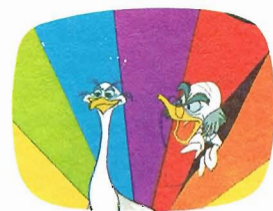
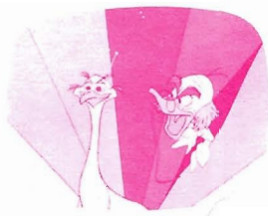


WALT DISNEY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF COLOR



From: Dick McKay
Publicity Director
Walt Disney Productions

DISNEY TAPS HISTORY FOR TV SHOW, "THE SCARECROW OF ROMNEY MARSH"

Walt Disney, past master at recreating unusual and exciting legends, has tapped both British history and the imaginative writings of novelists Russell Thorndike and William Buchanan to film "The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh." This adventure-packed, 18th-Century smuggling story is set to air in three parts on "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" on the Sunday evenings of February 9, 16, and 23 over the NBC-TV Network.

Approximately 70 miles from London lies Romney Marsh which served as the hub of smuggling in England when King George III levied a heavy tax on all imports from the Continent.

Inspired by tales of England's notorious smuggling gangs, it was Thorndike who conceived the Dr. Syn character, a seemingly mild-mannered Vicar of Dymchurch who conducts his Robin Hood-type exploits under the guise of a mysterious and much-feared night rider known abroad as The Scarecrow.

In Part I of the exciting Disney production, the King orders the tyrannical General Pugh (GEOFFREY KEEN) to capture The Scarecrow at all costs. Dr. Syn (PATRICK MCGOOHAN) and Squire Banks (MICHAEL HORNDERN) are present when the General outlines his brutal plan to press gang the local men into the Navy until someone betrays The Scarecrow.

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The following week, Dr. Syn calls a special church service during which one of The Scarecrow's men warns the congregation that the press gang is on its way from Dover to take every man they can lay their hands on. The frightened men immediately leave the congregation to hide in the nearby marshes.

When the press gang arrives at the church, under Petty Officer Stubbard (PETER WELSH), only the old men and the women are there to hear Stubbard's threats and the announcement of a reward for information about The Scarecrow. The gang then stops at Mrs. Waggett's Inn where they find an unsuspecting young farmer and take him prisoner.

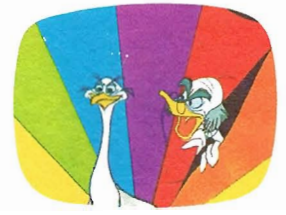
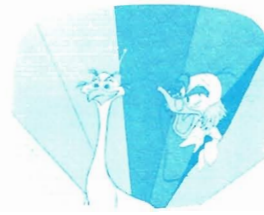
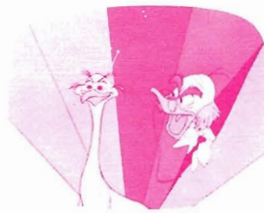
In reprisal, The Scarecrow cleverly tricks the press gang sailors, captures them, and offers General Pugh their lives in exchange for the young farmer. Feeling he can outwit the smugglers, the cunning General accepts.

At a predesignated rendezvous, General Pugh signals a platoon of soldiers to surround The Scarecrow. Not to be caught shorthanded, the masked smuggler calls in his own reserves and, implementing an ingenious smoke-screen plan, escapes.

Angry and annoyed at being tricked, General Pugh becomes still more furious when the mounted figure of The Scarecrow appears on the skyline, and his eerie, maniacal laugh rings out as he rides off into the darkness.

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WALT DISNEY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF COLOR



From: Dick McKay
Publicity Director
Walt Disney Productions

TOP BRITISH ACTOR MAKES TV DEBUT AS A SCARECROW

Patrick McGoohan, one of England's top actors, has taken on many diversified roles in his time, but none of them quite compare with his Walt Disney television debut as a scarecrow in "The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh," to be aired in three parts on "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" on the Sunday evenings of February 9, 16, and 23 over the NBC-TV Network.

In his second Disney assignment -- he played the distraught father in "The Three Lives of Thomasina" -- McGoohan stars as the mysterious Dr. Syn, Vicar of Dymchurch, who defies the king's terrible taxation policies as a night-riding, will-o'-the-wisp smuggler who operates against the government and for the downtrodden poor.

Born in New York of Irish parentage, McGoohan was reared in England and is a former chicken farmer, bank clerk, taxi driver and light heavy-weight boxing champion. Finally, when he landed a job as an assistant stage manager in a small theater, he began a new, exciting career and the arduous struggle for recognition as an actor. Today he is one of Britain's most popular stage, motion picture and television personalities.

McGoohan is married, has three children and, when away from work, enjoys writing and making his own 16mm movies.

"The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh" was directed by James Neilson for Walt Disney.

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WALT DISNEY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF COLOR



From: Dick McKay
Publicity Director
Walt Disney Productions

WEIRD MASKS HAUNT DISNEY'S SCARECROW ADVENTURE ON TV

Three weird and ghostly masks are the trade-mark for the daring and defiant night sorties of a British smuggling gang as they seek justice from an overbearing king in Part II of the three-part production, "The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh," scheduled to be aired on "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" Sunday evening, February 16, over the NBC-TV Network. Part I appeared February 9, and the final show is set for February 23.

Masks resembling a scarecrow, a skull, and a bird conceal the identity of Dr. Syn, the Vicar of Dymchurch (PATRICK McGOOHAN), his sexton, Mr. Mipps (GEORGE COLE), and the local Squire's son, young John Banks (SEAN SCULLY), who head up a smuggling band that divides the profits of their exploits with the poor and heavily-taxed peasants of the marsh area.

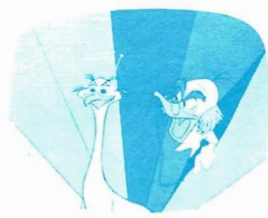
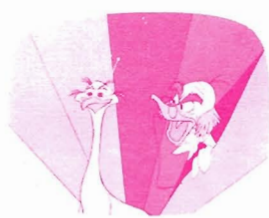
When General Pugh (GEOFFREY KEEN) fails to intimidate the people of Romney Marsh with threats and a show of force, he tries to bribe The Scarecrow with a hostage. The tables are turned on the cunning General, however, when the smugglers improvise a clever smoke screen to confuse the soldiers as they attempt to apprehend The Scarecrow.

In Part II of the intriguing show, General Pugh, rebuked by the king

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WALT DISNEY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF COLOR



From: Dick McKay
Publicity Director
Walt Disney Productions

DIRECTOR NEILSON SCORES AGAIN WITH DISNEY'S SCARECROW ON TV

An experienced hand at directing real winners in family entertainment for Walt Disney, James Neilson scores once again by taking the reins of an adventuresome smuggling tale entitled, "The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh," to be aired in three parts on "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" on the Sunday evenings of February 9, 16, and 23 over the NBC-TV Network.

Still basking in the plaudits of Disney box-office hits like "Bon Voyage," "Moon Pilot," "Summer Magic," and the "Texas John Slaughter" series on television, Neilson headed for England and the Scarecrow production.

In the same marsh-land area where smugglers actually did rule the roost some 200 years ago, the young director piloted British actors Patrick McGochan, George Cole, Michael Hordern, Tony Britton and Geoffrey Keen through the intriguing 18th-Century yarn of secret meetings, eerie costumes, and night-riding smugglers on the Kent-Sussex coast.

The resulting three-part show is not only an action-packed series of mythical adventures, but, for those who have not read Russell Thorndike's "Dr. Syn" novels, it is an introduction to an amazing character in the fictional Vicar of Dymchurch, who leads a double life in defiance of the king's overburdening tax laws.

"The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh" is based on a novel by Russell Thorndike and William Buchanan. Bill Anderson was co-producer with Walt Disney.

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