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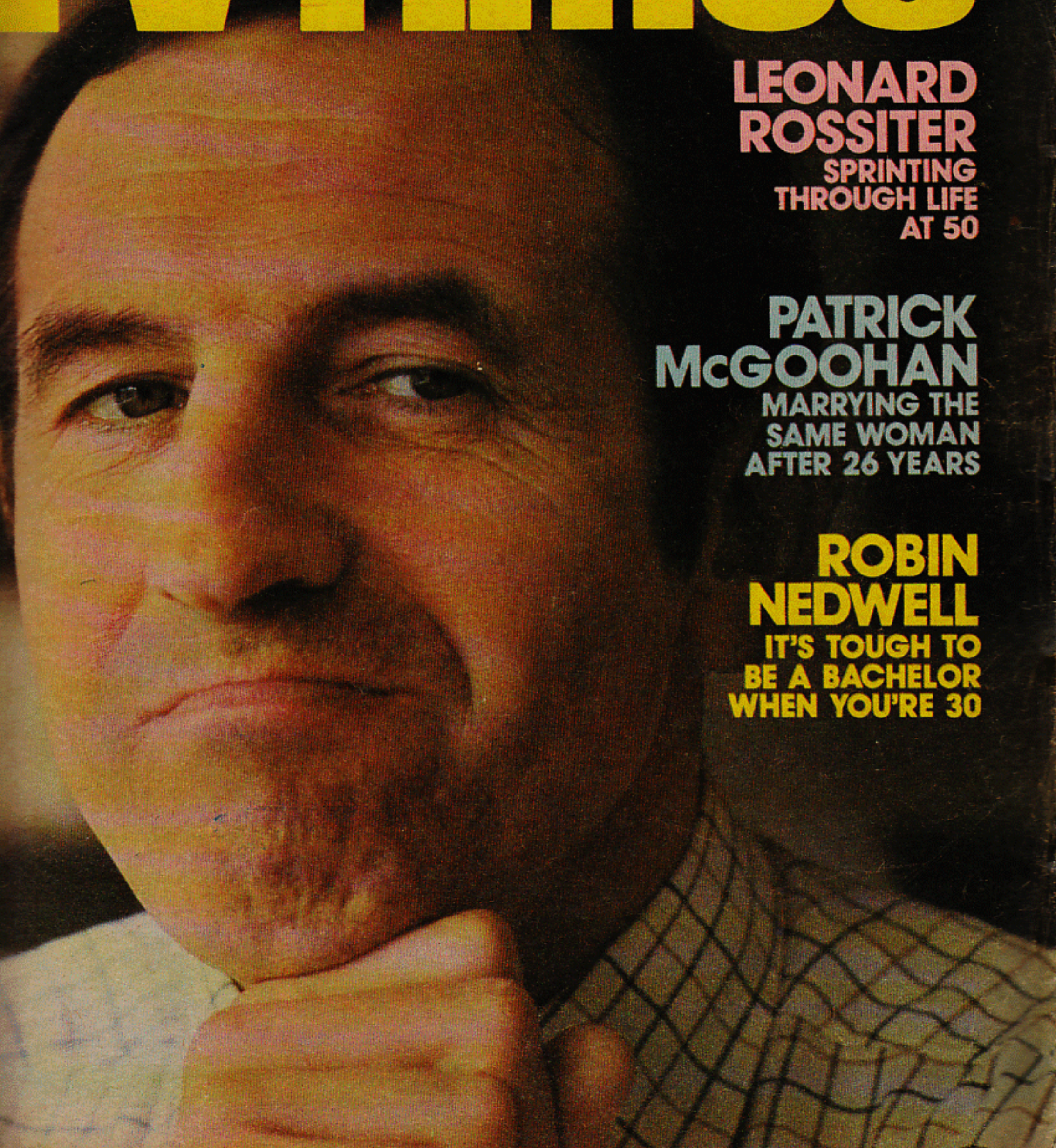
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TVTimes

**LEONARD
ROSSITER**
SPRINTING
THROUGH LIFE
AT 50

**PATRICK
McGOOHAN**
MARRYING THE
SAME WOMAN
AFTER 26 YEARS

**ROBIN
NEDWELL**
IT'S TOUGH TO
BE A BACHELOR
WHEN YOU'RE 30





McGoohan

Rebel with a romantic streak

The rebellious talents of Patrick McGoohan and the madcap clowning of Gene Wilder come together in Silver Streak, the choice for this year's Royal Film Performance. ITV cameras are at this week's premiere, while in Hollywood Lesley Salisbury met these two dissimilar co-stars and talked to them about their careers and their future film plans

THE MAN STANDING reluctantly on Santa Monica Pier is ready to leave the second anybody comes up and asks "Aren't you . . . ?" Yes, he is Patrick McGoohan. The impossible, indifferent, unpredictable, reclusive McGoohan. He's alive and well, as he's prepared to tell you, and living in California.

He's been called everything from a genius to a difficult son-of-a-bitch. Neither age — he will be 50 next year — nor being a grandfather for the first time has mellowed him. He still revels in being thought a rebel. Still shuns interviews. Still fiercely protects his, and his family's, privacy. Not much has changed since the days of *Danger Man* and *The Prisoner*. The countries have changed. He has tried Switzerland and New Mexico and is now settled in Pacific Palisades, a prim, private and pricey suburb of Los Angeles overlooking the ocean.

Hollywood is 30 minutes away along Sunset Boulevard. As far as McGoohan is concerned it could be 30 million miles.

"I have nothing to do with the Hollywood scene," he says. "I'm rebellious. Our personal friends have nothing to do with showbusiness. They come over here and sit by the fireplace and eat on their knees. That's the kind of home we have."

Home is a Cape Cod-style house, a wooden, old-fashioned building with a small garden on a tree-lined street of similar homes. McGoohan guards the address as jealously as he guards his privacy.

"This is a rare privilege," he says, talking, and only half-joking, about his agreeing to be interviewed. It's 10 years since he gave anything that resembles an interview. Three since he was cornered by a journalist in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was on location for the TV series *Columbo*.

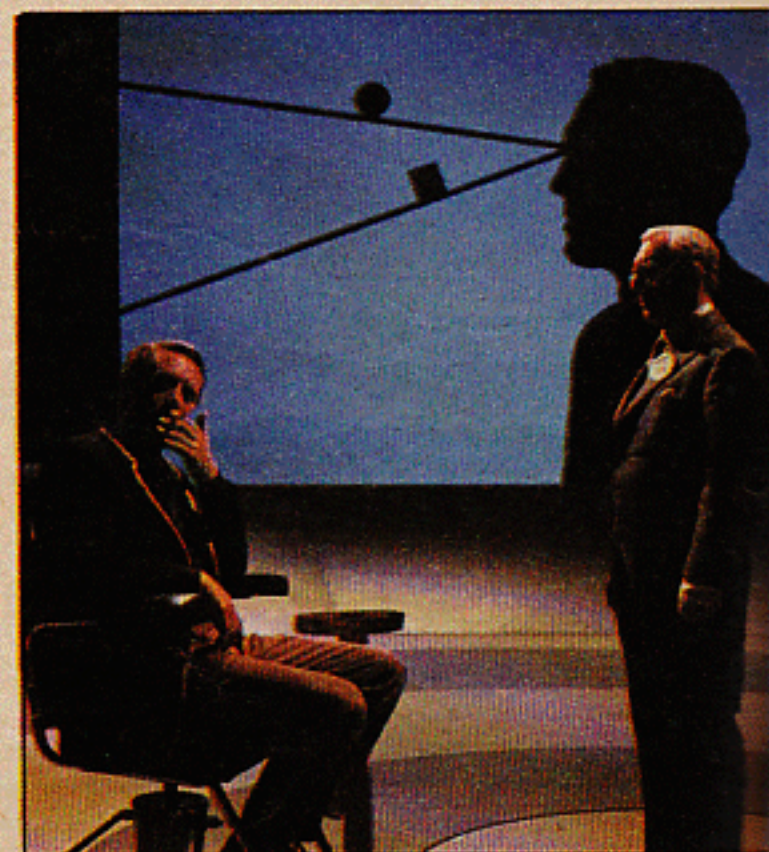
He has instilled this need for privacy into his wife Joan—the former actress Joan Drummond — and their children Catherine, 24, Frances, 17, and Anne, 15.

Joan, paving the way for the interview, was reluctant even to release the girls' names, let alone their ages, or the fact that Catherine is married to an American and recently became a mother. "I'll have to ask Patrick," she said. "He's so private. If I say anything he'll say: 'Why did you have to say all that stuff?'"

But she did say the family had been in California for five years, the two younger girls — both still at school — felt "very American" and they all intended to settle/*continued overleaf*



McGoohan in *Danger Man*, above, *The Prisoner*, below, *Silver Streak*, left



Why McGoohan is marrying the same woman after 26 years.

continued / for good in America. "This is it; this is where we want to stay," she said.

Surprisingly, McGoohan himself, who left Britain after *The Prisoner* series ended in 1967, is more forthcoming. He's fit and tanned, despite claiming that the Californian sun burns him up. "This is where the work is," he says. "I like to work: I came here. It's as simple as that."

"England has been very kind to me — it's where I met my wife, in a repertory company in Sheffield, and those years were among the happiest of our lives."

"But I think the country's changed a great deal. We miss England in the sense of what it was; it's not the same now. It's been very hard for us on recent trips to recapture that atmosphere. People have to move on if they don't want to bankrupt themselves. If you want to work, you have to move on."

McGoohan was, in fact, born in Long Island, New York. His parents, Thomas and Rose Fitzgerald McGoohan, had moved on from Ireland. But six months after he was born, they returned to County Leitrim. When he was eight, they moved to Sheffield and then to Leicester. He is still an American citizen. He has worked non-stop since he has been in California these past five years, directing and starring in segments of *Columbo*, writing the script from a book for a £3 million film for Universal, directing it, writing other scripts, starring with Richard Chamberlain in *The Man in the Iron Mask*, a TV movie here, and with Gene Wilder in *Silver Streak*.

"I've played similar parts before but the suits were better and the ties were more expensive in this film," he says. "I'm a heavy, a one-dimensional heavy. It's the last heavy I want to play — I'm looking for heroes now."

He thinks — and hopes — he's found one in the TV film *A Man Called Rafferty*.

"Rafferty is a doctor who's a bit of a rebel and against the system in general, which is rather what I'm known for," McGoohan says, and

there's a wicked tone of pride. "I found this part attractive because of its rebelliousness." McGoohan prides himself on straight-talking. "Getting down to the nitty-gritty" is how he describes it. It's made him few friends, many enemies and a number of reluctant admirers.

McGoohan is a determined, deliberate rebel, a difficult man to talk to, who works himself to the limits; a man with an attractive yet unpredictable presence. Once, during our talks, he exploded with temper, shouting furiously when I asked him a personal question. Next minute he was all charm, tantrum forgotten.

One of his greatest friends in Hollywood is actor Peter Falk—Lt. Columbo. "He's a rebel like me." *Columbo*, he says, is the one TV show he's worked on where "they give you time and money to spend on quality".

Not that he's ever around to watch the finished results. "Unless I'm directing — and have to cut — I never watch myself on film or television," he states. "I've never seen a movie I've made. I'd be sick if I saw myself on screen."

"If I'm directing, I can look at the rushes and at myself dispassionately — saying 'He's done a lousy job' or 'that's not bad' as if I were some other actor."

But what about Joan, doesn't she see his films, or watch him on television? "She may do, but she knows how I feel. She doesn't talk about them too much," he says.

Other people, though, are still talking about the performances he turned out in *Danger Man* and in *The Prisoner*, a series he helped to write, produce and direct and which is now being rediscovered by the discerning, especially in Canada, where it is used as an educational aid at colleges.

"That's very gratifying," says McGoohan. "*The Prisoner* was a very time-consuming activity; I was doing about four jobs, working non-stop." He wore out everybody but himself. One actor collapsed with nerves and exhaustion after a week.

"Get it done," McGoohan would shout and it would be

done. He thrives on work. "When I'm not working I'm contemplating work," he says. "I'm never not working. The best way I know of relaxing is when I'm working; when I care about something."

He takes relaxing so seriously that he has bought a plot of land in the wilds of Montana where he is building a secluded house that will be heated by solar energy. "The house is bounded by two rivers. We'll have a waterwheel and windmill and we'll be independent to a certain extent. We'll go up there to suffer a little cold and realise that life can hurt sometimes."

Neither McGoohan nor Joan, a practical, level-headed lady, can see themselves returning to England, though McGoohan's infamous tax problems with the Inland Revenue were long ago settled. "I pay my debts," he says.

Rather, they will continue to live quietly in Pacific Palisades and even more quietly in Montana, where, surprisingly, McGoohan has planned a ceremony that seems somewhat alien to the rebellious instincts in which he glories.

On a chilly May day, high in the mountains, he and Joan will be married again. She will be in white. It will be their 26th wedding anniversary.

"We didn't have time for a white wedding, because we got married between *The Taming of the Shrew* and a rehearsal for *Hamlet*," he says, and you look closely to see if he's grinning and this is all his idea of a joke. It isn't.

"You can be a rebel but you can also be romantic," he says. "This is not sentiment, this is extremely moving. This is a reaffirmation of love. I owe it to my wife, this is what she wants. If you owe your wife so much and this is what she wants to do, you do it."

"If people in Hollywood want to get divorced, married, divorced, married, that's their business. Their problem. I have no problems like that."

Which must be — and he must agree — all to Mrs. McGoohan's credit.

