

writers refused to go for the easy option of making either Bob or Alicia the villain of the piece, instead showing how each was sensitive to the other's feelings. The dialogue was cute and snappy (writer/creators Greenstein and Strauss had worked on *Dream On* and *Friends*) and the cast worked hard to make the show click. Catherine Lloyd Burns was particularly funny as Heather, Bob and Owen's accident-prone office employee.

It all added up to a pleasing, modern construction, well designed and with a firm comic foundation. But despite these attributes US public response was lukewarm and no second season ensued.

The Partridge Family

USA · ABC (SCREEN GEMS) · SITCOM

96 x 30 mins · colour

US dates: 25 Sep 1970–31 Aug 1974

*UK dates: 17 Sep–31 Dec 1971 (12 episodes) BBC1 Fri 5.20pm then Sat 5.10pm · and 21 Oct 1972–7 Sep 1974 (80 episodes) ITV Sat mostly 12 noon

MAIN CAST

Shirley Partridge · Shirley Jones
Keith Partridge · David Cassidy
Laurie Partridge · Susan Dey
Danny Partridge · Danny Bonaduce
Christopher Partridge · Jeremy Gelbwaks
(1970–71);
Brian Forster (1971–74)
Tracy Partridge · Suzanne Crough
Reuben Kinkaid · Dave Madden

CREDITS

creator Bernard Slade · writers Bernard Slade, Richard Derooy, Ron Friedman, Dale McRaven, William Bickley, Susan Harris, Steve Zacarias, Michael Leeson, Lloyd Turner, Gordon Mitchell, Dick Bensfield, Perry Grant and others · directors Jerry Paris, Bob Claver, Peter Baldwin, Ralph Senesky, Richard Kinon, Lou Antonio, Jerry London, Bruce Bilson, E W Swackhamer · producers Bob Claver, Paul Junger Witt

The adventures of the Partridge Family, a singing group that made *The Monkees* look like dangerous punk rockers. Despite its saccharine spin on the world of pop, however, the series reached its target audience in a big way, making an international star of young heart-throb David Cassidy and selling many millions of albums and singles worldwide.

Loosely based on the real-life story of the popular 1960s band the Cowsills, *The Partridge Family* starred Shirley Jones (Cassidy's real-life stepmother) as the widowed Shirley Partridge, raising her family of five in San Pueblo, California. When 16-year-old Danny organises them into a singing group, they surprisingly score a sizeable hit with their first single, 'I Think I Love You' (also a hit in the real world), and then take to the road and the life of travelling pop stars. They are accompanied by their

agent/manager, Reuben Kinkaid, who, ironically, dislikes children and so is less than enamoured with his task of corralling not just Shirley and Keith but Keith's younger siblings – Laurie (15, keyboards), Danny (10, guitar), Christopher (7, drums) and Tracy (5, tambourine) – all of whom, as one would expect, have such super-white teeth as to bring tears to the eyes of even the most jaded toothpaste executive.

The mix of pop, comedy and teenybopper sex symbols in the shape of Cassidy and Susan Dey (later to star in *LA Law*) proved irresistible, and the series enjoyed a major ten following on both sides of the Atlantic. It also gave rise to an animated spin-off *Partridge Family 2200 AD* (CBS, 1974–75) which followed the adventures of a futuristic Partridge Family as they toured different planets with their songs. Some of the original cast members (Dey, Bonaduce, Forster, Crough, and Madden) provided the voices.

*Note. LWT additionally screened 61 episodes of *The Partridge Family* between 12 March 1988 and 23 November 1990, mostly in post-midnight slots.

Pastoral Care

UK · C4 (REGENT PRODUCTIONS) · SITCOM

1 x 60 mins · colour

24 Feb 1988 · Wed 10.30pm

MAIN CAST

Rev Timothy White · Tony Robinson
Rev David Williams · Jack Shepherd
Tom · Richard O'Callaghan
Osgood · Benjamin Whitrow
Arbuthnot · Victoria Wicks
Simon · Derek Waring

CREDITS

writer Andy Hamilton · director Roger Bamford · producer William G Stewart

The fourth of six single comedies screened under the banner *Tickets For The Titanic*. Tony Robinson starred in this Andy Hamilton creation, cast as a vicar whose employment in the quiet parish of St Peter's, in the village of Wandlesham, is abruptly overtaken by events after he pays a visit to a nearby nuclear-missile base and meets up with the campaigners camped outside the fence. (Clear shades of Greenham Common here.) Suddenly, our unassuming man of the cloth finds himself under intelligence surveillance.

Patter Merchants

UK · ITV (SHIHALLION FOR GRAMPIAN) · STANDUP

8 x 30 mins · colour

30 May–19 July 1990 · mostly Wed 1.30am

MAIN CAST

Allan Stewart

CREDITS

director/producer Martin Cairns

Eight half-hours of standup comedy taped at the Stakis Tree Tops Hotel in Aberdeen and hosted by the Scottish impressionist Allan Stewart, previously seen in *Go For It*, *Copy Cats* and *The Comedy Crowd* as well as series under his own name. London-ITV company Thames screened *Patter Merchants* in the early hours, rightly recognising that its phalanx of regional comics, unknown in the capital, would draw few viewers. Among those seen in the series were Mike Lancaster, Jethro, Clem Dane, Steve Womack, Gary Denis, Adrian Walsh, Billy Jeffrey, Jim Rosie, Rikki Stevens, Cheryl Taylor, Mia Carla, Bill Barclay, Eddie Rose, Hilary O'Neil, Dean Park, Dave Wolfe, Johnnie Adam, Gerald Fitzpatrick, Boothby Graffoe (who went on to other TV shows) and perhaps the series' best known participators (but still scarcely 'famous') Aiden J Harvey and Duggie Brown.

Aberdeen was also the setting for *Scotch And Irish*, an eight-part music-and-comedy series screened (again, London-ITV dates) even deeper into the twilight hours, from 8 January to 26 February 1996.

The Paul Calf Video Diary

see COOGAN, Steve

The Paul Hogan Show

AUSTRALIA · 7 NETWORK · 9 NETWORK (JP PRODUCTIONS) · SKETCH

48 x 50 mins · colour

Australian dates: 11 May 1973–21 Sep 1982

UK dates: 2 Nov 1982–30 Dec 1983 (27 x 30 mins · 2 x 60 mins) C4 mostly Fri 10pm

MAIN CAST

Paul Hogan
John Cornell
Andrew Harwood
Marguerite Frewin
Delevene Delaney
John Blackman
Sue McIntosh
Roger Stephen
Graham Mathrick
Marion Edward

CREDITS

writer Paul Hogan · producers John Cornell, Peter Faiman

The best known comic to emerge from Australia, Paul Hogan's career, which began as little more than a stunt, has scaled the highest heights internationally, with his starring appearances (as a talented straight actor) in the movie *Crocodile Dundee* and its sequel *Crocodile Dundee 2*. Before C4 imported *The Paul Hogan Show* to UK TV, however, it is fair to say that Hogan was only really known in Britain through his