

OF COURSE *The New Avengers*, back this week, will be setting new trends... jet-setting, too. Seven episodes of the new series are set abroad: three in the chateau country around Paris, four in Canada.

Cover girl Joanna Lumley, the fashion-setter Purdey, will look a bit different, as well. The Purdey hairstyle—*haute coiffeur's* answer to the Beatle cut—is becoming shaggier, slightly wilder, but still with the fringe.

A sexier Purdey, too? "Let's say even more individual in style and fashion," said Joanna Lumley (with Patrick Macnee and Gareth Hunt, right). "Nothing shocking or offensive. But I'm sure people will notice me."

COMEBACK SHOW
FACT: Inventor of the "Purdey Cut", hairdresser John Frieda, husband of pop singer Lulu, is the man who has modified the style for the new series.

JOHN PAUL



PATRICK MACNEE has no trouble portraying Steed's upper-crust coolness in *The New Avengers*—he's an Old Etonian himself. But he has had a long time to get the image right—he started playing Steed 17 years ago. * (3)

JOANNA LUMLEY, a successful model before taking to the stage. The female star of *The New Avengers* says she found the life boring. Not so her life as Purdey—a lot of the fight stunts she does herself. * (3)

GARETH HUNT provides muscle as Mike Gambit in *The New Avengers* and doesn't shrink from filming the rough stuff. He does practically all his stunt work in the series. His boyhood hero?—Errol Flynn. * (3)

8.0 The New Series New Avengers

PATRICK MACNEE
JOANNA LUMLEY
GARETH HUNT in

Dead Men Are Dangerous

BY BRIAN CLEMENS



John Steed, immaculate as ever, and his two assistants, the gorgeous Purdey and the resourceful Gambit return for another series of incredible adventures.

Defector Mark Crayford knows he doesn't have long to live. But he wants to make sure Steed dies first...

See In View

Steed
Purdey
Gambit
Mark Crayford
Perry
Penny
Hara
Dr. Culver
Sandy
Headmaster
Russian doctor

Patrick Macnee
Joanna Lumley
Gareth Hunt
Clive Revill
Richard Murdoch
Gabrielle Drake
Terry Taplin
Michael Turner
Trevor Adams
Roger Avon
Gabor Vernon

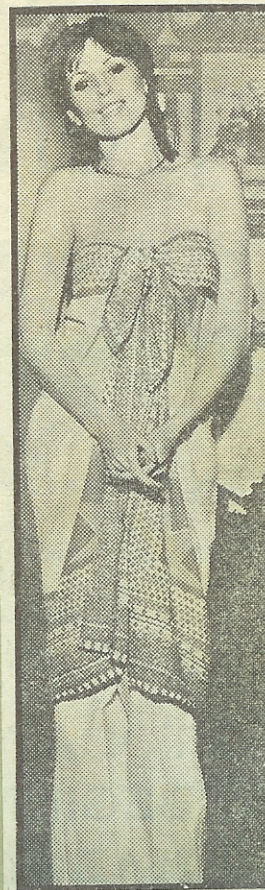
DIRECTOR SIDNEY HAYERS



8.0 In a tight corner: Steed (Patrick Macnee) and Purdey (Joanna Lumley). *The New Avengers*.

Ah yes, and there's also the return of *The New Avengers* (ITV, 8.0). Tonight's plot (in most regions): John Steed (Patrick Macnee) is being subjected to a perverted kind of persecution from a nutter out for revenge and rather addicted to electronic devices (blowing up detectives, for the use of).

You think I've made a dreadful boob and am just repeating Van der Valk? There's only one way to find out. Joanna Lumley as Purdey and Gareth Hunt as Gambit, please bear witness....



STEED'S IN LOVE AT LAST

NEWS reaches me from *The Avengers* on location in Canada that Steed is getting himself a girlfriend at last. His relations with Cathy Gale and Emma Peel were always somewhat ambiguous and like a true gentleman, if he ever did, he never told.

But now, Steed in respectable middle-age has been permitted to fall in love. And for the man who could withstand the attractions of all those other Avenger girls, the lady must obviously be something rather special. She is played, I am told, by a dark, mysterious 29-year-old willowy model called Annagret. Lucky old Steed. But Patrick Macnee, who plays him is not so fortunate: Annagret, off-screen, is married to a millionaire.

THURSDAY

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Jolly fine show

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cut—is becoming shaggier, slightly wilder, but still with the fringe.

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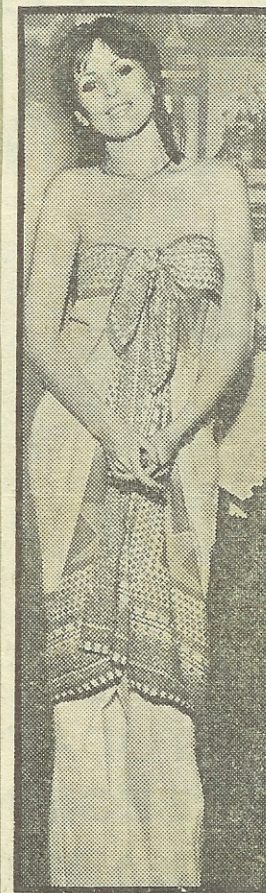


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Patrick Macnee once again plays the urbane Steed, and Gareth Hunt the "office boy."

Jolly fine show

★ **GOOD** to see The New Avengers in the television Top Ten again.

It would be ironic if the show was not a hit here, since its foreign sales have apparently earned about £25million for Britain so far.

And its success will also help finance a new project which might break the Americans' near monopoly on mystery movies for television.

Avengers Enterprises,

the independent company which makes the show, now plan to make seventeen 90-minute television films, costing about £300,000 each.

One of the trio behind the company, Laurie Johnson, tells me that the common theme will be an element of danger. But they will all be original stories with different stars.

And most of the stars will be British, and talk with British accents, he says. "We don't believe in

making these mid-Atlantic shows to suit American tastes.

"The New Avengers has proved that a truly British product can sell anywhere in the world."

As true blue as John Steed, these Avengers folk.