
DANGER MAN (D.105)

The Man Who Really Knows Him Introduces.....

THE REAL PATRICK McGOOHAN

"DANGER MAN" star Patrick McGoohan is an elusive man to interview. Determined to keep his private life to himself, and also somewhat self-conscious at talking about himself, he baffles those who do succeed in persuading him to talk. Few people get to know what he is really like.

But one man who does know him thoroughly is a burly theatrical veteran named Jimmy Millar, who has been McGoohan's stand-in since 1952. But he is more than a stand-in. He is also McGoohan's personal assistant.

Jimmy has worked with the star on every one of his feature films, including "Hell Divers," "The Gypsy and the Gentleman," "I'll Met by Moonlight," "High Tide at Noon," "Dr. Syn," "The Three Lives of Thomasina" and both the original and the new "Danger Man" series.

At all times, that is, except for the summer seasons when Jimmy, a comedian in his own right and related by marriage to the Fred Karno family, stars in his own seaside shows.

Jimmy has also played one or two minor roles in the "Danger Man" programmes. When this happens, Pat exclaims: "I don't want you within 15 feet of me in case you steal the show!"

It's often said that no man is a hero to his own valet, but so far as Jimmy Millar is concerned, Pat McGoochan is a man in a million. "A man", he says. "He's a real man, on and off the screen."

Jimmy is not self-conscious about admitting that he idolises the "Danger Man" star.

"He'd kill me if I told you of some of the things that have made me admire him so much!" Jimmy exclaims, cheerfully, well aware that McGoochan is as muscular as he appears on the screen. "The last thing you could call him is temperamental. I've never known him to lose his temper on the set. If anything gets out of order, he retires into himself. All the time I've known him, he has tried hard not to upset those he is working with."

Pat likes most people.

"But", Jimmy says, "he hates people who are rude or snobbishness. He can't stand the sort of person who is self-important. And he can't see that there is any excuse for rudeness."

John Drake is an obviously intelligent person. So is Pat McGoochan.

"He's one of the brainiest men I know," Jimmy comments. "It doesn't take him long to get a grip on any subject. As for figures - well, one thing I'd never care to try to do would be to fiddle my accounts! If he hadn't become an actor, he would have been good at anything to do with finance. I'm sure he could also have become a first-rate architect. He designed his own house, and he also designed a house for one of our assistant directors. No professional architect could have done better."

If Pat McGoochan has one soft spot, it's for children.

"He's terribly fond of them", Jimmy says. "All children that is - not only his own three daughters.

Jimmy remembers, in particular, a letter from the mother of a schoolgirl daughter who was a tremendous Patrick McGoochan fan. The girl was just about to enter for her school exams, and her mother asked Pat if he could send her an autographed picture because she felt it might help her.

Pat promptly sat down and wrote a long letter to the girl. It was the sort of letter he might have written to one of his own daughters..... an encouraging letter in which he discussed the importance of school work and learning, and commenting that one of the proudest moments in his own life was when his daughter Catherine came home from school and told him she had become a prefect.

Another thing Jimmy Millar admires so much about the man he works for is that Pat hates to make a nuisance of himself in any way. One example of this was when he was filming a "Danger Man" scene in which he had to move a heavy trunk. The trunk slipped and hit his knee, but he didn't say a word about it. Only Jimmy, who had to treat it for him, knew that his knee had been badly cut and how much it was hurting him. The only indication anyone else had was that he was limping for the remainder of the day.

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