



Do Not Adjust Your Set Collector's Edition

3-DVD set released on 16 September 2019

Do Not Adjust Your Set, a madcap sketch show with a cult following, was a huge influence on television comedy. Written by and starring Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Eric Idle, with performances and additional material by David Jason and Denise Coffey, it also provided a showcase for Terry Gilliam's animations and the musical antics of art-school jazz-anarchists The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band. This collection brings together all the existing shows from the Rediffusion and Thames series for the first time. Among the five episodes entirely new to DVD, two were previously thought lost entirely. The research, reconstruction and restoration

involved in creating this 3-DVD set and its companion, *At Last The 1948 Show*, both released on 16 September 2019, is the biggest TV project ever undertaken by the BFI National Archive. Both represent huge cross-BFI projects with extensive work done by the Video Publishing and Technical departments, to ensure the best releases possible.

Do Not Adjust Your Set will be launched during a month-long season at BFI Southbank, **It's... Monty Python at 50**, running **1 September – 1 October 2019**, celebrating **Monty Python** – their roots, influences and subsequent work both as a group, and as individuals. The season forms part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the beloved comedy group, whose seminal series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first aired on 5 October 1969. It will include all the Monty Python feature films; oddities and unseen curios from the depths of the BFI National Archive and from Michael Palin's personal collection of super 8mm films; back-to-back screenings of the entire series of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* in a unique big-screen outing; and screenings of post-Python TV (*Fawlty Towers*, *Out of the Trees*, *Ripping Yarns*) and films (*Jabberwocky*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Time Bandits*, *Wind in the Willows* and more). There will be a free exhibition of Python-related material from the BFI National Archive and The Monty Python Archive, and a Python takeover in the BFI Shop.

On **Sunday 8 September at 17:40 in NFT1**, there will be a special screening of two episodes of *Do Not Adjust Your Set* (one newly recovered). After the screening, a fully illustrated panel discussion will look back at the series and assess its importance within the Monty Python canon.

Special features

- *Putting Strange Things Together* (2019, 33 mins); Michael Palin recalls his early TV days, including *Do Not Adjust Your Set*
- *We Just Want You to Invent the Show* (2019, 34 mins): Humphrey Barclay on his comedy career from Footlights to Rediffusion
- *The Uninvited Guest Star* (2019, 5 mins): Tim Brooke-Taylor on his *Do Not Adjust Your Set* appearance
- *The Funniest Thing on English Television* (2019, 7 mins): John Cleese reflects on the show's impact

... / 2

- *Bonzos on the Box* (2019, 60 mins): new feature-length documentary on The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band featuring Neil Innes, Rodney Slater, Roger Ruskin-Spear and 'Legs' Larry Smith
- *The Doo-Dah Discotheque* (2019): a Bonzo video jukebox
- *The Intro and the Outro* (2018, 2 mins): a newly filmed introduction by Neil Innes
- *The Christmas Card* (1968, 3 mins); *Beware of the Elephants* (1968, 3 mins); *Learning to Live With an Elephant* (1968, 4 mins): animations by Terry Gilliam, newly scanned from his own 35mm film masters
- *Lost Listens* (1969, audio): rare sound-only excerpts from missing Thames episodes
- Do Not Adjust Your Scripts: reproductions of scripts from missing Rediffusion episodes
- The Humphrey Barclay Scrapbook: photos, cuttings and drawings from the legendary producer's personal archive
- Illustrated booklet with an introduction by Michael Palin, an exclusive interview with David Jason, new contributions from Humphrey Barclay, Neil Innes, 'Legs' Larry Smith and Kaleidoscope's Chris Perry, plus essay and episode guide by the BFI's Vic Pratt, comedy context by the BFI's Dick Fiddy and musical notes by The Doo-Dah Diaries' David Christie

Product details

RRP: £29.99/ Cat. no. BFIV2120/ Cert PG

UK / 1967-1969 / black and white / 361 mins / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 4:3 / DVD9 x 3: PAL, 25fps, Dolby Digital 1.0 mono audio (192kbps)

Press contact for more information, review copy requests and images:

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office,
E-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk
Tel: (020) 7957 4759

BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop

About the BFI

The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

3 September 2019