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DANGER MAN (D.103)  
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SUCCESS GOES TO PAT McGOOHAN'S HEAD - BUT ONLY HATS!

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Patrick McGoochan's motto seems to be: "If you want to get ahead, get a hat!"

Those hats he is wearing in the DANGER MAN stories are becoming something of a trade mark. He dons a wide assortment of hats and caps, and admits that it all started for no particular reason. He decided that it would help his characterisation to wear head-gear for one episode, and he has gone on wearing hats.

This, it must be said, is the only indication that his phenomenal success in the series has gone to his head, and it's significant that the hats are not made specially for him or even purchased from one of the ritzier hatters. He either buys them himself or sends someone to get them, and they all come from shops in the High Street. Anyone can buy them.

There is something symbolic about this down-to-earth touch because it represents, as much as anything else, the Danger Man's attitude towards success.

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Look what's been happening to him. He has become television's highest-paid star. The series (under the title of "Secret Agent") has broken through the trans-Atlantic barrier to become a top show in America. His popularity has spread by leaps and bounds throughout the world. And the British Clothing Manufacturers' Federation has named him as one of Britain's ten best-dressed men.

Take these points one by one. The money side interests him a lot. He is candid enough to admit: "I am a working actor. The most important thing is for me to provide security for my family. I am achieving something by being able to do this."

The money hasn't affected his way of life. He had already moved into a new house, which he himself designed. It's a comfortable house, but modest by Hollywood-star standards.

He has a family car and has no desire to expand into the super-luxury class. "After all," he points out, "I am a family man!"

He enjoys a drink, but you won't hear champagne corks popping in his home. His favourite tipple is a pint of beer: and he likes it best if he can drink it in a pub.

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Clothes? Obviously, he can afford to buy good ones. He likes to be well-dressed, but is happiest when wearing casual clothes. As often as not, he is dressed in slacks and a sports jacket. It isn't so much the quality of his clothes that has put him into the top ten: it's the way he wears them.

He doesn't think that a long-running part as a television hero in any way conflicts with his having been acclaimed one of the London theatre's most serious actors.

"I enjoy playing John Drake," he avers, "and I'll be happy if I can carry on doing so for several more years. After all, we do a different story every fortnight, and that provides plenty of variety".

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