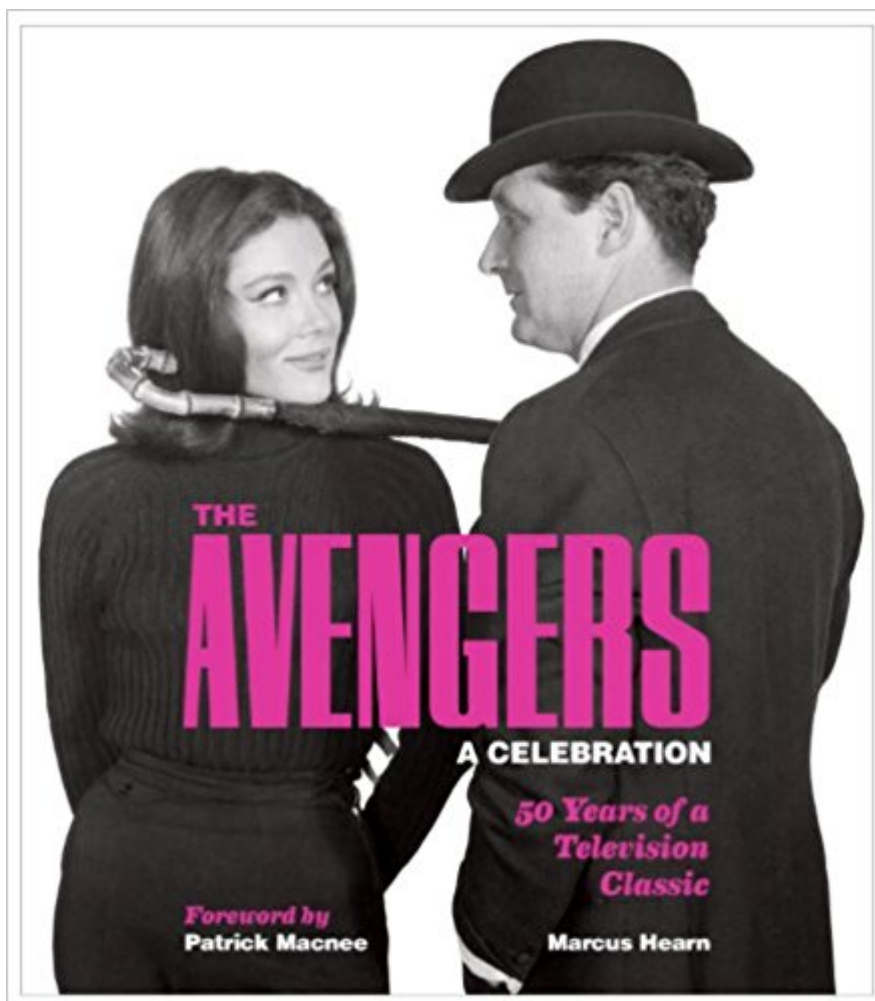


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# The Avengers: A Celebration: 50 Years Of A Television Classic



## Synopsis

The Avengers burst onto television screens in the 1960s, and the show's mix of wit, adventure and beautiful women became an instant hit! Now fifty years on, Marcus Hearn has been granted unparalleled access to the show's production archives and has collected together a fabulous array of material to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Avengers. Lavishly illustrated, with many unpublished stills, behind-the-scenes photos, and snaps from the ABC & LWT private archive, this is a spectacular portrait of the world's best-loved cult action-adventure series, and its classic sequel, The New Avengers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Avengers fans are in for a real treat..." - LA Times  
"The Avengers exhibited more style and daring than is to be had on all of Milan's runways, and more wit and winks... than the oeuvres of Oscar Wilde and Monty Python combined." -- The New York Times  
"Exudes more sheer sexuality than American TV has previously handled... It's all high-wire melodrama, good-humoured fetishism and flamboyant self-mockery." -- Playboy  
"A definite must have for fans of the classic television series." - SciFi Mafia  
"The perfect coffee table book for lovers of the show, the '60s era, and the fashion." - She Does the City

Marcus Hearn was the editor of Hammer Horror magazine, and with co-author Alan Barnes, he has written Hammer Glamour, The Hammer Story, Tarantino A-Zed, and Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang. Hearn is also the author of The Cinema of George Lucas.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of one of the greatest cult TV shows of all time, Titan Books and author Marcus Hearn have produced "The Avengers: A Celebration". Titan and Hearn are responsible for a number of fine books on the history of Hammer Films. This book has the same high standards of layout and design. This is not really an "ultimate" history of the British spy show. It is more of a photographic trip through the show's original 1961-1969 run. Most of the photos have never been published before, and they look like they were taken yesterday. The highlights are the many pictures of "The Avengers" leading ladies: Honor Blackman, Diana Rigg, and Linda Thorson. The book is divided into chapters representing each of the original show's seasons. Each season gets a brief write-up concerning various details, and then photos from episodes of that season fill out the chapter. The book also has a foreword written by series star Patrick Macnee. Unfortunately not every episode is given a photo, and there is not a complete episode guide listed. This book is more of a pictorial "celebration" of the show, instead of a nuts and bolts history. But the incredible images (especially of Blackman, Rigg, and Thorson) more than make up for any shortcomings. Any "Avengers" fan would love to have this book.

Mrs Peel, We're Needed. Just received this book today and it's a winner. Another great publication by Titan. Jam packed with photos in the 160 pages, and I wish it was twice the size. Great celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Avengers TV show that was so much fun. One of my all time favorites, alongside The Man From Uncle (hey Titan, how about a similar book on that great show?). Fans of the series will love this book, the size is nice and large, providing great coverage with the many photos that take us back to that special time. There has never been another show like it, and the great John Steed and Emma Peel never looked better. Of course, this book covers the entire run of the show (minus the New Avengers from the 70s), each season getting its fair share of exposure. I love these books, full of fun and pictures, and leaving you wanting more. Grab this book, you won't regret it.

Positives: The Avengers: A Celebration is a photographic retrospective; the majority of the images are stunning, the layout is well done and, in totality, it's a beautiful book. If you love the style and sophistication of The Avengers, you'll revel in this "celebration." Negatives: Again, this is primarily a photo collection, however, with that said, the text is rather basic with many omissions (along with one glaring caption error concerning the '98 film). Despite being an overview of photos from the series, many classic episodes are not represented and a small percent of the images selected for

this text are sub-par at best. Flaws aside, if you love this classic, amazing series, you'll definitely want to have *The Avengers: A Celebration* in your collection.

As a fan of the cult TV show, I have to say that I was not disappointed in the book. It's a photo book, and not an episode-by-episode guide, but the only quibble I have is that I wish some of the photos that showed up as thumbnails in the inside cover would have been used in the book proper. No matter which series is your favorite, Cathy Gale, Emma Peel or Tara King, there are plenty of photos to pour over. My favorites have to be those of Diana Rigg smoking between takes. It brings to light the tedium of filming. It also makes you wonder why the writers didn't come up with a scene where Steed & Peel shared a cigarette. Certainly would've quelled those questions of 'are they or aren't they?' A nice gift for an Avengers fan just in time for the holidays.

When we AVENGERphiles think we've seen all the pictures and snippets and minutiae there is to see about John Steed and his many partners, along comes this book to treat us to many, many new photos (several in color), along with several handfuls of old friends we've seen many times before. Marcus Hearn's text doesn't set new standards in terms of either research or style, but he's still responsible for this excellent and highly-recommended package, which is as fun and frothy as the show itself. One note of caution: my copy arrived with a dustjacket that is mis-folded -- the left edge of the inside flap is visible on the front of the book, the 'jacket's spine bleeds around to the back of the book, and the left edge of the rear 'jacket appears on the rear flap. That's unfortunate, but it's just sizzle -- the steak, the book itself, is still quite tasty!

Very interesting reading. If you are a fan of the Avengers, it's a must buy.

After having been a fan of the Avengers for thirty years, I thought I had seen pretty much every photo that had ever been taken from the series. This book proves me wrong. Featuring many shots you'll find nowhere else, the book captures perfectly the nostalgia for the series. It's largely a photo book -- there is some text, but the emphasis here is on the visual, and with all the new images that's a positive for the book. As you would expect, it centers mostly on the Steed and Emma years, although all of Steed's partners are represented. Personally I can never get enough of Diana Rigg as Emma Peel, so this book was a welcome addition and is an excellent volume.

What an opulent appreciation of the best TV series ever! A lavishly pictured, monumental homage to

"The Avengers" or "Mit Schirm, Charme und Melone" (which is the German title). I love this de luxe copy from A to Z. Don't miss it! It's just immaculate.

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