

Program note for **Pinewood Dialogue with Terry Gilliam** and screenings of **12 Monkeys** and **Brazil**

January 6 & 7, 1996

Series: *Fairy Tales for Adults: A Terry Gilliam Retrospective*

By Terry Gilliam:

TERRY GILLIAM

(his life)

**1940:** Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 22nd

**1951:** Goes West to Los Angeles. Finds no Indians.

**1958-62:** Attends Occidental College, Los Angeles. Edits college humor magazine. Eventually majors and graduates in Political Science.

**1962-65:** In search of the Big Time moves to New York. Becomes Associate Editor of Help! Magazine, brainchild of Mad Magazine's originator Harvey Kurtzman. Also does freelance illustrating for a variety of publications. Decides film schools are a waste of time.

**1965-66:** Lost somewhere in Europe.

**1966:** Back in Los Angeles, fails as a freelance illustrator. Tries advertising as copy writer and art director. Gets bored.

**1967:** Moves to London, England. Does freelance illustrating for *Sunday Times*, *Nova*, *Queen*, etc. Pretentiously becomes the artistic director of the Londoner magazine. Magazine soon ceases publication.

**1968:** Sells two short sketches to *Do Not Adjust Your Set*. Is ignored by Mike Palin and Terry Jones. Befriended by Eric Idle, buys first round of drinks. (The last time he did. You thought Jack Benny was tight, eh?- J.C.) Becomes a resident cartoonist on *We Have Ways of Making You Laugh* TV series. Does first animated cartoon to help show out of a nasty spot. Strangely enough, is asked to do a second animation. Does full-color animation sections on Marty (BBC-2 series). Makes three animated films for second series of *Do Not Adjust Your Set*.

**1969:** Monty Python begins. Doesn't think it will be successful.

**1970:** Does animation title sequence for *Cry of the Banshee*. Film a dud. Python continues with 2nd series.

**1971** Twenty-five minutes of animated sequences for *The Marty Feldman Comedy Machine*. And *Now For Something Different*, first Monty Python film, made in London

**1972** Title sequence for *William*, a CBS special on Bill Shakespeare. Goes commercial with an animated campaign for the British Gas Board entitled *The Great Gas Gala*. Python Canadian Stage Tour. 3rd series of *Flying Circus*.

**1973** Python UK Stage Tour, otherwise no memories of this year.

**1974** Python Stage Show at City Center, New York. Co-directs *Monty Python and the Holly Grail*. Decides filmmaking is slightly less a waste of time than film school.

**1975** Recovers from previous year.

**1976** Illustrates a little-purchased book, *Sporting Relations*. Directs *Jabberwocky*-definitely not a Python film- written by himself and Charles Alverson.

**1977** Spends a year promoting and defending *Jabberwocky*-definitely NOT a Python film. Decides film festivals are a waste of time.

**1978** Publishes *Animations of Mortality*-a book that lays bare the dark and tortured wealthy and successful animator. Signs two copies. Designs (whatever that means) *Monty Python's Life of Brian*.

**1979** Writes brief biography for earlier press kit. Begins writing new film script pausing only to travel around promoting *Life of Brian*. Abandons above-mentioned script project in November, when suddenly struck by a different film idea.

**1980** Convinces Michael Palin to join him in writing a script based on last November's inspiration-project is given working title of *Time Bandits*. Produces and directs *Time Bandits* throughout the summer, completing shooting just about in time to make it across the ocean for Python stage show at the Hollywood Bowl.

**1981** *Time Bandits* is released and is a FAR BIGGER SUCCESS than *Chariots of Fire*, and should have won at least thirteen Oscars as well as a self-sufficiency badge (Girl Guides).

**1982** Picks up a previous script idea (see 1979) and begins writing again, this time with Tom Stoppard. Describes story line as something like "Walter Mitty meets Franz Kafka- to the rhythm of Latin Sambas" (whatever that means). Takes breaks only to plot U.S. re-release of *Jabberwocky*. Takes English lessons.

**1983** Monty Python's *Meaning of Life* released (UK). Invited to be included in *The Who's Who of Intellectuals*, unfortunately can't complete the form.

**1983-84** Film and editing of *Brazil* continued throughout the year.

**1985** February 22nd: *Brazil* opens in UK, followed by the rest of Europe.

**Summer:** Long battles with Universal over the release of *Brazil* in America. Universal wanting to re-cut the film and change the ending to a happy one.

**November:** *Brazil* wins Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay Awards at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards without being released in the U.S.A.

**December:** Universal rush releases Terry Gilliam's version of *Brazil* so that it can qualify for that year's Academy Awards.

**1986:** *Brazil* wins 2 BAFTA Awards, a London Standard Award, a British Film Institute Special Award, and is the only British film nominated for an Oscar (two in fact), which everyone in England managed to ignore ... except Terry Wogan!!!!

**November:** Traveled to Japan to promote opening of *Brazil*. Visited Moscow and Leningrad with British Council and Michael Palin for British Film Week to show, among others, his films *Time Bandits*, *Jabberwocky*, and *Brazil*.

**1987 January:** Starts pre-production for his new epic *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, to be filmed at Rome's Cinecitta Studios in the summer with an enormous budget and a cast of thousands!

**September:** Filming of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* commences at Cinecitta Studios, Rome, with locations shooting in Spain.

**1988 B:** Principal photography of *Munchausen* finishes. Post-production commences at Pinewood Studios.

**1989 Spring:** *Munchausen* opens in USA, Britain, and Europe. Later in Japan in Australia.

**Autumn:** Thinking about future film projects!

**October:** *Munchausen* gets BFI Award for Technical Achievement.

**1990 March:** *Munchausen* wins BAFTA Awards for Production Design, Costume Design, and Make-up. Four Oscar nominations.

**May:** Director, *The Fisher King*, starring Robin Williams and Jeff Bridges, filming May to July, USA, for Tristar

**Autumn/Spring 1991:** Editing *The Fisher King*, due for release mid-1991.

**1991:** *The Fisher King* released.

**1992 February:** *The Fisher King* nominated for four Oscars.

Terry writing new film *The Defective Detective*

**1993:** Wrote *The Defective Detective* with Richard LaGravenese.

**1994:** Nobody made *The Defective Detective*.

Executive Producer of CD-Rom *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time*.

**1995:** Still nobody made *The Defective Detective*.

After an absence of four years behind the camera, got behind it again...

**January:** Director, *Twelve Monkeys*

**Real (!) Suggestions by Universal Studios for a different title for *Brazil*:**

*If Osmosis, Who Are You?*

*Vortex*

*What a Future!*

*The Ball Bearing Electro Memory Circuit Buster*

*The Works*

*You Show Me Your Dream...*

*Arresting Developments*

*Lord of the Files*

*The Staplegunners*

*Forever More*

*Explanada Fortunata Is Not My Real name*

*Chaos*

*Disconnected Parties*

*Erotic*

*Some Day Soon*

*Day Dreams and Night Tripper*

*Litterbugs*

*Skylight City*

*Access*

*Nude Descending Bathroom Scale*

*Dreamscape*

*Progress*

*The Right to Bear Arms*

*This Escalator Doesn't Stop At Your Station*

*All Too Soon*

*Where Were We?*

*Blank/Blank*

*Shadow Time*

*Maelstrom*

*Forces of Darkness*

*Sign on High*

*Can't Anybody Here Play the Cymbals?*

*The Man in the Custom Tailored T-Shirt*

*The Girl in the House on the Truck That's on Fire*

*Fold, Spindle, Mutilate*

*Lady Bug, Lady Bug*

*Gnu Yak, Gnu Yak, and Other Bestial Places*

*The Pinewood Dialogues, an ongoing series of screenings and discussions with significant creative figures in film, television, and digital media, as supported with a generous grant from The Pinewood Foundation.*

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