

## BIRTHDAY CONVENTION FOR "THE PRISONER" PATRICK MCGOOHAN

### Fans of the cult series 'invade' Portmeirion the North Wales series' film location

Followers of the **Patrick McGoohan** cult TV series "The Prisoner" will be celebrating the star's **80th birthday** and the show's **40th anniversary** over the weekend of 4th April. The convention takes place in Portmeirion, the North Wales international resort used as the "Prisoner" filming location.

Actors from a key episode "The Schizoid Man" will be attending. **Jane Merrow** appeared with McGoohan in several episodes of the earlier hit show "Danger Man" (called "Secret Agent" in the USA). The same applies to the next special guest, **Earl Cameron**, who worked with McGoohan on both series and even appeared with him in past years during their time in repertory theatre.

**Jane Merrow** (one of the few actresses ever to receive a screen kiss from McGoohan) recalls: "McGoohan was a very sparky actor, he was very fast, very direct, and he got the adrenalin going. He is an individual, a rebel. If you're going to be a major, major star, it's difficult if you're a non-conformist."

**Earl Cameron** recollects: "I don't think anybody ever gets to know Patrick McGoohan too well. He's a very private person, a man with great principles, but he's a very lone person. He's a hard worker, a man who knows his craft very well. A kind of power emanated from him."

Director of the "Schizoid Man" episode and some others, **Pat Jackson**, has sent a message to the convention. He is now 92, but remembers the series and his contribution vividly: "I recall working on 'The Prisoner' and I think it was very well produced. I brought Patrick McGoohan to the screen. I screen-tested him at Pinewood. I think 'The Prisoner' has stood the test of time very well but at the time I think nobody really knew what it all meant!"

Production Manager on the "Prisoner" series, **Bernie Williams**, has also sent greetings: "Congratulations to the fans of 'The Prisoner' and the convention in Portmeirion this year. I am still very proud that the show has survived with more interest over the past forty years. Patrick McGoohan is an amazing man, obviously very creative, and with strong principles about life and privacy. I am very proud to have been a part of this rebellious and intelligent series."

Naturally the star himself has been invited to the weekend as a post-birthday 'party', as Patrick McGoohan will be celebrating his **80th birthday** on **19th March**. Hundreds of fans around the world who are members of the official appreciation society "Six of One" will be hoping to attend the event and the hotel resort is block-booked by the society each year.

All outdoor events and re-enactments from "The Prisoner" can be seen by the public and Portmeirion has a quarter of a million visitors each year. Re-enactments, guest interviews, screenings, competitions, parades and even the surreal human chess game on the central lawn will be the order of the day.

Throw in a few giant inflated balloons - these were the vigilant 'watchdogs' in the Prisoner series - and you have the sixties back again, at least for a weekend. In addition, TV repeats and countless releases of "The Prisoner" on video and DVD have meant that the series has retained a high profile around the world. Be seeing you!

**For more information, contact:**

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