

# David Croft and Jimmy Perry

David Croft and Jimmy Perry: The Dynamic Duo Behind Classic British Comedy

**David Croft and Jimmy Perry** are names that resonate deeply with fans of British television comedy, particularly those who cherish the golden era of sitcoms. Together, they crafted some of the most beloved and enduring shows in British entertainment history, blending sharp wit, memorable characters, and clever storytelling. Their partnership not only shaped the landscape of British comedy but also left a lasting legacy that continues to influence comedians and writers today.

## The Beginnings of a Legendary Partnership

Before their collaboration, both David Croft and Jimmy Perry had distinct paths in the entertainment world. David Croft, born David John Andrew Sharland, was an accomplished writer and director with a knack for comedy. Jimmy Perry, meanwhile, brought his own unique experiences, including his time in the Home Guard during World War II, which heavily inspired his writing.

Their partnership began in the 1960s when the BBC was looking for fresh comedic talents. The two quickly discovered they had a complementary approach: Perry's vivid character ideas and personal anecdotes combined with Croft's impeccable timing and production skills. This synergy was the foundation for their success.

## Iconic Shows Created by David Croft and Jimmy Perry

The collaboration between David Croft and Jimmy Perry resulted in several iconic sitcoms that remain popular decades after their original broadcasts. Each show showcased their ability to mix humor with relatable situations and well-crafted characters.

### Dad's Army: Comedy from the Home Front

One of their most famous creations, *Dad's Army*, is a sitcom set during World War II, focusing on the British Home Guard. Drawing from Jimmy Perry's own experiences, the show humorously depicted a group of volunteer soldiers tasked with defending their town against invasion. The clever writing and endearing cast made it a massive hit.

The success of *Dad's Army* lay in its balance of comedy and respect for its subject matter, portraying the courage and quirks of ordinary people during extraordinary times. The series ran from 1968 to 1977 and inspired numerous stage adaptations, films, and even a radio series.

### It Ain't Half Hot Mum: A Unique Military Comedy

Following *\*Dad's Army\**, David Croft and Jimmy Perry created *\*It Ain't Half Hot Mum\**, a sitcom set in a British Army concert party in India during the final years of World War II. This show combined musical performances with comedy, offering a different flavor of wartime humor.

Despite some controversy over its portrayal of colonialism and stereotypes, the show was praised for its writing and the chemistry between characters. It highlighted the duo's willingness to explore new comedic territories while maintaining their signature style.

## **Other Notable Collaborations: Hi-De-Hi! and You Rang, M'Lord?**

Beyond wartime settings, the pair also ventured into different environments with hits like *\*Hi-De-Hi!\** and *\*You Rang, M'Lord?\**. *\*Hi-De-Hi!\** was set in a holiday camp during the late 1950s, focusing on the lives of entertainers and guests, capturing a slice of British social history with warmth and humor.

*\*You Rang, M'Lord?\** took a turn towards a period comedy, set in the 1920s and 1930s, following the interactions between the aristocratic Meldrum family and their servants. This series showcased David Croft and Jimmy Perry's skill in crafting class-based humor and character-driven plots.

## **The Writing Style and Comedy Techniques of David Croft and Jimmy Perry**

Understanding the appeal of David Croft and Jimmy Perry's work requires a look at their distinctive writing style and comedic approach. Their scripts often featured a mix of slapstick, clever wordplay, and situational comedy that appealed to a broad audience.

### **Character-Driven Humor**

A hallmark of their shows is the strong focus on character development. Each persona was carefully crafted with unique traits that could be mined for humor. For instance, *\*Dad's Army\** featured characters like the pompous Captain Mainwaring and the easy-going Sergeant Wilson, whose contrasting personalities created endless comedic tension.

### **Situational and Period-Specific Comedy**

The duo excelled at setting their comedies within specific historical or social contexts, which added depth and authenticity. By placing characters in familiar yet challenging situations—whether in wartime Britain or a bustling holiday camp—they allowed audiences to connect emotionally while enjoying the humor.

## **Use of Recurring Catchphrases and Running Gags**

Many of their shows became famous for memorable catchphrases and repeated jokes that audiences eagerly anticipated. This technique not only reinforced character identity but also created a sense of community among viewers, who enjoyed sharing these humorous moments.

## **The Impact of David Croft and Jimmy Perry on British Comedy**

The influence of David Croft and Jimmy Perry extends far beyond their original broadcasts. Their sitcoms helped define the style and tone of British comedy for decades, inspiring future generations of writers and performers.

## **Legacy in Television and Popular Culture**

Shows like *Dad's Army* have become cultural touchstones, referenced in everything from political speeches to other TV programs. The duo's work demonstrated how comedy could be both entertaining and meaningful, blending laughter with human insight.

## **Tips for Aspiring Comedy Writers from Their Partnership**

For those looking to learn from David Croft and Jimmy Perry's success, several valuable lessons emerge:

- Draw from personal experiences to create authentic stories.
- Develop characters with clear, contrasting personalities to enhance humor.
- Understand your audience and balance comedy with relatable themes.
- Collaborate with others who complement your strengths.
- Don't shy away from exploring different settings and formats.

These insights highlight why their partnership was so effective and why their shows continue to be studied.

# Behind the Scenes: The Working Relationship of David Croft and Jimmy Perry

Beyond their on-screen success, the personal and professional dynamic between David Croft and Jimmy Perry was key to their achievements. They maintained a respectful and productive collaboration, often dividing responsibilities according to their strengths—Perry focusing on story ideas and character creation, Croft managing production and script polishing.

Their mutual trust allowed for creative freedom and innovation, enabling them to take risks that paid off. Interviews and biographies reveal that their friendship was as important as their professional compatibility, providing a solid foundation for enduring success.

David Croft and Jimmy Perry's story is one of creative synergy and dedication to the craft of comedy. Their work remains a testament to the power of partnership in entertainment, continuing to bring joy and laughter to audiences around the world.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who were David Croft and Jimmy Perry?

David Croft and Jimmy Perry were British television writers and producers best known for creating popular sitcoms such as 'Dad's Army' and 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum.'

### What is David Croft famous for?

David Croft is famous for co-creating and producing classic British sitcoms including 'Dad's Army,' 'Are You Being Served?,' and 'Hi-de-Hi!'. He often collaborated with Jimmy Perry.

### What role did Jimmy Perry play in British television?

Jimmy Perry was a writer, actor, and producer who co-created several beloved British sitcoms with David Croft, notably 'Dad's Army' and 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum.'

### What are some popular TV shows created by David Croft and Jimmy Perry?

Some popular TV shows created by David Croft and Jimmy Perry include 'Dad's Army,' 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum,' 'Hi-de-Hi!,' and 'You Rang, M'Lord?'

### How did David Croft and Jimmy Perry start their collaboration?

David Croft and Jimmy Perry first collaborated in the late 1960s when they co-created 'Dad's Army,' which was inspired by Perry's own experiences in the Home Guard during World War II.

## What inspired the creation of 'Dad's Army' by Croft and Perry?

Jimmy Perry's own experiences serving in the Home Guard during World War II inspired the creation of 'Dad's Army,' which he co-wrote with David Croft.

## When did David Croft and Jimmy Perry work together?

David Croft and Jimmy Perry primarily worked together from the late 1960s through the 1980s, producing several successful sitcoms during that period.

## Are there any notable awards received by David Croft and Jimmy Perry?

David Croft and Jimmy Perry received several accolades for their work, including BAFTA nominations and recognition for their contribution to British television comedy.

## What impact did David Croft and Jimmy Perry have on British comedy?

David Croft and Jimmy Perry significantly shaped British comedy by creating enduring sitcoms that remain popular, influencing generations of writers and comedians with their unique blend of humor and character-driven storytelling.

## Additional Resources

David Croft and Jimmy Perry: Pioneers of British Television Comedy

**david croft and jimmy perry** stand as two of the most influential figures in the history of British television comedy. Their collaborative genius gave rise to some of the most enduring and beloved sitcoms of the 20th century, shaping the comedic landscape and leaving a legacy that continues to resonate with audiences today. Exploring their partnership, creative processes, and cultural impact offers valuable insight into the evolution of British humor and television production.

## The Collaborative Genius of David Croft and Jimmy Perry

David Croft and Jimmy Perry's professional partnership was marked by a synergy that combined Croft's sharp production skills with Perry's authentic writing rooted in personal experience. Their collaboration began in the late 1960s, a period that witnessed a surge in demand for relatable, character-driven sitcoms. Together, they crafted narratives that were both humorous and reflective of aspects of British life, particularly during and after World War II.

One of their earliest and most notable successes was *\*Dad's Army\** (1968-1977), a sitcom that humorously depicted the Home Guard, a volunteer force during the Second World War. The show balanced comedy with a respectful portrayal of wartime Britain, showcasing their ability to blend

humor with historical context. This series became a cultural touchstone, illustrating Croft and Perry's knack for creating characters that were at once eccentric and endearing.

## **Distinctive Features of Their Work**

The hallmark of David Croft and Jimmy Perry's sitcoms lies in their attention to character development and situational comedy. Unlike slapstick or farcical humor, their scripts often relied on witty dialogue, subtle irony, and character-driven plots. They also employed ensemble casts, ensuring that each character contributed uniquely to the narrative fabric.

Another distinguishing feature was their use of recurring settings, such as the Home Guard's office in *\*Dad's Army\** or the theatre company in *\*Hi-de-Hi!\**, which provided a familiar backdrop against which various comedic scenarios unfolded. This approach fostered a sense of intimacy and continuity that appealed to a broad audience.

## **Major Works and Their Impact**

David Croft and Jimmy Perry created several hit series that remain staples of British television. Each show reflected different facets of British society and showcased their evolving comedic style.

### **Dad's Army**

*\*Dad's Army\** stands as a testament to their ability to find humor in adversity. The series' success hinged on its portrayal of the British spirit during wartime, combining nostalgia with comedy. It featured memorable characters like Captain Mainwaring and Corporal Jones, whose interactions highlighted class distinctions and human foibles. The show's longevity and repeated reruns underscore its enduring appeal.

### **It Ain't Half Hot Mum**

Set in a British army camp in India during World War II, *\*It Ain't Half Hot Mum\** explored military life from a different perspective. While popular during its original run, modern audiences have critiqued the show for its portrayal of racial stereotypes, highlighting how cultural sensibilities have evolved. Nevertheless, the series exemplifies Croft and Perry's penchant for military-themed comedy and their interest in exploring hierarchical structures.

### **Hi-de-Hi! and You Rang, M'Lord?**

Transitioning from wartime settings to post-war Britain, *\*Hi-de-Hi!\** focused on the staff of a holiday camp, capturing the social dynamics of the 1950s and 60s. This series introduced a lighter, more domestic form of humor, with characters navigating romantic entanglements and workplace rivalries.

\*You Rang, M'Lord?\*

 further delved into class distinctions, set in an aristocratic household with the comedic tension arising from servant-master relationships. Both series illustrated Croft and Perry's interest in British class structures and their capacity to mine comedy from social contrasts.

## Analyzing the Partnership: Strengths and Criticisms

David Croft and Jimmy Perry's collaboration was marked by complementary strengths. Perry's background as a former army serviceman provided authentic insights into military life, enriching their scripts with realism. Croft's expertise in production and direction ensured their visions were effectively translated onto the screen.

- **Strengths:** Authentic character portrayals, seamless blend of humor and history, strong ensemble casts, and memorable dialogue.
- **Criticisms:** Some series, particularly \*It Ain't Half Hot Mum\*, have been criticized for outdated stereotypes and insensitive portrayals by contemporary standards.

Despite these critiques, their work remains influential, illustrating the changing nature of comedic tastes and societal values over time.

## Legacy in British Television Comedy

David Croft and Jimmy Perry's influence extends beyond their immediate success. Their sitcoms set a high standard for character-driven comedy and demonstrated the commercial viability of period-based humor. Many contemporary British comedies draw inspiration from their format, balancing humor with social commentary.

The duo's shows have been revived, adapted, and referenced in other media, reflecting their lasting cultural imprint. Their ability to create humor rooted in specific historical contexts while maintaining universal themes of human nature has ensured that their work continues to be studied and appreciated.

## Conclusion

The collaboration between David Croft and Jimmy Perry represents a significant chapter in British television history. Their combined talents produced some of the most iconic sitcoms, characterized by sharp writing, memorable characters, and a unique blend of humor and historical insight. While some aspects of their work reflect the sensibilities of their time, their overall contribution remains a cornerstone in the evolution of British comedy, inspiring writers, producers, and audiences alike.

## [David Croft And Jimmy Perry](#)

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**david croft and jimmy perry: Jimmy Perry and David Croft** Simon Morgan-Russell, 2004 This book explores the collaborative sitcoms of two of British television's most well-known comedy writers. Written over a period of twenty-five years, the four series 'Dad's Army', 'It Ain't Half Hot, Mum', 'Hi-de-Hi!' and 'You Rang M'Lord?' have endured as much-loved and often-repeated classics. The book explores the themes of Perry and Croft's writing in terms of their own biography, and as articulations of British cultural and televisual history. Focusing on issues central to the concept of identity in British culture, class, gender, sexuality and race and analysing individual episodes and scenes in the four series, 'Jimmy Perry and David Croft' evaluates the contributions made by these two writers to the genre of situation comedy, and locates the programmes in the immediate contexts of their production. Including new interview material from David Croft, this book will be invaluable to students and lecturers of television studies and cultural studies.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Do You Think That's Wise?** Graham McCann, 2010-09-25 Best known for Dad's Army, in which his Sergeant Wilson played the languid, rakish foil to Arthur Lowe's pompous, chippy Captain Mainwaring, John Le Mesurier was one of Britain's favourite and most recognisable character actors. The epitome of insouciance and languor on screen, in real life this charming, quietly-spoken bon viveur was plagued by private turmoil and heartbreak. Married three times, he saw his first wife succumb to alcoholism, his second - the comedy diva Hattie Jacques - move her lover into the family home, and his third enjoy a passionate dalliance with troubled comic Tony Hancock. As Graham McCann reveals in this fully authorised and moving biography, as an actor John Le Mesurier was a key ingredient in the success of Britain's greatest sitcom, but as a man he was far more courageous than Sergeant Wilson was ever meant to be.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Dad's Army Goes to War** Melody Foreman, 2024-12-30 For decades the classic, evergreen BBC comedy Dad's Army has entertained millions of viewers around the world. But the farcical antics of Walmington-on-Sea's bumbling Home Guard platoon camouflage the true military service of some of the actors themselves. Despite their light-hearted appearance, many of the cast saw active service in one, or even both, of the world wars - and much of it far from humorous. The inspiration behind the sitcom was the experiences of one its writers, Jimmy Perry, who, as a young 16-year-old wannabe comedian, was still waiting for his call up papers when he joined the eager warriors of the Home Guard in 1940. Little did he know how decades later that ribald group of men in the Watford battalion would provide the inspiration which put his name up in lights. Indeed, was it Perry's own goofy gullibility as a teenager that helped form the character of Private Pike? Also, admitted Perry, the affable Lance Corporal Jones - in real life Clive Dunn, a former prisoner-of-war who served in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars - was partly based on an old soldier Perry knew who had served in the Sudan. This veteran recalled being told by a CO to 'piss on your rifle' to cool it down. Perry went on to serve in India in the Royal Artillery and then later with Combined Services Entertainments. As a twenty-year-old British Army officer, David Croft was stationed in North Africa when a raft of comical events, including his struggles with a Bofors gun, went on to shape the calamities which befell the Dad's Army troopers! theater-mad Derbyshire lad Arthur Lowe, who played the redoubtable Captain Mainwaring, was thin with knobbly knees when he was seconded to the No.2 Field Entertainment Unit in Egypt. Meantime languid, good mannered actor John Le Mesurier reported for duty with the Royal Tank Regiment complete with golf clubs in his car boot. By 1943 he was ironically enduring life in Deolali (Doolally in India), when he 'had a



captaincy thrust upon him' until being demobbed in 1946. The astonishing bravery of actor and playwright Arnold Ridley, who was denied a DSO and a Military Medal for his actions during the First World War, makes for heart-rending reading. His creation of dear old Private Godfrey won him millions of adoring fans. The classical actor John Laurie - Private 'We're all doomed' Frazer - was also a hero of the trenches. Always dry-witted he once made everyone laugh on set when he remarked: 'I've played every part in Shakespeare, I was considered to be the finest Hamlet of the 1920s and I had retired, and now I am famous for doing this crap!' That each man, including the mocking Laurie, helped turn Dad's Army into everlasting success will never be forgotten. And why? Well, in reality they had seen war and knew war, and yet always completely realised and understood how the power of laughter is the ultimate triumph.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** *Best of the Britcoms* Garry Berman, 2011 This book covers the most noteworthy situation comedies ever to cross the pond. Each entry has a show summary and descriptions of standout episodes and behind-the-scenes details. This revised edition contains 7 new chapters on programs that have aired in the U.S. since the original edition and includes the later developments of older series' storylines and detailed information on specials and cast reunions!

**david croft and jimmy perry:** *The First Rule of Comedy..!* Jeffrey Holland, 2025-02-06 Fondly remembered as Spike Dixon in *Hi-De-Hi!*, Jeffrey Holland is one of Britain's best-loved situation comedy actors. An invaluable member of the repertory company of writer and director David Croft, his many other television credits include *Are You Being Served?*, *Dad's Army*, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*, *Oh, Doctor Beeching!* and *You Rang, M'Lord?* This unique memoir reveals the hilarious tales from Holland's long and illustrious career, from the comedy greats that have inspired him to the colleagues with whom he has worked. Heart-warming stories from his twenty-year association with Paul Shane and Su Pollard sit alongside poignant and deep reflections on his all-time favourite comedian, Stan Laurel, and revealing stories of working with the great and good of variety theatre, from Frankie Howerd to Ken Dodd. Not to mention blissful thoughts on his many happy years as part of Russ Abbot's *Madhouse*, the joy of *The Goon Show* and the thrill of stepping into the huge shoes of Peter Sellers. Filled with enthusiasm and affection, *The First Rule of Comedy..!* is a life told through the eyes of one of the true greats of the genre.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** *Broadway Musicals, 1943-2004* John Stewart, 2012-11-22 On March 31, 1943, the musical *Oklahoma!* premiered and the modern era of the Broadway musical was born. Since that time, the theatres of Broadway have staged hundreds of musicals--some more noteworthy than others, but all in their own way a part of American theatre history. With more than 750 entries, this comprehensive reference work provides information on every musical produced on Broadway since *Oklahoma's* 1943 debut. Each entry begins with a brief synopsis of the show, followed by a three-part history: first, the pre-Broadway story of the show, including out-of-town try-outs and Broadway previews; next, the Broadway run itself, with dates, theatres, and cast and crew, including replacements, chorus and understudies, songs, gossip, and notes on reviews and awards; and finally, post-Broadway information with a detailed list of later notable productions, along with important reviews and awards.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** *British Film Catalogue* Denis Gifford, 2016-04-01 First published in 2001. The standard work on its subject, this resource includes every traceable British entertainment film from the inception of the silent cinema to the present day. Now, this new edition includes a wholly original second volume devoted to non-fiction and documentary film--an area in which the British film industry has particularly excelled. All entries throughout this third edition have been revised, and coverage has been extended through 1994. Together, these two volumes provide a unique, authoritative source of information for historians, archivists, librarians, and film scholars.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** *1000 Dad's Army Facts* Ben Wharton, 2025-02-16 In the midst of World War 2, a small town named Walmington-on-Sea is home to an unlikely band of heroes who embody the spirit of resilience and camaraderie. From the pompous but well-meaning Captain Mainwaring to the lovable but inept Lance Corporal Jones, the characters of *Dad's Army* are an

unforgettable mix of humour and humanity, revealing how ordinary men rise to the occasion in extraordinary times. This beloved show remains a timeless reminder that laughter can prevail even in the darkest of days. 1000 Dad's Army Facts contains a treasure trove of information all about this cherished part of British television history. So, grab yourself a slice of Woolton Pie and prepare for a delightful deep dive into the wonderful world of Dad's Army.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Top 10 of Britain** Russell Ash, 2009-05-05 From the bestselling author of Hamlyn's Top 10 of Everything series comes a special collection of 250 unique lists that observe of the idiosyncrasies of our Isles and encompass everything British. Discover hundreds of essential, intriguing and bizarre facts about your country's most iconic subjects, including: the 10 most produced plays by Shakespeare; 10 defunct British national holidays; the 10 longest seaside piers; the 10 lowest-scoring UK Eurovision entries; the 10 latest winners of the World Conker Championships; the 10 first performed Gilbert & Sullivan operas; the Top 10 singles of all time banned by the BBC; 10 unusual British laws; the Top 10 Tesco's lines; the 10 latest winners of the Pub of the Year award ...plus 240 other fascinating lists in this at-a-glance guide to what makes Britain great.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Situation Comedy, Character, and Psychoanalysis** D.T. Klika, 2018-01-25 Situation Comedy, Character, and Psychoanalysis puts the sitcom character on the analyst's couch and closely examines the characters of Basil Fawlty, Lucy Ricardo and Kim from Australia's Kath & Kim, in order to reveal the essential elements that must exist in a sitcom before even the first joke is written. Original in its approach, D.T. Klika uncovers major findings about the sitcom as well as human behavior and relationships that we find 'arresting' and even "familial". By offering a new way of reading the sitcom using psychoanalytic theory, this book can be used as a basis for engaging in critical discourses as well as textual analysis of programs. Psychoanalytic theory enables a reading of character motivations and relationships, in turn elucidating the power struggle that exists between characters in this form of comedy. Situation Comedy, Character, and Psychoanalysis shines a light on what is at play in the sitcom that makes us laugh, and why we love the characters we do, only to discover that this form of comedy is more complex than we first thought.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Reconstructing the Past** Sian Nicholas, Tom O'Malley, Kevin Williams, 2013-09-13 Bringing together a team of history and media researchers from across Britain and Europe, this volume provides readers with a themed discussion of the range and variety of the media's engagement with history, and a close study of the relationship between media, history and national identity.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Men in reserve** Juliette Pattinson, Arthur McIvor, Linsey Robb, 2017-02-01 Men in reserve focuses on working class civilian men who, as a result of working in reserved occupations, were exempt from enlistment in the armed forces. It uses fifty six newly conducted oral history interviews as well as autobiographies, visual sources and existing archived interviews to explore how this group articulated their wartime experiences and how they positioned themselves in relation to the hegemonic discourse of military masculinity. It considers the range of masculine identities circulating amongst civilian male workers during the war and investigates the extent to which reserved workers draw upon these identities when recalling their wartime selves. It argues that the Second World War was capable of challenging civilian masculinities, positioning the civilian man below that of the 'soldier hero' while, simultaneously, reinforcing them by bolstering the capacity to provide and to earn high wages, frequently in risky and dangerous work, all which were key markers of masculinity.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Derbyshire's Own** Anton Rippon, 2006-04-11 Did you know that Derbyshire can boast at least three Nobel Laureates and numerous Olympians? This book features more than 100 of the most interesting and influential people of Derbyshire from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century.

**david croft and jimmy perry: Vicar to Dad's Army** Frank Williams, Chris Gidney, 2003 He is one of the best known faces in television comedy, yet the long-suffering vicar of Walmington-on-Sea

is in real life a Christian of deep conviction. Perfectly cast as the eccentric vicar, constantly tetchy at the invasion of his church hall by Captain Mainwaring and the elderly platoon, he appeared in the famous BBC series throughout its nine-year run and also in many other television and stage dramas. Still in constant demand for public appearances Frank takes an affectionate view behind the scenes of Dad's Army and the world of show business and reveals his personal journey through faith.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** Popular Television Drama Jonathan Bignell, Stephen Lacey, 2005-10-21 This collection of essays examines landmark British television programs of the last forty years, from Doctor Who to The Office, and from The Demon Headmaster to Queer As Folk. Contributions from prominent academics focus on the full range of popular genres, from sitcoms to science fiction, gothic horror and children's drama, and reconsider how British television drama can be analyzed. This book will be of interest to students and researchers in many academic disciplines that study television drama.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** Barry Cryer: Same Time Tomorrow? Bob Cryer, 2023-10-26 Foreword by Sandi Toksvig | WATERSTONES' BEST BOOKS OF 2023: ENTERTAINMENT 'Give this book to everyone you know - NOW!' Miriam Margolyes 'This is a joyous, uplifting book' Observer 'He was so funny and such fun and here he is again in all his rib-tickling glory' Gyles Brandreth 'I don't know how long I've got left ... I don't even buy green bananas anymore' When the legendary comedian Barry Cryer died in January 2022, there was a vast outpouring of grief, appreciation and anecdotes - from the general public and fellow comics alike. Now, his son, Bob, is doing what Barry's humility did not allow: revealing the story of the man behind the jokes. This book is an ode both to Barry's incredible life and to the lessons he so generously imparted on the art of comedy during his sixty-year career. Stretching from the music halls of the fifties, via working alongside everyone from Morecambe and Wise to Kenny Everett and David Frost, and into more recent times as a stalwart of Radio 4's long-running I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, where he worked with Rob Brydon and David Mitchell among many others, this book is a hugely entertaining insight into the life of a true comedy legend. Bob also shares a range of exclusive material unique to the Cryer family - including family photos, memorabilia, oral recordings, interviews with friends and colleagues (among them Michael Palin and Eric Idle) - as well as Bob's own personal reflections on living and working with a comedy icon. Laced with candour, warmth and filled with his trademark humour, Barry Cryer: Same Time Tomorrow? is not just a wonderfully witty and affectionate biography of a father by a son, but a heartwarming insight into a vanishing era of comedy.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** The Ultimate Dad's Army Quiz Book Nigel Freestone, 2013-01-09 Are you a fan of the classic British sitcom Dad's Army? Do you miss the slapstick humour and camaraderie of the well-drawn characters? Is this iconic TV show one of your all-time favourites? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are certain to enjoy The Ultimate Dad's Army Quiz Book. What is the name of the fictional town where Dad's Army is set? Which legendary wartime music hall star sang the Dad's Army's signature tune for which he was paid a fee of 100 guineas? How many TV episodes in total were made of the programme? The answers to these and many more thought provoking-questions can all be found in this new quiz book. Dip inside and test your knowledge of the characters and the actors who brought them to life, the writers, locations and individual episodes. Travel back in time and lose yourself in the nostalgia, pathos and word play of one of the most successful and best-loved British sitcoms of all time, Dad's Army.

**david croft and jimmy perry:** To the Last Man Malcolm Atkin, 2019-04-30 This historical study of the UK's WWII homeland defense service dispels the propaganda and pop culture myths to reveal its true wartime role. In 1940, Britain formed an armed citizen militia to act as the first line of defense in case of Nazi invasion—an essential, if suicidal, mission intended to buy time for the organization of regular forces. Officially, they were the Home Guard. Later, a British sitcom that ran for nearly a decade in the 60s and 70s dubbed them Dad's Army. That show contributed to a distorted perception of the Home Guard that persists today. But as Malcolm Atkin reveals in this thought-provoking book, the Home Guard's image was manipulated from its earliest days. Sifting through official documents and contemporary histories, as well as stories, artwork and poetry of the

era, and comparing these with postwar films and histories, Atkin explores how the myths of the Home Guard arose and were exploited. He also shows how the strong sense of gallows-humor amongst its volunteers—which fits in with a long tradition of self-deprecating humor in the British army—was taken out of context and became the basis of the TV series. To the Last Man strips back the myths, analyzing how the modern perception has evolved. The result is a new, gritty, and sometimes shocking appreciation of the role that the Home Guard was expected to play in the Second World War.

**David Croft and Jimmy Perry: *Re-living Britain in the 1940s*** Robin Wichard, 2023-01-24 The 1940s remains an iconic period in world history and retains a fascination for so many. Re-enacting the 40s is becoming increasingly popular but there is little available information explaining how to start in the hobby. This book is the first to offer enthusiasts of the 40s a way to advance their interest whether it be military or civilian. Each chapter deals with a different aspect of re-enacting from civilian roles (including children) to military roles with many different potential impressions explored for each area. Each chapter is lavishly illustrated with many previously unseen color photographs of contemporary re-enactors and events. There are further chapters introducing those people who portray wartime political and military leaders as well as those who bring back to life some of the most iconic musicians and performers of the period. For those choosing to enter the hobby through ownership of a civilian or military vehicle, that is also covered with many examples of some of the most well-known vehicles. Each chapter offers a brief contextual history with detailed notes on where to obtain uniform and equipment, some of the best groups to join as well as links to related sites and recommendations for wider reading. No book can cover every single possible role but this offers an excellent starting point for further research and involvement while stressing the need to always remain respectful of those we seek to commemorate.

**David Croft and Jimmy Perry: *1001 TV Series*** Paul Condon, 2018-02-15 This is the ultimate book for the Netflix and boxset generation, featuring all the greatest drama series ever broadcast as well as the weirdest game shows, controversial reality TV experiments and breathtaking nature documentaries. It is a must for anyone who wants to know why India's Ramayan is legendary, why Roots was groundbreaking, or what the ending of Lost was all about. Written by an international team of critics, authors, academics, producers and journalists, this book reviews TV series from more than 20 countries, highlights classic episodes to watch and also provides cast summaries and production details.

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