
DANGER MAN (D. 102)

SEX.... AND PATRICK McGOOHAN

One thing you won't find in the "DANGER MAN" series is slap-happy sex on the part of its husky hero, John Drake, played by Patrick McGoohan.

Pat McGoohan doesn't believe television is the right medium for exploiting promiscuity.

"I believe," he says, firmly, "that we are visitors to people's homes when we appear on their screens, and it pays to be decorous. I feel strongly about that."

And he doesn't believe that John Drake is the sort of man to get himself tied-up too emotionally with girls. He is embarrassed, however, at being tagged "The TV star who doesn't believe in sex."

"It's a lot of hooey!" he exclaims, emphatically. "Of course I believe in sex. I'm a normal sort of man. I'm happily married. I've got three children."

"I can appreciate a pretty face just as much as the next man, and I'm fully aware that sex is a vital part of life. But I can't believe that extra-marital sex is necessary, and I don't believe that sex should be introduced into plays - whether for television, the theatre or the cinema - just for its own sake.

"When the character logically indulges in torrid scenes, then I'll play them. I don't believe for one moment, though, that John Drake of 'Danger Man' would chase any of the girls he meets. He is the sort of man who has a healthy enough respect for women to realise that it would not be fair on a girl to ask her to marry him while he is away on dangerous missions nearly all the time. He would like to marry, and he has it at the back of his mind all the time - but it is something he has no intention of doing while he is risking his life so often. The fact that he is taking these risks is a vital element of the stories.

"He looks at it from his own angle, too. With a wife in the background - and probably children as well - he would be tempted to avoid taking risks. Therefore it would affect his work.

"This doesn't mean that he avoids the opposite sex. He enjoys the company of pretty girls. And there are plenty of episodes in the series showing him closely involved - but not emotionally involved - with women. That's when the job calls for him to do so. In one, he even works hand-in-hand with a glamorous Russian agent."

Pat is reflecting his own personal beliefs in his interpretation of John Drake. He is married to actress Joan Drummond, whom he met back in his repertory days. Because his marriage is happy, he sees no reason why he should do anything to destroy it.

The temptations are there, of course. They're bound to be for any actor, particularly a good-looking fellow like Patrick McGoochan. But he has seen enough heart-break to make him all the more determined to preserve his own marriage.

He adds, with a grin: "And I've seen what it means to so many actors when they have to pay out a lot of alimony. I'd rather keep my cash!"

He is also shrewdly aware that, by making John Drake the sort of man he is, there is a challenge which, in a perverse sort of way, makes him all the more popular with women viewers.

John Drake is unattainable. And this is a challenge to the basic instincts of women. A man who chases a girl will often get the cold shoulder. A man who keeps women at arm's length is a very different matter. A girl will chase an elusive man to the furthestmost corners of the earth!

John Drake's romantic appeal is enormous. This means that Pat McGoochan's own personal romantic appeal is equally enormous. One enthusiastic woman columnist has described him as "Dream Man" (much to his embarrassment!). He ranks high in the heart-throb stakes.... even though he doesn't chase the opposite sex!
