

Lumley overjoyed by Equity action

BY LISA VANOLI

EXCLUSIVE

Actress Joanna Lumley is singing Equity's praises after the union clinched a lucrative repeats fee deal with three television channels.

As Purdey in the action series *The New Avengers*, Lumley claims she never

saw a penny from repeats and neither did co-star Gareth Hunt. But insiders say the new contract could leave them thousands of pounds better off.

She explained: "We had a very strange contract with a French production company which went bankrupt. We were then sold to another

company which also collapsed and after that we couldn't find our way through.

"The show has been screened around the world and somebody must have been making millions from it."

But Lumley said she has never felt bitter about the

loss because the series was fun to make. "It will be nice to watch the repeats without a false grin, though," she added.

Equity spokesman Martin Brown said: "We have come to an arrangement with BBC2, the Bravo channel and Channel 4 and I believe all the cast are very satisfied



Repeat surprise for
Joanna Lumley

with the amount of money they will be getting from the repeats."

Marina Martin, who managed Hunt during the filming of *The New Avengers*, said: "This is terrific news. Gareth must be thrilled.

"At the time there was no one to sue. It was all such confusion."