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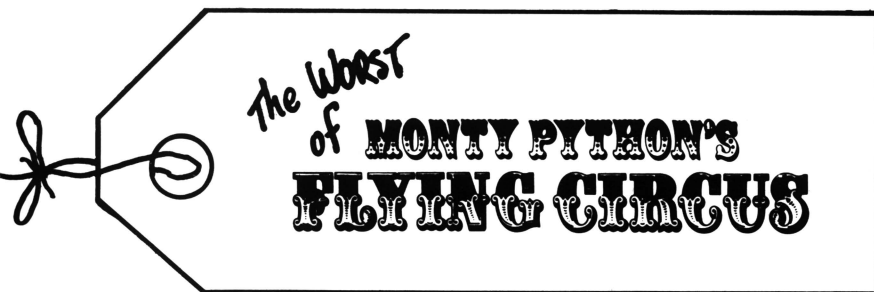
**MONTY PYTHON'S  
FLYING CIRCUS**



With John Cleese, Michael Palin, Grahame Chapman, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Carol Cleveland

from the BBC Television Series





The idea for Monty Python's Flying Circus was first talked over in a conference room in the BBC Television Centre in June of last year. Round the table sat John Cleese, Grahame Chapman, Terry Jones, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, myself, John Howard Davies, who directed the first four episodes for Monty Python, and Barry Took, who had brought the five together under the BBC's banner.

Barry Took introduced us then left. We then started to thrash out a format, if you could call it that, for the series. Very quickly I realised that the writers' humour was my humour, and knew we would have fun doing the show. The only difficulty was – a title. We chose Monty Python's Flying Circus for three carefully considered reasons:–

- (1) because as far as we knew, there was no-one called Monty Python;
- (2) because it had nothing to do with flying;
- (3) because it was not a circus.

We admit quite happily that this title has caused a certain amount of fun and confusion. Plain silly to quote the Colonel. More messing about.

I believe that Monty Python's Flying Circus has something to amuse anyone with a sense of humour which includes, I hope, all of us.

**Ian McNaughton**

Record produced by Ian McNaughton, BBC Television.  
Incidental music by Anthony Foster.  
Chorus: The Fred Tomlinson Singers.  
Extra Sound Effects by Harry Morris.  
Sleeve design by Terry Gilliam.

SIDE ONE	SIDE TWO
Flying Sheep	More Television Interviews
Television Interviews	Children's Stories
Trade Description Act	The Visitors
Nudge Nudge	The Cinema
The Mouse Problem	The North Minehead Bye-Election
Buying a Bed	Me, Doctor
Interesting People	Pet Shop
The Barber	Self Defence
Interviews	

### MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS & THE CRITICS

#### MAKE JOKES – NOT WAR

"This new.....show on BBC 1, television comedy that's actually funny, is rapidly becoming cult viewing. It has been described as the first successful attempt at visual Goonery..... The cast is mostly young men, established larkers like John Cleese: the funniest and cruellest items are the animations which a young American called Terry Gilliam does....., he epitomises not only the show but a whole section of the younger generation, the less self-righteous ones who aren't satisfied with the world but make jokes, not war and don't preach....."

OBSERVER 26.10.69.

#### CLEESE CRINGING AS HE REVEALS ALL

"The best feature of Monty Python's Flying Circus.....is the way joke leads to joke. A rather ponderous sketch about sheep attempting to fly suddenly switches to a real piece of dotty invention, two voluble French aerospace experts expounding on a supersonic sheep..... I confess to a weakness for this school of comedy and Cleese, whether cringing in an interview studio as he reveals all about a secret perversion or whispering Westerner advice to a deceived husband("There's a time when a man has to stop running.....") remains its supreme practitioner."

Philip Purser, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, 18.10.69.

#### WILL M. PYTHON FIND TRUE SUCCESS, ETC ?

"..... it might have been worse. That title, I mean. Anyway, I hope M. Python and associates will prove a winner."

Richard Last, THE SUN, 6.10.69.

#### SCRIPT MEN CLOWNS TOO

"Described by the BBC as a 'nutty zany comedy show', Monty Python's Flying Circus came to town last night on BBC 1 television. Most circuses get by without scriptwriters but, this one had five, doubling up as clowns performing what they had written under the ringmastership of Ian McNaughton. The comedy was sophisticated and had much of the delightful absurdity which has not been seen on television since the Marty show. It took toll of interviewers and other features of

television that need the sending up process."

Norman Hare, DAILY TELEGRAPH, 6.10.69.

#### FLOGGING A DEAD PARROT

"..... the pet dealer trying to flog a dead parrot..... had myself and my family falling about."

Stewart Lane, THE MORNING STAR, 10.12.69.

#### BBC's 'SILLY' FLYING CIRCUS

"LONDON – By definition, judgment is a subjective operation, and never so much as when about humour. So, what follows is purely one man's opinion.

There is a television series of the British Broadcasting Corporation that is the funniest set of 13 half-hour programmes ever produced.

Some have tried to find the key or to name the genre, and end up with phrases like "manic flow". The people who write and perform it simply call it "silly". That it is, but silly with the exquisiteness of Belgian lace.

The show is called "Monty Python's Flying Circus". It is not a circus nor is it flying. There is no Monty Python..... written, produced and acted by six men and one girl, all under 30, mostly Oxbridge, and all attractive. Its weekly budget is ludicrously small, even by British standards, not to mention American. Six make-up men convert that many actors into four times as many characters for each show – and fast.

BBC began the programme with trepidation..... worries that it will appeal only to a small fraction of the viewers. Maybe so, but that's what American editors thought when the comic strip "Peanuts" first came on the market.

I think, on the contrary, that it's everyone's dish except those at the far ends of the spectrum, the primitive snobs and the desiccated ones. Where "Laugh In" covers its feeble jokes with numbers and speed, and is vulgarly vulgar, "Circus" has no truck with the quick one-liners, the blackouts and the boffos, and is elegantly vulgar.

If some American television agent doesn't snap up Monty Python & Co., he is stupid crazy. Monty Python & Co. are brilliantly crazy."

Alfred Friendly, THE WASHINGTON POST, 10.1.70.

Delicacies such as CRUNCHY FROG, COCKROACH CLUSTERS, ANTHRAX RIPPLES and FROZEN ALBATROSS ON A STICK mentioned on this record are probably obtainable from:

MONTY PYTHON ENTERPRISES

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**SIDE 1**

**MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS**

Flying Sheep. Television Interviews  
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The Mouse Problem. Buying a Bed  
Interesting People.  
The Barber Interviews

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