



Incorporated Television Company Ltd

"THUNDERBIRDS"

A new super satellite has gone into orbit. Permanently manned, it is now in space to aid humanity as the monitor station always on the alert to spot trouble, receive messages for help and set in motion the world's exciting organisation, International Rescue..... a secret organisation with hush-hush headquarters somewhere in the Pacific, run by an intrepid astronaut and his family of five sons.

A signal from the satellite, and the THUNDERBIRDS roar into action, zooming into the most exciting adventures ever seen on television.

The satellite, Thunderbird V, has been launched by A.P. Films Ltd., creators of the internationally successful Supermarionation productions, Supercar, Fireball XL5 and Stingray. THUNDERBIRDS, a series of 26 episodes, is the glossiest and most ambitious project yet from the studio that has coined a new word, Supermarionation, to describe man-made actors and actresses with more human appeal than most humans.

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It is the first one-hour puppet-film series to be made for television, and is available in colour.

The Thunderbird machines belong to the International Rescue organisation. There are five of them. The silver-gray Thunderbird I is always first on the scene when a rescue is put into operation. Built for speed, it is capable of 7,000 miles-an-hour. Its object is to get quickly to the danger zone, and it contains a mobile control tower from which operations can be directed.

The green Thunderbird II is basically a freighter, designed to carry heavy and ingenious rescue equipment. The orange Thunderbird III is a vehicle capable of flying into space if necessary, and the yellow Thunderbird IV is an underwater scout craft, carried as part of the rescue equipment in Thunderbird II.

All are based at International Rescue's secret headquarters, except for Thunderbird V which remains ever-on-the alert in space. Hidden from prying eyes, the craft are quartered inside a mountain on a remote island somewhere in the Pacific.

Keeping the H.Q.'s whereabouts a secret is one of the most vital elements in the stories because there are others, notably a vicious character known as the Hood, who are anxious to discover the secrets not only of the organisation but of the Thunderbirds themselves - a secrecy which is essential because of the fear that, in other hands, the remarkable machines could be used for destruction instead of for the benefit of mankind.



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The island is an exotic one, but nature has been adapted to aid the secrecy. The cliff face moves so that the craft can enter and leave their hiding place. Trees fall back. A swimming pool can be made to disappear. Electronic devices warn of intruders.

Thunderbirds provides pulsating excitement for young and old, for all members of the family. Science-fiction takes on new dimensions, with new characters who will soon win the same affection among viewers as their Supercar, Fireball XL5 and Stingray predecessors. Gerry Anderson is the producer.

Scott, who pilots Thunderbird I. He is the eldest. Fast-talking and quick-thinking, he can cope with any emergency and is skilled at organizing the rescue operations.

Virgil, who pilots Thunderbird II, is reliable and steady, and just the right sort of man for the responsible task of handling the freighter containing the priceless rescue equipment. He works closely with Scott.

Alan, probably the most romantic of the sons (and with a strong interest in one of the attractive girl members of the cast), is in charge of Thunderbird III. He has an impetuous nature, and is an expert racing motorist.

Gordon who accompanies his brother Virgil in Thunderbird II, takes over the underwater Thunderbird III when the rescue operation requires underwater work, is young and enthusiastic, he has an amusing face and is quite a joker.



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The Characters

Thunderbirds has a large cast of fascinating characters, and one unusual aspect is that five of the principal characters are all members of one family - a daring astronaut and his five sons. The man who has formed the International Rescue Organisation is the good-looking, resolute, far-seeing Jeff Tracy and, as these are stories of the future, it is not surprising that he has named his sons after the American astronauts who were the first to orbit in space and win their own place in history.

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And John, who is usually on duty in the Thunderbird V satellite in space, has the patience of Job.

Other principal characters are:-

Brains, the bespectacled, scientific genius who has invented all the incredible machines and equipment which make rescues of every kind possible. He is a typical "egg-head," shy and rather hesitant in his speech.

Lady Penelope, the organisation's elegant, glamorous, blonde London agent who, beneath her sophisticated exterior and social graces, has all the adventurous daring of a female James Bond. She possesses an exotic wardrobe and a fabulous shocking-pink Rolls Royce (with the apt number of FAB 1).

Parker, who is Lady Penelope's chauffeur and man-servant, is an off-beat, droll Cockney, getting on in years but young in spirit, and unexpectedly adept at handling dangerous situations. He has a prison record - but has now reformed - and his talent for safe-blowing is highly useful to the organisation when the occasion requires.

The Hood is the principal "menace," a shrewd villain who dons so many faces that he can never be recognized and is dedicated to discovering the secrets of the International Rescue organisation and the Thunderbirds. He lives in an exotic Eastern temple, where he practises his hoodoo powers, and his eyes literally light up when he is casting his spells on people.



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Kyrano, who is Jeff Tracy's loyal servant, is the Hood's half-brother. The Hood has an uncanny power over him.

Tin-Tin (a Malayan name meaning "Sweet") is Kyrano's brunette daughter, who has just returned from America, where she has been educated at Jeff Tracy's expense (and he has also paid for her to have a trip around the world). She is an electronics expert and very useful to the organisation, and there is a romantic interest between her and Alan.

Finally, there is Grandma, who is Jeff Tracy's mother, and she plays the important part of looking after and cooking for the boys.

Many other characters appear in the various stories to support these regulars.

Peter Wyndle, who is known as a character actor in numerous British films and TV shows and who worked for several years in Canada before returning to Britain, is the voice of the friendly Jeff Tracy, the founder of the International Rescue organisation.

Incidentally, David Graham is a leading figure behind the scenes, as he has been in the previous Supermarionation productions. The multi-voiced actor is responsible for no less than four of the voices in Thunderbirds and all are completely different. He is the hesitant, shy scientist.

