

Preview

by JACK BELL

He's a joke cracksman



VALENTINE as Raffles . . . and as the Colditz tyrant

SUNTANNED from a skiing holiday after six months' work as the debonair cracksman in **RAFFLES** (ITV, 9.0), Anthony Valentine is happy to be relaxing for a while.

"I enjoy not working — as long as the money holds out," he says. "But when it starts vanishing, I get as twitchy as anybody else."

Valentine doesn't yet know if there'll be another series of "Raffles," which ends in two weeks.

He likes the Raffles character, but says he'd like to do something modern next.

Laugh

"I quite fancy doing a stage comedy—there is nothing so satisfying as giving people a laugh."

Valentine's mail tells him that while fans enjoy his Raffles "they would rather see me play someone more hard and ruthless"—like his

Nazi officer part in "Colditz."

You'd think that after "Raffles" and "Colditz," the Valentine face would be easily recognisable.

Dining in a London restaurant the other day, a woman in a foursome came up and said: "It is — isn't it?"

"Probably," said Valentine.

"It is . . . Ian Carmichael?" said the woman.

"No," said Valentine.

"It's . . ."

"You're right and I'm wrong," shouted the woman to her companions. "It is Brian Rix!"

IT'S ALL GOOD FUN FOR PAM

★ **PAM MANSON** has played many varied roles on TV. And tonight she is on both networks in Jewish comedy roles.

She plays Sylvia the hairdresser, helping a friend to get ready for her young son's important day in a repeat of Jack Rosenthal's award-winning play **BAR MITZVAH BOY** (BBC-1, 9.25).

And in **BACKS TO THE LAND** (ITV, some areas, times vary) she's an archetypal Jewish momma, arriving in wartime East Anglia for her daughter Shirley's engagement.

What she doesn't know



Philippa Howell

is that Shirley (Philippa Howell) is marrying a "goy" — a non-Jew. "And a farmer's 'goy' at that," says Pam.

But beneath the comedy Pam is a serious worker for Jewish causes.



JOANNA LUMLEY: changing fashion.

THE BLUFFING GAME

★ **JOANNA Lumley** has played games of bluff with so many baddies of "The New Avengers" that she must be a natural as a panel guest on **CALL MY BLUFF** (BBC-2, 9.0).

In fact, the programme

was recorded way back when Joanna had just got the "Avengers" job as Purdey, the girl with the lethal pirouette.

She claims it was made so long ago she can't even remember who has the "bluff" answers. Who's bluffing now?

She's now busy filming the next thirteen "Avenger" adventures, and tells me the new

series will have her bang up to date in the fashion stakes with the shorter skirt length.

"For myself, I don't mind," she says. "I like long dresses and I also like those above the knee."

"What I don't want back is the mini-mini which just covered one's knickers."

★ **JUGGERNAUT** driver Bob McAngus is the "star" of **INSIDE STORY** (BBC-2, 9.30). The camera follows owner-driver Bob across Europe from Felixstowe to Trieste, first major stop in his route taking furniture to the Persian Gulf.

Says director Ron Johnston: "The big problem for Bob was how to make enough trips a year under the transport regulations and stay in business."

The way Bob manages to find his way round the rules is told in the programme.

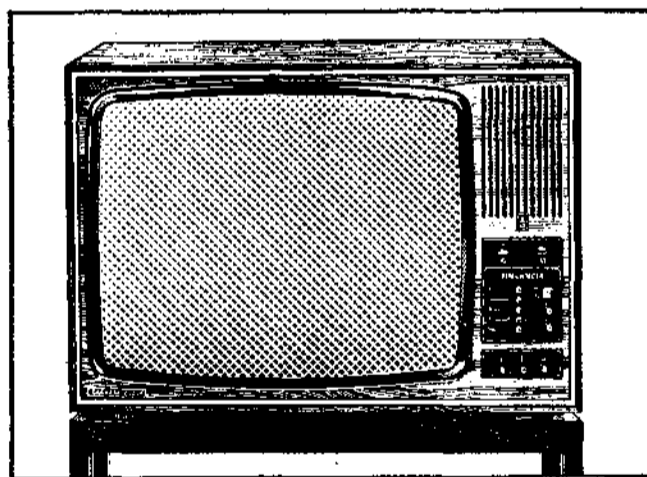
★ **THE three towns** in competition in **IT'S A KNOCKOUT** (BBC-1, 8.0) are Mansfield, Macclesfield and Wirksworth and the winner will represent Britain in the third heat of the Eurovision Competition to be held in Switzerland at the end of September.

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RADIO HIGHSPOTS

- ☐ **FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK** (Radio 1 and 2, 7.2 p.m.): Comedy quiz with Mike Burton, Barry Took, Stanley Unwin and quizmaster Peter Jones.
- ☐ **TWENTY FIVE YEARS** (Radio 1 and 2, 7.33 p.m.): Musical flashback to 1960-61 with the Northern Radio Orchestra.
- ☐ **ANY QUESTIONS?** (Radio 4, 8.30 p.m.): Discussion with Baroness Wootton, Andrew Alexander, Roy Shaw and Norman Del Mar, chaired by David Jacobs.



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