THE GHOST GOES GEAR

THE STORY

Written in the modern idiom by Roger Dunton and Hugh Gladwish, and laced with pop music by some of Britain's top groups, "THE GHOST GOES GEAR", a feature film in Technicolor, marks the acting debut of The Spencer Davis Group who have been consistently figured high in the British and American hit parades, topping the home charts on two occasions with their recordings of "Keep On Running" and "Somebody Help Me".

Nicholas Parsons, the well-known comedy actor, plays their road manager in this hilarious story of the antics of a pop group in their efforts to establish a 'Stately Home'.

Sheila White, who scored an overnight success in the hit musical "On The Level", has a leading role, and guest artistes are Mr. Acker Bilk and The Paramount Jazz Band, Dave Berry, Lorne Gibson, The St. Louis Union, The M.6., and The Three Bells. Feature players include Jack Haig, Joan Ingram, Tony Sympson and Arthur Howard.

The film which contains twenty musical numbers, many of which have been written by the groups concerned, was made on location in and around Windsor, and at Puttenden Manor in Surrey. Indoor sequences were shot at Pathe's own studios in Wardour Street.

THE CAST

The Spencer Davis Group SPENCER DAVIS
and Stevie Winwood STEVIE WINWOOD
MUFF WINWOOD
PETER YORK

Joan Ingram Lady Rowthorpe
Tony Sympson Lord Plumley
Jack Haig Old Edwards
Robert Langley Little Boy
Emmett Hennessy Butch
Helen Ford An old Lady
Katheleen Heath An old Lady
Marion Wilson An old Lady
Elizabeth Gott An old Lady
Virginia Clay W.1. Woman
Ann Wrogg W.1. Woman
Bernard Stone The Cockney Dad
Janet Davies The Cockney Wife
Huw Thomas Newscaster

THE CREDITS

Produced by HARRY FIELD: Directed by HUGH GLADWISH; Original Story and Screenplay by ROGER DUNTON and HUGH GLADWISH; Associate Producer LIONEL HOARE; Additional Music and Lyrics by JOAN SHAKESPEARE; Musical Director JOHN SHAKESPEARE; Choreography by DENYS PALMER; Director of Photography GEORGE STEVENS; Supervising Editor JOHN BLAIR; Film Editor RONALD GLENISTER; Sound GEORGE NEWBERRY, TREvor PYKE; Dubbing Editor ROGER VOSS; Camera Operator PETER HENDRY; Production Manager RON HOLTZER; Art Director PETER MOLL; Casting Director GILLIAN ADAMS; Make-Up NEL TAYLOR; Wardrobe AMY BINNEY; Continuity MARGOT VANDERPAINT; Titles by BIOGRAPHIC. Filmed on Location and at Pathe Studios, London, England. R.C.A. Sound Recording Technicolor (R). An Associated British-Pathe Production Presented by Associated British: Released through Warner-Pathe.

Length 3,679 ft. Certificate “U” Running time 41 mins
"THE GHOST GOES GEAR"

GENERAL COVERAGE STORY

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"THE GHOST GOES GEAR" was produced by Harry Field, with Lionel Hoare as Associate Producer and Hugh Gladwish as Director.
"THE GHOST GOES GEAR"

SYNOPSIS

The Spencer Davis Group (played by themselves) are spending the summer as entertainers on a pleasure steamer plying on the Thames near Windsor. The boat is packed with teenagers dancing to the music and singing of the Group, and, as the boat ends its run, they crowd round the Group asking for autographs, before going ashore. Al Wright (Nicholas Parsons), the Group's road manager, arrives to help take off the equipment and, in the confusion, Peter York's drum falls into the river and floats away downstream. Al and the Group follow in a variety of craft but cannot come up with it until it had been 'hooked' by old Edwards (Jack Haig), who is fishing.

Edwards registers surprise when he sees Al and, to the other's embarrassment, tells the amused Group that their manager's real name is the Hon. Algernon Rowthorpe-Plumley, a member of an old aristocratic family, whose country house, Rowthorpe Hall, where he is the butler, is quite near. Somewhat reluctantly, Al invites the Group to stay the night in his home, although he manages to keep them from meeting his mother, the formidable Lady Rowthorpe (Joan Ingram).

The Group, however, manage to meet the pretty maid of the house, Polly (Sheila White) and they go down to the vast kitchen where they stage an impromptu routine with her whilst the dinner is being prepared. That night, the Group are put into the wine cellar where, amidst racks and bottles, they try to make themselves comfortable. As they are deciding that sleep is impossible, a wall swings open and a ghost (Lorne Gibson) in Tudor costume, appears and sings a number. It then disappears.

The Group decide to follow the apparition and after running along several stone passages, emerge in a large room, in the centre of which is an inviting four poster bed. They climb into it but soon realise that it is already occupied by Lady Rowthorpe and her husband (Tony Sympsom). Her shrieks send them hastening from the room and they end the night in Al's bed, after having first placed his sleeping body on a piano for the rest of the night.

The next morning, Al tells Polly and the Group that his parents are quite poor and that the house is slowly falling to pieces. It is then that Spencer has a bright suggestion - to turn the crumbling ruin into a 'Stately Home'. They become very enthusiastic about the idea and are soon busy with some "way-out" forms of publicity. A few visitors arrive but run away after seeing the family "ghost". It is actually one of the Group, in a suit of armour.

News of the ghostly 'appearance' is featured by the National newspapers and the crowds begin to pour in. A great attraction proves to be a Gear Garden Party where many popular performers, including Mr. Acker Bilk and The Paramount Jazz Band, Dave Berry, The St. Louis Union, The M.6., and The Three Bells, entertain the visitors, to bring the film to a gay, swinging finish.
THE PRINCIPAL PLAYERS

THE SPENCER DAVIS GROUP who play THEMSELVES

Since turning professional in May, 1964, The Spencer Davis Group has become one of the groups most admired by their fellow musicians. From being the "groups' group", they have graduated to national acceptance with two No. 1. hits.

Spencer, a former school teacher, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, formed the group on a semi-professional basis in the summer of 1963. The three he engaged then are with him still. They are Pete York on the drums, Muff Winwood on bass and his brother Steve, who at the time was only 14 and has since developed into a musician of outstanding brilliance.

At first the group earned little money but soon, after turning professional, their first record "Dimples" established them, and their career rushed ahead at a tremendous rate. Their basic style is Rhythm and Blues but their own negro-styled music has made them internationally famous.

Spencer Davis was born in Swansea on July 17th, 1941. He plays piano, organ and harmonica in addition to all types of guitar. He speaks six languages and enjoys finding out about words and travelling, often accompanied by his pet female cat, Bert.

Steve Winwood was born in Birmingham on May 12th, 1948. The group's lead singer, he also plays guitar, piano, vibes and drums. His first experience of show business was when he was nine and played with his father's band in Birmingham. Steve, who had to leave school at the refusal to have his hair cut, likes yachting and 'raving'.

Bass player, Muff Winwood, christened Mervyn, was born in Birmingham on June 5th, 1943. He has been playing since he was 14. Before turning professional, Muff used to work in the family's household fittings business. He likes reading, music, girls with long black hair and small cars.

Pete York was born in Middlesbrough on August 19th, 1942, and plays drums and vibes. He was taught to play drums by a Royal Marine Bandmaster while a member of the Army Cadets. He is 6' 3" tall, weighs 13st., has blue eyes, brown hair and has two main ambitions - one to play at Carnegie Hall, the other to be shorter.

NICHOLAS PARSONS who plays ALGERNON

Although from his early days his heart was in the theatre, Nicholas Parsons decided to become an engineer. It was whilst he was studying for his finals that he became a member of the University Dramatic Club and at the age
of 16 toured army sites entertaining the troops with impressions and jokes. He made several broadcasts for the Glasgow B.B.C. then began to work at the Theatre at Rutherglen where he received his first real stage experience.

This led to small parts in Repertory and in West End Shows and eventually to films and television. In the latter medium he is particularly well-known for his long and successful partnership with Arthur Haynes, one of Britain's most popular comedians. He is currently appearing in "Boeing-Boeing" at the Duchess Theatre, London.

SHEILA WHITE who plays POLLY

"On The Level" the recent successful London musical, was responsible for bringing out the talent of 17 year old Sheila White. At the first provincial run of the show, she was in the chorus and spoke only three words, but her talent was realised by the impresario Martin Landau, and a number called "Bleep, Bleep" was specially written for her. When the show opened in London it proved to be a "show stopper".

Sheila began her career in Pantomime, then appeared in her first musical, "The Sound of Music", when she was 13. Her overnight success in "On The Level" inspired Pathe to choose her for the important role of Polly for "THE GHOST GOES GEAR". There is no doubt that her performance in this film will bring her wide acclaim.

JACK HAIG who plays EDWARDS

Jack Haig comes from an old theatrical family and started in Pantomime at the age of 18. He toured for many years as a comedian in revue and musical shows, and summer shows at various resorts. He started in British Television in 1946 and later starred in a television series in Newcastle for six years, as well as having his own children's T.V. series "Happy Go Lucky". He has since appeared in many of Britain's top television programmes and it is obvious that in "THE GHOST GOES GEAR" he has a tailor-made part for his comic talent.

JOAN INGRAM who plays LADY ROWTHORPE

On leaving Drama School, Joan Ingram went into repertory and after gaining valuable experience in this exacting field, moved to London's West End Theatres. A puncture on returning from a holiday in Innsbruck left her in an Internment Camp in Germany and she did not return to England until 1943. Back home, her first film part was "Two Thousand Women" ... a film about women in an Internment Camp!

Joan Ingram is a true professional and she has had tremendous experience in Television, Radio and Films. Some of the latter include "Lavendar Hill Mob", 
"Doctor in the House", "One Good Turn" (and many other Norman Wisdom pictures), Chaplin's "The King of New York", John Ford's "Gideon's Day", and many others. In "THE GHOST GOES GEAR" she plays the type of role for which she is famous - "the 'monument of dignity' in the face of the wildest indignities".

TONY SYMPSON who plays PLUMLEY

Since 1929, Tony Symson has been a unique and much sought-after personality of the London Theatre scene. After war service, he was an indispensible member of the New London Opera Company at the Cambridge and Stoll theatres before returning to musicals in 1951.

He is recognised for his many appearances in British pictures and in television and gained special praise for his portrayal of "Fogg" in 'Pickwick' both in London and New York.

ARTHUR HOWARD who plays the VICAR

Arthur's extensive career in the theatre, dates from his first West End appearance in the early thirties. He has also created a big name for himself in television. He recently completed two seasons with the New Shakespeare Company, which included a 6-month tour to the Far East and, on his return from this tour, he started filming in London with Sophia Loren.

Films have always occupied much of his time and recent ones include "The Yellow Rolls Royce", "Allez France" and "The Love Cage". He has just returned from Monaco where he was engaged on the Continental sequences of "Grand Prix", only a few weeks before he started in "THE GHOST GOES GEAR".

SUPPORTED BY......

ACKER BILK

Acker Bilk who comes from Pensford in Somerset, first took an interest in music at the age of 4 after hearing a visiting preacher play a recorder. He soon acquired one, then progressed to the clarinet, playing as hard and as often as he could.

After an army career during which he kept up his practising on an army clarinet, his big break came in 1957 when he gained valuable experience in a Beer Garden in Dusseldorf. He returned to London where his first major hit was "Somerset".
He has since become one of the most successful "Trad Players" in the World, and now owns a mansion outside London, a Bentley, a restaurant, a West End club and is part owner of a record company.

THE ST. LOUIS UNION

Originally from Manchester, this group has achieved an international reputation for their colourful style which, with a Rhythm-and-Blues base, has made them one of Britain's foremost concert and ballroom attractions.

The sextet began their career on a high note with their version of a John Lennon-Paul McCartney composition "Girl" for their debut disc and notched a Top Twenty hit at the first attempt. Their second single "Behind The Door" rapidly became hit number two for the versatile St. Louis Union.

They have appeared regularly on top British shows such as "Thank Your Lucky Stars" and "Top of the Pops", and have proved themselves to be polished and impressive visual artistes.

DAVE BERRY

Sheffield-born Dave Berry began his singing debut in a local club when he was 17 and, spurred on by the reception he received, formed a backing group which he called the "Cruisers."

In 1961 the demand for his services were so great that he left his job as an electric welder and turned professional. His first record "Memphis Tennessee", was recorded in 1963 and was so successful that his future was assured. He has appeared on every British Television Pop Show, made several nation wide tours and taken the lead role in the stage version of "Expresso Bongo".

THE M.6.

Whilst visiting a Discotheque in St. Hellier, Jersey, Joan Shakespeare (who is responsible for many of the lyrics in "THE GHOST GOES GEAR") watched two Pop Groups performing. She was impressed by certain performers in both groups and the outcome was three boys from each outfit were selected to form a new group. The M.6. was born. Two numbers have been specially written for them to perform in "THE GHOST GOES GEAR".

LORNE GIBSON

Somerset-born Lorne Gibson entered the Pop world as a vocal guitarist with a group that was dissolved in 1960. He then began to sing solo and his Country and Western style singing soon got him into Radio. In 1962 he formed
the Lorne Gibson Trio. Following an appearance in the T.V. programme "Talent Spot", they established themselves as one of Britain's foremost groups. "THE GHOST GOES GEAR" is, however, their first film.

THE THREE BELLS

This is a genuine sister act, consisting of Jean and twins Carole and Sue Bell. Liverpool born, the sisters began singing together ten years ago when the twins were eleven. They leaped into the charts with their first record, "Softly in the Night" and later records, together with many Television appearances, have made them a very popular group. "THE GHOST GOES GEAR" is their first film.
THE PRODUCTION TEAM

HUGH GLADWISH the DIRECTOR

Born in St. Leonards-on-Sea, Hugh Gladwish at the age of 15, came to London "to seek his fortune". He began with the Gaumont Picture Corporation in their newly formed cartoon department, and when, a year and a half later, some of Walt Disney's key people were brought from Hollywood to extend the department into G.B. Animation, this proved a marvellous opportunity for him to train with the top people in the industry. He subsequently joined the British Animated Productions as head of the department to produce short cartoons for the cinema.

In 1950 he became Art Director for the "Fall of the House of Usher" but soon returned to cartoons, becoming director for the Film Producers Guild. In 1963 Harry Field invited him to join Associated British-Pathe and his work proved of such high calibre, gaining several awards, that he was chosen to direct "THE GHOST GOES GEAR". The choice was obviously a right one, for he has produced a fresh, untrammelled and at times 'way out' approach to the production which exactly fits the mood and content of the film.

HARRY FIELD the PRODUCER

Harry Field joined Pathe as a youth in 1936. Three years later he entered the army, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. On his return to Pathe he became foreign Editor of Pathe Newsreel and in 1947 assumed the responsibility for the General organisation of the entire Production Division.

In 1955, with the advent of commercial television, he created Pathe's TV and Advertising Films Division and became its General Manager.

In September, 1964 he also became the General Manager of the company's Documentary and Pictorial Divisions and in this capacity he has produced many outstanding series for television including "Time to Remember", "Journey of a Lifetime" and "In Search of St. Paul", and recently "Pop Gear" - a 30 minute film which contained all the leaders in the British pop music field. His most recent films are "Stopover Forever", "Death is a Woman" and "The Hand of Night".

LIONEL HOARE the ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Lionel Hoare was born in Highgate, North London and entered the film industry at the age of 15 via the cutting rooms of British International Pictures at Elstree Studios. He subsequently worked as Assistant Editor and then Editor of
films for Gaumont British, Gainsborough and London Film Productions working on many outstanding productions including "Dark Journey", "South Riding", "The Rebel Son", and "Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel".

After war service he returned to the industry and after editing "Gaiety George" was, in 1946, appointed Editor of Pathe Pictorial. In 1949, he became Supervising Editor of Pathe's Documentary Division and edited such films as "Elizabeth is Queen" and "This was Yesterday".

He was promoted to Associate Producer in 1957 and was responsible for many Documentaries, Television programmes and Features including "Time to Remember", "Stopover Forever" and films for Children's Film Foundation. He was subsequently appointed Producer and has recently produced "The Flood", "Valley of the Kings" and "Davey Jones' Locker" for the Children's Film Foundation. His most recent productions are "Death is a Woman" and "The Hand of Night".
Musical Numbers in: "THE GHOST GOES GEAR"

Spencer Davis Group (composer) (publisher)
1) When I Come Home Jackie Edwards/Stevie Winwood Island Records Limited
2) March Hare Joan Shakespeare Segway Music London Limited
3) Midnight Special Spencer Davis Arrangement Island Records Limited
4) On The Green Light Stevie Winwood Island Records Limited
5) Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out Cox B. Feldman & Co. Limited

Sheila White (publisher)
1) Misfit Joan Shakespeare Segway Music London Limited
2) Switch Off The Night Lyrics: Joan Shakespeare lyricist Segway Music London Limited
Music: Derek Warne

Acker Bilk (composer)
1) Henry The Ninth John Mortimer Lad Music Limited
2) Front Seat Driver Stan Gregg Lad Music Limited
3) Wind Through The Wood Acker Bilk Lad Music Limited

Dave Berry (composer)
1) Now Hodson & Berry Robert Mellin
2) Mama Mark Charron Francis, Day & Hunter

The M.6.
1) The Place Lyrics: Joan Shakespeare Segway Music London Limited
Music: Kenny Salmon
2) Seven Deadly Sins Lyrics: Joan Shakespeare
Music: Derek Warne
Lorne Gibson
1) Like Free
   Composer: Joan Shakespeare
2) Meddlesome Matty
   Lyrics: Joan Shakespeare
   Music: Derek Warne
3) Listen to My Jingle-Jangle
   Reg Presley

St. Louis Union
1) I got my Pride
   Lyrics: Joan Shakespeare
   Music: Kenny Salmon

The Three Bells
1) The Original Lemon Tree
2) No-one Home

Title Music "Ghost Goes Gear" and all background and linking music by
JOAN SHAKESPEARE

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