
DANGER MAN (D.110)

YOU LIKE WESTERNS? MAYBE THAT'S
WHY YOU LIKE "DANGER MAN"!

"I was brought up on Westerns when I first went to the cinema, and I've loved Westerns ever since. I enjoy Western books, too."

The speaker was Patrick McGoohan, the steel-nerved John Drake of the popular "DANGER MAN" stories.

It was a remark which revealed an unexpected link-up between this gripping espionage series and the traditional and ever - popular Western - a remark which might explain why, if you enjoy watching Western movies, you like "Danger Man."

Pat agreed that this was true. "Danger Man" has all the basic elements of the traditional Western.

"The Western", he pointed out, "is good, wholesome entertainment. That's why it has survived. Its hero is clean-cut and the sort of man you can admire. Its villains are all black. When you are watching a Western, you don't have to wonder who's good and who's bad. The characters are clearly drawn."

"This is exactly what we are trying to achieve in 'Danger Man,' even though the background is entirely different. John Drake could easily be John Wayne. He has a simple aim in life - to make the world he knows a better place to live in. His enemies are not so much the men themselves but the evil forces they represent.

"There are, of course, films of various descriptions which I have personally enjoyed, but probably the one that stands out most vividly in my memory is 'Shane.' I think this has subconsciously influenced my portrayal of John Drake."

Pat McGoohan has made it clear, time and time again, that he believes that television shows like "Danger Man" should have a family appeal and should therefore contain nothing which cannot be seen by every member of the family, young or old. He equally believes that nothing salacious should be shown on television, whatever the time of the day or night.

John Drake therefore, like any Western hero, is a man who takes his responsibilities seriously. When he fights, he fights clean. He is a man of action, but he doesn't instigate the fights. He is defending himself or the cause he believes in.

"The Western heroes," Pat commented, "find themselves with some dirty affairs to clean up.. The present-day world has a lot of dirty messes which need similar clearing up, and John Drake's job is to do this in his own particular sphere. The villains are the same in another guise."

It is the same with his attitude towards women. The Western hero is always chivalrous towards the opposite sex. So is John Drake.

The wide-open spaces are transferred to the teeming cities, but the principle is identical, and equally exciting.

Suggest to Pat McGoohan that when "Danger Man" finishes, John Drake should ride out West, and he will agree that it would be an excellent idea. Except for putting him into Western garb, there would be no need to change his character in the least!
