping to hunting lodges at the weekends.



8.0 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

K is for Kill

Part 2: Tiger by the Tail

BY BRIAN CLEMENS

The New Avengers find themselves trapped in battle-torn France . . . but it's 30 years after the end of the war. Trying to unravel the mystery—and save their skins—they bump into a sleeping army and meet a killer who is older than his father. Meanwhile, all in the course of duty, pretty Purdey shows a leg at the Folies Bergere.

<i>John Steed</i>	Patrick Macnee
<i>Purdey</i>	Joanna Lumley
<i>Mike Gambit</i>	Gareth Hunt
<i>Col. Martin</i>	Pierre Vernier
<i>Gen. Gaspard</i>	Maurice Marsac
<i>Stanislaw</i>	Charles Millot
<i>Jeanine Leparge</i>	Christine Delaroche
<i>Toy</i>	Paul Emile Deiber
<i>Turkov</i>	Maxence Mailfort
<i>Kerov</i>	Sacha Pitoeff
<i>Minister</i>	Alberto Simononi
<i>Waiter</i>	Jacques Monnet
<i>Minski</i>	Frank Olivier
<i>Guard</i>	Guy Mairesse
<i>Secretary</i>	Cyrille Besnard

DIRECTOR YVON MARIE CONLAIS :
PRODUCERS ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

8.0 The New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

Complex

BY DENNIS SPOONER

X41, an enemy agent whose code name is Scapina, has in the past been grudgingly admired by Steed. But it seems that Scapina has made a mistake. A contact has information which will reveal the mystery agent's identity, but he is killed . . .

John Steed

Patrick Macnee

Joanna puts the boot in

Joanna Lumley is one hell of a girl. In real life, as well as when she plays "Purdey" in TV's *The New Avengers*, she bedazzles the males and, surprisingly, is also liked by the ladies.

In spite of her obvious femi-

stuntmen and professional fight arrangers. They make me look like an expert," she said.

"But I do believe in real fitness and proper training. Having been a dancer helps. But I've also watched the top girl athletes



ninity, she is as tough as new boots, too. I watched one Avengers episode in which she had to run, flat out, in a chase sequence. At 50 yards I waited for the "cut", which would have given her time for a rest before

carefully and copied their style of running. It would look ridiculous if I, as a supposed top agent, ran like most women do, with their hands flapping and their legs not moving in a straight line."

... clues take the trio to France.
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Purdey
Mike Gambit
Col. Martin
Gen. Gaspard
Stanislaw
Toy
Jeanine Le Parge
Kerov
van
Assili
Soldier
Salvation Army Major
Lonk
Enrose
DIRECTOR YVON MARIE COULAIS:
PRODUCERS ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

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Style

WHY hasn't The New Avengers been made a fuss of like Starsky And Hutch? It certainly has style and Gareth Hunt is sexier than both Starsky and Hutch. Miss M. MORAN, St Heller, Jersey. GEORGE MELLY would be the first to admit that he hasn't got the greatest vision in the world. But his key role is as an entertainer. And as far as that goes, he is second to none. GREGG CHAPMAN, Orpington, Kent.

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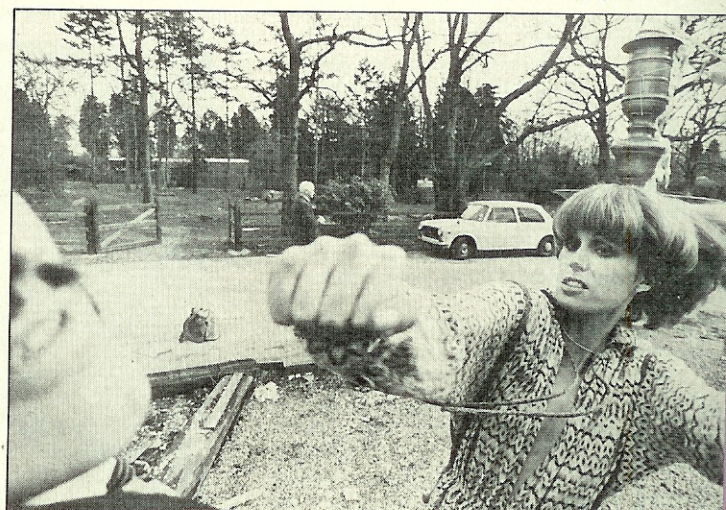
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Cope
Greenwood
Miss Cummings
Berisford Holt
DIRECTOR RICHARD GILBERT: PRODUCERS
ALBERT FENNELL, BRIAN CLEMENS

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
Cec Linder
Harvey Atkin
Vlasta Vrana
Rudy Lipp
Jan Rubes
Michael Ball
David Nichols
Suzette Couture
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stuntmen and professional fight arrangers. They make me look like an expert," she said. "But I do believe in real fitness and proper training. Having been a dancer helps. But I've also watched the top girl athletes



ninity, she is as tough as new boots, too. I watched one Avengers episode in which she had to run, flat out, in a chase sequence. At 50 yards I waited for the "cut", which would have given her time for a rest before they rolled again for an apparent non-stop run. No cut. At 100 yards I thought it had to come. No cut, and Joanna was still going like an avenging angel. She finally finished her Olympic-like sprint, having covered best part of 300 yards. With no cut in the action. When I met her in her dressing room at Pinewood studios, where she is filming a new Avenger series, she told me that she really didn't know a thing about karate or judo. "That's all the art of the carefully and copied their style of running. It would look ridiculous if I, as a supposed top agent, ran like most women do, with their hands flapping and their legs not moving in a straight line." I glanced down and thought her legs would look pretty good, straight or crossed. And decided to start shooting pics before I got too carried away. For shots inside the dressing room, while Joanna was chatting to my reporter, I used a Nikon with 85mm and 50mm lenses, working at 1/60sec at f/2.8 on Tri-X. But the pics I really wanted were of her in action as Purdey, and for these I planned to use a 21mm. Then I hit the snag which inevitably occurs in film studios. Joanna



was called to the set, where she was being filmed in what looked like a fairground ghost-train tunnel, and in which she is dragged in chains by two heavies who stop her cry of "Steed!" by forcibly stuffing an apple in her mouth.

I waited for her to finish the first take. The director wasn't happy. So they did a second. And a third. In fact, they did eight takes (by which time Joanna had a cut lip from the apple being pushed in a little extra vigorously) before he called the magic words: "OK. Print that one".

I moved in to take Joanna outside for my pictures. But they already had her chained to the trolley being prepared for some other fate worse (well, almost) than death.

I could see the whole day slipping by before I got my pictures. But here I must offer a sincere word of thanks to Patrick Macnee, who has been the star of the series for 13 years. He asked me what the problem was, and I told him there seemed no way I could get Joanna away for a few minutes without disrupting the whole sequence. He went straight up to the director and, within seconds, I had Joanna to myself, complete with villain George Lane Cooper and the fight arranger.

First I pictured her giving a good right hook to George's chin, and then I had her give one of her famous karate kicks, straight at the camera. She did these with the speed of a ballet dancer, and I shot at 1/500sec at f/5.6, aiming to get my picture when her boot was nearest the lens. After half a dozen, I was fairly satisfied that one of them would be right, and I looked up from the viewfinder for the final kick. That 21mm lens had given me a false sense of security, as I discovered that the kick was passing just about two inches in front of my lens. Glad I hadn't annoyed her. An accident *could* have happened so easily.

Avenging angel with a ravaging right. Joanna Lumley puts in the boot and fist, straight at our columnist's 21mm Nikkor. Above, taking a break from her "Avenger" exertions (85mm Nikkor)

