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LUCKY PENNY TALKS TO THE DANGER MAN



PATRICK MCGOOHAN

Phew! Girls, what a fab week this has been. I'd hardly got over my interview with "The Saint" when, a few days later, I met Patrick McGoohan, alias "Danger Man," at Shepperton Studios.

He was terrific in every possible way, and I really enjoyed hearing his answers to my questions.

Where were you born?

In New York. My parents are Irish, though, and I was taken back to Ireland at an early age and brought up on the family farm in County Leitrim, Eire.

What subjects did you most enjoy at school?

Didn't like any of them. I was best at Maths, but I'm not saying that was my favourite subject.

What are your hobbies! And what places do you like to visit in your spare time?

My hobbies—work. After that—squash and plenty of reading and writing—I write TV and film scripts. When it comes to places—home in Mill Hill, London. Anywhere else depends on my mood—sometimes the studios, other times Athens . . . Rome . . . Hong Kong . . . but I always want to be at home.

If you could live in another day and age—what century would you choose?

This is the day and age for me because I'm living in it. All the changes and advancements in science, medicine, the arts—and in everything else you care to name—it's remarkable, and I don't want to consider living in another time. This is the time for me.

How did you get the part of "The Danger Man"?

Lew Grade, the head of ATV, saw me in a live play and offered me this role. I enjoy it. I'm occupied most of the time-plenty of brainwork-long hours-hard work. That's the life for me.

What is the most essential thing to have for this part?

Discipline—in every sense of the word. Being at the studios on time—learning the lines—working with the cameras—and the ability to think, concentrate and be accurate in every detail. One cannot get the satisfaction from this role as easily as if one were playing "Hamlet"—which is the greatest opportunity for any actor.

Does the part have any influence on your own life or personality?

None at all. Once I've finished for the day—I've finished completely and dissociate myself from the character.

What gives you a big thrill?

A crisp, sunny spring morning when I'd expected a wet one. The freakish weather—I love it. I wouldn't live anywhere else but in England. The landscape, the colours everywhere, are continually changing.

What is your idea of a perfect woman—in looks and character? And what do you like to see women wearing?

The right character would make any woman beautiful. I like someone who is intelligent but not an intellectual—with a sense of wonderment—and not too sophisticated. Colouring and build aren't important. With clothes—I like to see women wearing the things that



suit them and not trying to dress, look, or be, like someone they are not.

Any superstitions about good and bad luck?

Not really. Luck, fate, life—whatever you call it—is like finding a vein of gold. When you do something to destroy or upset it, that's bad luck. And good luck's delicate—it can so easily swing in the other direction. It needs handling cautiously.

What are your favourite colours?
No definite colours like red or blue.
I like compounds such as—the autumnal shades—sunset after a rainy day—a late evening sky; the combination of many

What do you think of pop music? I like it when it's good, but in general it's a load of rubbish. I admire the Searchers and the Beatles. Their music is harmonious and the words of the songs, although simple, have a pleasing, hopeful message.

What music do you most enjoy?

A vast cross-section—jazz, classical, the lot. I listen to it when I'm at home and working—pacing up and down the room. The music's a soothing background.

Can you give me a good piece of advice?

Well, now, who am I to give advice to anyone? But I'll give you a couple of suggestions. One is, get married in good time and live happily ever after. And secondly, read Sir Winston Churchill's Memoirs—they're fabulous, really entertaining—anyone from nine years onwards would enjoy and appreciate them.

If you were going "round the world in 80 days" who would you choose for company? NO RELATIVES ALLOWED.

PATRICK M .- My wife.

ME—But no relatives allowed on the trip!!

PATRICK M .- Then I'm not going at all.

ME-But this is only a game.

PATRICK M.—I'm not playing, Penny. Either I take my wife or I'm staying here. As it happens, I am taking my family round the world in a mobile caravan—a good way to educate the children.

What is your greatest ambition? To keep working.

What are your plans for the future?

I intend to produce and direct a number of films, mainly the classics rather than modern works.

A secret meeting with a spy spells trouble for the Danger Man.