A world
of Christmas
films

King of Comedy on
Channel Four
on Christmas
Day, but it was
touch-and-go for quite
some time.

A year ago this month,
Lewis underwent open-heart
surgery after a massive heart
failure. For a matter of seconds, he
was clinically dead: "It felt like the
end of transmission when the
television set goes dark, with just
one little white spot. When I came
to, I said to my girlfriend, "What
happened?" She said, "You just
died." I knew I was in deep trouble
and, for a while, I didn't think I
would pull through."

As Lewis observes, he did
things in reverse. People who live
through heart attacks tend to
make a new life for themselves.
In Lewis's case he already had.

After 36 years of marriage, he
called his wife and six sons
together and announced he was
going off on his own.

"I think the reason was that I
married at 18 and had no fun
before I became a husband. I
wanted to run and play in the sand
before it was too late, although I
never expected a massive heart
attack so soon after."

He planned to enjoy life as a
bachelor, but that was swiftly
abandoned when he auditioned
a dancer, Sandra Pinnick, for one
of his films. She was the girl-
friend at his hospital bedside,
and they married early this
year. Lewis is 57, and Sandra
32, four years younger than
his eldest son.

The straight man role
Lewis plays in The King Of
Comedy signals a return to
the film prominence he lost
in the late Sixties. Lewis blamed
the decadence of the times.

He became involved in a multi-
million dollar venture to open a
chain of cinemas showing movies
for all the family. The business
failed in a flurry of lawsuits.

He returned with the new
decade, seeing a great need for
more comedy.

His theory is that adults and
kids should find the same things
funny. Grown-ups have too many
hang-ups: 'Immature is the man
running round yelling what a man
he is. Mature is the man running
around yelling that there's a lot of
little boy in him.'

Double helping
of Bond

IN The Spy Who Loved Me (ITV,
Boxing Day) Roger Moore as
James Bond is engaged in an
awesome battle to save the world.
Alas, the significance of this
struggle is presently over-
shadowed by weightier matters:
the talk is not of the world's pros-
pects of survival, but the more
pressing question of who is the
best man for the job.

Is it the abrasive Bond of Sean
Connery - or the smooth and
lacoic Bond of Mr Moore?

This year the Bond films have
celebrated their 21st anniversary
with a double big-screen helping:
first, Roger Moore's Octopussy,
and now Sean Connery reminding
us to Never Say Never Again.

News has even reached Russia,
where the Ian Fleming books are
banned along with the films. The
weekly paper Krokodil published
a detailed and satirical history of
Bond, with a comparison of the
styles of Moore and Connery.
The state newspaper Pravda
attacked US President Ronald Reagan
for his appearance in ITV's autumn
show, James Bond - The First 21
Years. 'Perhaps some people
dream of having a licence to kill
outside of the movies,' said Pravda,
in an aside worthy of James Bond
himself.

With no love from Russia, Bond
is still not short of admirers.
Together the rival films cost more
than 30 million dollars to produce,
but there is no doubt that box-
office takings will provide hand-
some profits.

For Connery and Moore, it
means a topping-up of their
millionaire bank balances. Both
remain aloof from discussion of
their relative merits; neither has ever spoken of
the other's performance as
continued on page 21

James Bond (Roger Moore) has a spot of trouble with man-mountain
Jaws (Richard Kiel) in 'The Spy Who Loved Me': ITV, Boxing Day.

Danger lurks for 'The
Scarlet Pimpernel'
ITV, Boxing Day.

Bob Dylan fans will enjoy the
1977 'Ronaldo and Clara' on
Channel Four, Boxing Day.

A secret agent's life has its
compensations, as Roger Moore
discovers in the 1977 James Bond
adventure, 'The Spy Who Loved
Me', on ITV, Boxing Day.
A world of Christmas films

The incredible Bond.
There is a stark difference, though, in their attitudes to the role. Moore, rarely, if ever, caught saying anything serious, rests easy: 'It's just fantasy, just fun. I like to think I'm sharing an adventurous joke with the audience.

Connery abandoned the part 12 years ago, complaining of the 'Frankenstein monster he'd created. 'How would you like it if, everywhere you went - at every party, on every street - they all called you James Bond.'

Why did he return to the role? 'Out of curiosity,' he says. 'It was only recently that I reconsidered acting the part of Bond again. And I decided that, if it was worth considering, it was worth giving serious thought to.' His wife Micheline added encouragement, even inventing the film's title.

Timely topic

When Michael Douglas departed The Streets of San Francisco, he confronted the age-old problem of typecasting. 'I got stuck with a television image,' he says. 'It's something you have to fight to overcome. Acting is a profession of personal rejection. 'Every day you don't get a part, you feel bad. And most days you just don't get parts.'

Here, however, was a man who does not acknowledge defeat. Michael Douglas, the producer, hired Michael Douglas the actor, and gave him a starring role in his film The China Syndrome (ITV, Tuesday 27 Dec.)

Douglas had already co-produced One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, helping the film to five Academy Awards. The China Syndrome, by virtue of its controversial subject, was to prove an even greater challenge.

The film focuses on a crisis at a nuclear power station. As Douglas explains: 'There was a lot of opposition from the nuclear energy industry to our making the movie. They are a powerful group with billions of dollars at stake, and they didn't want us showing it could be unsafe.'

As this was - and is - precisely the object of the film, the energy industry refused all cooperation with Douglas and his fellow film-makers on the project. 'I have to be careful of where reality ends and paranoia begins, but I felt afraid all through the production,' says Douglas.

'We had a sense of being followed and watched, and I am fairly positive the production office was tapped - whether by a government organisation or a private company,' I'm not saying.'

When the film was finally released in the US, a letter was circulated to every film critic in the country. 'It condemned us as irresponsible, and said we should not be fooling around with such a serious subject.'

Within days came the news of the nuclear incident at Three Mile Island, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It was remarkably similar to events described in the film.

Supernatural Sissy

At the ripe old age of 33, Sissy Spacek has still not lost the waifish frame and childlike, freckled features that give such a chilling edge to her supernatural schoolgirl, Carrie (ITV, Wednesday 28 Dec.)

This poor, put-upon creature unleashed a remarkable trail of death and destruction, embellished by film director Brian De Palma's keen eye for excess.

Sissy, who was 26 at this start of her eternal teenage, recalls trying to exercise restraint. 'I wanted to play down the sensational side. The film is about a sensitive girl, and I didn't want her to be a monster.' She worked hard to enter Carrie's world and even attempted to emulate the character's telekinetic powers. 'I gave myself terrific headaches trying to will things to move, but it didn't seem to work.'

The man responsible for designing Carrie's destruction was Sissy's husband, Jack Fisk, then an art director, more recently the fully fledged director of his wife's film, Raggedy Man.

One of his duties as art director of Carrie was to seal Sissy in a coffin-shaped box, and bury her under several layers of rock.

Anyone who's seen the film will remember what happens next. The rest are advised to hold on tightly to their seats.

continued overpage
Greetings from Santa the Pink Panther. Among his many friends on screen this Christmas on ITV and Channel Four are the motor-cycling Snowman (Channel Four), screen hero James Bond and Superman, The Bach Christmas Oratorio choir (Channel Four), Cilla Black, Toad and company in 'The Wind in the Willows', 'Give Us a Clue' star teams, Emmerdale's Santa, we three kings of 'Minder', Ben Cross in 'What the Dickens' (Channel Four), Adam Ant and Tom Jones.
YOUR CHRISTMAS FILMS

Superman
After a very impressive first 20 minutes, this develops into predictable comic-strip action. But in those stunning opening scenes, there are enough brilliant special effects to satisfy the most avid science-fiction fan. Christopher Reeve is actually rather good as Superman, getting away nicely with being both bespectacled newspaperman and wrong-righting wonder, without making you ask why no one spotted the similarity.
[2 hours 30 minutes] 1978

The Scarlet Pimpernel
Seen in America late last year, this received some warm press reviews, with high praise for Anthony Andrews' virtuoso performance. Calling it a sumptuously produced and wonderfully acted film, The Los Angeles Times considered that it even managed to eclipse the 1935 classic, with Leslie Howard.
[2 hours 45 minutes] TVM, 1982

The Spy Who Loved Me
By the time this film was made, the James Bond series had settled into a predictable but enjoyable mixture of hectic action, big set-pieces and tongue-in-cheek humour. And The Spy Who Loved Me was as lively as any, even if the sum result bore only a passing resemblance to Ian Fleming's novel.
A ski sequence (culminating in a good joke) gets the action off to a fine start.
[2 hours 15 minutes] 1977

Tuesday 27 Dec
Massarat and the Brain
Premiere of a recently-made TV movie, an adventure thriller about a soldier of fortune who is hired to rescue a beautiful woman, who is not what she appears to be. The cast are Christopher Lee, playing the head of a neo-Nazi movement, and Swedish beauty Camilla Sparv. The role of Diana Meredith is shared between two actresses - Ann Turkel and Kathy Witt - but it would rather be giving the game away to explain why.
[1 hour 35 minutes] TVM, 1983

The China Syndrome
What went wrong at the nuclear power plant? What caused the 'second shudder' when a valve stuck and a crisis occurred?
Chief technician Jack Lemmon, radical photographer Michael Douglas and TV reporter Jane Fonda are determined to find out.
The ensuing developments form a social conscience thriller along the lines of a nuclear Coma. Even if you have difficulty in following what's going on, the tension propels the story along by itself and the climax, although contrived, is unbearably suspenseful.
[2 hours 15 minutes] 1978

Wednesday 28 Dec
The Thief of Baghdad
Fourth film version of the famous Arabian Nights story, complete with the magic carpet, the wicked wazir, the All-Seeing Eye and the Temple of Truth.
Peter Ustinov does a variation on his baffled panda act as the cuddly caliph; Terence Stamp's wazir, flapping in on black cloak like a walking corpse, is clearly a dry run for his villains in the Superman films and the stage Dracula.
[1 hour 45 minutes] 1978

Carrie
Thunderously overwrought piece of Grand Guignol horror from the modern master of bloodstained mayhem, Brian de Palma. It stars that sensitive actress Sissy Spacek, who gives an anguished performance as the high-school girl whose sheltered upbringing (by a religious fanatic mother) has in no way prepared her to deal with the supernormal gift of telekinesis.
Piper Laurie was nominated for an Academy Award for her performance as the mother, and John Travolta is also there somewhere among the guts and gore. If you succeed in surviving the ensuing blood-feast, be prepared for the ending, which is one of the great shocks of the cinema.
[1 hour 55 minutes] 1976

Friday 30 Dec
Live a Little, Steal a Lot
Based on events which actually happened in 1964, this is an account of an ingenious jewel robbery in New York's Museum of Natural History. The robbery itself is suspensefully done, and an early chase through Florida waters is also exciting.
[1 hour 45 minutes] 1974

All running times given include commercial breaks

TV Movies reviewed by KENNETH THOMPSON

7.30
The Adventures of Mole
A special story for little children about Mole and some of his friends.

8.0 TV-am's Boxing Day Show
Join the regular TV-am team in some Boxing Day fun.

9.0
Roland's Winter Wonderland
Will our heroes come to blow on Boxing Day in the Swiss Alps? Roland and Kevin have their first skiing lesson. But will they understand their friendly ski instructor?

9.25 Regional Weather Forecast
followed by

The Sooty Show
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

DESIGNER JOHN PLANT
DIRECTOR JOHN WOODS
PRODUCER CHARLES WARNER
Thames Television Production

9.45 The Talking Parallel
ADAPTED BY ROSEMARY ANNE SISON FROM THE BOOK BY GERALD DURRELL
Animated film about a girl who finds a talking parallel on a sea shore. Music composed by David Rohl and Stuart J Wolstenholme.

Voices: Pendle Peo Lisa Norris Parrot Freddie Jones Horatius Mollie Sugden Ethelred Roy Kinnear Tinkywizzy Edward Kelsey Cockatrice Windsor Davies Oswald Michael Hordern Werewolf Peter Woodthorpe Wensleydale Harvey Ashby Other voices: Raymond Mason and Daphne Oxenford

DIRECTOR BRIAN CROSIGE PRODUCERS BRIAN CROSIGE, MARK HALL Thames Television Production

10.25 The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie
FILM This animated feature film includes five complete Bugs Bunny cartoons as well as excerpts from some of his adventures.

See pages 56 and 57
SCRIPT MICK MALTBIE, CHUCK JONES
DIRECTOR CHUCK JONES

12.0 Take Over
BROUGH SCOTT
Could you land a DC-10 in an emergency? Could you drive a London bus? Jenny Lee-Wright, Richard O'Sullivan and Lisa St Clair will test their skills on the general public to find out what use of simulators to recreate realistic situations, Brough Scott puts each team to the test. Produced in association with Trans World International.

DIRECTOR STEVE MINCHIN
PRODUCERS STEVE MINCHIN, IAN HARVEY
Thames Television Production

2.30 The Scarlet Pimpernel
ANTHONY ANDREWS JANE SEYMOUR
PARIS, 1792. Crowds hungry for blood cheer as the heads of hundreds of aristocrats fall under the blade of the guillotine. Sir Percy Blakeney, a foppish English gentleman and leader of London society, is in Paris on a social visit...

See pages 56 and 57

FILM
SIR PERCY Anthony Andrews MARGUERITE Jane Seymour CHAUVELIN Ian McKellen BANNON De Bats James Villiers LOUISE Eleanor David ARMAND Malcolm Jamieson COUNT De Tournay Dennis Lill COUNTESS Ann Firbank ROBESPIERRE Richard Morant PRINCE De Wales Julian Fellowes De BEAUSILEI Timothy Carlton FOUSQUET David Gant PONCELET John Quarmby TELEPLAY WILLIAM BARTON
FROM NOVELS BY BARONESSE ORCZY DIRECTOR CLIVE DONNER

5.15 ITN News and Sport

1.0 ITN News
1.5 Racing from Kempton
First of the week's two visits, introduced by Brough Scott. Commentators are John Oaksey and Graham Goode, betting and results by John Tyrrel and John McCrackin. Your card:
1.10 Food Brokers-Armour Novices' Hurdle (2m)
1.40 Ladbrooke Christmas Hurdle (2m)
2.15 King George VI Chase (3m)

Independent Television Sport Production

5.30 Give Us a Clue
MICHAEL ASPEL UNA STUBBS LIONEL BLAIR JANE ASHER TIM BROOKE-TAYLOR JILLY COOPER BOB GELDOF RUSSELL GRANT TRACEY ULLMAN
Host Michael Aspel and team captians Una Stubbs and Lionel Blair invite six celebrities to play a game of charades. See page 139

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER DAVID CLARK
Thames Television Production

6.0 Coronation Street
Len Fairclough's widow, Rita, calls on the woman involved in his mysterious death. Curly Watts confesses to Emily Bishop that he is attracted to Sharon Gaskell - but does she think of him?

Oracle sub-titles page 170
This week's cast:
ELISI TANNER Patricia Phoenix RITA FAIRCLough Barbara Knox CURLE WHALETT Elise Richey BET LYNCH Julie Goodear EMILY BISHOP Eileen Derbyshire AIL ROBERTS Bryan Mosley HILDA OGDN Jean Alexander VERA DUCKWORTH Elizabeth Dawn KEN BARLOW William Roache DEIDRE BARLOW Anne Kirkbride BETTIE TURPIN Betty Driver CURLY WHALETT Kevin Kennedy SHARON GASKELL Tracie Bennett BILL GREGORY Jack Watson MARJORIE PROCTOR Eileen O'Brien WRITER PETER WICKER STORIES ESTHER ROSE, TOM ELLIOTT DIRECTOR ERIC DEAKINS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BILL POODMORE DIRECTOR STEPHEN BUTCHER PRODUCER MERVYN WATSON Granada Television Production

8.45 Eric and Ernie's Christmas Show
ERIC MORECAMBE ERNIE WISE
GEMMA CRAVEN NIGEL HAWTHORNE DEREK JACOB FELICITY KENDAL CURT KWOX JENNY LINDEN FLORENCE MACKAY TONY MONOPOLY PATRICK MOWNER NANCY NEMO PETER SKELLERN
A festive feast of entertainment with Eric and Ernie, a galaxy of stars. Writers are Eddie Braben, Sid Green and Dick Hills. Choirmaster is Norman Maen, music director Harry Rabinowitz. See page 34

Oracle sub-titles page 170
DESIGNER PETER LE PAGE DIRECTOR/PRODUCER MARK STUART

beneath the sea. This occasion is rather different in that 007 finds himself working alongside an attractive Russian agent named Anya Amasova who similarly has been detailed to foil Stromberg. See pages 56 and 57

Oracle sub-titles page 170

See pages 56 and 57

James Bond Roger Moore Anya Amasova Barbara Bach Stromberg Curt Jurgen Richel Kiel Nazia Caroline Munro Gen Gogol Walter Gottleb Minister of Defence Geoffrey King Bernard Lee George Baker

Screenplay CHRISTOPHER WOOD, RICHARD MAIBAUM, FROM THE NOVEL BY IAN FLEMING DIRECTOR LEWIS GILBERT

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Eric Asher wants to solve the word, 5.30. Roger Moore wants to save the world, 6.30.
The 007 Dossier has the best magazine articles, interviews, photos and videos - old and new - from around the world, and it's all FREE! If you have enjoyed this publication, please visit www.the007Dossier.com to find many more.

JUST LOOK WHAT YOU’VE MISSED.