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He lives dangerously

PATRICK, LIKE JOHN DRAKE, KEEPS ON HIS TOES

By British show business writer Iain Sproat, who was specially chosen by Patrick McGoohan to write this two-part story for TV WEEK.

PATRICK McGOOHAN admits he feels an urge to gamble with his security.

"For me there must be an edge, a tension about life," Patrick told me. "Otherwise I don't get the best out of things.

"I can never be content to remain still—and I am not just talking about acting. Once you say to yourself everything is very nice—that's death.

"I like working at high pitch. Frustration and slowness are what I loathe. They give me a real physical pain in the stomach."

Patrick plays mild-mannered but tough-as-nails agent John Drake in television's *Danger Man* series. He also directs the show.

He is a complex man. He's a shy, self-conscious, sensitive perfectionist who only relaxes in the haven of his home.

New York-born Patrick, whose parents were Irish emigrants, and his lovely, dark-haired wife, Joan, have three children, Frances, 4, Anne, 5, and Catherine, 13.

Patrick and Joan met when they both were acting in the same Sheffield repertory company.

As Britain's highest-paid TV actor and the nation's biggest TV dollar earner, Patrick can well afford to support a full family life.

Their home, near London, is furnished in comfortable, but not absurd, luxury.

In the large garden, which has a splendid view over an un-built-up valley, there is a gipsy caravan Patrick bought from Walt Disney.

Patrick has not spent his money on foolish extravagances. He has two sensible cars, an Austin Mini and a van. But he is driven to work.

Danger Man is Patrick McGoohan and John Drake is Patrick McGoohan.

The figure most commonly mentioned as his salary is £2000 a week, although Patrick claims this figure is exaggerated.

"I give most of it away to the Inland Revenue, anyway," he said ruefully.

Patrick is 6ft. 2in. tall and looks even taller. His figure, at the age of 37, is in perfect trim—kept that way by squash and weightlifting.

His face is tanned, his eyes are large and almost electric blue. He carries a rolled umbrella and looks immaculately masculine, as befits one of the best dressed men of 1965.

At the studio, rarely does he sit still for long. One moment he will be reclining, next he will rise up suddenly, pace up and down, then drop into another chair.

He talks crisply. To some extent he is living on his nerves—though, remarkably, after 16 months of solid filming, he betrays no fraying temper.

But Patrick, at home, relaxing before the beginning of a new series—that is somewhat different.

When I called on him there he was wearing a casual black woollen shirt, open at the neck, and green-brown trousers.

He was sitting deeper in his chair, and did not restlessly pace the room. His talk was amusing; never malicious, often self-deprecating; he does not tell funny stories, but by an unusual phrase,



- **PATRICK** in a typical scene as John Drake in *Danger Man*. Patrick has invested some of the money he has made from the series in a restaurant.

or by pointing out an odd connection between two otherwise seemingly unconnected matters, he leavens conversation with laughter.

He does not talk in clichés. He uses words often in an unusual way, showing that he has given the subject thought previously—as, for example, when he once talked to me of the original “marvellous essence of purity of the Beatles.”

He is considerate of others, and perceptive. I remember one tiny incident once at his house that illustrates this. He was offering me a drink and quickly ran through the list of bottles he had, adding: “But I haven’t offered you anything you like.” He had sensed my reaction. He is sensitive to others.

Indeed, in a curious way, there is a quality of shyness about McGoohan.

“Certainly,” Patrick once told me, “I am self-conscious, trip over my own feet and so on. In company I tend to hide. Though I can get laughs on stage easily enough, I can never tell jokes in conversation.”

To the vital question, what makes Patrick McGoohan tick, he gave this as the nearest answer: “I enjoy working. I like being totally absorbed. I am scared of drifting, of having nothing to do.” #

● **NEXT WEEK PATRICK TALKS ABOUT HIS ACTING CAREER—AND ABOUT DANGER MAN—IN THE CONCLUDING PART OF THIS STORY.**