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IT'S THAT DANGER MAN AGAIN!

FROM
JILLIAN
ROBERTSON
IN LONDON



PATRICK McGOOHAN likes a good fight. He never has a stand-in for rough scenes.

RIGHT: Fighting it out in an episode called No Marks For Servility.

Patrick McGooohan returns in

DANGER MAN, that gripping spy thriller series, is back again.

This time it is in one-hour episodes and with the same star, Patrick McGooohan, as security agent extraordinary John Drake

The new programs are on a more spectacular scale than Australia saw last time

"But one thing is the same," said Patrick McGooohan. "There is no sex in it."

We were sitting in his tiny and untidy dressing-room at Elstree Studios, scattered with two suitcases, a tatty briefcase, an overflowing wastepaper basket and three half-drunk cups of instant coffee.

McGooohan sprawled back in his swivel chair, his pale blue eyes looked at me quizzically, and he said: "You see, I don't approve of sex on television. One of my conditions is that it's not in this series.

"We've been shooting for nine months

and I still haven't had a liaison with a woman

"With the cinema I guess it's okay, but with television, kids or a grandmother might see the scenes by chance. It's a bad influence."

The 36-year-old actor, born in New York of Irish parents and taken home to Ireland at an early age, has very strong ideas.

He's very strong himself—he never has a stand-in for rough scenes. And he likes a good fight—on or off the screen.

A few weeks ago McGooohan got a black eye from fighting in a pub near Elstree where the series is being filmed.

"All this hooah and ballyhoo about stars and actors has grown out of proportion. I've stopped giving interviews—you can have that side of the business. I only saw you because I heard you are from Australia."

I smiled gratefully.

But *Danger Man* McGooohan didn't return my grin.



one-hour episodes

I got the feeling he wanted me to get out, and fast.

He continued: "I haven't any inflated ideas about acting. I treat it like a craft."

"Like a shoemaker," I asked.

He nodded. "I bring a commodity for sale which is entertainment. I learn the lines and get my cheque at the end of the week.

"But there's one privilege I want—privacy. I'd never have an interview at home."

To television promoters Patrick McGooohan is not exploitable.

"Look," he added, lighting up his third untipped cigarette. "After the first series some American boys flew over in a battery, took me to lunch, and said I had to have contact with women in *Danger Man*.

"They even wanted publicity shots with girls sitting on my knee, and all that kind of thing.

"I told them what I thought of their ideas and sent them packing back to

America. I'm not having sex dragged into *Danger Man*."

I said I admired his ideals and asked him if they would be different if he was a bachelor.

"No," he replied loudly. "It's the principle."

McGoohan is devoted to his wife. He met her at the beginning of his acting career when he spent four years with the Sheffield Repertory Company.

She was a talented and attractive young actress called Joan Drummond. She and McGooohan found time between a rehearsal of *The Taming Of The Shrew* and a matinee of *The Rivals* to get married.

"She gave up acting," said McGooohan, "Now she's got the best role she's ever had."

He and his wife live in a house at Mill Hill, north of London, and have three children, all girls—Catherine, Anne and Frances. To complete the household there is a corgi named Honey.

continued overleaf



ANOTHER hectic fight for McGoohan. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he doesn't like to be called a star; prefers to be known as an actor.

IT'S THAT DANGER MAN AGAIN! *CONTINUED*

It's easy to tell after talking to this broad-shouldered handsome hunk that McGoohan is a family man, and one of the most down-to-earth of all stars—I mean, actors. He doesn't like the description "star."

"I prefer to be known as an actor," he said.

McGoohan hates affectation of any kind. He drives a family car, and it is because he is insistent that John Drake is not the flashy type of character (like James Bond) to race around in a sleek sports car that John Drake of *Danger Man* drives a Mini-Cooper.

McGoohan can never be found in the sophisticated haunts so popular with his fellow actors, such as the White Elephant in Mayfair or the Ivy Restaurant near Soho.

He likes plain food and plain drink.

His favorite drinks are stout and beer, and the places he likes to drink them in are pubs and working-men's clubs.

Which is not surprising. He was brought up on the family farm in County Leitrim, Eire. He worked in wire mills in Sheffield, then in a bank, and finally on a chicken farm before he got a job as assistant stage manager with Sheffield Repertory Company, which inspired him to become an actor.

Although he has spent so many years in England, he still has the sentimentality of the Irish.

He told me: "When I first saw *Telstar* I broke down and cried. It was so marvellous."

Someone knocked on the door. The *Danger Man* himself was wanted on the set for the *Affair At Castlevara*. #