
DANGER MAN (D. 101)

THE VILLAINOUS SIDE OF PATRICK McGOOHAN!

When an actor faces the movie cameras for five days a week, month in and month out, you might think that he would be only too glad to get away from films when he has a break from work and during week-ends.

But not Patrick McGoohan, whose role as John Drake in the "DANGER MAN" series is all-demanding throughout the week.

Much of his time off from filming is spent.....
filming!

He is a home movie enthusiast, and he is currently filming the most ambitious subject he has yet to embark on. He admits, however, that more than personal enthusiasm is going into this production. The film that no member of the public will ever see is being made on strictly professional lines as an exercise for Pat's teen-age daughter Catherine. Her ambition is to become a film director.

"It's not just a passing phase on her part," he says. "She has had the ambition for a long time now,

and there is no sign of its wearing off. So we are making this picture, just as if it were a real feature, with a complete script, story break-downs, schedules, call-sheets, music cue-sheets and the lot. It's a deliberate effort to let her learn for herself what lies behind making a picture."

All members of the McGoohan family are appearing in it, though the youngest daughter, Frances, has no idea she is acting a part. Pat and Catherine are using the "candid camera" technique where she is concerned.

And Pat himself is appearing as the villain of the piece!

A hero he may be when appearing in "Danger Man" and his feature films, but when it comes to home movies, Pat likes to change his style. This is not the first time he has been the villain of his home movies.

He owns both 8 mm. and 16 mm. movie cameras, and he takes his hobby seriously.

"Too many people waste film," he says, "by shooting anything and everything. The movie records of their holidays are nothing more than a long series of still pictures without any real animation, and they wonder why the results are disappointing.

"Most of us make that mistake at first, but to get full value out of a home movie camera, you need to plan what you are going to shoot. I work on mine

as if I were making a professional film and - except for occasions like children's parties and so on - I always draft out a script, even on holiday."

As an example of this, he cites the example of a Continental trip he took with his wife, former actress Joan Drummond. He cast himself as a "wolf" who spots a pretty girl and follows her everywhere, trying to pick her up. And his wife was the girl.

Pat set his camera at automatic when he filmed the scenes of himself with Joan Drummond, and she herself photographed the single shots of the "wolf". The script took them from one place to another, right the way back from the Continent to England, and finally showing Joan getting into a taxi and Pat following her in another one, and then to their own home - with the "twist" ending showing that they were really man-and-wife.

All the scenes were shot against interesting backgrounds, and inter-cut with shots of the places they visited. Thus, instead of a straight forward travelogue, Pat had a film which contained some amusing human interest.

Pat has learned, also, to avoid the pitfall of being so much in love with everything he has filmed that he can't bear to cut it out of the completed picture. He has his own editing machine, and ruthlessly removes everything that is superfluous or which he doesn't feel is up to standard. He goes further than this. He matches his pictures with taped sound effects and commentary.

He has also studied photography sufficiently to know what he is doing, whether he is taking stills or movies. Get him on the subject of exposures, focus and other technicalities, and he will talk for hours! He admits that, the way he does it, it is an expensive hobby, but he gets tremendous enjoyment out of it. He also has one of the most comprehensive records any proud father could wish for of his three daughters, Catherine, Anne and Frances.

But only his closest friends ever see these films made by the man whose professional filming is watched by millions throughout the world!
